

NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of
CALIFORNIA
(now in its 50^h year)

Correspondence to:

Franklin Ennik
3168 Tice Creek Drive # 3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
E-mail: ennik123@comcast.net
Telephone: 925-952-9424

Honorary Members:

John Heimans
George Vandenberg
Ralph Van Heerden
Website: jdikremer@angelfire.com

March-April 2019

Our **April meeting** was held at the **2019 WESTPEX Stamp Show**, Friday 26 April, 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm in Room 8042 in the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Burlingame, CA. Attending were Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, Hans Kremer, and Arno Kolster.

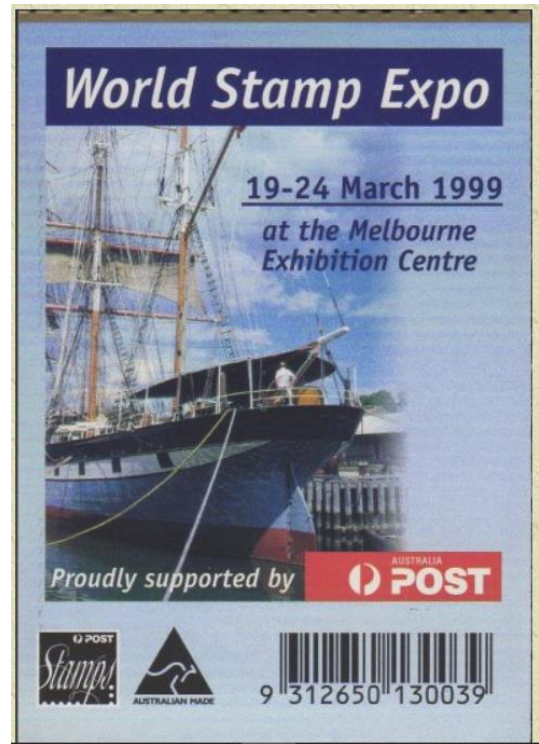
What is Social Philately?

With thanks to Hans Kremer who is a master at finding interesting philatelic information on the Internet.

This new collecting and exhibiting phenomenon was introduced in Australia at the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition, called "Australia 1999," as an experimental competitive class in exhibiting. It has quickly caught on and more and more collectors are turning to it. The fact is that it's been around for a long time but not recognized within the various classes of collecting and exhibiting. Now there is a name for it.....

It includes all the peripheral supportive philatelic materials associated with stamps, covers and postally used mail: for example, Cinderella's, official documents, shipping and airline routes, philatelic ephemera, effects of events such as governmental, economic and social upheavals, war, media sources, etc., etc. But wait.....Isn't that what this NPofC Newsletter has been about?

There is a fair amount of information available on the Internet with the search words "Social Philately."

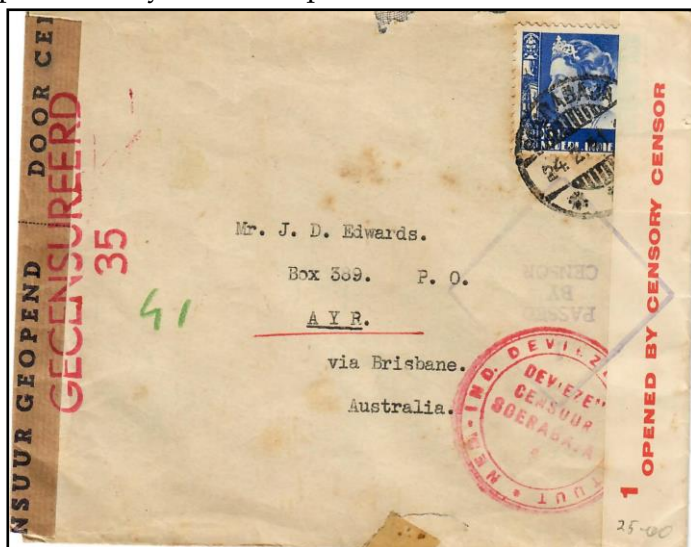


AROUND THE TABLE

Hans Kremer passed around a censored post card sent from liberated Southern Netherlands in 1945 with a cancel "open 4," issued in March 1945; a PLICARD correspondence sent by The Hague office of stamp dealer, Gerard A.G. Thoolen, dated February 7, 1943; a card fund raiser appeal to rebuild Reims Cathedral that was damaged during WW I; an article found on the Internet about the new phenomenon of collecting and exhibiting called 'Social Philately'; an article by Hans about reduced mail rates to Belgium during WW I and a 1908 commercial letter from Suriname to New York regarding bananas.

