

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF NETHERLANDIC
STUDIES

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR
L'AVANCEMENT DES ETUDES
NEERLANDAISES

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Décembre 1999

EDITORIAL

With this Newsletter you are receiving the 1999 double issue of the Journal, in the form of Herman Ganzevoort's new book *The last illusion: Letters from the land of opportunity 1924-1930*, published by the University of Calgary Press. We are very proud to have taken part in this collaboration, and we think you will like the book.

Very nice, you will say, and what about the fall 1998 issue, which we seem to have skipped over? Fear not, that is in preparation, and you will receive it in the spring.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

CAANS' annual meeting will be held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, on Saturday and Sunday May 27 and 28, 2000, with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities. We propose to have a panel discussion on "Language and society;" those interested should contact Dr. Beert Verstraete (Dept. of Classics, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0) or the address below. Papers on all other topics are welcome as well, needless to say.

If you wish to read a paper at this meeting, please send this form by March 1, 2000, and an abstract by April 1, 2000, to:

Dr. Basil D. Kingstone
French Department
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
N9B 3P4
Fax: (519) 971-3648
E-mail: bkingst@uwindsor.ca

Name:

Address:

Topic proposed (the note "Title to follow" will receive low priority):

Autobiographical note:

N.B.: Papers should be 20 minutes long, or 8 pages of double-spaced typing. You are asked to keep to this so as to leave time for discussion. If your paper is longer, please work out ahead of time which parts to omit. Thank you!

INVITATION DE COMMUNICATIONS

Le congrès annuel de l'ACAEN se tiendra à l'University of Alberta à Edmonton, le samedi et dimanche 27 et 28, 2000. Nous nous réunissons comme avant dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines et sociales.

Nous proposons pour notre réunion une table ronde sur le thème "Langue et société." Celles et ceux qui s'intéressent à y prendre part sont priés de contacter Beert Verstraete, Dept. of Classics, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0. Bien entendu, nous accueillons tout aussi bien toute proposition de communication sur n'importe quel sujet.

Si vous voulez présenter une communication à ce congrès, veuillez envoyer la présente formule, au plus tard le 1^{er} mars 2000, et un résumé, au plus tard le 1^{er} avril 2000, à :

Dr. Basil D. Kingstone
Études françaises
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
N9B 3P4
télécopieur: (519)971-3648
courrier élec.: bkingst@uwindsor.ca

Nom :

Adresse :

Titre proposé (la mention "Sujet à suivre" a une priorité moindre) :

Note autobiographique :

Note : Les communications ne doivent pas durer plus de vingt minutes, soit 8 pages dactylographiées à double interligne. Vous voudrez bien respecter cette limite scrupuleusement, afin de permettre la discussion de votre communication. Si elle est plus longue, vous déciderez par avance quelles parties il faut omettre. Merci de votre coopération!

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE OF CAANS
2000-2001**

I wish to nominate: -----
(Please print)

Address: -----

for the position of: -----

Date: -----

Signature of nominee: -----

Signature of nominator: -----

Please return this nomination form to the address below by April 1, 2000:

Basil D. Kingstone
Dept. of French
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
N9B 3P4

**CANDIDATURES À L'EXÉCUTIF DE L'ACAEN
2000-2001**

Je soussigné(e) propose: -----

Adresse: -----

au poste de: -----

Date: -----

Signature du/de la candidat(e): -----

Signature du/de la nominateur/trice: -----

Veuillez envoyer cette formule au plus tard de 1er avril 2000, à l'adresse suivante:

Basil D. Kingstone
Dept. of French
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario
N9B 3P4



Ambassade van het

Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

Officers
Canadian Association for the
Advancement of Netherlandic Studies

350 Albert Street, suite 2020
Ottawa , ON, K1R 1A4

Date 19 October, 1999
Our Ref.
Page 1
Encl.
Re **Netherlands' Government Scholarships**

Contact Lieselot Scales
Tel. (613) 237 5030, ext. 225
Fax (613) 237 6471
E-mail nlgovott@netcom.ca

I am pleased to confirm that the Netherlands' Minister of Education, Culture and Science has renewed the possibility for Canadian graduate students to apply for scholarships for the academic year 2000-2001 under the *Huygens Programme*.

