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September meeting. Attending at the home of Dennis Buss were: Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Paul Swierstra, and Fred Van der Heyden.

Franklin Ennik passed around a cover posted March 30, 1965 and franked with 3 cent + (12 + 9) cent. The correct rate for this cover was 15 cent. However, the sender used a charity stamp invalid as of December 31, 1964 and the receiver had to pay twice the errant amount or 24 cent postage due to receive the letter. Frank also showed an illustrated post card showing the image of Queen Wilhelmina ca 1900 with the wapen crests of the Dutch Provinces and a view of the Witte Huis in Rotterdam; and a 7½ cent postal card with the illustration of the *hunebed* number D-17 located by Rolde near Assen.



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.

The **November 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Fred Van der Heyden starting at 1:00pm. Fred's telephone number is 510-282-7255.

Fred Van der Heyden passed around a 1940 San Francisco Exposition trunk sticker issued by Greyhound Bus Line; a June 17, 2014 copy of the *Wall Street Journal* with additional coverage of the perennial pursuit by the IRS for unpaid back taxes from US citizens who live abroad or who have off-shore bank accounts; and a long series of post cards illustrating the various foreign flags that have flown over California.

Dennis Buss passed around a study of small and large cancels that he found in a large collection of early Willem III, Wilhelmina and newspaper cijfer stamps.

HansPaul Hager passed around a collection of newspaper clippings about Dutch stamps from the 1920s-1940s and a long series of 1920s-1930s *arbeidslijsten* postal cards (record of weekly hours worked) used to record the work hours of Dutch workers.

An 1877 Rijk's Waterstaat Dienst Post Card

by Hans Kremer

The postal card shown here was sent February 19, 1877 from Zutphen to Harderwyk (Gld.) to a Mr. H. Portheine. Note the dual spelling of the city Harderwyk and Harderwijk on this card, a not unusual usage during this period.



Figure 1. 1877 postage free post card.

As seen here, there is no postage on the card, because it qualified for free franking according to a law passed on **September 22 (!), 1875** (Staatsblad 173).

Artikel 1.

Voor de ambtelijke mededeelingen tusschen ambtenaren en autoriteiten, die voor hunne onderlinge briefwisseling portvrijdom genieten, maar uitsluitend voor deze, kan in plaats van verzending van brieven onder kruisband of gesloten omslag, als bedoeld bij art. 6 van Ons boven aangehaald besluit, mede gebruik worden gemaakt van geheel of gedeeltelijk geschreven of gedrukte open kaarten.

Figure 2. Article 1. of the Law of September 22, 1875.

The Law reads (in translation):

Article 1. For official mail between civil servants and "authorities," that qualifies for free franking, use can be made now of "open cards," instead of the previous requirement of letters in closed envelopes or with a wrapper around it. The law took effect October 1, 1875.

The card was used as a means of communicating with a person working at another **Rijkswaterstaat** office. The Rijkswaterstaat's role is the practical execution of the public works and water management, including the construction and maintenance of waterways and roads, and –more importantly– flood protection and prevention.

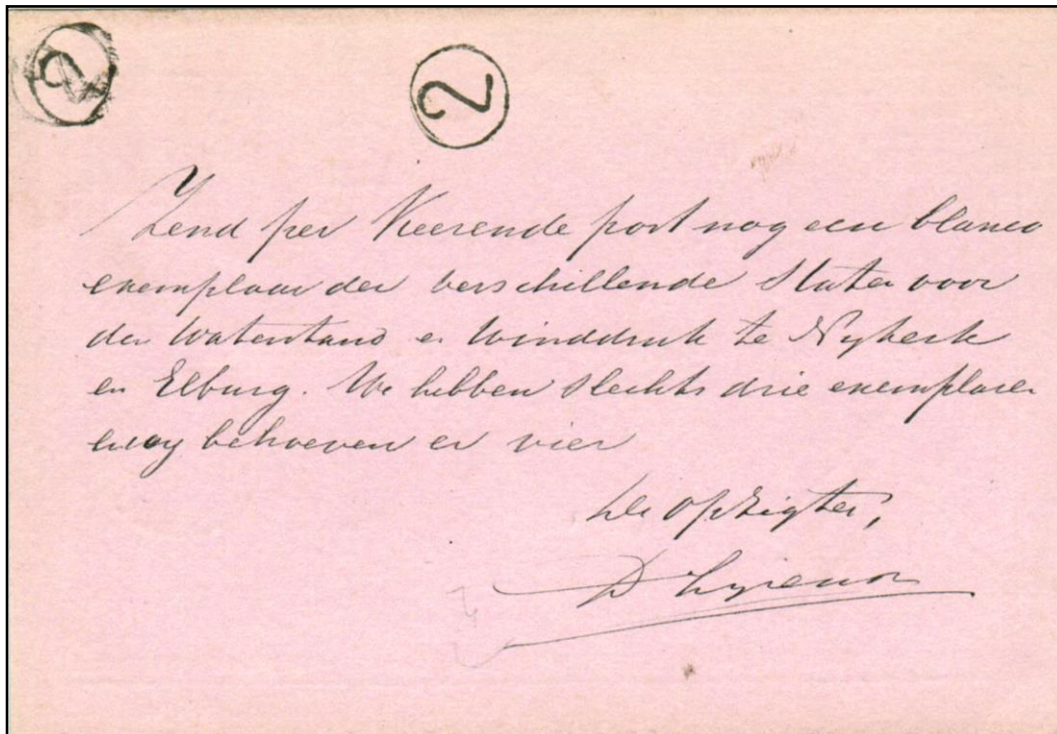


Figure 3. Reverse side message. The card is addressed to the Overseer of the Royal Water Board in Harderwyk with a request that the receiving office:

reply with various blank forms of the Waterlevels and Wind speed/Airpressure in Nijkerk and Elburg. We only have three copies, but need four. Signed, the supervisor.