Arno Kolster summarized his recent trips to The Netherlands where he attended the Corinphila Auction in pursuit of the first three issues produced by the Dutch postal authorities.

Franklin Ennik passed around a DEI cover sent to Australia that received both DEI censoring and Australian censoring; a commercial receipt fragment with a red, 5 cent Curacao fiscal stamp; and a PTT envelope dated April 6, 1949 with F 19.36 worth of postage due stamps applied plus F 1.15 extra charge.



Dennis Buss passed around two flight covers sent by the PTT that helped to establish routes from Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) to Sidney, Australia and return in 1934 and a second flight in 1938; and a second flight cover from Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) via Naples, Italy to Johannesburg, South Africa in January 1940.



15-1-1940 (Amsterdam-) Naples-Johannesburg. Second KLM flight to South Africa. Travel time: 4 days. Pilots: -Cees Blaak and Evert Hulsebos, Flight name: Heron. The war conditions forced KLM to start this special flight in Naples. Dutch and Swiss mail for this flight was sent to and loaded in Naples. GBS, AS 19-1 (10420). KLM was

denied carrying special return mail, like the one illustrated, which was returned instead via Imperial Airways or by boat.

Zaamslag "Open 4," Cancel 1945

by Hans Kremer

The postcard shown here (Figure. 1) was written on February 9, 1945 (see back) and sent from Zaamslag (Zeeland Province) to Bergen op Zoom (NB.) It did not receive a Zaamslag (ZL.) postmark until March 13, 1945, more than a month later.

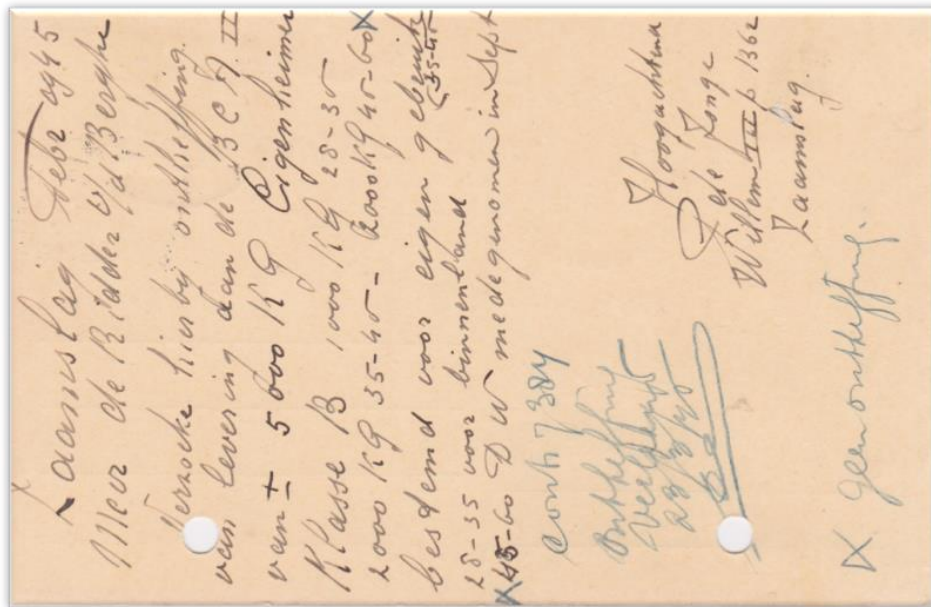


Figure 1. Zaamslag (ZL.) to Bergen op Zoom (NB.) March 1945.

If you look at the year-date of the Zaamslag cancel you'll notice "1945" with a straight "1" and an 'Open 4" (Figure 2.)

The story about the "Open 4" can be found in [Netherlands Philately Vol. 34/2](#), November 2009. In short, due to the absence of the 1945 year characters, usually sent from the PTT Main Offices in The Hague, "1945" year character had to be ordered in Belgium. The "1" and "4" were different from the usual PTT cancels (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Straight "1" and "4".

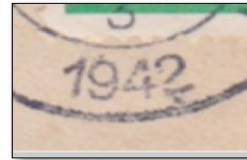


Figure 3. 'Usual '1' and '4' issued by PTT.

The listing I had of the 'Earliest Known date' of an 'Open 4' cancel for Zaamslag showed May 29, 1945. It has now been updated to March 13, 1945.