The programme is meant for outstanding students from countries with which the Netherlands has concluded a Cultural Agreement and from countries with which the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science concluded agreements in the past regarding the award of scholarships. NUFFIC is responsible for managing and implementing the Huygens Programme. The decision to award a scholarship is taken by a selection committee, which has been appointed by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science.

Applicants are required to complete four copies of the NUFFIC-application form (photocopies are allowed), available upon request from the Netherlands Embassy in Ottawa. Completed forms and other required documents should be forwarded to this Embassy **before 1 February 2000**.

An information sheet regarding the *Huygens Programme* is enclosed.

Scholarships for the summer course in Dutch language and culture at the Woudschoten conference centre in Zeist have been made available as well. The Dutch Language Union has sent brochures on the course and application forms to universities where Dutch is on the curriculum.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Bram Buijze
Head Press and Cultural Affairs

HUYGENS SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

Academic year: 2000-2001

Purpose:

The Huygens Programme fosters an influx of outstanding foreign students from countries with which the Netherlands has concluded a Cultural Agreement and from countries with which the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has concluded agreements regarding the award of scholarships. A committee of experts selects the most qualified students.

To be eligible, students must:

- be no older than 35;
- be in the final stages of their degree programme, or have graduated no longer than two years earlier, or be working on a PhD in their own country;
- be a national of one of the eligible countries.

Eligible countries:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova Republic, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom

Documents required for an application:

- completed and signed application form
- curriculum vitae, or resumé
- photocopies of degrees, diplomas and academic records (from secondary school onwards)
- two letters of reference from academic supervisors
- letter in which the host institution in the Netherlands grants admission, officially or provisionally. *This letter must contain the following elements:*
 - study programme
 - name and position of the academic supervisor
 - amount of the tuition fee
 - the host institution's reason for wishing to receive the student
 - description of how the application fits into or contributes to institutional cooperation
- statement explaining the student's motivation
- If the tuition fee is higher than the statutory fee for the academic year 2000-2001, the application must include a letter stating that the student is willing to pay the extra amount himself/herself. (The statutory fee for the academic year 1999-2000 was NLG 2,816.)
- If English is not the student's native language, he/she must present official test results proving his/her language ability. This can be a TOEFL score of at least 550 on the paper-based test (or 213 on the computer-based test), or a satisfactory score on a similar test (at least 6.5 on an IELTS test, for example). If the study programme will be in Dutch, evidence of proficiency in the Dutch language must be presented.
- The Dutch authorities require the nationals of many countries to obtain authorization for temporary stay. Students with a passport from one of these countries must provide a copy of their passport.

N.B. All documents have to be in English (originally or translated) or in Dutch (for programmes in Dutch). Applications must be submitted to the Dutch embassy in the applicant's home country. Four copies of the entire application, including all the documents, must be provided.

The scholarship includes:

- a monthly allowance of NLG 1,545 for board, lodging and books (*this allowance is sufficient for one person only*);
- travel costs (once-only) from and to the student's country;
- exemption from the statutory tuition fee at Dutch higher education institutions (*the statutory fee for the academic year 1999-2000 was NLG 2,816*);
- medical insurance premiums up to a maximum of NLG 75 per month (as a rule this will not include dental treatment);
- costs of obtaining permission to reside in the Netherlands: the authorization for temporary stay (MVV) and the residence permit (VTV).

