

Editorial

In my office there hangs a picture of Leuven's city hall, a building which I count among the world's architectural masterpieces. An article dealing with its various aspects would fit perfectly in this journal. For that matter, so would a discussion of South Africa's apartheid policies, an analysis of Karl Appel's paintings, the writings of Hugo Claus, of Lucebert, or of Vondel. Obviously then, any well written article, story or poem, dealing with an aspect or aspects of Netherlandic culture in the broader sense of the word, would be welcome. And, as long as a certain measure of fairness is maintained, we expect not only paeans of praise but also articles that adopt a critical and negative stance. We have but one principle: as persons aware of the relativity of cultures we consider it a useful exercise to discuss with others the merits and shortcomings of the worlds with which we are familiar. Obviously, as this journal emanates from Canada, we are especially interested in articles that touch upon questions which also (in)directly concern Canadians. To give some examples, the Belgians are struggling with a language conflict similar to ours. Holland is becoming a multiracial society just as is Canada. Therefore, in either case, there may be lessons to be learned. In addition, we are interested in finding out what has happened to all those "Lowlanders" who settled in Canada.

In short, we would like to hear from everyone who has something to contribute. Some people will object to the broadness of our approach and insist that it must perforce result in a mismatch. However, we delight in incongruities because we know that even if the Dutch, the Flemish, certain Caribbeans and Indonesians, and the Afrikaners share the same mothertongue, we can not confuse their various and separate cultures. Therefore, an emphasis on distinctness and on

differences will be encouraged. Of course, there exists no intrinsic virtue in the fact of being different; there is value only in being able to recognize it, and to insist upon it in language that is clear and concise.

If you concur with us, your contributions in English or in French will be gratefully accepted.

Adrian van den Hoven