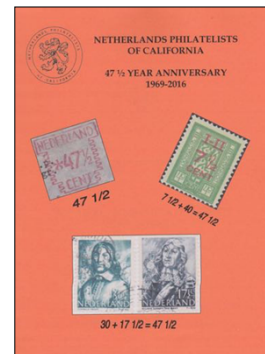
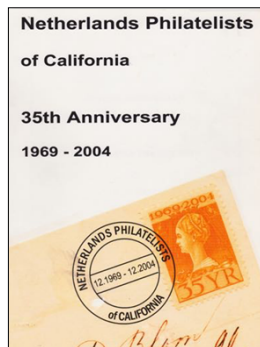
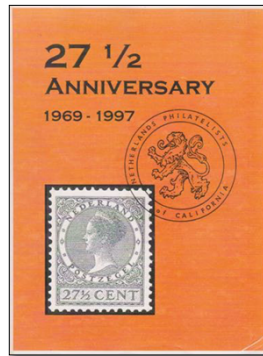
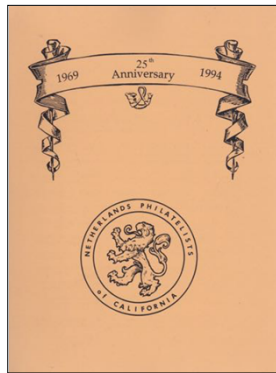
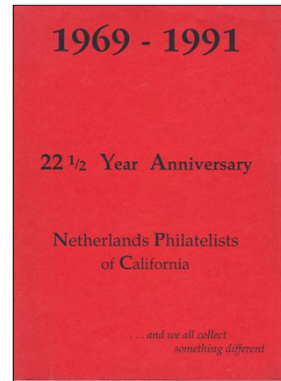
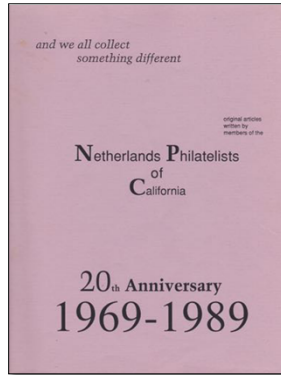
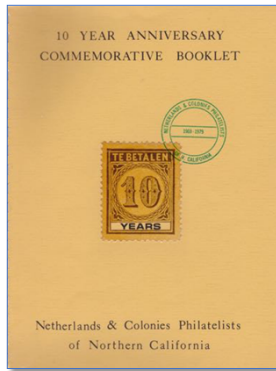


# Netherlands Philatelists of California, 1969-2019

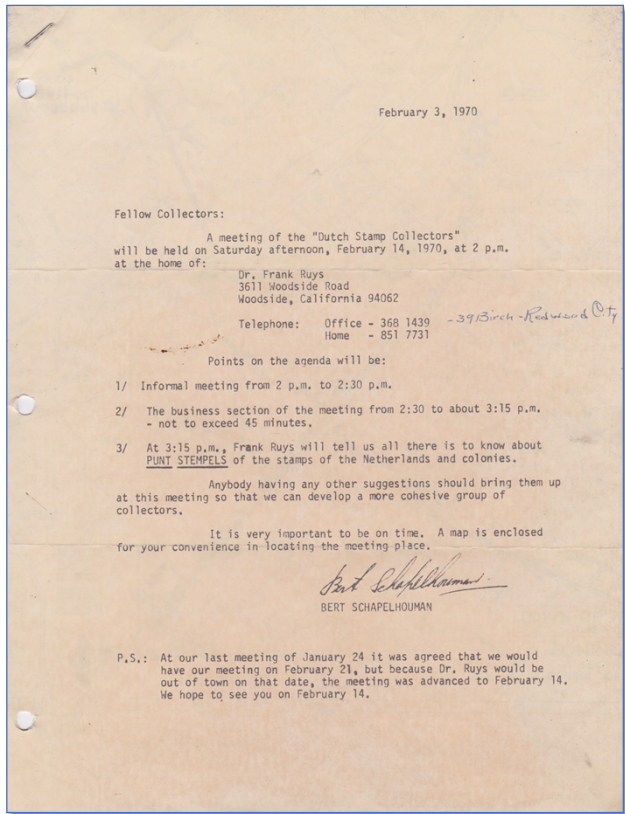
*All good things must come to an end*



## NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS OF CALIFORNIA 1969-2019

In December 1969, a group of stamp collectors met at the home of Ralph Van Heerden in Saratoga, California. Besides Ralph, present were Claus Goetzl, John Heimans, Harold MacDonald, Frank Ruys, Bert Schapelhouman, and George Vandenberg. Their common interest was 'Netherlands and related areas' stamps.

