



**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS
of CALIFORNIA
(now in its 41st year)**

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Honorary Members:

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January 2011

December meeting. Attending at Western Philatelic Library were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra, George Vandenberg and Fred Van der Heyden.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

2011 Membership dues. We discussed the subject of membership dues at our meeting and agreed to retain the established three-tier payment system that applies to the categories: regular (local) members, corresponding US and Canadian members, and corresponding foreign members. We also agreed to once again wave the membership dues structure for 2011 and take the respective costs from the special benefactor's fund.

Arrangements have been made for our annual holiday dinner on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the Three Flames Restaurant, 1547 Meridian Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-5316 **starting at 6:00 pm.** The Three Flames Restaurant telephone number: 408-269-3133. Directions to the restaurant can also be found on the Internet. Members are reminded to bring copies of their 2010 monthly contest winners. **Note change of start time.**

The slate of 2011 Officers has been accepted and approved: President: HansPaul Hager, Vice President: Burt Miller, Treasurer: Stuart Leven, and Secretary: Franklin Ennik.

The NPofC does not have or maintain a philatelic (lending) library of its own but our sister Dutch philatelic organization, *American Society for Netherlands Philately*, does have its own Library and it is maintained by our NPofC member Paul Swierstra. NPofC members who are also members of ASNP can borrow philatelic reference materials for specified periods plus cost of postage. A list of ASNP Library holdings can be viewed online at <http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/asnp> .

The NPofC is considering funding, from our benefactor fund, the purchase of reference materials not yet in the ASNP Library but that would be deemed desirable by the borrowing members. With this notice we are polling members for suggestions of titles of references that you think would be useful in the Library. Send suggestions to the NPofC Secretary

The **January 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Franklin Ennik in Walnut Creek, CA starting at 1:00pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact Frank at 925-952-9424.
The **February 19th meeting** will be held at the home of John Heimans in San Jose, CA starting at 1:00 pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact John at 408-264-5752.

AROUND the TABLE

Paul Swierstra summarized his recent visit to the Netherlands: he attended the POSTEX 2010 stamp show held in Apeldoorn, 15-17 oktober 2010. One of the activities at the show was a free scramble, mostly by young people, of selecting from a large pile of loose stamps no more than 60 stamps in 60 seconds. Paul also gave us an update on the OV-Chip Kaart payment system now in place on public conveyances in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The bugs in the system are still being worked out. Eventually, this public transportation payment system will be installed throughout the Netherlands.

Fred Van der Heyden showed us a huge collection of vintage, year-end holiday greeting post cards that were used/sent during ca 1900-1920 from the US, the Netherlands and other European locations. Many of these highly collectable cards are quite valuable according to the Post Card Collectors' Catalogue.

Hans Kremer passed around a copy of the recent issue of Rundbrief, *Nederland Onder de Loep*, No. 187 (Issue 3): december 2010, a Netherlands area focused magazine published by the German philatelic club, ARGE (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Niederlande e.V.). The magazine translated, with NPofC permission, the "1948 LETTERS ABROAD PROGRAM" article from the NPofC 40th Anniversary Yearbook under the title, **Wie eine kleine Idee um die Welt ging** (How a little idea went around the world). Hans also passed around a 20 stamp block sheet of 44 cent 2010 December stamps. The stamps are value discounted at 34 cent for special use during the Christmas holidays. Another sheet of the 44 cent, popular cartoon character "Snoopy" commemorating 60 years was shown and a square, Christmas envelope franked with only 88 cent sent from the Netherlands which did not attract a postage due notice (normal postage to the US from the Netherlands is 95 cent). From the Internet Hans found a story and illustration about a post card sent to the Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh.

Franklin Ennik showed a mixed franking FDC of the 1982 US-Netherlands joint issue commemorating 200 years of cooperation between the two countries (NVPH nr. 1266-1267 and Scott no. 2003); two stamp-less covers dated 21 februari 1857 and 18 april 1861; an early package receipt form dated 11 december 1930 that accompanied a package sent from Hellevoetsluis (Z.H.) to Anvers, Belgium; and a commercial cover sent locally February or March 1897 to a firm in Sappemeer (Gr.) near Hoogezand and franked with 6 cent (?). A five cent stamp would have been sufficient postage in this case. Any ideas what the extra one cent was for??



