

NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of CALIFORNIA (now in its 45th year)

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August meeting. Attending at the home of Ed Burfine were: Ed Burfine, Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven, Jaime Marckwordt, Paul Swierstra, and Fred Van der Heyden.

Sending a letter in the Netherlands becomes an expensive luxury (*translated from KNBF Nieuwsbrief 052 – augustus 2014 with thanks to Hans Kremer*).

In the short term there will be no end to the continued significant price increases of postage stamps. With a new price increase in store for the coming year, PostNL is heading for a price increase of more than fifty percent in five years for sending a letter. Already, since 2010, the price of stamps rose from 44 cents to 64 cents earlier this year. The new price increase depends on calculations of the *Autoriteit Consument en Markt* (Authority for Consumers and Markets or ACM) which will soon set a new maximum price that PostNL can charge. According to analyst André Mulder, of *Kepler Cheuvreux*, with a decrease of 10 percent in the total number of letters sent, the price of a stamp could increase by 7 percent which would mean another 4 cent increase.

PostNL on August 4, at the presentation of their annual report, indicated that it definitely wants to use the extra room that the company gets to raise prices, for new rate increases. "*We have done that in 2013; we have done it in 2014 and we want to continue doing it,*" said CEO Herna Verhagen. How big the room for increases is that the ACM allows PostNL, depends among other things on the decrease in the number of letters and inflation. The rate increase, according to the postal service is required because the number of letters has been decreasing for years. The last six months the amount of mail sent was 12 percent lower than a year earlier. Therefore PostNL also hopes that the Tweede Kamer (Lower House) will go along with a change in the Postwet (Postal Law) which would allow PostNL to cut the number of post offices and mailboxes by more than half. "*There are over 19,000 mailboxes; we drive past them every day and in some you will find only a few envelopes,*" Herna Verhagen defended the removal of the mailboxes yesterday. If the amendment passes, it will save PostNL between 20 and 30 million euro. (Source: *De Telegraaf*, August 5, 2014). **Editor's comment:** "Is the postal situation in the USA far behind?"

AROUND THE TABLE

Stuart Leven informed us that he was successful with recent stamp bids in obtaining three (!!!) Dutch East Indies LUX soap post cards; including one with actress Merle Oberon which had previously eluded him.

The **September 20th meeting** will be held at the home of Dennis Buss starting at 1:00pm. Dennis' telephone number is (707) 774-6296.
The **October 18th meeting** will be held at the home of Stuart Leven starting at 1:00pm. Stuart's telephone number is (408) 978-0193.

Hans Kremer has been researching the “Block Cancels of Netherlands Tram Routes.” This information was previously included in a much larger work by Cees Janssen that included the train block cancels. Hans has separated out and summarized the route information that pertained only to the tram routes. Hans also showed us an early 1900s envelope sent to Germany with an X across the front which usually indicated special handling required; a cover with short postage and the PTT attempted to collect the missing amount by attaching a card that requested the recipient bring the money to the post office; a small 4½ x 3 inch post card issued after WW II due to paper shortages in the Netherlands; a post card flown by balloon and then posted at the nearest town where the balloon lands; and a post card with a POSTERIJEN cancel.

Fred Van der Heyden passed around several post cards: a advertisement card commemorating the Belgian Sabena Airlines 1923-1948; a vintage card illustrating a major Florida tourist attraction: alligators in St. Augustine; a card featuring Fruitvale, a suburb of Oakland, CA and a small booklet entitled “*Katholiek hulpboek voor emigranten.*”



Dennis Buss passed around examples of Dutch stamps designed by Wim Crouwel, an artist who also designed commercial posters. Crouwel began designing postage stamps with the 1968 400 Jaar Wilhelmus van Nassouwe (volkslied) definitive. Other designs followed with the 1970 World Exhibit in Osaka, Japan; the 1976 and 1977 Amphilex



series illustrating the portraits of Queen Wilhelmina; the 1976 cijfer series; one of the 1978 Red Cross series; and the 1979 summer stamp commemoratives.

Franklin Ennik passed around a copy of the book entitled, *Practisyns woordenboekje of verzameling van meest alle de woorden in de Rechtskunde Gebruikelijk* (A Practical Dictionary or Collection of most all the Words commonly used in Legal Studies), by F.L. Kersteman, 1785 and (*Ingeleid*) preserved by J.E. Ennik and P. Brood. Frank also showed us a stampless letter sent by train from Amerongen via Veenendaal to Arnhem 1858; a stampless letter sent from Ouderkerk a/d Amstel via Amsterdam to Driebergen 1859; and a cover sent 1923 from Haarlem to Portland, Maine. The postage rate for the stampless letter shown here was 5 cent.



Postage due on Official Mail (Dienstpost).

by Hans Kremer

Generally, correspondence originating from government agencies will be sent free of postage. I always thought that this meant that 'nobody' paid for this but this was not the case. The Government had a contract with the P.T.T. stipulating that the P.T.T. would handle the Government's mail at a reduced price. Through accurate bookkeeping, the Government kept track of all such mail and then paid the P.T.T. accordingly. This system started in 1876. However, not all Dienstpost was paid for by the Government agencies.

If, for example you contacted one of these agencies asking for some kind of personal information it could well be considered to be a private matter. In that case the requestor is asked to pay for the reply (Figure 1.).



Figure 1. Seven cent postage due on local "Dienstbrief" letter (1956).

By sending the response in an official envelope, but with the text AAN PORT ONDERWORPEN DIENSTBRIEF pre-printed in red on it the receiver is asked to pay for the postage. Since the requestor could not know how much to pay he will only be charged the regular postage and not double the amount which would usually be the case for a postage due item.

