

NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of  
**CALIFORNIA**  
(now in its 50th year)

**Correspondence to:**

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

**Honorary Members:**

John Heimans  
George Vandenberg  
Ralph Van Heerden  
Website: [jdkremer.angelfire.com](http://jdkremer.angelfire.com)

November/December 2019

Our November/December meeting was held at the home of Franklin Ennik on November 16, 2019 with attendees Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, Hans Kremer and Fred Van der Heyden.

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**AROUND THE TABLE**

**Hans Kremer** passed around selected pages of the yearly industry newspaper "FILAKRANT," 2019 edition that features advertisements of all the major stamp shows in the Netherlands. This edition featured summary articles from the published pages of *PO&PO*, *Dai Nippon*, *De Vliegende Hollander*, and *The Studiegroep ZWP*.

Hans also showed us a cover, dated December 7, 1951, addressed to Hans Lükaschek, who was the first director of the Ministry of Displaced Persons, Refugees and War Victims after WW II. These were mostly German citizens and ethnic Germans who fled or were expelled from parts of Germany annexed by Poland and The Soviet Union and from other countries.

Hans showed us a recent article, October 7, 2019, that celebrates **100 year history of KLM**. See the Internet summary article by Joseph Alba in [Airport News](#).



**Dennis Buss** summarized his attendance at the SACAPEX Stamp Show held November 2, 2019 in Sacramento, CA. This popular, annual show is sponsored by the Sacramento Philatelic Society. Dennis purchased an interesting Dutch example of what is oddly called “ad-collar” philately. These illustrated advertising covers exist in quite a variety of formats and can be found in both US and European stamp markets. This cover also attracted the attention of Hans Kremer who decided to look into the background of it. An article by Hans and Dennis will be forthcoming.



**Fred Van der Heyden** passed around a colorful selection of vintage post cards, including a view of the popular historic pedestrian street Heerenstraat in the Punda quarter of Willemstad, Curaçao; an aerial view of Helgoland Island, now under the authority of Germany; a view of BurgerWachestraat, famous for its many restaurants on Makassar Island, Indonesia; the arrival of the KLM passenger ship, *SS Leerdam*, at the Hoboken, NJ docks; a view of the modern Erasmusbrug (Bridge) next to the Witte House, a landmark hotel in Rotterdam; a photo of the KLM passenger ship, *SS Rotterdam*; a scene from the Dutch themed stage production, *The Red Mill* that played in the NY, Knickerbocker Theater and a photo of the entrance gate to the zoo in The Hague.

**Franklin Ennik** passed around three postally used pieces of mail, including one with a postdate of 13 March 1908 showing a young boy smoking a cigar (smoking amongst young children was common during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century); a card with a farm scene of Domburg, (ZL) delivered by mailman number B-666 (the devil is in the details); and a cover posted by Gaele De Vries in Stiens (Fr.) to S. de Vries in Franeker (Fr.) 22 June 1921 with an unusual address: “besteller P en T”, which loosely stands for “mailman working at P(ost) and T(elegraph)”



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## No Reduced Postal Rate to most of Belgium during WW I. (Part 1.)

By Hans Kremer

When you look at the listing of postal rates for a letter (0-20 grams) to Belgium you will notice that between October 1, 1907 and March 1, 1921 it would be 10 cent, and 12½ cent to other countries (Figure 1).

			per 20 g			
			België		Overige landen	
			t/m 20 g	elke volgende 20 g	A	B
			A	B	A	B
1 oktober	1907	Rome	10	7½	12½	7½
1 maart	1921	Madrid	15	10	20	10
1 oktober	1925	Stockholm	12½		15	
1 november	1928		10	7½	12½	7½
(2)						
1 november	1946	Buenos Aires [1940]			20	12½

Figure 1. Postal rates of a letter to Belgium 1916.



Figure 2. Letter sent from Amsterdam to Liege, Belgium via Aachen, 1916

However, if you look at the letter shown in Figure 2, sent in 1916 (cancel difficult to see) from Amsterdam to Liege, Belgium, you will notice that it is franked with a 12½ cent stamp. Was the letter overpaid by 2½ cent? No.



In a recent publication by Arie Zonjee en Ot Louw, *EXPRESSE Met de meeste spoed in promptitude*, there is a note on page 66 (Figure 3) that reads:

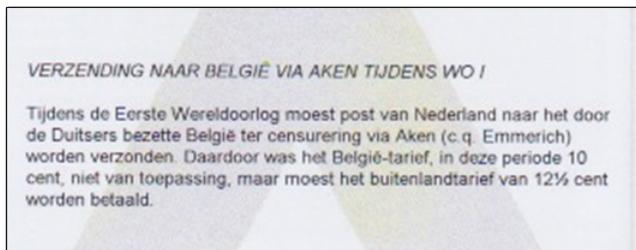


Figure 3. Mailing to Belgium via Aachen.

*Mailing to Belgium via Aachen. During WW I, mail from the Netherlands to the occupied part of Belgium had to be sent via Aachen or Emmerich for censoring. The regular (10 cent) rate to Belgium did not apply; the international rate of 12½ cent had to be paid.*

That then, explains it. The next challenge would be to find a “franked 10 cent letter” sent during WW I from the Netherlands to the un-occupied part of Belgium.

