



CAANS NEWSLETTER  
BULLETIN DE L'ACAEN

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR NETHERLANDIC STUDIES

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR L'AVANCEMENT  
DES ÉTUDES NÉERLANDAISES

August 2003

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Editorial

BY BASIL KINGSTONE

I don't believe I have recommended a book in this space before, but I do recommend Simon Winchester's *Krakatoa: The day the world exploded* (New York: Harper Collins, 2003). It is a thorough and very readable account of the biggest volcanic eruption of modern times, the first which it was possible to record and study in detail, thanks to its location in a busy shipping lane (the Sunda Straits, between Sumatra and Java - west of Java, therefore, despite the movie title), and thanks to the existence of a modern administration to record it and a new invention to spread the reports, the undersea telegraph.

More expert readers than I may pick up inaccuracies in Winchester's enthralling account, but I found only one, and that very marginal. He describes the history of the Dutch colonies in the East Indies, including the abuses, and thus speaks of the novel *Max Havelaar*. "The author was in fact a young colonial official named Eduard Douwes Dekker (Multatuli, a somewhat self-pitying alias, is Javanese for 'I have endured much.')" Perhaps it is, but in that case Javanese has borrowed from Latin... No matter: enjoy the book.

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The CAANS Newsletter appears three times a year (April, August, December). It is a publication of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies and is free to all the Association's members.

Le Bulletin de l'ACAEN paraît trois fois par an (avril, août, décembre). C'est une publication de l'Association canadienne pour l'avancement des études néerlandaises, dont les membres le reçoivent gratuitement.

Items for the Newsletter should be sent to me, the editor. I can be reached by all the ways listed below. It simplifies my job if I can receive copy as an attachment to an e-mail, in WordPerfect or Word.

Pour publier dans le Bulletin, prière d'envoyer votre texte au rédacteur (moi), par un des moyens indiqués sur la page de couverture. Cela m'aide considérablement dans ma tâche si le texte est sous forme d'attachement à un courriel en WordPerfect ou Word.  
Merci!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CAANS/ACAEN HELD AT 1 P.M.  
ON MAY 31, 2003 AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NS

1. The required quorum of ten members in good standing was present.
2. The minutes of the 2002 annual general meeting, as distributed in the Newsletter in August 2002, were approved.
3. The outgoing president, Mary Eggermont, gave her report. She emphasized the financial support received from the Taalunie and SSHRC, and the creation of our web site. She expressed her gratitude for the work done by Michiel Horn in organizing the annual conference.
4. The secretary/treasurer, Herman van Wermeskerken, handed out the Financial Statement for the year 2002 (attached to these minutes). The large balance at the year's end is largely earmarked for outstanding issues of the Journal. No interest has accrued because the Royal Bank of Canada no longer pays interest on current accounts. Interest on a long-term account was paid in February 2003 and so is not shown here. The treasurer will shop around for a better bank deal.
5. The Archivist, Gus Dierick, drew our attention to the large number of journals collected over the years. The meeting agreed that the archives should keep only what is important for the Association. An inventory of other materials will be placed on our web site to make them available en bloc to an interested party.
6. The editor of the Journal and Newsletter, Basil Kingstone, gave his report. He can send the Newsletter to members online if they wish, if their programs are compatible, and he will put the contents on the web site at monthly intervals. The Journal backlog is as great as ever, but Minnie Joldersma has kindly volunteered to work with Basil on this problem. Mary proposed that for the 25th anniversary of the journal, everyone should obtain articles from new contributors. Chris Levenson should also be invited to contribute. This could be a larger project than usual, and three or four editors would be needed. Gus Dierick, Ton Broos and Mary Eggermont volunteered to help. At the head of the issue should be the 3-page history of CAANS which is on our website.
7. The proposed revised constitution, as distributed to the membership with the CAANS newsletter of April 2003, was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present. Gus Dierick, John Michielsen and Basil Kingstone were thanked for their work in revising it.
8. Michiel Horn was elected by acclamation as president for 2003-04. He is succeeded as vice-president by Jesse Vorst. Mary will continue to organize visiting speakers' tours, and Michiel will remain head of the program committee, with Jesse serving as local representative next year at the University of Manitoba. With no nominations from the floor, the rest of the board declared itself willing to continue in office and was re-elected. Gerrit Gerrits agreed to become a member at large to replace Richard Unger. A vote of thanks to Mary Eggermont for her service as president was moved and carried.

