



**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS
of CALIFORNIA
(now in its 46th year)**

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November 2015

October meeting. Attending at the home of Franklin Ennik were Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, Hans Kremer, and Fred Van der Heyden.

YEARBOOK anyone???? NPofC's eighth (and latest) Yearbook was published in 2009. Several of our members have expressed interest in producing our next one and titles of proposed articles have been aired to start things off. NPofC members have gathered a wealth of knowledge about their special focus regarding Netherlands and former territories philately. Are there any philatelic topics that you've been thinking about or working on that need airing, summarized or clarified?? What say you, members.....Let's hear from you and get your knowledge in print so it doesn't get lost. **Please submit your text in Word .doc or PDF format and illustration scans in not more than 400 dpi.**

TITLES OF ARTICLES RECEIVED

Jan Verster.....The 1908 sale of remainders in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Franklin Ennik.....Attempts by the Germans to Issue Occupation Stamps for the Netherlands in 1940 and the Theft of Enschede Stamp Stocks --- A summary.

Hans Kremer.....The basics of Dutch Military Mail (Veldpost) during 1914-1918 and a mysterious IIA marker.

We have established a "go to press" date of Fall 2016 for the **NPofC Commemorative 47½ YearBook** edition. As Editor, I urge members to submit their articles as soon as possible so that we can get this done.

AROUND THE TABLE

Dennis Buss passed around a copy of an interesting cover obtained from the Ebay Internet site that illustrates the turbulent economic conditions in Europe in 1923 after WW I. This is a *maakwerk* (made-to-order) cover constructed by prominent Hilversum resident, Dr. G.W.W. Bölian. The registered cover features a curious mix of stamp issues in use in 1923, including a 5 cent 1913 Jubileum, a 10 cent 1921 airmail issue, and the 5 and 10 cent 1923 imperforate Wilhelmina issues. The 10 cent airmail was first issued for use **only** on airmail letters but was withdrawn, then later allowed for use on surface **and** airmail letters.

The **November 21, 2015 meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm. Hans' telephone number is 925-820-5841.
The **December 19, 2015 meeting** will be held at the home of Fred Van der Heyden starting at 1:00pm. Fred's telephone number is 510-282-7255.

The imperforate 5 and 10 cent Wilhelminas were issued to a list of specific post offices for use during the 1923 Enschede printers strike, but Hilversum was not one of these post offices so Dr. Bölian likely had to go elsewhere to obtain them. The cover was addressed to Mevrouw L. Charlouis in Den Haag April 17, 1923. The significance of the number 3171 is not determined, but most likely is an administrative marker indexing received registered letters.



On the reverse is a 5 cent charity sticker (benefitting German children) that contains the Biblical verse, Matthew 25:40, from the sermon describing the Last Judgement, which states, "(And the King will answer) I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me." During the 1920s, there were many such charity appeals in local media benefitting children all over in Europe due to the devastating economic conditions after WW I caused by rampant inflation, massive unemployment and wide spread labor strikes.

Dennis also summarized his exhibit that was entered in the recent WINEPEX stamp show, October 2-4, 2015, in San Rafael, California, entitled, **The Design and Use of the Netherlands Gull Stamp 1924-1948**. The exhibit tells

the story of how the widely recognized Netherlands gull definitive represented a breakthrough in Dutch stamp design and then became an unfortunate symbol of hatred and oppression during World War II with the guilloche overprint. Designed by the eminent Dutch graphic artist Chris Lebeau, the exhibit documents the development of the stamp's design, the various formats in which it appeared, and how it was used in the Dutch postal system between 1924

and 1948. This exhibit attempts to demonstrate how Lebeau's gull definitive can be appreciated from artistic, historical and philatelic perspectives.