They called themselves the "Dutch Stamp Collectors" (Fig. 1)



*Fig. 1 Newsletter of  
February 3, 1970*

A picture, taken in 2013, shows four of those attendees; all deceased since then. (Fig. 2).



*Fig.2 Four of NPofC's Founding Members  
(L. to R.): George Vandenberg, Ralph van  
Heerden, John Heimans and seated, Harold  
MacDonald.*

Since the inception of the club, meetings were held on a monthly basis. In the early days meetings were held at the Sunnyvale Library and in the hospitality room of two local banks. Later on meetings have been held on a rotating basis on the third Saturday of the month, twelve times a year, at a member's home. The in-home meetings proved to be more satisfactory with their informal atmosphere. Gradually, with a decreasing number of 'local' members, meetings were held every other month, and lately every three months.

Sometime during 1970 they changed the name to the Netherlands & Colonies Philatelists of Northern California, considering themselves to be the California chapter of Netherlands & Colonial Philately, which was based in New York. The "Netherlands and Colonial Philately" of January 1971 had a short note: "California has done it! Mr. Schapelhouman, 651 Distel Drive, Los Altos, Cal. 94022 has written me that a Northern Chapter of N.C.P has definitely been formed with a promising number of members. Exact details are lacking at the moment, but we

are sure that, with such men as Mr. van Heerden, Dr. Ruys, Mr. Schapelhouman and others "Netherlands and Colonies Philatelists" Chapter will thrive and grow to a substantial organization."

In 1974 the members had been active for five years, and on this occasion, the first 'anniversary publication' was published. It was "The 1872 Issue", with 31 pages of detailed information gathered by eight members. (Fig. 3)

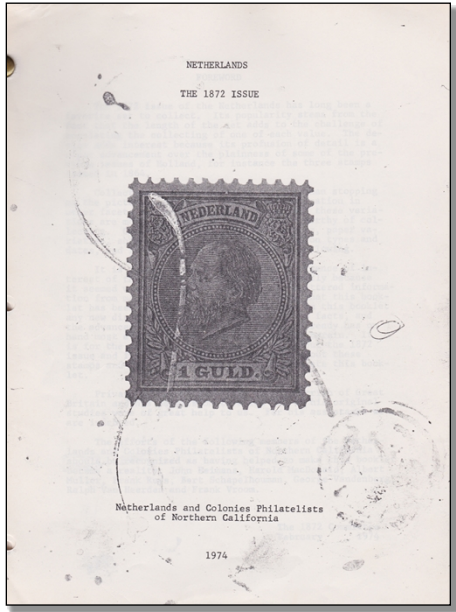


Fig. 3 "The 1872 issue", published in 1974.

In 1979 the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated not only with a 34 page "10 Year Anniversary Commemorative Booklet", with contributions from ten members, but also with a luncheon at a Mountain View, CA restaurant. (Fig.4)

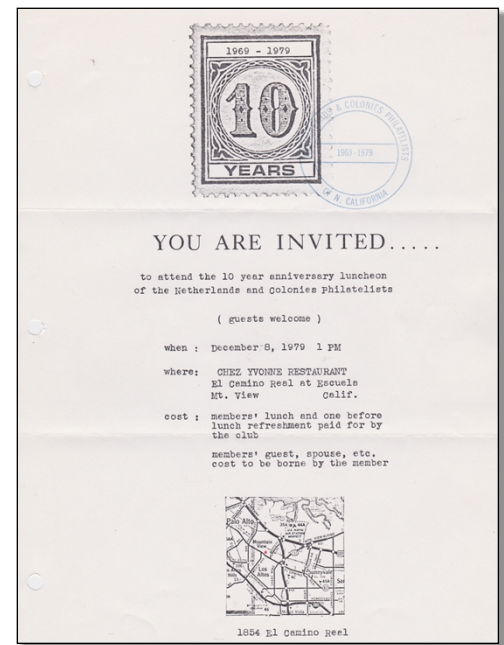
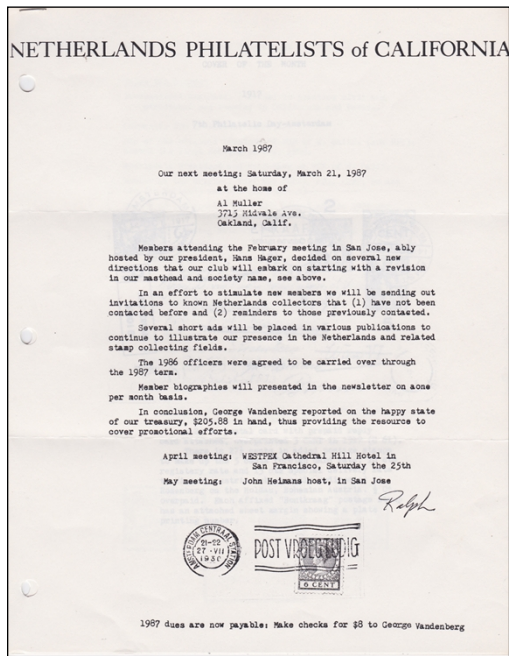


Fig. 4 10th NPofC Anniversary luncheon in 1979



From then on social meetings, where partners are invited, have been held twice a year, once in the summer and the second one during the Christmas/New Year period.