J. Herman van Wermeskerken.

## NEWS FROM CHAPTERS VANCOUVER

Op 13 maart jl. hadden we als spreker de Canadees-Nederlandse schrijver Philibert Schogt. Hij sprak op boeiende wijze over de invloed van het opgroeien met twee culturen en twee talen. In Canada was, net als voor iedere emigrant, het Nederlands de "huis, tuin en keuken taal". Nadat hij als jonge man terug emigreerde naar Nederland (the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence), schreef hij dan ook zijn eerste boek *De Wilde Getallen* in het Engels, de taal waarin hij geschoold was. Hij vertaalde het boek uiteindelijk zelf in het Nederlands toen, nadat er belangstelling in Amerika voor het boek werd getoond, een uitgever in Nederland het wilde publiceren. Zijn tweede boek *Daalder*, met als onderwerp de ervaringen van een Nederlandse emigrant in Toronto, schreef hij in het Nederlands. De afstand die het wonen in Nederland hem gaf, verschafte hem het inzicht om de ambivalente gevoelens van de emigrant te kunnen beschrijven. De lezing gaf voor velen van ons aanleiding tot introspectie en een geanimeerde discussie na afloop van de voordracht. Als CAANS leden kunnen wij ons duidelijk sterk vereenzelvigen met deze gevoelens van tussen twee werelden leven.

Jos van Stekelenburg gaf op 10 april een goed gedocumenteerde en geïllustreerde lezing over drie vrouwelijke schilderessen uit de 17de eeuw. Zij waren allen heel bekend gedurende hun leven en Margareta de Heer, een pastorale schilderes uit Friesland, werd zelfs gehuldigd door dichters met lofverzen. Alhoewel Margareta in de vergetelheid geraakt was en pas weer "herontdekt" werd naar aanleiding van een grote overzichtstentoonstelling van 130 vrouwelijke schilderessen, zijn de twee andere door Jos belichte artiesten nooit in de vergetelheid geraakt. Judith Leyster was het enige vrouwelijke lid in het Haarlemse schildersgilde in de Gouden Eeuw en haar techniek en thematiek was duidelijk beïnvloed door Frans Hals. Haar uitgebreide oeuvre vertoonde een variëteit van onderwerpen en technieken en was niet te onderscheiden van haar mannelijke collega's. Jammer genoeg echter, zoals bij zoveel kunstenaressen, weerhield de zorg voor haar gezin haar om nog langer te schilderen nadat ze op haar 27ste jaar met een kunstschilder trouwde. Er zijn namelijk nauwelijks meer werken van haar bekend na haar huwelijk. De derde door Jos belichte artieste was Rachel Ruysch. Zij was een van de meest beroemde bloemenschilders van haar tijd. Zij schilderde tot haar 83ste jaar, maar ook haar 'productie' verminderde aanmerkelijk na haar huwelijk. Wij danken Jos hartelijk voor haar interessante lezing.

## FROM THE JOURNALS

### DUTCH CROSSING

Vol. 26 no. 2 (Winter 2002) is devoted to "Papers from the fourth biennial conference of the Association for Low Countries Studies (ALCS), Dublin, January 2002." After the articles, however, we have a fine bonus: a new translation by Peter King of Vondel's *Jeptha* (three h's in translation). This must be the first new version of the play in years; indeed, a search of the web site WorldCat produces many Dutch editions but no English translations (English works on the same subject, yes).

