

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS  
of CALIFORNIA  
(now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year)**

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**Honorary Members:**

John Heimans  
George Vandenberg  
† Ralph Van Heerden  
Website: <http://www.npofc.org>

**October 2011**

**September meeting.** Attending at the home of Burt Miller were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra, and Fred Van der Heyden.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

**PostNL Launched.** The new Netherlands postal authority was established in May 2011, with agreement with the shareholders of TNT NV, splitting into two independent companies, PostNL and TNT Express. The Royal title is retained and orange remains the dominant color of the corporate identity. The Dutch public and business clients were introduced to the new logo with a provocative advertising campaign *Morgen is vandaag* (= Tomorrow is today).



The previous corporate name and logo, TNTPost, will be phased out over the coming months and will disappear from employee uniforms, delivery trucks and postboxes, etc., and will be replaced with the new logo PostNL. TNTPost will still be visible in other countries where the company will do business for an indeterminate period.

PostNL processes annually approximately 8.8 billion items of addressed mail (including 100 million parcels) with over 88 million locations in Benelux, Germany, Britain and Italy. PostNL is primarily active in the field of Mail: collecting, sorting, transporting and delivering letters and parcels. In addition the company also offers services in data and document management, direct marketing and compliance. PostNL has a total of about 77,000 employees.

Source: A translation of *Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau – PostNL*. Press releases. 05/26/2011.

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**Up Coming California Stamp Shows**

- Oct. 14-16 **SESCAL 2011** Los Angeles Airport Hilton, 5711 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.
- Oct. 22-23 **East Bay Collectors Club Show**, Civic Center, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA.
- Nov. 11-13 **Filatelie Fiesta 2011**, Santa Clara Co. Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd., San Jose, CA.
- Dec. 3-4 **PENPEX 2011**, Community Center, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City, CA.

The **October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the Western Philatelic Library, 1500 Partridge Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94087 starting at 1:00pm. The WPL telephone is 408-733-0336.  
The **November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm.. Hans' phone number is 925-820-5841.

## AROUND THE TABLE

**Burt Miller** passed around his collection of mint rocket mail Cinderellas and souvenir sheets that were applied to cards and letters flown during the 1930s and 1940s. Rockets were experimentally used as an easy means of delivering mail over distances separated by water or impassable terrain. These efforts resulted in some grand successes and some spectacular failures. Envelopes and mail carried on these flights were sold to collectors by the rocketeers as a means of supporting their experimental work. Pioneer rocketeers included Karl Roberti, Gerhard Zucker, Stephen Smith, A.J. de Bruijn, and Friedrich Schmiedl, to name a few. Burt also showed us examples of perforation anomalies of the 1928 syncopated perfs Wilhelmina issue (NVPH nrs. R51a and R53a). Here is a translation of the NVPH text pertinent to these errors.



R53a on the left.

### ***Different interrupted perforation.***

*On the 25 cent olive R51 sheets with selvaige letter F etching No. 236, the 8th and 9th horizontal rows have a different distribution of the reinforcements. Vertical stamps have upper bridges with a width of 1-hole instead of 2-holes and 2-hole width in the middle instead of 1-hole. R51 on the right; R51a on the left.*

### ***Different interrupted perforation.***

*On the 30 cent R53 dark purple sheets with the selvaige letter H etching No. 217, the stamps between the 7th and 8th vertical rows have different perforations. The upper bridge has a 1-hole width instead of 2-holes. R53 on the right;*



**Arno Kolster** passed around a folder from his collection that contained examples of Netherlands large-block souvenir sheets, i.e. NVPH nrs. 854, 875, 899, 917, 983, etc.

**Fred Van der Heyden** passed around a large selection of vintage maps, photos and post cards, including maps of Netherlands and Belgium ca 1880, Sumatra and New Guinea, a map of Australia shown as New Holland, photo post cards of the SS Rotterdam, the Amsterdam Victoria Hotel, flower fields in Holland, brochures of Royal Dutch Shell Oil products, a restaurant napkin signed by Betty Grable and large press photos of the *original construction* of the Twin Towers, New York.