In March 1987 it was decided to no longer use the word "Colonies" in the name of the organization but from there on to call it "Netherlands Philatelists of California", 'NPofC' for short. (Fig. 5)

Fig. 5 March 1987; "Netherlands Philatelists of California" from now on.



In 1995, when about ten 'local' members regularly attended the monthly meetings a new feature called "Cancel of the Month" was introduced. The rules were: "All club members in good standing and present at the monthly meeting can submit his or her entry for the cancellation of the month. This cancellation must be on a single stamp which can be on or off cover. On submitting the entry the member must also submit a copy of the stamp on a 8 ½ x 11 sheet with a short statement about the stamp, such as date of issue, type date, and origin of the cancelation etc.". The attending members, by majority vote, picked the best cancelation. (Fig. 6)

During the Christmas/New Year get-together the Cancel of Year was picked.

This feature was such a success that over time two new categories were added: "Cover of the Month" (Fig. 7) and "Open Category of the Month" (Fig. 8).

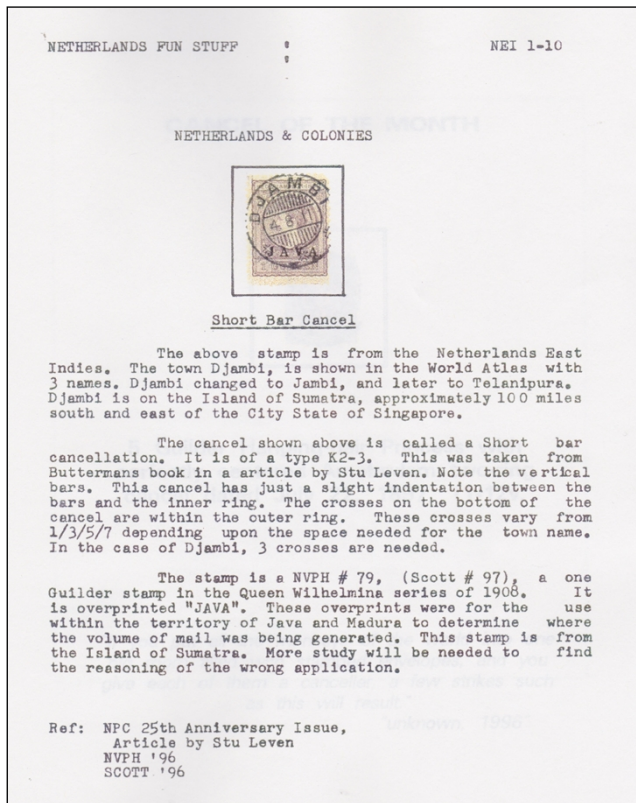


Fig. 6 One of the more elaborate entries into the Cancel of the Month

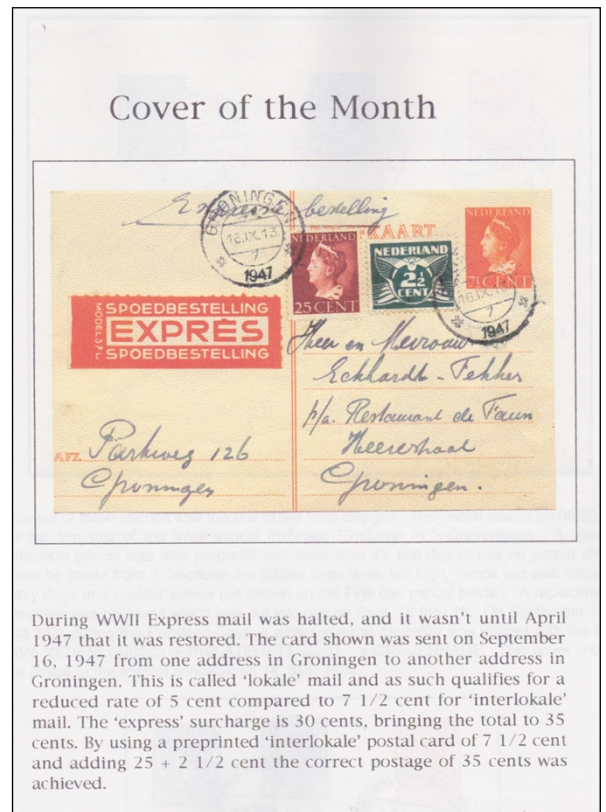
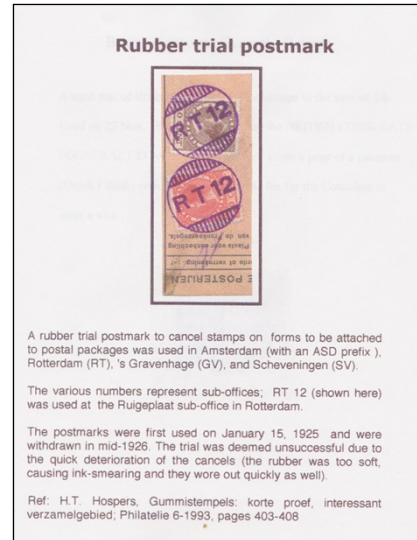


