

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS
of CALIFORNIA
(now in its 47th year)**

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April 2016

March 19th meeting. Attending at the home of Arno Kolster were Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven, Fred van der Heyden and Paul Swierstra.

YEARBOOK anyone???? NPofC's eighth (and latest) Yearbook was published in 2009. Several of our members have expressed interest in producing our next one and titles of proposed articles have been aired to start things off. NPofC members have gathered a wealth of knowledge about their special focus regarding Netherlands and former territories philately. Are there any philatelic topics that you've been thinking about or working on that need airing, summarized or clarified?? What say you, members.....Let's hear from you and get your knowledge in print so it doesn't get lost. **Please submit your text in Word .doc format and illustration scans in not more than 400 dpi.**

We have established a target press date of Fall 2016 for the **NPofC Commemorative 47½ YearBook** edition. As Editor, I urge members to submit their articles as soon as possible so that we can get this done. Titles submitted so far are:

- Hans Kremer**.....A 47½ Cent Red-Franking to Medellin, Columbia in 1938.
- Jan Verster**.....The 1908 sale of remainders in Paramaribo, Suriname.
- Franklin Ennik**.....Attempts by the Germans to Issue Occupation Stamps for the Netherlands in 1940 and the Theft of Enschede Stamp Stocks --- A summary.
- Hans Kremer**.....The basics of Dutch Military Mail (Veldpost) during 1914-1918 and a Mysterious IIA marker.
- Dennis Buss**.....The Netherlands Numeral Stamps: A Study in Innovative Stamp Design.
- Mardjohan Hardjasudarma**Miscellaneous Short Notes.
- Stuart Leven**.....A Rare Pre-1900 Dutch East Indies District Bestelhuis Cancel.

A CHANGE IN US POSTAL RATES. Effective April 10, 2016, postal rates in the USA will **decrease** an average 4.3%. This rate decrease applies only to "market dominant" mail such as letters, large envelopes/flats and post cards. There will be no changes in Priority Mail and parcels or packages. First Class will drop to 47 cents; additional ounces on letters and

The **April meeting** will be held at WESTPEX 2016 Stamp Show, April 29th 2016. NPofC has reserved the Newport Room 11:00am to 1:00pm for this occasion. **Arno Kolster will give a presentation dealing with the Netherlands first issues, nos. 1, 2 and 3. Everyone is invited to attend.**

flats are reduced to 21 cents. International Letter rates will drop to \$1.15. Post card rates will drop one cent to 34 cents. Prices for Forever stamps will also decline on April 10th. This is only the second time US postal rates have been reduced in the history of the US Postal Service.

AROUND THE TABLE

Arno Kolster passed around a copy of *Standaardwerk van de Postwaarden van Nederland –Emissie 1864*, by J. F. Cleij and several pieces of stampless mail from the Napoleon era of occupation of the Netherlands.

Hans Kremer passed around a cover commemorating the first post-war flight within the Netherlands, ---Amsterdam / Leeuwarden / Groningen on 11 October 1945. Hans also showed us a copy of the *paketsboot* mail article by Cees Janssen, *De Posterijenverbindingen tussen Nederland en Overzeese gebiedsdelen* from the *Journal Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie*; and several covers franked with 1899 Hanging Hair issues of Princess Wilhelmina and Fur Collar issues of Queen Wilhelmina.

Stuart Leven passed around a Dutch East Indies cover with a rare *bestelhuis* cancel in use prior to 1899. These early cancels were small-rounds without date slugs; in which the date had to be hand written in by the postal clerk. Bestelhuizen (rural delivery houses), and known as Rumah Pos, were established in rural areas of the Indonesian archipelago in districts where no post office or sub-offices were located. The expansion and distribution of these offices began in earnest in the 1930s and they continue to be used to this day.

Paul Swierstra passed around a collection of Belgian railway stamps and an article about the 1953 storm flood in the Netherlands by Kees Adema that appeared in the APS Stamp Journal, *American Philately*, February 2013.

Franklin Ennik showed us one of the many “make work” first flight covers constructed by G.A.G. Thoolen. This one features the flight that took place on April 20, 1936 on a trajectory from Amsterdam- Praag -Weenen-Boedapest, with special cachet (20-IV-1936 / K.L.M. EERSTVLUCHT / AMSTERDAM-BOEDAPEST) and marker LÉGI POSTÁVAL ÉRKEZETT =carrying 450 pieces of mail (according to J. Boesman in: *Postoluchten*).



Franklin also showed us an 1872, 2½ cent postal card sent from Amsterdam to s'Gravenhage August 15, 1877 with a G 18 delivery marker, which means that this card was delivered by *Postbode* (=Postman) no. 18 on the SEVENTH mail delivery of the day. Now, how often do you see that level of service today!!!!