The first paper, by Rolf Loefer of Pittsburgh, taught me that in the Golden Age there was a thriving trade between the Northern Netherlands and Ireland. Some Dutch traders settled in Dublin, where they were discriminated against and forbidden to sell at retail or to live in the city proper, till 1640, because of their success, but in later decades they became citizens and even mayors. With the Southern Netherlands there was the Catholic connection: English and Irish Catholics sent their children to Flanders and northern France to be educated. The paper of F. Blom (Nijmegen) tells the stories of three such children: Peter Wadding (1583-1646), who became a Jesuit theologian; Lady Lucy Herbert (1669-1744), who became prioress of a convent near Bruges, and the printer James Peter Coghlan (1731-1800), who lived in more tolerant times and could publish Catholic books in London - and who also helped Catholic priests and nuns driven *from* France and the Netherlands in the 1790s, who sought refuge in England and Ireland.

Dónal O Riagáin (Dublin) writes on "The legal status of lesser-used languages" (less used, with due respect to European Union style), specifically Irish and Frisian. Although one is an official national language and one is not, they have in common that years of efforts to persuade the EU to officially adopt a policy "favoring" all such languages and the cultures they support, efforts with which the author has long been associated, have not yet succeeded.

Esther Mijers (Aberdeen) describes Scots-Dutch relations in the 17th century. At first merchants, persecuted religious minorities and soldiers went to the Netherlands - Scottish troops were sent to help in the Eighty Years' War, then stayed to fight France - and they paved the way for several thousand students who attended Dutch universities, especially from 1680 to 1730, usually in order to complete their studies in medicine, law or theology.

Two articles are not about Ireland or Scotland. Madeleine Lee (Hull) reminds us that our image of our nation/culture/society is merely a set of received beliefs, triggering "instant choices and value judgments." She shows that the Flemish self-image of past glory and survival, which persisted well into the 20th century, is revealed as outmoded in Hugo Claus's *Het verdriet van België*. It is internalized by the main character as a boy, but destroyed in him by World War II; the fragmentation of the novel's second part is a reflection of his need to learn reality piece by piece, the better to defend himself against it.

In the last article, Roel Vismans (Hull) pursues his study of Dutch sentence structure in the light of functional grammar. He looks at the importance of topic and focus (roughly, context and new information) and the influence of these on word order and accent, and reports on an experiment in which he asked some Dutch speakers to rate the acceptability of a series of different word orders and accentuations of the same basic sentence.

## SEPTENTRION

La couverture du n° 2 pour 2003 montre une forêt de bicyclettes. Elles font le thème principal de ce numéro, qui contient à leur sujet un essai d'Anton Korteweg et un choix de poésies par divers auteurs bien connus. On nous offre également deux extraits traduits du dernier roman de Jeroen Brouwers, *Geheime kamers*. Luuk Gruwez nous envoie un texte-carte postale depuis un domaine à la frontière française, autrefois propriété de la famille de Marguerite Yourcenar, où il passait l'été dernier un mois avec deux autres écrivains, supposément à écrire en paix. Et

n'oublions pas la bande dessinée *Néron et cie*, les aventures loufoques d'un bon bourgeois, "underdog au coeur d'or," qu'on a pu lire tous les matins pendant cinquante ans (mais le dessinateur, Marc Sleen, n'en crée plus depuis le 31 décembre dernier).

Octogénaire comme Sleen, Jacques Wirtz crée toujours des parcs et jardins. Si Sleen n'est guère connu hors de Flandre, Wirtz est célèbre partout sauf chez lui. Inépuisablement créatif, il insiste toujours pour mettre beaucoup d'arbres et de verdure, pour nous détendre. Il vise donc le contraire des jardins Renaissance, tout en plates-bandes, conçus pour introduire de nouvelles espèces botaniques et pour des buts moraux et philosophiques. Il en reste bien peu, mais on en ressuscite, dont celui de la maison Rubens à Anvers.

L'autre art représenté dans ce numéro est la danse. Ed Wubbe, qui dirige depuis quinze ans le Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, réussit à tout réconcilier dans les ballets qu'il crée: danse classique et moderne, "danse pure et anecdote," "danse stylisée et langage primesautier" - car ses oeuvres pétillent d'énergie.

