

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS  
of CALIFORNIA  
(now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year)**

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**Correspondence to:**

Franklin Ennik  
3168 Tice Creek Drive # 3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
E-mail: [ennik123@att.net](mailto:ennik123@att.net)  
Telephone: 925-952-9424

**Honorary Members:**

John Heimans  
† Ralph Van Heerden  
Website: [www.angelfire.com/ca2/npofc](http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/npofc)

**May 2010**

**April meeting.** Attending at the home of George Vandenberg were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, John Heimans, Hans Kremer, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra, George & Clara Vandenberg and Fred Van der Heyden.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

The **NPofC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook** was finally presented to the membership with accolades all around for all who submitted articles, those who formatted/edited the text, proof read and those who provided technical support and suggestions. The membership can be especially pleased with this production with its 14 interesting, color illustrated articles. Copies of the Yearbook will be entered into the Literature Exhibition at the upcoming APS show August 12-15, 2010 in Richmond, Virginia. Your copy of the Yearbook should arrive in your mailbox shortly if not sooner.

The 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WESTPEX stamp show at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel was well attended. NPofC also had a good turnout at our public meeting on Saturday, April 24 with nine members and three visitors.

**The theme for this April 2010 meeting** was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the May 5, 1945 liberation (bevrijding) of the Netherlands. Attending members were asked to bring philatelic examples plus any related items from their collections that commemorated or focused on the liberation. Members displayed an interesting mix of items and related personal stories of the event.

Local members attended an enjoyable luncheon honoring visiting member HansPaul Hager and family that was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Milpitas, CA.

**AROUND the TABLE**

**Fred Van der Heyden** passed around a copy of the US Army publication, *Stars and Stripes*, which featured the liberation of Europe; a framed print showing an early 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century sailing ship with the caption, *Holland Vrij, 10 mei 1940-5 mei 1945*; an Indonesian ceremonial knife with a wooden sheath; an early Dutch cast iron coat of arms, inscribed **Je Maintiendrai** (I shall maintain); numerous post cards with liberation/end of the war themes; and two Mileage Ration Book Holders dated 1943 and issued by Richfield Oil Co. and Standard Oil of California.

The **May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held starting at 1:00 pm at the Western Philatelic Library, 1500 Partridge Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. The WPL telephone: 408-733-0336.  
The **June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting** location has yet to be determined. Any volunteers??

**Hans Kremer** showed us examples of the Netherlands (NVPH nr. 443, Scott no. 277), orange-red 7½ cent 1945 Bevrijdings zegel (1945 liberation stamp) on cover. This issue was voted by the Dutch public the most beautiful stamp issued (up to that point). *See article below about the development of this issue.* Since the May 5, 1945 liberation, the Dutch postal authority has issued a wartime/liberation related stamp (set) about every five years. Hans also showed a large picture book entitled, *Olst–1940-1945*, (his home town) showing the war damage endured by the town and its recovery.

**George Vandenberg** passed around two full sheets of the 1945 7½ cent liberation issue, accompanied by an English translation by C.M. Simpson (of A.M. Benders' article\*, *Nederlandse-Bevrijdingszegel van 1945* (NVPH 443), that appeared in *Philatelie*, februari 1981, pg. 110-111), explaining the many plate faults found on these sheets. The plate faults have to do with the first N (and the first E) of **NEDERLAND**. When the southern part of the Netherlands was liberated, needed supplies for updating postal cancellers were obtained from liberated Belgium rather than from still occupied Den Haag. George passed around several post cards showing examples of open (Belgian) and closed (Dutch) 4 in the 1945 date stamp cancellation. George also showed a large ceramic plate commemorating the liberation of Maastricht; a wartime English edition of the Dutch newspaper, *De Krant*, printed in Canada; a thank-you letter sent to the family A. Muller for care packages of clothes and personal items sent to the Netherlands after the war; and a copy of Kees Adema's new book, *Netherlands Mail in Times of Turmoil, Volume 1, 1568-1795*. \*see also: comments by P.C. Korteweg in *Maandblad voor Philatelie*, juli-augustus 1946.

**John Heimans** passed around a large series of envelopes franked with the 1938 and 1953 airmail Flying Crow issues, including examples of watermarks and print color shades; copies of the Dutch Plate Fault Society newsletter *De Plaatfout*; and copies of the 1976 Crouwel cijfer series (NVPH nr. 1108) with private delivery overprints of the 1983 Dutch postal strike **noodzegel poststaking 1983. 100** cent.



**HansPaul Hager** showed examples of revenue stamps and postcards printed in liberated Eindhoven with the designation, **nooduitgifte**, (emergency issue). As more and more of the Netherlands became liberated, postal items with this designation were delivered to post offices elsewhere in the Netherlands, eventually reaching the provinces of North Holland and Friesland. HansPaul also showed a blue PTT postal delivery bag from the 1950s which was made with thick heavy leather.

