



NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS
of CALIFORNIA
(now in its 42nd year)

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March 2011

February meeting. Attending at the home of John Heimans were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, John Heimans, Arno Kolster, Stuart Leven, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra, George Vandenberg and Fred Van der Heyden.

AROUND THE TABLE

Burt Miller showed us pages from his 1881-1887 postage due issues collection with examples of plate types, perforation varieties, plate faults and print varieties. See examples of the one gulden stamp of this series in the October 2010 issue of the NPofC Newsletter.

Fred Van der Heyden showed us a recent *Wall Street Journal* article about celebrity personalities who were at one time former post office employees; a bookmark made from various stamps; a collectors' block from the 2005 *Mooi Nederland* series; a complete Chinese stamp booklet from ca 1930s with several denominations; and a reminder that on April 30th there will be a festive Koninginnedag (celebrating the Queen's birthday) in Union Square in San Francisco.

Franklin Ennik passed around a couple of Netherlands Antilles FDC, including the 1968 *Antilliaanse Luchtvaart Maatschappij* (ALM) cover and the 1968 *Voor het Kind* cover (shown here); and the Netherlands 1969 Summer series FDC and accompanying Maxicard series of the same issue.



The **March 19th meeting** will be held at the home of Fred Van der Heyden's niece, Valeska Winters, in Pleasant Hill, CA starting at 1:00 pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact Ms. Winters at 510-289-6810 or get driving directions via MapQuest on the Internet.

The **April 16th meeting** will be held at the home of George Vandenberg in San Jose, CA starting at 1:00pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact George at 408-270-6276,

The recent Dutch postal strike was finally settled when the remaining holdout union, Abvakabo FNV, reluctantly ratified the TNT contract. TNT originally wanted to trim 11,000 positions and convert postal positions to a permanent part-time status. The union agreed to a reduced number of lay-off workers and other concessions. The TNT, like other EU country postal systems, faces stiff economic competition from a long list of private delivery firms and the Internet. The other postal employee union, CNV, had already signed the contract. Source: *The Windmill Herald*. February 10, 2011.

CANCEL OF THE MONTH

The February winner is **Arno Kolster** with a large round Amsterdam cancel dated December 1, 1904 4-5 N on a 1899, 1 gulden blue-green Queen Wilhelmina fur collar issue, perforated 11½ x 11 (NVPH nr. 77 B).



Four perforation varieties are known. The one gulden value was issued August 1, 1899.

COVER OF THE MONTH

The February winner is **Franklin Ennik** with a 1947 visitekaart envelope with a slogan cancel urging public support of the social welfare of the Dutch military during the 1945-1949 Dutch-Indonesian conflict.



After the surrender of the Japanese at the end of WWII the Indonesians demanded independence from the Dutch colonialists and started an insurgency action. This armed resistance, after Tahun Merdeka, the Independence declaration on August 17, 1945, was dubbed the Forgotten War. The slogan cancel of November 11, 1947 from 'sGravenhage to Belgium on this visitekaart urges public support for NIWIN by depositing donations in the Postgiro account nr. 511.000.

In 1947, the Nationale Inspanning Welzijnsverzorging INdonesië, or NIWIN, was formed to raise support funds and to provide social services to the Dutch military forces in the East Indies during this period. This organization functioned much like what the United Service Organization (USO) did for the

US military. The motto of NIWIN was “*Our hearts are with you.*” NIWIN provided reading materials, recreation programs and sports equipment, films, personal items, chocolates, etc. KLM Airlines and the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) respectively provided transportation and supplied distribution services. A related service organization, the Nationale Inspanning Welzijn Indië / Artiesten, or NIWA, provided musical entertainment.

This advertisement urges public support of the NIWIN Committee and their work, and shows the various supporting organizations of NIWIN, as well as, lists of specific items desired by the soldiers.

Three values of the 1936 Curaçao Queen Wilhelmina stamps were overprinted with NIWIN and revalued. The surcharge of these issues supported the work of NIWIN (NVPH nr. 182-184).

Reference: <http://www.hetdepot.com/niwin.html>

OTHER CATEGORY OF THE MONTH

The February winner is **HansPaul Hager** with puzzling examples of Netherlands Indies *match tax revenues*.

In the past, matches were just one item in the long list of commercial products that the fiscal agencies of many countries chose to tax. This colorful matchbox with a lavender Netherlands Indies revenue tax strip is one of several found in the Netherlands. The text, translated into English, reads: (left) *match tax, Neth. Indies*; (right) *series A6 maximum 82 units* (matches).