George Vandenberg passed around two Royal Dutch Marine covers dated 2 augustus 1944 and a pamphlet, *500 Jaar Marine*, which summarizes the 500 year history of the Royal Dutch Navy. George also described his period of service in the Royal Dutch Navy and later being drafted into the US Army after emigrating from the Netherlands to the US.

CANCEL OF THE MONTH

The December winner is **Hans Kremer** with a SOTN Amsterdam Centraal-Station machine slogan date cancel of May 12, 1933.

Van der Wart in his "*Machinestempels*" publication calls this a type IIIIG, a non-continuous cancel, which means the machine applied one cancel at a time, not a set of continuous cancels across the entire cover. Shown on the stamp is only the "pole" of the cancel, *not the flag and pole*, as is shown in the following illustration:



The flag or slogan of the cancel on the left urges postal patrons to "Use products made in the Netherlands." The above stamp is the 6 cent denomination of a set of four stamps, issued on April 1, 1933 to commemorate William of Orange's 400th birthday. The design of the stamp is

based on a painting, by Flemish painter Adriaen Thomasz Key, which hangs in the Mauritshuis Museum in The Hague. Six cent was the letter rate for an out of town letter of the first weight group.

COVER of the MONTH

The December winner is **Franklin Ennik** with a registered letter sent September 13, 1928 from the Bandoeng, Java offices of the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (NHM) to the Central National Bank in Cleveland, Ohio. The Central National Bank was a major financial entity in the upper mid-western US. On the reverse of the envelope are a NHM company sluitzegel, Port of New York and Cleveland, Ohio registry and receiving cancels October 22, 1928.

Although the firm NHM (Netherlands Trading Company) never gained the title "Royal" it was founded and promoted by Willem I in 1824 for the purpose of promoting trade and commercial expansion in the Dutch East Indies and East Asia area.

Initially the spectacular profit margins hoped for by investors were slow in coming. Difficulties included the costly and risky business of sea transport, conscripted native labor, and oppressive colonial management. Once organized however, this venture quickly transformed itself from being the Crown's agent into a private investment firm, half bank and half plantation owner. At first their focus in the DEI was on the sugar industry and later they monopolized the coffee and tobacco industries.



By 1882, the company essentially crossed over to providing only banking services and leaving the risky management of plantations to others. The NHM quickly became one of the major giants of the financial world and established branches all along their trade routes. In 1964 NHM merged with De Twentsche Bank to form the Algemene Bank Nederland (ABN) and later became ABN-AMRO.

The Netherlands Childrens Welfare Stamps of 1961.

The 1961 Child Welfare Stamps typify Netherlands folklore. The stamp designs refer to annual festivals which are maintained mainly by and for children. As a matter of fact children are faithful guardians of old traditions of which they need not know the background to enjoy them.

In days long past the grown-ups likewise took part in the festivities. But alas, in these modern times it is only the festival of Saint Nicholas which is celebrated enthusiastically both by young and old. There are even burgomasters of large towns who give the good saint a warm reception. In Amsterdam he arrives by boat and makes a tour through the town surrounded by his black servants, nowadays on motor scooters! Sometimes the procession blocks the traffic in the city, because of the crowds that come to cheer on the saint.

4 cent + 4 cent. Saint Nicholas

Saint Nicholas is the most popular feast in the Netherlands. The name is due to the legendary Bishop of Myra (Asia Minor), the patron saint of the children, who also happens to be the patron saint of Amsterdam! The actual day of commemoration is December 5th. But weeks before this date the children are getting excited and are wondering what the saint will have in store for them. “Good” children will get presents and sweets brought from Spain in a big sack by the saint’s faithful servant Zwarte Piet (Black Peter). “Naughty” children run the risk of getting “the rod” and even of disappearing into Black Peter’s sack. After his entry into the Netherlands



Saint Nicholas rides on his schimmel (grey horse) over the roofs and drops presents for the children through the chimney-pots into their boots which they put near the fireplace after having filled them with straw and carrots for the bishop's horse. Before going to bed the children sing a nursery rhyme in which they ask the saint for his gifts and thank him at the same time!