Franklin Ennik passed around a drukwerk cover sent September 19, 1927 from 's-Gravenhage to Vienna, Austria by the presumed stamp dealer, Gerard A.G. Thoolen. The curious thing about this cover is the early spelling of Thoolen's name on the cover, **Toolen**. Is this an unrelated variation of a family name spelling or a print error by the printer of the envelopes??

What are the odds of there being two stamp dealers in 's-Gravenhage with the name G.A.G Thoolen?

Thoolen advertised often in the various 's-Gravenhage newspapers to support his many marketing schemes and used numerous locations for return addresses during his tenure as a stamp dealer from mid 1920s until mid-1944.



Hans Kremer passed around the print copy of the Dutch philatelic magazine, *Filatelie*, September 24, 2015, that features the article, **De achterkant van mooie meisjes -- een mysterie ontraadseld**, by John Dehe of the Purmerender Postzegel Ruilclub. This short piece explains the mysterious IIA markers found on WW I veldpost post cards. Hans also passed around several POSTEX Programs produced for the annual POSTEX Stamp shows held in October. Among other topics, this selection featured **Etiketten and Registration stickers** in 2011, **stamp designer Hub Levigne** in 2013, **the Dutch East Indies Airline KNILM** in 2014 and **stamp designer Jan Veth** in 2015.

Fred Van der Heyden showed us a long series of post cards sent from England to the U.S. during WW II; a decorative trimmings item from Napoleon's coach used during the battle of Waterloo and a synopsis of a portion of the 1942 book, "*Retreat to Victory*," by Allan A. Michie that explains the case of ordered but undelivered war materials to the Dutch East Indies soldiers preparing for battle against the invading Japanese.

Retreat to Victory --- A Synopsis by Allan A. Michie

When the full story of the defense of the Netherlands East Indies can be told, it will turn out to be one of the most horrible examples of "too little and too late" --- but this time, for a change, the blame will be on America and not on Britain. Within a month after the fall Holland in 1940, Dutch officials in America began ordering military equipment for the defense of the Netherlands East Indies. From June 1940 to February 1942 when the Netherlands East Indies

were all but gone, the Netherlands Government placed orders for \$275,000,000 of war equipment in American factories. These Dutch dealings were not on a Lease-Lend basis. Some eighty percent, of the orders were to be paid for in hard cash. When Java fell only thirty per cent of the \$275,000,000 had been delivered.

Of the \$275,000,000 total orders, some \$90,000,000 was allocated for the purchase of airplanes. At the time of Pearl Harbor only \$23,000,000 of these had been delivered, consisting mostly of training planes and equipment.

The Dutch, not waiting for the war to come to them, had thrown their own meagre air force into the war against Japan on December 8th. They had suffered heavy losses in the air, but they were optimistic, that the promised reinforcement from the U. S. would arrive in time. They did not.

Of the 400 planes, which the Dutch had on order from American factories, practically none, except training planes, were ever delivered. Not a single fighter plane was delivered, until February 1942, when Java was in its death throes.

On the day Java fell, I saw in an Indianapolis factory, several scores of light tanks, which had been ordered by the Dutch early in 1941. Almost complete, except for a tiny gadget, they were sitting idle on the factory floor, cluttering the assembly lines. Their shipment had been held up for weeks, because U.S. Army officials would not grant to the Dutch priority permission to purchase the tiny, but vital part.

Aware that the American factories were unable to turn out sufficient quantity of small arms ammunition, the Dutch early in 1941, asked permission to build their own plant in America. They had the machine tools on hand and promised production by August 1941. Their request was refused by the U.S. Army Ammunition Board. Three months later, the valuable machine tools were still sitting in their crates, unused and unwanted.