**Paul Swierstra** related some memories from his younger days in Utrecht. When the Germans crossed the border on 10 May 1940 everyone was out on the streets late into the night. On the day of liberation, as Utrechters were again on the street already celebrating the advance of Canadian troops but unfortunately some young people were caught in the cross-fire between the retreating Germans and approaching Canadians. Fifteen years ago Paul was present for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the 5 May 1945 liberation and, as the contingent of British, Canadian and Polish veterans rode across the Berlage bridge into Amsterdam, some took a much needed bathroom break!! At that moment, Paul got to meet and talk with some Canadian veterans who took part in liberating Utrecht and who were surprised to meet a liberated person from Utrecht.

**Franklin Ennik** passed around a series of picture postcards showing surrendered German soldiers boarding landing crafts while others were being forced to walk back to Germany; a 7½ cent postcard with the **nooduitgifte** designation posted 1946 in Amsterdam; and a postcard celebrating the five year recovery progress of the Netherlands, especially Gelderland, with the **Mijlpaal 1950 Exhibition** in Arnhem.

**Burt Miller** related that he entered his spectacular exhibit entitled, *Danzig–The Germania Burelage Issue*, at the 50<sup>th</sup> WESTPEX stamp show held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel 23-25 April 2010. Congratulations to Burt for his **Silver award** on this exhibit. The exhibit consisted of the 1920 burelage issues of Danzig overprinted on Germania issues with types, varieties, multiple, and omitted burelage, and postal usage on letters and package cards.(Excerpt from the WESTPEX 2010 program).

**Albert Muller** read a summary text from the *Encyclopedia Britannica* pertinent to our Liberation 1945 theme that described the dire social and economic conditions and damaged infrastructure present in the Netherlands at the war’s end.

### CANCEL OF THE MONTH

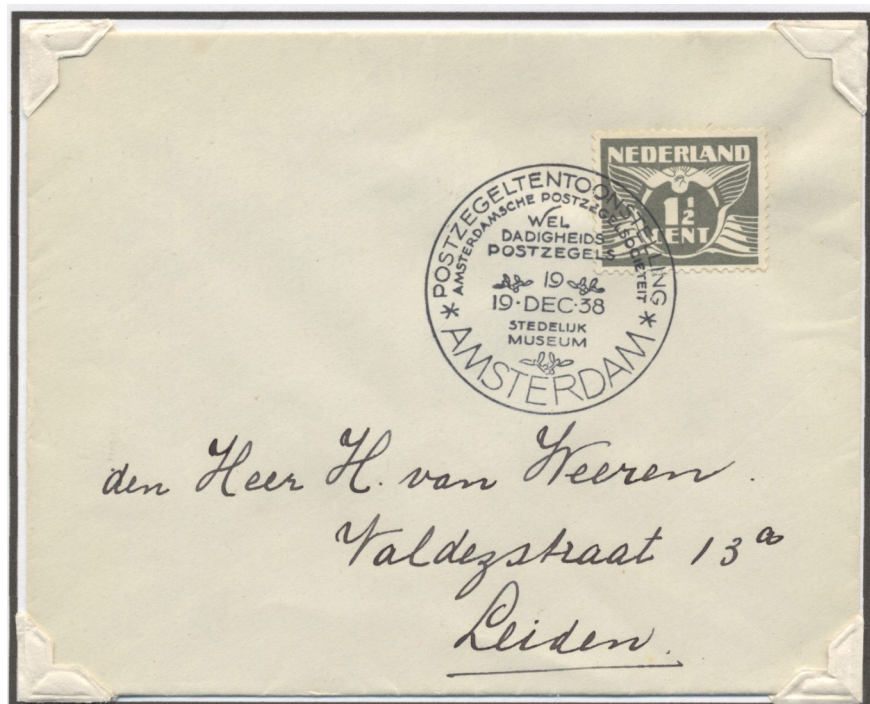
The April winner is **Franklin Ennik** with a squared cancel of Kotaradja, Sumatra. During the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century period, Kotaradja, and its port city Oleh Leh, was a principal commercial center located on the northern tip of Sumatra in Atjeh province. Located nearby on the Island of Pulu Weh is the international maritime port of Sabang. When the Dutch established themselves in this area in 1877 they had grand visions of turning it into another important commercial center like the British port of Singapore. The citizens of Atjeh province, however, gave the Dutch administrators nothing but grief. When Indonesia gained its independence, the name Kotaradja was changed to Banda Atjeh. This 1870-1888, 30 cent Willem III issue is cancelled June 4, 1894.



### COVER of the MONTH

The April winner is **Hans Kremer** with a December 19, 1938 Amsterdam stamp show cover franked with a 1½ cent cijfer.