Smaller match boxes with these same design match tax strips were also found in the Netherlands with the text:



match tax, Neth. Indies and *series B6 maximum 41 units* (matches). Notice that the colorful picture of Radja Stamboel is applied *after* the matchbox is sealed with the revenue tax strip. And, that the matches are manufactured in Sweden. So, what is going on here? The combination of a Netherlands Indies revenue strip attached to unopened match boxes found in the Netherlands begs more questions than providing answers and makes for an intriguing study and investigation. Such as.....

Who printed the revenue strips and when and where was the revenue tax strip applied to the boxes? Were the matchboxes shipped to the East Indies and then somehow a few made their way back to the Netherlands? Were similar match revenue tax strips also applied to matches destined for the Netherlands, Curaçao and Suriname markets? Many questions but verifiable answers, so far, are difficult to come by.

Emma's successful search for a husband for Wilhelmina in 1900. With thanks to Hans Kremer

This cover got my attention because the seal on the back reads "*Service de S.M La Reine Mere des Pays-Bas*" which translates as 'Service of Her Majesty the Queen Mother of the Netherlands'. The address of "Waldeck" also related this letter to Queen-Mother Emma, because her maiden name was Emma Waldeck-Pyrmont.



I tried to find out a bit more about this cover, but not having access to the contents *what follows is pure conjecture on my part.*

The letter was sent November 19, 1900 from The Hague to Wega near Wildungen, Germany. Wildungen is located in what was then the Principality of Waldeck, located pretty much right in the center of current Germany



Emma at age 20 had married Dutch King William III (he was 61!). They had one child (Wilhelmina) who was born in 1880. When William III died in 1890 Wilhelmina's three half-brothers had all already died, so she became Queen Wilhelmina at age 10. Emma served as her Regent until Wilhelmina's 18th birthday. As can be seen Wilhelmina was destined to be Queen for a long time and her upbringing was geared that way. Not much time was left for her to enjoy a normal childhood or teenage years.

In 1900 (the time of this cover) Emma took it upon herself to find a suitable spouse for Wilhelmina.

Such a spouse had to meet certain criteria:

- . He had to have 'blue blood' and of a ruling family.
- . He had to be Protestant.
- . He should not be too closely related to Wilhelmina, for fear of a 'weak' successor.
- . Although not completely impossible, an Englishman would be out due to the friction between the Netherlands and Great Britain regarding the Boer war in South Africa.
- . The spouse should not be too domineering since Wilhelmina was used to being in charge (and did not like to be questioned.)

This of course limited the playing field but Emma managed to come up with two German brothers, dashing Adolf and his younger, but plainer looking brother, Heinrich von Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Once Emma had set her eyes on these two a 'casual' meeting had to be arranged. It took place in the



summer of 1900 in Thüringen (where Heinrich, but not Adolf) was visiting his grandmother, during a four week vacation there of Emma and Wilhelmina. See photo of Wilhelmina and Hendrik.

It was here that Wilhelmina and Heinrich (Hendrik in Dutch) got to know each other. After some initial negotiating between Emma and the Mecklenburg interests, a second meeting was arranged in Germany between Wilhelmina and Hendrik on October 16, 1900 when their engagement was announced.



Now the really hard and awkward part started. What would Hendrik's status be, would he get a budget, how much influence should he have etc. It is during this period of negotiating that the letter from Emma's employee, residing at the palace in The Hague was sent to Waldeck. I would like to believe that in this cover (sent the latter part of November 1900) was a letter dealing with all these negotiable issues.

The most common laws in those days declared the man the head of the household. Strictly speaking this would mean that Hendrik, by marrying Queen Wilhelmina, would be King Hendrik and Wilhelmina would become Princess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. This was unacceptable to 'The Hague' and after some dubious legal maneuvering it was agreed that Hendrik would receive the title of Prince Escort, Prince of the Netherlands and he should be called Royal Highness. Their children would be called Prince/Princess of Oranje-Nassau, Duke/Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

What to do about a salary or budget for Hendrik? Here the Dutch frugality came into play and after much discussion and to Wilhelmina's great chagrin it was decided that Wilhelmina herself would pay Hendrik 100,000 guilders a year, with the stipulation that if Wilhelmina preceded him in death, Hendrik would receive 150,000 guilder per year from the government. Since Wilhelmina survived Hendrik by about 30(!) years, the State got off light.

100,000 guilders was a significant sacrifice for Wilhelmina. Her fortune was estimated at about 9 million guilders, with an interest rate of about 4% a year. This means that about a quarter of Wilhelmina's income went to her husband.

Wilhelmina and Hendrik's wedding took place on February 7, 1901. They had a daughter, Juliana, born on April 30, 1909. Emma passed away on March 20, 1934, Hendrik on July 3, 1934, while Wilhelmina died on November 28, 1962.

Ref: Cees Faseur. *Wilhelmina, De jonge Koningin*, Olympus, 6th printing, 2003.

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