Dennis Buss passed around a copy of the 1913 10 Gulden Queen Wilhelmina overprinted with 2.50 = 1920 stock clearance issue (NVPH nr. 105), it appears that the 2.50 overprint is **over** the stamp cancel..... but this must be just an illusion. Dennis also passed around a 1972 remembrance commemorative block of 300 year liberation of Groningen from Spanish rule August 28, 1672. Many cities in the Netherlands issued similar cinderella blocks to commemorate different events in the history of their city. The surcharges produced by the sale of these blocks helped to cover the costs of events funded by the City.



HansPaul Hager reviewed for us the summary of the article he is preparing for the **47½ Year Book** edition on the 1910 and 1915 emergency printing of *plakzegels* (fiscal documentary stamps) for Curaçao and Suriname. With stocks of these fiscal stamps running out the postal authorities of Suriname and Dutch West Indies sought a means to supply the needed revenues. During WW I, the Atlantic shipping lanes were unsafe for these kinds of deliveries from the Netherlands, so local printers were contracted to supply the needed adhesives. In the case of Curaçao, these provisional plakzegel revenues were printed by the local newspaper, *De Tijd*.

In Suriname, overstocks of existing postage stamps were overprinted with the word PLAKZEGEL and with a new revenue value. Various print varieties exist with these issues.



From the Dutch language philatelic newsletter *KNBF Nieuwsbrief* 072 - April 2016, 15 Mei 2016 blad. 15, comes this notice of a new reference book (in English) that could be a useful addition to your philatelic library.

Determining Stamp Colors: PSE offers help.

The American firm "Professional Stamp Experts" in Newport Beach, California specializes in providing philatelic advice. The company has recently "released a Stamp Market Quarterly called *The Philatelic Book of (even more) Secrets*," a special edition of its quarterly magazine. It is a sequel to an earlier publication, which - quite predictably -- was titled "*The Philatelic Book of Secrets*." Both publications can help stamp collectors learn more about their hobbies. The more recent of the two publications revolves mainly around the art of naming stamp colors. One of the recommendations made by PSE is the *Pantone Colour Guide* (a standardized system for identifying colors used by almost every printer) to use in the determination of the color of a postage stamp. But the book also contains many other tips and "secrets". Copies of the booklet for \$ 10 (excl. Shipping) are available from PSE, Box 6170, Newport Beach, CA 92658, USA. For more information please consult their website www.gradingmatters.com. (Source: AIJP 160113)

A 1920 47½ cent SavingsPlan stamp

By Hans Kremer

When it was decided to publish our next NPofC Anniversary booklet in 2016 I realized that this then would be our 47 ½ year anniversary. Traditionally we have put a stamp of the cover page of our Anniversary publication that reflects the numeral of the anniversary, for example a 22½ cent stamp for the 22½ Year Anniversary, etc.

I went through the NVPH catalog and checked if there ever was a 47½ cent stamp. Unfortunately I did not find one, however going through the catalog of Dutch fiscal stamps I could, and with some stretching, come up with a stamp that would qualify.

7 ½ cent Rentezegel of class I and II.



It is a 1920 7½ cent red overprint on a green 40 cent 'Rentezegel', and since 7½ plus 40 adds up to 47½ cent I figured it would do. The text on the underlying green 40 cent stamp reads: Rentezegel/Loonklasse III. This in itself doesn't mean much since "Rentezegel" literally translates as "Interest stamp", with Interest in this case referring to the interest you would get from a savings account.

But what was the savings account in this case?

Invaliditeitswet 1919 (Disability Act)

The introduction of the Disability Act in 1913 was a major step forward to social security. This law covered the financial risk of disability, regardless of the cause. The disability only applied to salaried people and was an employee insurance system. If a wage earner reached the age of 70, this was equated with disability. Single people were then entitled to a retirement pension of € 0.91 per week; a married person received € 1.36 per week. To be insured a premium had to be paid. The government paid the benefits. At the beginning of the last century, however, most people did not reach 70 and the ones who did were considered to be disabled (!). In 1919 widows and orphans were added to the insured list.

Savings stamps (Rentezegels)



