

## **Dutch Philately in North America.**

Since the mid-19th century, many Dutch people have immigrated to North America. Where larger numbers of immigrants came to live Dutch associations were started. They were most often based on personal contacts, shared interests, and hobbies. Eventually, this led to the establishment of organizations of Dutch philatelists.

The first 'Dutch' philatelic organization was established in 1934, the "Stamp Club for Collectors of Netherlands and Colonies". The official club magazine was named "Netherlands and Colonial Philately" (NCP). The editor was A. Arthur Schiller, a law professor at Columbia University, New York. The first number (three pages) was published on June 20, 1934. It contained, among other subjects, a brief introduction article announcing that there would be a series of articles on the stamps of Ned. Indies. At the end of 1934 N.C.P. could report that there were 51 members. Although it was a New York organization, the majority of the members were attracted by the quality of the NCP publication. Most of the members would come from outside New York. There was even a member in the Netherlands, Dr. A.M. Benders, a well-known name in the Dutch philately. It was not until 1937 that there would be an official (but still informal) monthly meeting of the members. Previously they only communicated via the club magazine.

In the years after the war, monthly presentations were made at the Collectors Club in New York. The number of members (subscribers) varied somewhat over the years, consistent with the frequency of the appearance of the club magazine. Prominent Dutch members have included Messrs. Korteweg, Reed, Rietdijk, Heymans, Bauder, Poulie, Lake, and others. We can not really speak of members, because there was no real organization with a board and regulations etc.

The highlight of the NCP was undoubtedly the publication in May 1940 (!) of the 217 pages of the "Manual of the stamps of Netherlands, Netherlands Indies, Surinam and Curaçao", co-written by A. Arthur Schiller and Johan the Kruijf. Until today this is a publication widely quoted since it contains much more information about the different issues than NVPH catalogs have ever given.

In 1948 Arthur Schiller was succeeded by John the Kruijf as NCP editor who remained until the end of the NCP in 1976. The fact that over the years there have been only two editors did not only lead to the success, but also to the eventual demise of the NCP.

In the early 70s of last century the NCP was published irregularly causing dissatisfaction among some NCP members. They then decided to separate and start their own organization. This led in 1975 to the founding of the American Society for Netherlands Philately (ASNP), affiliate # 60 of the American Philatelic Society (<http://stamps.org>). The ASNP currently has about 135 paying members (including 20 in the Netherlands). She publishes a Magazine six times a year. The Magazine (usually 24 pages) contains information about the new issues of the Netherlands and the Netherlands

Antilles, and one or more in-depth articles on the philately of the Netherlands and its former overseas territories

In 1946, a 'chapter' of the NCP was formed in Chicago, with as one of its members Frank Julsen well known (together with Dr . Benders) for the publication of the classic work "A Postal History of Curacao" in 1976. This Chicago chapter had its own publication (The Post Coach) and was also responsible for two publications: "A postal history / PTT Philatelic Service the Netherlands", and "Forgeries of Netherlands and former Colonies stamps". The NPC of Chicago had its ups and downs depending mostly on the enthusiasm of the editor. The last appearance of the Post Coach took place in November 1978.

Meanwhile, in 1969 there was also a chapter of the NCP started in California ( San Jose ), which originally was named "Netherlands and Colonies Philatelists of California". The organization is now known as "Netherlands Philatelists of California " (NPofC). This club meets once a month (even during the summer months) at one of the member's home. Over the years this group has produced a dozen publications, starting in 1974 ( fifth anniversary) with a series of articles on the 1872- issue. Its most recent publication was in early 2010 (to commemorate its 40th anniversary end of 2009). It contains 14 original articles written by its members.

The NPofC's success is not only due to the good health of the members, but also to the informal nature of the monthly meetings. "Corresponding Members" receive the monthly newsletter (either as hardcopy or in digital format), which contains not only a record of the most recent meeting, but also short articles about a wide range of philatelic subjects).

Both the ASNP and the NPofC are actively engaged in Dutch philately. They both have a Website, which are worth a visit, especially since both contain many archived articles.

Both organizations welcome new members!

ASNP:

Website: <http://www.asnp1975.com>

Membership Secretary: [bjansen@uh.edu](mailto:bjansen@uh.edu)

NPofC:

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