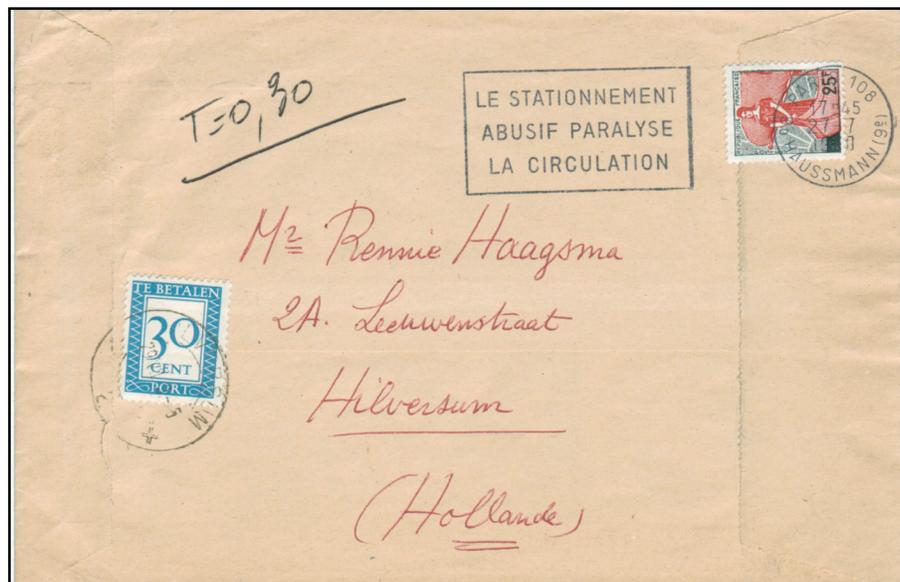
**Paul Swierstra** showed us a large, 2009 photo calendar with vintage building and street scenes of Utrecht by the well-known photographer, J.A. Moesman; a 1985 catalogue of *Zeppelin Posts* by Roger Koerber which gives a detailed listing of mail carried on these many flights around the world; and a copy of the *KNBF.nl Newsletter* (in Dutch language and **free for the asking on the internet**). Paul commented that the original Enkhuizen post office is now a museum and located on the side of the building is a plaque establishing its monument status and a vintage, red postbox with mail pickup schedules that are coordinated with train and mail-boat departures.

**Hans Kremer** passed around recent articles clipped from *Linn's Stamp News* that featured stories of the Dutch East Indies, the Dutch illustrator M.C Escher and a notice that the philatelic window was open at the San Jose, CA main post office and enjoying a land-office business. Hans also passed around examples of the mail control, barcoded stickers issued by the "new" Dutch postal authority, **PostNL**.....(or as heard in some sectors *Post Niet Leuk*). Hans also found for sale on the internet some "make work" *red cross over prints* on some common Dutch stamps. More examples are being offered than are illustrated here. You may be tempted to buy these unusually faked overprinted stamps but don't waste your money!!!





**Franklin Ennik** passed around a 5 cent Wilhelmina postal card, revalued to 4 cent and with 1½ cent added, posted September 6, 1940; a padded envelope recently received from the Netherlands with a successful bid that attracted the attention of the **US Customs & Border Control** who opened the envelope and resealed it with their green tape (previously, another envelope addressed to me was examined by **US Department of Homeland Security**) and a commercial illustrated envelope sent from Paris, France to Netherlands July 27, 1960 that attracted a 30 cent postage due.....Although franked with a 25 franc stamp, the amount was still not enough since the French franc was devalued in 1960. The slogan cancel advises patrons that *Improper Parking Paralyzes Traffic*.



**HansPaul Hager** passed around several examples of bar coded control and registration tracking stickers that accompanied packages to the US from the Netherlands; a postage paid, stamp-less, sheet letter that illustrated a combination of red departure cancels, fiscal tax markers, delivery *besteller stempels* and arrival cancels; a collection of DEI and Indonesian stamps overprinted with various Japanese occupation markers and a copy of the new *Corinphilia Veilingen BV Auction Catalogue* nr. 211, Oktober 2011.

#### CANCEL OF THE MONTH

The October winner is **Arno Kolster** with a straight-line cancel of Rijnsburg on an 1872 15 cent Willem III.

This stamp is NVPH nr. 23, the 15 cent orange-brown, issued 1872-1888. The **RHYSBURG** *langestempel* (straight-line) cancel was first in use from 1858 until 1888. The **RIJNSBURG** cancel was in use from 1877 to 1891.

At this time Rijnsburg was a *hulppostkantoor*. Rijnsburg is located in the western part of the province of Zuid-Holland, between Leiden and Katwijk aan Zee and has a population of about 15,000.



COVER OF THE MONTH

The October winner is **Hans Kremer** with a postal card with a 1906 First Philatelic Day cancel



On August 2-3, 1906, The Hague Stamp Club organized the first Dutch philatelic day. Although such events are common these days, there was a fair amount of skepticism about the first one. Some members felt that inviting outsiders to their club event would cause them to lose their identity. However, the idea of giving people living in the rural area a chance to see what philately was or could be all about, prevailed.

The PTT set up a philatelic window and all outgoing mail on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> received a special cancel, showing either 2 AUG. 1906 or 3 AUG. 1906.

OTHER CATEGORY

The October winner is **Franklin Ennik** with a small round cancel of Nieuwe Niedorp on an envelope fragment. This is a small round cancel of the village, Nieuwe Niedorp (= Niedorp), located in the middle of the West Friesland region of North Holland along Hwy. N242. The sharp, May 28, 1896 single-letter cancel (4-8 N) ties an 1876 ½ cent cijfer to an envelope fragment.

Prehistoric settlements in the region date from the Late Neolithic period (4500 BCE to 1700 BCE). These settlements are covered by sediments and are now known as the *Single Grave Culture*.



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## Closed Album

George Vandenberg August 18, 1930 – September 12, 2011.