Deux articles encore. L'un expose très bien le fait que la Belgique et les Pays-Bas, qui dans le temps ont suivi une politique étrangère assez indépendante favorisant l'aide au tiers monde et s'opposant aux États-Unis, se voient aujourd'hui de plus en plus forcés de se conformer aux politiques de pays plus grands. L'autre nous révèle que le néerlandais est enseigné dans les écoles secondaires d'un seul département de la France (le Nord, bien sûr). La bonne nouvelle, c'est qu'il est enseigné non pas comme langue régionale mais comme langue étrangère. Étant donné l'importance économique des voisins néerlandophones, il n'est pas surprenant d'apprendre que cette langue est bien implantée dans le curriculum primaire dans ce département, et qu'on fait des démarches décisives pour remédier au manque d'enseignants de la matière.

## FLANDERS

Since the cover of issue no. 58 (June to August 2003) shows us a very striking colourful representation of a human figure kicking out one leg while hanging on a wall, let us start with the stories about the arts. This piece is in the stairwell of the Flemish Representation in The Hague; art works also adorn the corresponding offices in Paris and London. Flemish theatre companies, meanwhile, are the guests of honour at this year's Avignon Festival. Another "art" that Flanders excels in is flower growing; a large quantity are exported, especially azaleas. There are also Flemish experts in the conservation of endangered animals. Zoos today keep fewer species but more animals of each one, typically chosen because it is endangered; the Antwerp Zoo, for example, has okapis (an African deer) while at the Planckendael Animal Park in Mechelen they have bonobos, relatives of the chimpanzees.

Another article talks about Flemish stem cell researchers, one now in the US and one who returned from there to start a biomedical company. Another specialist company has installed waste water treatment plants in a Czech river valley popular with tourists. Of the more purely commercial companies profiled in this issue, Asco, located near Brussels airport, makes and exports aircraft components, notably 90% of the world's supply of a part which enables an aircraft's front wing flap to move. In contrast, the Colruyt supermarket chain is not yet ready to grow much outside Belgium.

## BOOK REVIEW

Pierre van Paassen: *Israel, democracy's neglected ally*, ed. David Kirk and Ed Ephgrave. Brentwood Bay, BC and Port Angeles, WA: Ben-Simon Publications, 2002.

"We regret that in spite of our best efforts, one unfortunate error has remained on p. xvii. Mr. Van Passion should read Mr. Van Paassen." The "mistake" is profoundly correct, however: this Dutchman, who emigrated to Canada as a child and became a newspaper reporter famous in his day, was nothing if not passionate in his defence of the Jews in the horrible years when they were being slaughtered in Europe. He alerted his readers to what the Nazis were doing as early as 1933.

The present text is in fact Chapter 4 of van Paassen's book *The forgotten ally* (New York: Dial Books, 1943). Here he revealed the vital part played by the considerable Jewish contingent from the future Israel (then Palestine, under British mandate), in the North African and Middle Eastern theatre in World War II - a contribution that he felt the British were keeping silent about. The editors have kept the original appearance and page numbering (173-225) of the 1943 work, and have preceded it with an Editor's Note (ix-xii), a biographical article on van Paassen (xiii-xx), a new preface by the Israeli author Shmuel Katz (xxi-xxii), and new endorsements of the work (xxiii-xxiv). After the text they reprint favourable reviews from 1943 (xxv-xxvi).

As the editors explain in their Note, the reason why they have brought out this reissue with this (their?) little press, which is devoted to books on the Holocaust, is that they admire Israel as wholeheartedly as van Paassen admired its future inhabitants, and are tired of the criticism of that State. Even if one disagrees, one may be grateful to them for reintroducing us to the powerful writing of a fine old-time reporter who was not afraid to state the facts - and his opinions. Few proprietors would let him do so today.