This cover was posted December 19, 1938 from Amsterdam to Leiden. The cover was dropped off at the special mailbox at the stamp show held in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam from December 14, through December 30, 1938. The special show cancel with the text *Weldadigheidspostzegels*



refers to the Child Welfare stamps (NVPH nr. 313-317), which were available for sale December 1, 1938 through January 5, 1939. Sadly, the sender of this cover did not frank it with a 1½ cent Child Welfare issue but instead used a common 1935, gray 1½ cent cijfer issue (NVPH nr. 172).

## OTHER CATEGORY OF THE MONTH

The April winner is **Franklin Ennik** with an example of the use of bisected stamps due to shortage of postage stamps in Curaçao.

Due to safety concerns of international shipping on the high seas during WW I, a shortage of postage stamp supplies of the 1 cent denomination developed in the post offices of the Dutch West Indies. In response the Dutch postal authority authorized the bisecting of existing stocks of 2 cent and 2½ cent stamps of the 1915-1926 cijfer issue. The resulting bisected stamps would each have the value of 1 cent.



As shown, the stamp on piece is the right half of the 2 cent brown (NVPH nr. 71a) and was posted Curaçao, July 6, 1918. The following translated and paraphrased note appeared in the *NVPH Speciale Catalogus 2010*:

*In the absence of 1 cent stamps – 2 cent and 2½ cent stamps (perforation 12½) of the 1915-1926 cijfer issue were bisected. Right and left diagonally bisected halves exist in each of the 2 cent and 2½ cent stamps. 32,000 of the bisected 2 cent stamps were sold June 1 to July 16, 1918 and 31,200 of the bisected 2½ cent stamps were sold July 6 to July 16, 1918. The last day of authorized use of the bisected stamps was August 15, 1918.*

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**On the development of the 1945 Bevrijdingszegel (1945 liberation stamp) NVPH nr. 443** with thanks to Hans Kremer.

After the Allies landed in Normandy in June 1944, there was a general feeling of optimism in the Netherlands that the war would be over soon. However, it was not until May 5, 1945, in Hotel *De Wereld* in Wageningen, that the surrender terms of the German forces in the Netherlands were negotiated. On May 6, 1945 the capitulation was signed in the auditorium of the Wageningen Agricultural College (next to Hotel *De Wereld*).



*Early T.B.C. BESTRIJDING design and final 19 HERRIJZEND 45 design of the 1945 liberation stamp.*

Although it took longer than expected, plans were already made in 1944 to prepare for the time after the German surrender. One of these plans included the issuing of a 'liberation' stamp. The design was made by an employee of Johan Enschede printers in Haarlem, a Mr. Mechelse. Since this happened while the media was still under German control, secrecy was required. To safeguard against the consequences of having the design (showing the Dutch Lion defeating a dragon) being discovered, it had the words **TBC BESTRIJDING** (Fight against tuberculosis) at the top of the stamp. It of course had nothing to do with tuberculosis.

Very soon after the German surrender the stamp was released (July 15, 1945), this time in a 7½ cent denomination, compared to the 5 cent **TBC** design and now with the text **19 HERRIJZEND 45** (Rise again 1945). Close to 57 million of these stamps were sold, making it one of the most common Dutch stamps. Strangely enough I had never seen one of these 7½ cent stamps on a cover by itself. The 7½ cent rate was mainly used for in-country letters weighing up to 20 grams.

Another fairly common 7½ cent rate was the printed matter rate, sent by airmail to a European destination. Recently I was fortunate to find one of these on eBay and bought it for 50 cents!!



*Printed matter sent to England in 1945. 7½ cent was the correct rate (2½ cent plus 5 cent airmail surcharge).*

I already had the next cover in my collection. This cover was posted from Lisse (ZH) in the Netherlands to Washington, North Carolina (the first city in America to be named for General George Washington, the future first President of the United States) on August 11, 1945. Upon closer examination of the cancellation of the green 5 cent stamp at the bottom of the envelope one reads Haarlem 13-VIII, not Lisse 11-VIII as on the stamps at the top. Why are there two different cancellation dates on this cover?



*Letter posted 1945 from the Netherlands to the USA. Correct rate was 92½ cent.  
Underpaid by 5 cent, but by adding a 5 cent stamp the correct franking requirement was met.*

The correct rate for a letter weighing 10 grams (see handwritten **10 gr** on the cover), sent airmail to the US in 1945 was 12½ cent regular rate plus 2 x 40 cent for the airmail surcharge (40 cent per 5 grams), for a total of 92½ cent. Adding up the stamps at the top the total comes to only 87½ cent, i.e., 5 cent short.

Instead of sending the letter on to the US (where postage due would have to be paid) or sending it back to Lisse, the postal clerk at the Haarlem post office added a 5 cent ‘courtesy stamp.’ Keep in mind that the war had just ended and the Dutch were thankful towards the liberators. No need to ask them or anybody else for another 5 cent!!

### References

G. Holstege, J. Vellekoop en R. Van den Heuvel. *Handboek Postwaarden Nederland*. Section B 16:1-14.

*Netherlands Philatelists of California Newsletter*. September 1991.