Procedures:

- Applications for Huygens scholarships must be submitted, together with the required documents, to the Dutch embassy in the country where the student is a permanent resident. The deadline is **1 February 2000**.
- The Dutch embassies screen the documents for authenticity and validity and at the same time check whether an application is complete.
- The Dutch embassies forward all complete applications to Nuffic.
- Applicants receive confirmation of the receipt of their applications. Incomplete or incorrectly completed applications are returned to the applicants without being considered.
- A committee of experts appointed by the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science assesses the applications and decides which candidates will be awarded a Huygens scholarship on the basis of the following criteria:
 - The candidate must show promise and have a strong record of academic achievement, as evident in a transcript of grades, a curriculum vitae, letters of reference, and a statement explaining his/her motivation.
 - **The study programme offered by the host institution must be of good quality, and the institution must have a good reason for wishing to receive the student. The degree to which the proposed period of study or research fits into or contributes to institutional cooperation will also be considered.**
- Nuffic informs all candidates of the decisions of the selection committee by **15 June 2000**.
- On the basis of nationality, candidates from many countries require authorization for a temporary stay in the Netherlands of longer than three months. The required visa is called an 'MVV' (= authorization for temporary stay). Nuffic will apply for this to the Dutch Ministry of Justice using a short procedure. **Candidates should not apply for the MVV themselves.** They should ask at the Dutch embassy in their home country which documents they will need to present when collecting their MVV. In principle MVVs can be collected at the Dutch embassy in the home country (or in exceptional cases in the country of permanent residence) two or three weeks before the student departs for the Netherlands. In some countries the Dutch embassy sends notice that the MVV can be collected. Once in the Netherlands, the person must show the MVV in order to obtain a residence permit.
- When students register with the Alien Police and at the Town Hall in the city where they will be living, they generally have to present an original birth certificate. In many cases it must also be certified.

N.B. Applications will be considered only:

- **if they have been submitted through a Dutch embassy, and not directly to Nuffic;**
- **if they are complete and correct.**

For more information about the Huygens Scholarships Programme, please contact Nuffic:

Department for International Academic Relations
P.O. Box 29777
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands

tel. +31 (0)70 - 42 60 236
fax. +31 (0)70 - 42 60 259
e-mail: huygens@nuffic.nl
<http://www.nuffic.nl>

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS

CALGARY

Op vrijdag 15 October was CAANS-Calgary aan de beurt. Na de gebruikelijke borrel gevolgd door diner in de University Club toonde de Amsterdamse cineast Jean Hellwig fragmenten van de door hem geproduceerde documentaire FALLING. Tussendoor gaf hij het gemengde Nederlands/Belgische/CAANS gezelschap een blik op de mening van de mensen die toeristisch, ecologisch of economisch betrokken zijn, cq. zich voelen, bij de houtkapperij rond Lake Lillooet. Na afloop kreeg hij veel vragen en was er ook wat onvrede te bespeuren: men wilde nu de hele film wel eens zien. Die schijnt ook in Canada op TV te komen, dus alle hoop is nog niet verloren.

Mary Eggermont-Molenaar.

VANCOUVER

Vanaf dinsdag 7 tot en met zaterdag 25 september waren vele leden van CAANS Vancouver actief betrokken bij de tentoonstelling "World Press Photo 1999." Opmerkelijk was de aandacht van de scholen voor deze expositie. De enorme belangstelling voor deze tentoonstelling toont dat het stille beeld, zelfs in zwart-wit, nog steeds een belangrijke rol speelt in het vastleggen en bekendstellen van kleine en grote wereldgebeurtenissen. Van de zijde van het consulaat-generaal werd de waardering voor onze medewerking kenbaar gemaakt door schenking van het desbetreffende fotoboek aan elk van de deelnemende leden.

Op donderdag 16 september wierpen we in dankbaarheid een terugblik op het leven van Christine Benny, tijdens de oorlog privésecretaresse van prinses Juliana in Ottawa, en medeoprichtster van het CAANS Vancouver Chapter. Mariken van Nimwegen en Ria Orr (vertolkt door Beatrix DeGroot) benadrukten de belangstelling voor anderen en de humor van Christine ondanks de grote persoonlijke zorgen in haar eigen leven. Behalve door haar welgedocumenteerde voordrachten genoot zij veler achting door haar vermogen de toehoorders actief in deze voordrachten en discussies te betrekken.

