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[Braille; Louis Braille]



To mark the 150th Anniversary of the introduction of the Braille system in 1825 De Nederlandse Blindenraad in The Netherlands issued a set of charity letter seals on two mini sheets.

Both show two seals on a background of two different maps of Paris. One sheet has a seal showing a bust of Louis Braille taken from that of him on the monument in the village of Coupvray where he was born January 4, 1809. The second seal has hands reading a Braille book.

The other sheet has a seal showing hands using a Picht Braille writer. The second seal shows hands basket weaving. All the seals have in print and *embossed* Braille fl 3 the cost of the seals and on each sheet *embossed* in 1825 – 1975 Braille 150.

De Nederlandse Blindenraad

Was an umbrella organization of 4 organizations of the blind, founded in 1948. The organizations were a catholic one, a protestant one, a neutral one and one for blind people who with an academic education. It was typical Dutch in that time for every denomination to have a separate organization. In 1977 there was a merger of the three of these organizations (except the protestant one). The new organization was representative of all the blind and partially sighted people. The Blindenraad came to an end.

Picht Braille Writer

The *Schnellschreibmaschine* (Braille writer) was invented by Oscar Picht, the director of the Koninglichen BlindenanstaltSteglitz in Berlin in 1892. This was the same year that Frank H. Hall in the USA also invented his Braille writer. Over the years the Picht has

under gone a number of changes. In was sold too many countries as it is inexpensive and not difficult to repair. After the Second World War it was made East Germany (DDR). It was the most widely used Braille writer in the Soviet Block countries. It is still available from Germany, now being called the Erika Picht.