Fig. 7 Cover of the Month, May 1998

After the successful 1979 publication, over the years, other Anniversary publications were compiled by the membership. Added to that were some other publications.

The complete list:

- 1974 “The 1872 Issue”
- 1979 Ten Year Anniversary Commemorative Booklet.
- 1989 20 Year Anniversary.
- 1991 22 ½ Year Anniversary.
- 1993 Illustrated Dutch-English Philatelic Glossary, 5th Edition 1997.
- 1994 25 Year Anniversary.
- 1997 27 ½ Year Anniversary.
- 1999 30 Year Anniversary.
- 2001 1852-1923 Stamp Production Abnormalities.
- 2004 Comprehensive Dutch-English Philatelic Vocabulary
- 2004 35 Year Anniversary.
- 2009 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 2016 [Postmarks of the Netherlands](#) (English translation of O.M. Vellinga’s “Poststempels van Nederland, 1676-1915)
- 2016 [47 ½ Year Anniversary](#).



*Fig. 8 Open Category of the Month, 2002*

NPofC members have entered their framed exhibits (for example Dennis Buss’ exhibit on the [1940 Guilloche issue](#)) in local and national stamps shows and won awards for their presentations. Several members have served and are serving as officers of the American Society for Netherlands Philately (ASNP) and other philatelic organizations.

Every year we have had a Potluck Luncheon at a member’s home and a Holiday Dinner (Fig. 9) at a local restaurant where members were encouraged to bring their partners. During the Holiday Dinner the best Cover of the Year, Cancel of the Year and Open Category of the Year were voted on.



*Fig. 9 Invitation to the 2003 Holiday Dinner. Notice the “Pacifica 1/1” half-round cancellation.*

Honorary Members were handed a personalized certificate (Fig. 10).

*Fig. 10 Honorary Member  
Ralph van Heerden, 2007.  
Notice the “Van Heerden  
15/9” half-round  
cancellation*

In 2000 we set up the NPofC website [jdkremer.angelfire.com](http://jdkremer.angelfire.com) which is still being updated, with direct access to all [NPofC Newsletter articles](#) from 2010 thru the most current Newsletter issue.

To honor those members who no longer are with us but who contributed to the publications mentioned in the list above we digitized some of their contributions. We also honor our oldest current member (Frank Ennik) who also has been our Newsletter editor since January 2001(!).

Digitized Articles. By clicking on a [blue button](#) the article should open up. Sometimes due to ‘incompatibility’ of software there could be a problem.

- 1974 “The 1872 Issue “ - [Perforations and Perforation Varieties](#) – Various members
- 1979 [Surinam 1925-26 Provisional Issues](#) – Harold MacDonald
- 1989 [PORTO KONTROLL KASSE](#) John Heimans
- 1991 [Pioneer FDC Cachet Maker Simon J. Sluis](#). George Comnes
- 1994 [The Story of my Perfined 25 Gld. Netherlands East Indies Stamp](#). Marty O’Grady
- 1997 [Some Variations in the Netherlands FRANCO branch cancel](#). Ralph van Heerden
- 1999 [Trainletter stamps of the Netherlands](#). Bill Chevalier
- 2004 [The Captain Pattist “Abel Tasman” Test Flight: Java – Australia](#). George Vandenberg
- 2009 [The International Postal Exposition Veth Issue of 1924](#). Burt Miller
- 2016 [Attempts by the German Occupiers to Issue Occupation Stamps for the Netherlands in 1940 and the Theft of Enschede Stamp Stocks – A Summary](#). Frank Ennik