Late in 1940 the Dutch asked to buy a quantity of the several million U.S. Enfield rifles, which were stored in our arsenals and armories. Months went by and finally Prince Bernhard and Crown Princess Juliana of the Netherlands visited the White House and requested the assistance of President Roosevelt, in getting the rifles for the Indies. Other Dutch officials made patient calls on the Chief of Staff Marshall and other high level service chiefs. From everyone the Dutch were assured, that the rifles would be shipped, but when the order sheets and requisitions got down among the colonels and majors of the Army organization, they were side tracked and mislaid, just as the equipment orders destined for the Russians was often deliberately diverted to other sectors. Of the 60,000 rifles ordered by the Dutch, only 20,000 reached the hands of their gallant, little Indies Army, before it surrendered.

Java's last words came from a radio despatcher speaking to R.C.A.: **"We are shutting down now. Good bye, until better times. Long live the Queen."**

1e Ned. Philatelistendag 1906 (First Dutch Philatelic Day 1906).

By Hans Kremer

When I saw this cover on Ebay, the first thing I noticed of course was the red 1 cent stamp with the purple 's-Gravenhage / 1. Ned. Philatelistendag cancel on it, but what also attracted me was the grey "stamp" at the top left corner. Its text reads **Eerste Nederlandsche Philatelisten Dag / 2 en**

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Aug, 1906. I couldn't see if it was a fake stamp or an imprinted "stamp" but either way it looked interesting. It turned out to be an imprinted "stamp."



Since this was the first official philatelic day in the Netherlands it did get a fair amount of press, not only in the "philatelic press" but also in the dailies of that time.

Mention is made of the exhibit of Joh. Enschede, which included a complete set of all stamps and postal stationery produced by them, including color proofs. The private collection of R. (Baron) van Lehmann was also mentioned. It showed his complete collection of Netherlands and Overseas possessions stamps, insured for fl. 100,000 (!).



The newspapers also mentioned the temporary post office that was set up in the exhibition hall. This PTT desk had a specially made cancel available which would be applied to all mail handed over during the two day exhibit. Each day had its own special show cancel; the only thing being different would be the date (either 2 AUG. 1906 or 3 AUG. 1906).



The cancel looks a lot like a Martin hand cancel (cancels made in Berlin for the Dutch PTT), which is not surprising since the Martin cancel (shown at the right) was delivered to the 's-Gravenhage post office at about the same time in 1906.



So far, everything is pretty straight-forward, covers with the first philatelic day postmark are readily available on Ebay and from other sources. However, there is a bit of mystery surrounding this postmark.

In the *"Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde"* of August-September 1906 are shown the special cancels (one for each day) of this commemorative postmark. Upon close examination of these you'll see some differences with the real postmark. The "1" has no dot behind it and the number of vertical bars is 15, while the real postmark has 16 bars in the top and 12 in the lower section.

These cancels were first shown by Leon de Raay, a person well-known in philatelic circles. He was the publisher of *"De Nederlandsche Philatelist"* from 1904 till 1912. Based on that position he probably had excellent contacts with the various stamps clubs, so he might have gotten access to an earlier design of the commemorative cancel that was planned for this event. However, changes were made to it, which Mr. de Raay might not have seen. Copies of either one of these two types of cancels cannot be found in the *"Stempelboek"* of the Mint or the PTT files, adding to the mystery.



In Reference no. 3 there is a great picture of most of the people attending the various meetings and festivities. Seventy-eight people participated both days. Notice the number of ladies accompanying their husbands. The gentlemen in the front row took off their top hats, but not so the people on the balcony. Undoubtedly the people on the front row represented the organizing committee.

References:

- 1: Peter Rozema, Fons Simons, en Jan Vos. *Gearceerde Typenraderstempels NEDERLAND (1904-1907). Philatelistenclub "Rotterdam" 100 Jaar. 2005.*
- 2: Cees Janssen. *Gelegenheidsstempels.* www.nedacademievoorfilatelie.nl/
- 3: J.R. Robert. *De Tentoonstelling van den "Eersten Philatelistendag met een Voor-en Slotwoord over den "Dag." Nederlandsch Tijdschrift for Postzegelkunde. Aug.—Sept. 1906.*