

For the most part, suggestions for further reading in English or sources of information on a given subject are provided at the end of an article, and this is extremely useful. On the other hand, one wonders, since hardly any articles are followed by footnotes, why there are more than two pages of notes, with many references to works not accessible to the non-Dutch speaking reader, at the conclusion of S. Groenveld's "The Seventeenth-Century Anglo-Dutch Wars: Economic or Political Issues." Some further editing would have solved this inconsistency.

On the whole, however, in spite of or perhaps because of the variety of topics discussed, this book is extremely worthwhile for the English speaking reader who wishes to know more about Flanders and the Netherlands.

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Klaas and Reindert De Vries: *Leaving Home Forever*, Electa Press Series, number 2, 1995, Windsor: Netherlandic Press. 64pp.

J. and A. De Groot: *Separation and Inheritance, The Story of Jan and Aagje De Groot*, Electa Press, Windsor: Netherlandic Press, 1995. 90pp.

The Netherlandic Press continues to publish a number of most interesting books. The two books reviewed here are part of a new series, called *Electa*. The first is a translation of a rare brochure entitled *Van Amsterdam naar Canada*, printed in October 1892, in which the brothers describe how they departed from Amsterdam on the 14th of May of that year aboard the steamer *Didam* and arrived in Brockville, Canada on the 2nd of June, having docked in New York. From Brockville the journey went on by train to Winnipeg and then to Yorkton, from where they had to walk another 18 to 20 miles to the farm where they were to start working.

The booklet (64 pages) opens with a valuable Preface by the historian Dr. J. Th. J. Krijff, who tells about the economic and social situation in the Netherlands at the end of the Great Depression (1873-1896). One of the poorest areas was the Southeastern part of the province of Friesland. Most people were unemployed, especially during the winter time, and had to live on charity. Sod huts were the usual dwellings for many of the peat-workers. The De Vries brothers decided to leave Jubbega-Schurega where

they lived, to emigrate to Canada, which was advertising for strong young men.

In an Appendix Klaas de Vries tells the story of the establishment of the Christian Reformed Church in Elmwood, Winnipeg in 1907, which was the second Christian Reformed Church on Canadian soil after Nobleford (Nijverdal).

Hendrika Ruger has produced an almost perfect translation of the old Dutch documents. The appearance of this publication is — like everything which comes from the Netherlandic Press — impeccable. A number of excellent illustrations help considerably in understanding the written text. We are thankful that, with the support of the Canada Council, an important part of the history of the Dutch Reformed immigration into Canada at the end of the 19th century has been preserved for us and future generations.

The second booklet shows on its cover an aerial photograph of Broek op Langendijk, where the De Groots came from (they live now in Sarnia). Jan de Groot did what all people of his age should do, he wrote his life-story in a scribbler. Many of our older immigrants could tell similar stories, but - alas - oral tradition gets lost easily. (Some people today use a computer). His wife Aagje added some comments, and Dr. Michael Vander Weele, professor at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, who is married to one of the De Groots' six daughters, edited the volume.

From this book I learned a lot about the cabbage growers in Broek op Langendijk, which is indeed on a "lange dijk" — the illustration on the cover makes this quite clear.

The composition of the book is a bit confusing. It opens with a section called "Introduction: Cold Storage and Anchors", but it is simply the first chapter. The so-called first chapter says it deals with ship-burning, but actually describes the voyage on the *Statendam*, not the burning of it. The next chapter deals with Holland after World War II and is followed by a chapter dealing with the settlement of the De Groot family in Canada. But then in a following chapter we return once again to Broek op Langendijk during the war. A more chronological order might have made the reading easier.

It is also not always clear who is telling the story. The editor sometimes seems too eager to take over from the author and thus he becomes too visible, for we are interested in the De Groot.

Nevertheless, the book is very valuable and informative. I hope the Netherlandic Press will be able to publish more of these first-person immigrant stories before none of these pioneers are with us any more.

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Tineke Hellwig: *Adjustment and discontent, representations of women in the Dutch East Indies*. Windsor: Netherlandic Press, 1994. 103pp. Can\$11.95.

Tineke Hellwig: *In the shadow of change, images of women in Indonesian literature*. Berkeley Univ. Press, 1994. 259pp. US\$22.

Tineke Hellwig teaches Indonesian literature, history and civilisation at the University of British Columbia. She was born in Surabaya of a European father and an Indonesian mother, but was brought up in Utrecht and, as she says, thought of herself as an ordinary Dutch girl. Her admiration for her mother, however, combined with a visit to Indonesia, led her to specialise in the study of that country's literature and culture. Much of what she discusses in the first book we review here, and all the contents of the second, are largely unknown to Western readers, and we are grateful to her for filling in a large gap in our knowledge. I will therefore describe her subject matter fairly fully.

The Netherlandic Press volume should be read first. (Its themes were outlined in Dr. Hellwig's article in this Journal, "The Asian and Eurasian woman of the Dutch East Indies in Dutch and Malay literature," XIV ii (Fall 1993), 20-26). Its first chapter describes with admirable brevity and clarity the history of Dutch colonisation of the East Indies from 1600 to 1870, by which time the prize was no longer spices but cash crops like coffee and sugar. The second chapter covers the period 1870-1900, when the colonies' economy stagnated, the cost of wars with rebel tribes soared, and Western values produced a rigidly stratified society.

There follows a picture of the status of women in the society thus created. It is not pretty to modern eyes. Whereas in earlier years the East India Company encouraged marriage between the European employees and local women, to keep them from going home, now employees went home and brought out a Dutch bride. Local women became mere *nyais* (mistresses) to be discarded when the European bride came. How the women involved in these arrangements reacted to them, Dr. Hellwig traces through eleven texts, five by Dutch authors — Couperus' *De stille kracht* (1900), Daum's *Nummer elf* (1893), and three women writers of their period — four by men of Chinese descent, and two by Indo (partly European) authors.

The Dutch works uniformly portray tension and jealousy between the two women (commonly the *nyai* poisons the man with something unknown to Western pharmacology, the revenge of the helpless); Javanese people are inferior, and mixed-race women and their offspring are stupid, oversexed and ugly. In the stories in Malay (which is the lingua franca of Indonesia), the European man is often drunken, filthy and brutal. Of the women, the Indos, feeling at home with neither the colonisers nor the local people, are uncertain of themselves, but others are more flexible: a Dutch woman becomes a model Chinese wife, a local woman whose engagement is broken off marries her adoptive father. European women married to European men, made to play the part of a civil servant's wife, are perhaps no better off than their discarded predecessors. They are also expected to love their husband's children by the *nyai* (the *voorkinderen*). They mostly succeed, but is this the triumph of humane feelings or acceptance of the man's double sexual standard? They have to choose solidarity with their sex or their race, and the latter is easier.

Clearly, in Couperus, Daum *et al.* we have always heard the white male point of view about East Indies society. Dr. Hellwig offers us, on the contrary, the viewpoint of the Indonesian and the woman. This also is true of the second book, which looks for the image of women in works of Indonesian literature, more recent than those discussed above. The basis for the book is her doctoral thesis done at Leiden, and accordingly chapter one is about the topic and the critical methods. She starts from the hypothesis that "patriarchal norms dominate Indonesian literature" (1) and therefore women are seen as inferior. To test this belief, she analyses the Indonesian novel from 1937