6 cent + 4 cent. Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany is still celebrated by children, particularly in the province of Brabant. The boys dress up in tablecloths and long skirts and put crowns of gilt paper on their heads thus representing the Three Wise Men: Melchior, Casper and Balthasar. One of the boys has his face blackened; he is the King of the Moors, as the children sing in their song of the Epiphany. The stamp shows boys with Chinese lanterns, a beautiful star, and even a little manger.



8 cent + 4 cent. Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter on which the Christian Churches commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem when the multitudes cut down branches from the trees and strewed them in the way. On Palm Sunday lots of children form processions in which they carry sticks decorated with twigs of a kind of box-tree (so-called palm twigs), Easter eggs, oranges, sweets, colored paper, etc. Mostly on top of the stick is a fowl made of dough with currants for eyes. The stamp shows some examples from various parts of the country. During the procession the children sing nursery rhymes.



12 cent + 9 cent. Whitsuntide

About Whitsuntide the children of the farmers in Twente (the eastern part of the Netherlands) make the rounds of the farmhouses with the "Whitson-Bride." The bride walks under a pretty "Whitsun-crown," made of hoops decorated with colored paper, paper roses, etc. The little procession enters the farmhouses and the children sing a nursery rhyme in which they ask for some coins. In the evening the money is spent on sweets, and it is quite a feast for the young ones. The stamp shows a "Whitsun-Bride" with her friends.



30 cent + 9 cent. Martinmas

On November 11th the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Saint Martin, Bishop of Tours (371-396). On that day the children in various parts of the Netherlands organize processions in which they carry lanterns. Sometimes the children themselves make these lanterns from cigar-boxes in which they cut all kinds of figures. Sometimes they hollow out sugar beet roots and cut figures in the rind. A candle in such a lantern makes a wonderful effect! The children make the rounds of the homes singing nursery rhymes, and collecting sweets and coins. In the evening they have a party together. Source Reference: *PTT Philatelic Information Service pamphlet.*



Netherlands Antilles dissolved as per 10-10-10

with thanks to Hans Kremer, and others.

The island of Aruba achieved independence in 1986 as a separate country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The remaining Netherlands Antilles islands no longer exist as a country. As per October 10, 2010 it has been ‘broken up’ into three entities: Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the combined municipalities of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

1: Curaçao, which became an independent country (with a population 141,766), within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.



2: Sint Maarten (the former Dutch part with a population of 40,917) also became an independent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Curaçao and St. Maarten have formed a monetary union and the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles has become the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten. The joint currency will be the Caribbean guilder CMg. Just like the current Antillean guilder NAf., the exchange rate of the Caribbean guilder will be US\$1 to CMg1.79, the same as the Antillean guilder.

The Caribbean guilder is not a legal currency yet because the bank notes and coins still have to be designed and printed/struck, respectively. This process has already begun, but will take approximately one and a half years. The Central Bank expects to circulate the new bank notes and coins on a date to be determined later in 2012.

3: Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba became special municipalities of the Netherlands (with a combined population of 17,246) and have been invited into the province of North Holland. And as such, these citizens can vote for members of the Dutch parliament.



They will be referred to as ‘Caribisch Nederland’ (Caribbean Netherlands), also known by the acronym BES islands. The U.S dollar will be their currency as per 1-1-2011; until then the Antillean guilder will remain their currency.

As of Sunday, 10-10-10, the highest point of the Netherlands is no longer the Vaalserberg (323 meters/1059 feet), but it is now Mt. Scenery, a potential active volcano (877 meters/2877 feet), on the island of Saba. The last eruption was in 1640. Saba is the smallest of the Antillean islands and it has the shortest airline runway in the world.

Bonaire is one of the least populated islands. There is no massive tourism and the whole northern point is a protected nature area. Salt mining is important. This island had the most opposition against “Nederlandism” as it was called there.

References

With thanks in part to Hans Kremer, a translation by Paul Swierstra of an article from the Dutch newspaper, *SPITS* 8 oktober 2010, and information from Wikipedia.