Op deze avond sprak voor ons ook professor dr. H.J.G. Beunders, hoogleraar in Geschiedenis van Maatschappij, Media en Cultuur aan de Erasmus Universiteit in Rotterdam, over de sociale veranderingen in Nederland, voornamelijk na de tweede oorlog. Hij vangt aan met een schets van de situatie in de Noordoostpolder, een kunstmatig samengestelde gemeenschap, bestaand uit een doorsnee van alle Nederlandse bevolkingsgroepen, welke door een amorfe instelling toch niet aan de beoogde integratie toekomt. Eerst op de middelbare school worden leerlingen aan dit integratieproces onderworpen. Maar multiculturalisme wordt als overdreven beschouwd.

Eind vijftiger jaren, later en heftiger dan in andere landen, slaat de situatie om in een streven naar een permanent zedige en vredige samenleving met hogere ontwikkeling, maar berustend op zelfontplooiing zonder druk van bovenaf: kraken, ontkerkelijking, rellen en sportuitwassen. Gezag

is een vies woord. Politieoptreden wordt bekritiseerd. "Gedogen" wordt een sleutelwoord. De heftigheid zou o.a. zijn oorzaak hebben in de dubbelzinnige ethische politiek (Nederland/Indië), de aftakelende internationale macht van Nederland (onzedelijk machtig wordt zedelijk onmachtig), de grote kerkelijke macht en angst voor het uiteenvallen van Nederland waardoor sociaal-democratische gedachten nog geen ingang kon vinden. Na de zeventiger jaren, wanneer Nederland wordt geschokt door gevallen van zinloos geweld, ontstaan permanente spanningen door het ontbreken van grenspalen tussen vrijheid en norm. Het makkelijk bereiken van een multiculturele samenleving blijkt een illusie te zijn. In negentiger jaren ontstaat opnieuw een hang naar een zedelijke maatschappij en harder optreden, maar met behoud van de verworven vrijheden. Welke formule hiervoor nodig is, is nog de vraag. Duidelijk is dat globalisatie hierin een grote rol zal spelen.

J. Herman van Wermeskerken.

Op 14 oktober heeft voor ons gesproken de Nederlandse cineast Jean Hellwig over de documentaire *Falling*, welke gaat over "logging" rond Lillooet Lake, B.C. Allereerst beschreef hij de voorgeschiedenis van deze documentaire, zoals b.v. de plannen van de regisseur, de financiering van dit klein-budget project en ook de ongunstige weersomstandigheden. Tevens legde Jean uit dat *Falling* geen politieke milieufilm met een duidelijke stelling of waardeoordeel is, maar een creatieve documentaire met de eigen visie van de regisseur weergegeven in een sfeer van passende muziek en geïncsceneerde ontmoetingen. Daardoor is *Falling* een z.g. auteursfilm i.p.v. een traditionele documentaire met verteller.

Alle partijen, aans ons vertoond in filmfragmenten, zijn diep verbonden met de natuur ondanks tegenovergestelde belangen. De centrale figuur, de "logging contractor" Steve Phare, zien we aan het werk, wanneer hij met zijn team bomen omhakt. "Logging" is zijn lust en zijn leven. Aan het woord zijnde, komen zijn dikwijls ambivalente en tegenstrijdige opinies betreffende "First Nations" naar voren.

Een andere Canadees, van Nederlandse afkomst en huisjesverhuurder, vreest dat kaalslag (clearcutting) aan de andere kant van het meer zijn zaken ongunstig zal beïnvloeden. Een eveneens ex-Nederlandse milieuactivist protesteert tegen "logging" door de lintjes te trekken van de bomen die bestemd zijn voor de houtkap.