To all NPofC members,

As President of our group, it is with deep regret that I am writing all of you this message. On September 12, 2011, George Vandenberg, a long-time member of our club, passed away after a long battle with his illness. I will always remember him as a generous person, always encouraging others and always eager to share his philatelic knowledge, to help others with their collecting interests. During his long membership he generously gave of his time and energy and he contributed greatly towards the longevity of the "*Netherlands Philatelists of California*."

Not only did he keep our books for many years, but he also was the author of many articles in the different club publications. At our meetings he always walked in with a smile and then proceeded to put a smile on everyone else's face. I know all of you have your own memories of him and his wife of 57 years, Claire. It is hard to convey what George meant to me, but I know am thankful for having had him, not only as a mentor, but also as an incredible friend. George, you will always be loved and missed.

Hanspaul Hager

President of NPofC

The following is edited from the *San Jose Mercury News*, Sunday September 18, 2011.

**George Vandenberg** was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He was the second of five sons born to Alberta Langedyk and Jacobus Vandenberg. George's adventurous spirit inspired him to immigrate to the United States in 1952. George had already served in the Dutch Army and upon arrival in the US was drafted into the US Army.

He was subsequently assigned to the 4th Infantry Finance Corp in Frankfurt, Germany. This fortunate assignment allowed him to visit his home and family in Amsterdam on his leaves. He became reacquainted with a beautiful girl who had caught his eye when he was only 16 years old; her name was Claire Kok. They later married in February 1955. After discharge from the Army, George and Claire returned to San Jose, CA to raise their family.

George began his career as an accountant at the Continental Can Company. In 1962, he moved up the ladder and became an accountant for San Jose Unified School District. By 1984, he became the Assistant Superintendent of the Budget-Fiscal Services Department until his retirement in 1992.

After retirement, George and Claire traveled the world together. He and Claire never failed to send postcards and loved sharing their photos and stories with all of us. George loved his family and friends. He was always the life of the party during celebrations; playing the piano, adding fun and giving encouragements to all.

George was a co-founder and an active member of our Dutch stamp club, *Netherlands Philatelists of California*, for 42 years and served as its president and treasurer. George was also a member and treasurer of the *American Society for Netherlands Philately*, and a member of several other philatelic



societies. George's special knowledge regarding netherlandic philately was exceptional, including the history of the VOC, the Napoleonic period, and the first 500 aero-flights of the KLM to the Netherlands Indies and Antilles,

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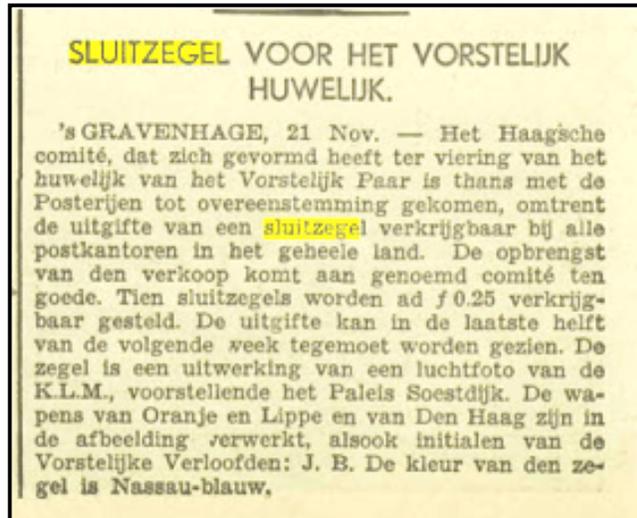
### Sluitzegel (Seal) for Juliana and Bernhard's 'ondertrouw.'

by Hans Kremer

At the end of November 1936 a short note appeared in the Dutch newspapers. It announced the availability at all post offices of a "sluitzegel" (= seal) on the occasion of the "ondertrouw" of then Princess Juliana and then Count Bernhard von Lippe-Biesterfeld.

*Ondertrouw* is a Dutch word referring to the requirement in the Netherlands and Belgium to formally register the intention to marry.

Ondertrouw is now analogous to the process of applying for a marriage license. Ondertrouw should not be confused with engagement.



The length of the ondertrouw period can vary. Historically the period was three weeks. The idea was that there had to be enough time to determine that all legal and ecclesiastical requirements for marriage had been complied with.

The note in the newspapers mentioned that the cost for ten seals would be fl 0.25. The seal shows an aerial photograph of the Soestdijk palace, the future home of Juliana and Bernhard. Family shields of Nassau and Lippe, as well as the The Hague shield, are present. The color was referred to as *Nassau-Blauw* (= Nassau-Blue).

Another note appeared a short time later, announcing that another 300,000 copies would be made available. A second seal would be issued in a yellow-red version representing the Lippe colors.



What to me is unusual about this seal is that it was available at all post offices and not just at commercial stores.

The PTT must have shared in some of the profits although the purpose of the seals was to generate income to pay for the festivities in The Hague associated with the ondertrouw.

It being a PTT sponsored issue prompted me to write this short note for our NPofC Newsletter.

#### References:

John Nijhuis. Vorstelijke sluitzegel. *Brepost Nr. 4*, 2011.  
<http://kranten.kb.nl/> and various other Websites.