In the example shown in Figure 1 (a letter sent January 9, 1956 from 's-Gravenhage city offices to a local address) the postage rate for local mail was 7 cent, and that is the amount, and not 14 cent, the receiver had to pay in order to be handed the letter.

Undoubtedly there was confusion about the amount of postage due on these *Aan Port Onderworpen Dienstbrief* letters, so some agencies with a lot of this kind of mail decided to help the P.T.T. employees (and also make it look more official to the receiver of the item) by indicating the amount of postage due on the outside of the envelope.

Figure 2 shows a 1931 letter sent from De Ambtenaar van het Openbaar Ministerie bij de Kantongerechten te Roermond (Prosecutor of the District Court in Roermond) to Eindhoven. In 1931 the letter rate for a domestic letter was indeed 6 cent.



Figure 2. Six cent postage due indicated on 1931 "Dienstbrief."

For a short period of time, from March 1, 1921 till January 15, 1923, there was no *Aan Port Onderworpen Dienstbrief* ruling, so, during that time a *Dienstbrief* to a private party was charged with double postage due. Figure 3 shows a letter of the second weight class (15 cent rate) sent October 11, 1922 from the Rijkswaterstaat in Eindhoven to Geldrop. The postage due in this case was two times 15 cent or 30 cent.

The Rijkswaterstaat is the government agency responsible for the practical execution of the public works and water management, including the construction and maintenance of waterways, roads, flood protection and flood prevention.



Figure 3. Double postage due on a Dienstbrief sent October 11, 1922 from Eindhoven to Geldrop (courtesy of Henk van de Laak).

References:

http://www.laakland.nl/portvrijdom_rws.htm

L. Goldhoorn. Van een halve cent tot één gulden vijf en zeventig, *Po & Po. Posthistorische Studies VI*. 1979.

A New Year Greeting to a Member of the Dutch Naval Fleet.

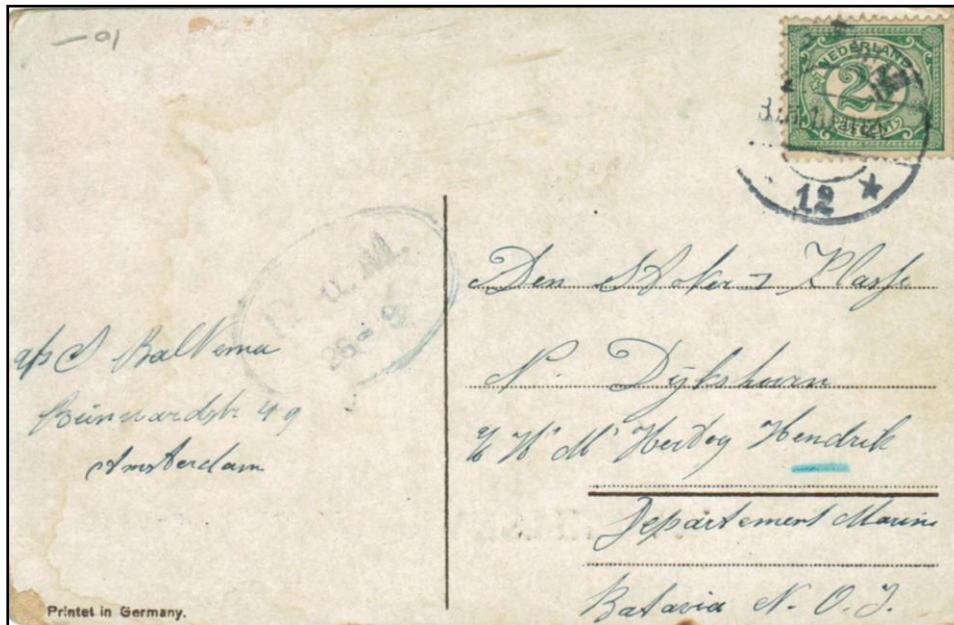
By Franklin Ennik

The vintage post card shown here is an early example of a New Year's greeting card mailed from Amsterdam and sent to Batavia, Java, Dutch East Indies. The set-up of the card with the greeting, **Groeten uit Amsterdam**, seems to indicate that the printer could expand the sales of the card image by secondarily adding any city he wanted.

This post card is addressed to a crew member of the Dutch *Panterschip* (armoured cruiser), *Hr. Ms. Hertog Hendrik* (named in honor of Prince Hendrik, the husband of Queen Wilhelmina). On its 1905 voyage to the Dutch East Indies the ship ran aground on a coral reef in the Gulf of Boni, Celebes (now Sulawesi) and had to be pulled off by the



combined efforts of other ships. The ship was launched June 7, 1902 and joined the sister ships of the Dutch Royal Navy, *De Ruyter*, *Koningin (Emma) Regentes*, *De Seven Provinciën*, etc. in the service of Queen Wilhelmina.



At the end of the 19th century nearly every major world power had put together a fleet of modern war ships.

The fleet that received the most notoriety was the impressive United States fleet called the **Great White Fleet** that made a 14 months around the world goodwill tour starting

December 16, 1907. These naval **dreadnoughts** plied the world's seas and oceans, visiting many ports of call in an effort to show off their countries naval might and prowess.

The small nation of the Netherlands was no slacker and also had their fleet in the waters. Just like the other world powers they made their presence known by showing the flag not only in the ports of the Dutch West Indies and the Dutch East Indies but also other world ports.

The New Year message on the front of the card translated says in effect:

Just as along roads and field
The car hurtles forward
So I am rushing to You
With certainly no less of a rush
And bring you with happy mood
My very best greeting.

References:

The Great White Fleet. www.history.navy.mil/faq/faq42-1.htm

Hr.Ms. Hertog Hendrik. [En.wikipedia.org/wiki/HNLMS_Hertog_Hendrik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HNLMS_Hertog_Hendrik).