**Note:** This article also appeared in the British newsletter, *The Netherlands Philatelic Circle*, number 149, January 23, 2019.

Reference:

Arie Zonjee en Ot Louw. *EXPRESSE met meeste spoed en promptitude. 1863-1999. Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie.* 294 pages.

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## No Reduced Rate to most of Belgium during WW I. – A Follow-up. (Part 2)

*By Hans Kremer*

Previously I wrote about the 12 ½ cent vs. 10 cent postage rate to Belgium during WW I. At the end I wrote: “The challenge would be to find a ‘10 cent letter’ sent during WW I from the Netherlands to the un-occupied part of Belgium.”

Well, I believe I have come up with one. The letter (Figure 1) was sent from Maastricht to “Begnier Desonay(?) at “Armée Belge” on March 3, 1915. On the front and back are circular markers with the text “Postes Militaires Belgique / België Legerposterij” as in Figure 2.



Figure 1. Maastricht to “Armée Belge” 3-3-1915, postage 10 cent.



Figure 2. Postes Militaires Belgique / België Legerposterij.



I got in touch with Belgium collector, Nick Martin, asking him if this indeed would have qualified for the 'un-occupied Belgium' 10 cent rate. The reply I received said,

*"As the letter was addressed to the Belgium Army, which would have been in the un-occupied part of Belgium. It's not logical that the Belgium Army was located in the occupied part. In conclusion: the 10 cent rate is correct."*

I tried to find out a bit more and it was Paul Daems who wrote:

*"Letter sent from Maastricht on 3-3-1915 to the headquarters of the Third Division, arrival at B.P.S., which stands for **Bureau Postal Secundair** (=Sub-Post Office). Hand written notes "inconnu" (=unknown), "le fourrier" (=?), 2 Br (B), and large B.B. in circle are added by a militaire postal employee. Returned via B.P.S. # 8 and B.P.S. (without number) (both on back of envelope) on 3-8-1915.*

*The correspondence between the Netherlands and un-occupied Belgium went via England and France. B.P.S. # 3 was located in the sector around Nieuwpoort, Belgium, while B.P.S. (without a number) was used in Calais, France. B.P.S. # 8 was the Central Post Office."*

Since there is no return address on the envelope, it is a bit of a mystery where the letter ended up, but at least I'm happy to have found a letter with the correct 10 cent postage.

**Note:** This article also appeared in the British newsletter, *The Netherlands Philatelic Circle*, number 150, May 5, 2019.

References:

Website: <http://www.legerposterij.be>

Nick Martin, Editor of the *Belgian Philatelic Study Circle*: email correspondence.

Paul Daems; email correspondence.

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## **Netherlands Philatelists of California: An Appreciation**

As the Netherlands Philatelists of California close out their 50<sup>th</sup> and final year, our Newsletter editor Franklin Ennik asked me to make a few comments about my experiences as a club member.

Not long after my wife and I moved to California I learned about the NP of C on the internet. I made a phone call and asked for information about the club and was invited to attend one of the monthly meetings held in the San Francisco bay area. In April of 2012, I arrived at the home of Hans Kremer where I was welcomed by seven other members and was invited to tell them about my collection and my particular interest in the artistic qualities of Netherlands stamps. The format of the meeting proved to be highly instructive. The members shared interesting covers, stamps, postcards, articles and books that stimulated questions and discussion. I quickly came to realize that my approach to collecting was rather

primitive to say the least. Filling spaces in my album was no longer adequate. I was in the midst of serious philatelists!

From these sessions I learned about Netherlands postal history, how to “read” a cover, the relationship between postage rates and various postal services, the reasons for overprints, how to collect cancellation varieties, the fascinating story behind the early airmail service and the related stamp issues, the impact of the German occupation on the Dutch postal service, the exotic history of revenue stamps, and the important references to consult among many other topics. I soon realized that I was attending a seminar in Dutch philately.

The meetings, however, were more than philatelic discussions. They also became an entree to the larger world of Dutch history and culture. Several of our members were born in the Netherlands. Their many fascinating stories and experiences enriched our meetings and they were especially significant to me as an American of Dutch background.

From these encounters emerged the bonds of friendship for which I am most grateful. I always looked forward to the third Saturday of the month to join my comrades, to meet their families, and to share the pleasures of Netherlands philately. I miss our member friends who have passed on these past few years. For those of us who remain, we share many fond memories of our stimulating meetings. Despite the end of our newsletter and meetings, we look forward to future reunions.

To our corresponding members, I trust Franklin Ennik’s informative newsletters not only reported on our monthly encounters but also served to stimulate and enrich your understanding of Netherlands philately over these several years. I also encourage you to visit the club Internet website and look for our soon to be posted 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook ably edited by Hans Kremer. It recounts the history of the club and provides links to articles written by our past members as a tribute to their contributions to Netherlands philately.

Best wishes.

Dennis Buss  
Netherlands Philatelists of California

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### 50<sup>th</sup> YearBook 1969 – 2019

Our member **Hans Kremer** has now compiled highlights of NPofC’s long and colorful history for our **50<sup>th</sup> YearBook 1969-2019**. He has installed it on [our Website](#) for all our members who have internet access to download, or view and enjoy. Click [here](#) to open it. Members without internet access or printers will receive a hard copy.