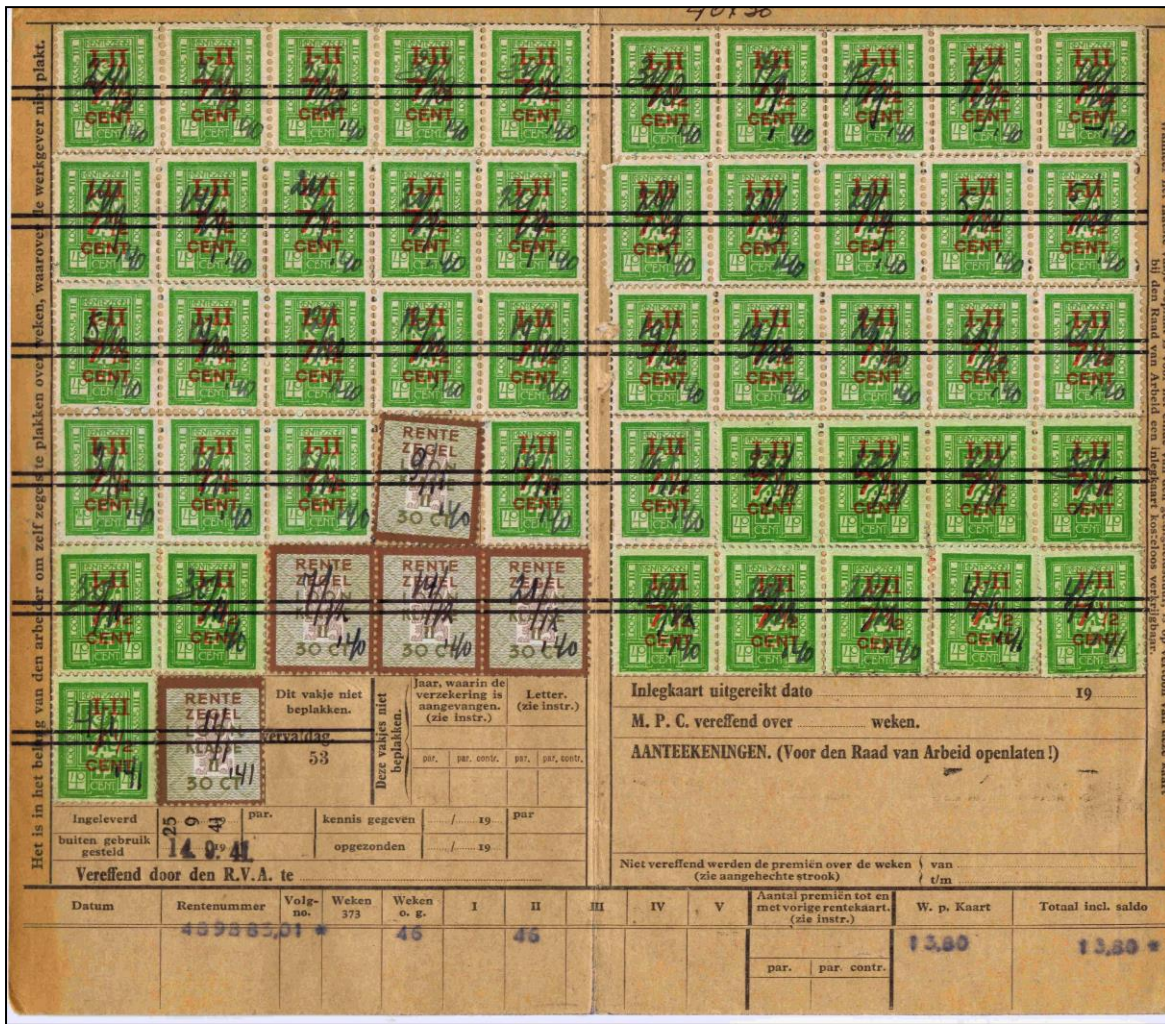
Minister of Industry the Reverend A. S. Talma, a very socially conscious but otherwise conservative politician, was the one who guided the Disability act through parliament. The Rijks Verzekerings Bank (National Insurance Bank) was the administrator. After 1919 a worker became entitled to a retirement pension at age 65. The insurance was mandatory and a savings card was issued for each employee. Every week the employer affixed savings stamps (*rentezegels*) to the card. At age 65 an employee was then entitled to a retirement pension of up to € 2.72 (!). No corrections accounting for any inflation were made.

There were *rentezegels* of various denominations. Each one for a different "loonklasse" (=wage class). First wage class (Loonklasse I) was for those earning less than 240 guilders a year, gradually going up to those making more than 800 guilders a year (Loonklasse V).

The green 40 cent stamp was for Loonklasse III (income between 400 and 600 guilders).

But why was there a need for such a 7½ cent stamp in 1920?

In 1920 the Disability law was extended to cover people working part time. For every day one worked the premium to be paid was 7½ cent for Loonklasse I and II, to 13½ cent for Loonklasse IV and V. In general, the 7½ cent covered women working in agriculture and those people being paid "in kind." Those people were reminded that employers only had to affix the *rentezegels* for the days they worked and that if they did not work at least four days a week they should pay for the extra *rentezegels* themselves in order to get credit for the other days.



Example of the back of a "Rentekaart."

As can be seen from this article some form of Social Security has existed in the Netherlands since 1913.

With thanks for the illustrations supplied by Jan Verster and HansPaul Hager.

Reference:

www.delpher.nl Dutch and related areas digitized newspapers

NPofC members: If any of you are planning to attend the 2016 WESTPEX Stamp Show in San Francisco at the Airport Marriott Hotel, 29 April - May 1, 2016, be advised that NPofC has reserved the **Newport Room** for an open general membership meeting and the public on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 11:00am and a presentation by Arno Kolster about the first stamp issue of the Netherlands