Since this was something new in 1875, pre-printed post cards that did qualify would often mention that law printed on the front of the card, to make sure the receiver wouldn't be charged with postage due. Since these cards were often printed in bulk, they were still around in 1877, the time this card was sent.

What is unusual about this particular card is the incorrect date mentioned: **Wet van 23 September 1875**, instead of the correct date of **22 September**.

Strangely enough other Rijkswaterstaat post cards, like the one shown in Figure 4, do not show this error.



Figure 4. Rijkswaterstaat postcard with correct "Wet van 22 September 1875" date.

References:

http://www.Laakland.nl/portvridom_rws.htm

The official cards of Holland, *The Philatelic World*. Volume 1. 1881.

W. Ringnalda. *Hoofdtrekken van de Geschiedenis van het Nederlandsch Postwezen*. Martinus Nijhoff, Uitgegeven. 1895. (This excellent publication is available for free online).

www.wikipedia.com

The 1953 Flood Disaster (Watersnoodzegel) Overprint Forgeries

By Edward Burfine

Even in disastrous times forgers were hard at work creating items to defraud their prey. On the night of January 31, 1953, on a low spring-tide, an enormous surge from a not particularly heavy western storm struck the Netherlands. In at least 90 locations, over two days, poorly maintained dikes collapsed. The water continued to rise to higher levels during the night. On February 1, 1953 a second flood occurred creating a disaster that killed 1,836 people and flooded

200,000 hectares of land. It was a disaster of major proportions that prompted an immediate response by the Dutch government.

A series of semi-postal stamps, overprinted on 1950-52 Netherlands New Guinea stamps, was issued several days after the flooding, on February 9, 1953, to raise money for the flood victims and for flood repairs. Even though the time was very short between the flood and the issue date, January 31, 1953 to February 9, 1953, genuine First Day Covers do exist.



The overprinting was done by **Landsdrukkerij te Hollandia** (the State Printing Office in Hollandia, Netherlands New Guinea), and almost certainly printed on the same hand-operated letterpress used for the UNTEA issues, with the same registration accuracy.

The 1953 Flood Disaster stamps met the standard of quality expected from experienced pressmen using available press technology in a relatively undeveloped area of the South Pacific. The overprints were considered to be the best examples of post-war overprints; a representation of true craftsmanship.

Unlike UNTEA overprints, no “inverted” overprints or deformed-letter varieties are known. The contact pressure, or squeeze, is uniform across all overprints. The ink was applied uniformly across the letters. Radical shifts upward into the margin and horizontally into the margin do exist, but are quite rare. In general, the registration, the positioning of the overprint on the stamp, was remarkably good. It varies within 1 to 2 mm in both the horizontal and vertical direction.

There are two known forger types (NG-1 and NG-2) of the Flood Relief overprint forgeries which are easily identified by examining the serifs, the position of the word “hulp,” the size of the numbers 5 and 3, and the + sign on the 25 cent stamp. **Compare with image of the genuine overprint.**

NG-1 and NG-2 Forgery Identification (NNG NVPH nr. 22-24 and NNG Scott no. B-1-B-3)

1. The font is nearly sans-serif; missing the pointed details on the end of a stroke.
2. The letters are not well defined; slightly blurred. The ink is thin, almost dark gray.
3. The numbers 5 and 3 in the date 1953 are thin.
4. The letter p in the NG-2 overprint, with its long bottom stroke, looks like an inverted d.

Type NG-1



5. The NG-2 25 cent Queen Juliana has a small, slightly blurred + sign. A genuine + sign has a clearly defined edge.
6. The word 'hulp' starts over the left-most e in 'nederland' on the NG-2 15 cent and 25 cent Queen Juliana. On the NG-2 5 cent blue definitive it starts over the bar of the left-most d in 'nederland.'
7. On all NG-1 and genuine overprints the word 'hulp' starts over the left-most d in 'nederland.'

Type NG-2



A genuine overprint created on a hand letterpress has an edge around the letters due to plate pressure. Overprints created with a rubber hand stamp don't show this edging.

(Editor) We acknowledge with thanks to member Edward Burfine for the use of this information which is included in a larger study entitled, *History and Identification of UNTEA Forgeries. Section II. 1953 Flood Disaster Forgeries* copywritted by Edward Burfine.

Commemorative Card sold on the occassion of the Inauguration of Princess Wilhelmina

This illustrated briefkaart was issued for sale on the occassion of the inauguration of 18 year old Princess Wilhelmina as Queen of the Netherlands in 1898. Although Wilhelmina was designated Queen as of the death of her father Willem III in 1890 she could not be inaugurated until she was 18. This image of the new Queen was also used on the coinage and medals of the period. The Coat of Arms (wapen) of each of the original eleven provinces are also featured.