## LA SOCIÉTÉ DES AMIS DE JONGKIND

We have received an e-mail from François Auffret, president of this association devoted to the painter. He invites everyone to look at his website, [www.JB-Jongkind.org](http://www.JB-Jongkind.org) to learn about the association's goals and activities. M. Auffret has also published a book *Johan Barthold Jongkind (1819-1891), héritier, contemporain et précurseur* (Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose). It is in French; there is a special subscription price until July 15. Anyone wishing to bring out an English version is encouraged to contact his publisher.

## ON THE BATTLE OF THE GOLDEN SPURS

The Orde van den Prince (founded in 1955 and named for William the Silent) seeks to promote the Dutch language and culture and cultural osmosis between North and South. It is not a Flemish nationalist movement, indeed its goals are not political, though it issues position papers on policy matters that concern its areas of interest. What I know of their activities is that they support CAANS by taking out some memberships - in individuals' names, not the Order's - and, when I took a summer course at Ghent once, they distributed information, offered books, and

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002

**Credits**

Balance January 1, 2002	\$14,738.85
Membership and Journals	4,781.25
Nederlandse Taalunie	3,054.74
SSHRC	1,452.00
Dean of Arts Windsor	500.00
CANCOPY	<u>320.53</u>
	<u>\$24,847.37</u>

**Debits**

Conference and speakers	\$ 4,124.66
Newsletter and Journal	3,835.11
General expenses	299.18
Website	171.13
CELJ	85.00
Bank charges	<u>41.21</u>
	<u>\$ 8,556.29</u>

Balance on January 1, 2002	\$14,738.85
Receipts over expenses	1,552.23
Accounts payable	<u>1,100.00</u>
Balance on December 31, 2002	<u>\$17,391.08</u>

**Members' Equity on December 31, 2002**

Balance on December 31, 2002	\$17,391.08
Accounts Payable	1,100.00
In trust	2,475.91
4 Issues of the Journal (based on cost of last issue)	<u>8,013.20</u>
	<u>\$ 5,801.97</u>



invited the students to dinner at members' homes.

Of late the Order has very kindly begun to send us their *Nieuwsbrief*. In addition to news from districts, chapters and members, they have interesting historical articles. (Now you see where I am going). One article (June-July 2002, p.3-5) explains how the Guldensporenslag came to be fought. The count of Flanders held his land west of the Scheldt as a fief from the king of France. He set out to counter French attempts to increase their control over his land, while at the same time increasing his own control over the cities. The wealthy ruling families of these cities therefore supported France, while the skilled tradesmen and day labourers were for the count.

What led to war was the fact that France was already fighting a war with England and raised taxes to pay for that, and forbade Flanders to import English wool for the cloth trade - the cities would have been ruined by this decision. The count declared independence, Flanders was invaded and annexed to France, and he was defeated in a battle at Veurne and taken prisoner. Further angered by French annulment of rights that the count had given to the guilds, the cities revolted, an army was raised and took Kortrijk and shut the French garrison up in the citadel. The French army came to relieve the garrison with four times as many heavily armed knights as the Flemish had. The latter had mostly footsoldiers, composed of peasants and tradesmen (in terms of city politics, this was a class war), who took up a position on a stream bank where cavalry charges were ineffective and could be stemmed with pikes and lances. Their tactics worked. The French army were put to flight, almost all their nobility were killed, and 500 pairs of their golden spurs were hung up in the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk in Kortrijk. Flemish footsoldiers thereafter lost as many battles against the French as they won, but the county was never wholly conquered and it kept France from capturing the southern Netherlands. In the cities, the victory increased the power of the guilds, who began to have a say in local government.

