

Aarts' Letterkundige Almanak voor het P. C. Hooftjaar, 1981.  
Amsterdam, C. J. Aarts, Antwerp, Contact, 1980, 224 pp.

At present no fewer than twenty members of CAANS are actively engaged in translating Dutch literary works into English or French, and here is an indispensable reference work for their use. For those contemplating the publication of their translations and needing permission, here are the addresses of all living Dutch and Flemish writers of note. The Almanak also provides necrologies of authors who died in 1979 or between January and August, 1980. In case a translator needs permission to publish a translation of the work of one of the latter group, another useful listing may be indispensable: a complete index of all publishers in the Netherlands and Flanders. There is also a list of bookstores, literary and government organizations, all with full information provided. Among these are such useful addresses as those of the Stichting ter Bevordering van de Vertaling van Nederlands Letterkundig Werk, Vereniging ter Bevordering van het Vlaamse Boekwezen, Creative Arts Promotion, various Foundations and literary archives. Added to this we find the names and addresses of literary cafés and societies, both in the Netherlands and in Belgium, arranged by city. Another useful list gives the addresses of rare book dealers. An excellent bibliography is also provided.

Aarts' Letterkundige Almanak was established in 1979, and the first one published, for 1980, was an immediate success both in the Netherlands and Flanders. In the 1981 Almanak the two editors, Dick Welsink for the Netherlands, Willy Tibergien for Belgium, have continued the pattern they established in the first. As well as the many useful lists of names and addresses a special feature is an entertaining and informative "literary chronicle," the one for the Netherlands by Frans de Rover and that for Flanders by Marc Reynebeau. These overviews of the literary year are

a pleasure to read and will give CAANS members an opportunity to keep abreast with at least the most important trends.

How else, other than consulting this Almanak, could we be reminded that 1981 is not only the 400th anniversary of the birth of P. C. Hooft (1581-1647), but also the 600th anniversary of the death of Jan van Ruusbroec and the 100th anniversary of the death of Jacques Perk? CAANS local chapters planning their annual Seminars may well be interested in taking note of such "anniversary years" when planning their special sessions!

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Cover and title page: View of Amsterdam from the formerly open IJ, detail of an engraving by G. Temini, mid-17th century. Permission of the Nederlandsch Historisch Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Page 57

Stichting Het Catharijneconvent, Utrecht, The Netherlands.