Why was there such a delay between the February 9, 1945 date (when the card was written) and March 13, 1945 (when the card was canceled)?

One has to realize that once parts of the Southern Netherlands were liberated (this included Zaamslag (on September 19, 1944) and Bergen op Zoom (October 27, 1944) it took a while to get the mail going again. It was not until March 1, 1945 that mail could be sent to and from Bergen op Zoom again. The card probably was held back at the Zaamslag post office until it was permitted to be forwarded. Why it was not forwarded until March 13, and not March, I don't know.

Another factor involved was the postal censorship by the Dutch "Censuurdienst" (Figure 4.). The censor office was located in Eindhoven from November 1944 until June 1945, when it was moved to Amsterdam. The censor office looked for things that directly or indirectly might benefit the enemy.



Figure 4. Dutch censorship marker

The card might have been held up in Eindhoven for some time due to the high volume of mail that had to be examined in the censor office. 1,200,000 pieces of mail were censored in Eindhoven during the seven months operation of the censor office.

As previously mentioned, the card was canceled in Zaamslag on March 13, 1945. This day happens to be of significance in Dutch history. On that day Queen Wilhelmina, who had been exiled in London

The May-June meeting will be skipped due to members travel plans. The next meeting will be Saturday July 7, 2019 at Dennis Buss' home starting at 12:30pm. Dennis' telephone number is (707) 774-6296.

The Summer Picnic Luncheon is scheduled for August 24, 2019 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Concord, CA at 12:00 noon. Spouses are invited.

during the war, re-entered Dutch territory for the first time since May 13, 1940. She crossed the Belgian-Dutch border at the town of Eede (Figure 5.). **Note the indicated chalk line on the ground behind the Queen.** The next day she visited Zaamslag, 25 miles NE of Eede.



Figure 5. Queen Wilhelmina crosses the Belgian-Dutch border on March 13, 1945.

Of course, we should also look at the text of the postcard to see if there is anything ‘special’ about it.

The sender of the card, P. de Jonge, asks Mrs. De Ridder-v.d Berghe if he could be exempted (“*ontheffing*”) from having to deliver certain amounts of potatoes. The word “*Eigenheimers*” refers to a potato variety, while the numbers, such as “28-35”, refer to the size of the potatoes in millimeters. The note “45-60 DW medegenomen in Sept.” probably tells Mrs. de Ridder that the Deutsche Wehrmacht (German Army) had taken the 2,000 kg (4,400 pounds) of large (45-60 mm) potatoes earlier in September 1944, just before Zaamslag’s liberation on September 19, 1944. Mr. de Jonge had planned on keeping these for himself (“=*voor eigen gebruik*”).

Also mentioned in the note is “*B.C.A. II.*” During the war the B.C.A. was responsible for potato distribution. An employee of the Dutch national potato organization emailed me that she thought that it stood for “*Bond van Commissionairs in Aardappelen,*” which translates as *Organization of Potato Commission-Agents*. Usually farmers at the start of the season often sold

their crop beforehand to one of these commission-agents. They accepted a certain guaranteed price for which they would deliver their product, in this case potatoes. The commission-agent in turn reckoned that he would be able to sell the potatoes at a higher price once he received them.

It appears that Mr. De Jonge's contract was # 7384, since the card reads:

"contr 7384"	=Contract # 7884
Ontheffing	=Exemption Approved
Verleend	=Approved
23/3/45	=Contract date March 23, 1945

The Exemption was granted but there is an additional note:

**" X Geen (=No) ontheffing", which refers to the "45-60 DW potatoes."
Finally, no exemption was granted, which is strange since the potatoes were stolen by the German Army in Sept. 1944.**

For those of you who would like to know more about "Eigenheimers" (a staple of Dutch food even today), note the following:

The Eigenheimer potato (Figure 6) is a very flowery potato which is particularly appreciated by older generations as a table potato in the east of the Netherlands. Nice and crumbly and flowery, enabling it to soak up plenty of gravy. At the same time, this crumbliness makes it difficult to cook a decent chip from it.

The Eigenheimer is characterized by its deep-set eyes and oval, irregular shape. In addition, this potato has a light yellow skin and can sometimes have a purple tinted top. The origin of this special potato can be traced to the Groningen Borger Compagnie. For this reason the Eigenheimers are also called Borgers.

If the weather conditions allow, the potatoes are planted in early April. The Eigenheimers belong to the late harvest race variety. This means that the potatoes will not be harvested until the end of August.



Figure 6. Eigenheimer potatoes.