Another article in the *Nieuwsbrief* (Jan.-Feb. 2003 p.10-11) begins with a wider picture. The Dampierre dynasty of Flanders had a rival in the d'Avesnes dynasty of Hainaut, which by 1295 had also acquired Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht, with French help. But every region had its internal conflicts too: in Flanders, as we have seen, they were class struggles, while elsewhere they pitted one princely family against another. The Flemish took advantage of French weakness after the Guldensporenslag to conquer parts of Zeeland and Utrecht, but Holland counter-attacked. Flemish ambitions here were purely expansionistic and what persuaded people to fight for or against them was loyalty to a noble family, with the exception of Utrecht and Dordrecht, since in both cities the guilds gained some political power from the brief Flemish occupation. Of national feeling based on a common language there is no sign ("the language" was a series of more or less mutually incomprehensible dialects). Ghent remained pro-French all the time, and east of the Scheldt the land was a fief of the German emperor and took no part in these events.

The third article (March-April-May 2003 p.11-12) is by Ludo Jongen and will be familiar to our chapter members in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, to whom he kindly read it in February 2002. After recalling the historical background and the outcome of the Guldensporenslag, he presents the accounts of these events written in the years following, especially the *Spiegel historiael* of Lodewijk van Velthem. The *Spiegel* is nothing less than a history of the world from the Creation to the Last Judgment, and Lodewijk's explanation of the French defeat is,

accordingly, religious: it was God's punishment for the king's exerting power over the priests and religious in France (taxing them and subjecting them to civil and criminal law) and for threatening the emissary sent by the pope to remonstrate with him. Indeed, he asserts that the Flemish themselves did not win the victory, God used them as tools to punish the king of France. Be it said that other, pro-French or anti-Flemish chroniclers virtually ignore the battle, but still it became the basis for a legend of glory still apparently powerful, eliciting unthinking patriotic reactions, as late as 1940 (the article in *Dutch Crossing* on Hugo Claus's *Het verdriet van België*, which I discuss above, shows how mindlessly the main character, as a child, refers to the glorious battle in his attempts to make sense of the world, a mindlessness he inherits from the society he is growing up in).

### ON THE BATTLE OF THE GOLDEN SPURS

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Another article in the *Nieuwsbrief* (Jan.-Feb. 2003 p.10-11) begins with a wider picture. The Dampierre dynasty of Flanders had a rival in the d'Avesnes dynasty of Hainaut, which by 1295

had also acquired Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht, with French help. But every region had its internal conflicts too: in Flanders, as we have seen, they were class struggles, while elsewhere they pitted one princely family against another. The Flemish took advantage of French weakness after the Guldensporenslag to conquer parts of Zeeland and Utrecht, but Holland counter-attacked. Flemish ambitions here were purely expansionistic and what persuaded people to fight for or against them was loyalty to a noble family, with the exception of Utrecht and Dordrecht, since in both cities the guilds gained some political power from the brief Flemish occupation. Of national feeling based on a common language there is no sign ("the language" was a series of more or less mutually incomprehensible dialects). Ghent remained pro-French all the time, and east of the Scheldt the land was a fief of the German emperor and took no part in these events.

The third article (March-April-May 2003 p.11-12) is by Ludo Jongen and will be familiar to our chapter members in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver, to whom he kindly read it in February 2002. After recalling the historical background and the outcome of the Guldensporenslag, he presents the accounts of these events written in the years following, especially the *Spiegel historiael* of Lodewijk van Velthem. The *Spiegel* is nothing less than a history of the world from the Creation to the Last Judgment, and Lodewijk's explanation of the French defeat is, accordingly, religious: it was God's punishment for the king's exerting power over the priests and religious in France (taxing them and subjecting them to civil and criminal law) and for threatening the emissary sent by the pope to remonstrate with him. Indeed, he asserts that the Flemish themselves did not win the victory, God used them as tools to punish the king of France. Be it said that other, pro-French or anti-Flemish chroniclers virtually ignore the battle, but still it became the basis for a legend of glory still apparently powerful, eliciting unthinking patriotic reactions, as late as 1940 (the article in *Dutch Crossing* on Hugo Claus's *Het verdriet van België*, which I discuss above, shows how mindlessly the main character, as a child, refers to the glorious battle in his attempts to make sense of the world, a mindlessness he inherits from the society he is growing up in).

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