De "First nations" zijn tegen het kappen, omdat het gebeurt op hun gebied, maar alleen ten voordele van de grote "logging"-organisaties, en dan nog wel op plekken die voor hen van cultureel belang zijn. Door de verschillende scènes van *Falling* is een droom van de "First Nations" gewoven, waarin de raaf de dromer waarschuwt dat de bestaande wereld wordt verwoest.

Ongeveer 17 uur film moest worden geschoten worden om het eindproduct van 55 minuten te verkrijgen. *Falling* ging in November 1998 op het International Documentaire Festival in Amsterdam in première en werd daarna als *De val* met Nederlandse ondertiteling uitgezonden op de Nederlandse en Belgische TV. Deze documentaire is uiterst positief ontvangen, hetgeen de reeds internationale reputatie van Nederlandse documentaires onderstreept. Volgend jaar zal

WATERLOO

In 1999 the Waterloo chapter of CAANS organized two meetings. At the first, on April 9, which was co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures of the University, Linda Beer, who had come all the way from Zimbabwe, presented a paper on *Black Afrikaans Writers*. In a well-structured lecture Ms. Beer discussed the many intricacies of her topic. She distinguished three main periods. Firstly, Early Black Writing (1940-1976). Secondly, Soweto and Beyond (1976-1992), within which the speaker pointed to some subdivisions: Exile Literature, Political Struggle Poetry, Orature, Graphic Novels, People's Poets, and several others. And finally the situation of the present time, i.e. since the mid-nineties, which still demonstrates the difficulties black writers have to determine their identity. Ms. Beer quoted the first stanza of Mogorosi Motshumi's poem "i wish i loved:" "i wish i loved/ this my master's language/ then perhaps/ hector would be alive/ but then/ i do not." The poem was written in Afrikaans and provides a glimpse of the problems faced by the Afrikaans black writer: the poet wants to use Afrikaans but realizes at the same time that this is the language of the master. From this example the audience learned that the use of Afrikaans is not limited to South Africa, but is taught among others at the University of Zimbabwe, and that it is not only the language of some 2-3 million mostly white people but also the language of literary expression of black people.

At the second meeting, on October 1st, the undersigned repeated the recitation of a poem by Charivarius, *De ridder van Granada*, which he had already recited in June in Sherbrooke at the meeting of the national CAANS. Then Professor Martin de Groot presented his paper entitled *The Atlantic world*. The paper can be said to treat history on a grand scale and not in the manner we learned it in elementary school: 100 jaar voor Christus de Batavieren komen in ons land; 50 jaar voor Christus de Romeinen komen in ons land. In de Groot's words: "When we speak of the rise of an Atlantic world, we're talking about the creation of a vast trans-oceanic circuit, a network, a human network of 'points and passages binding together four continents, three races, and a great diversity of regional parts.'" He made the following point about the human reaction to large water masses: whereas "up to the beginning of the 19th century, large bodies of water - oceans, lakes and rivers- were actually a convenience in terms of travel, transportation and communication," today we feel the ocean rather to be "a barrier to further progress."

Since the Dutch founded a colony in North America and a town called New Amsterdam, de Groot drew the following parallel between the history of the United States and the Netherlands: "Like the United States, the United Provinces of the Netherlands was a breakaway nation, a separatist nation, a Protestant nation, and a federation - on all these counts, therefore, what happened in Holland was a very important precedent that had a great deal of influence on how the United States was later conceived." But as de Groot pointed out, there are also parallels with Canadian history: "What most people don't realize is that when [the Dutch] founded what is now New York [in 1629, they...] were trying to copy the French in New France. Like the French, they were primarily interested in trading with Indians. Like New France, New Netherland was a colony on a

great river offering access to the interior.”

Sander Zweers.

AANS

A note about the following summary: rather than repeat details of addresses which I feel may not be needed, I have given e-mail addresses only. Anyone wishing other ways to contact people mentioned below have only to ask me for them, by any of the ways listed on the front cover. And please note also that Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor (Jvtaylor@facstaff.wisc.edu) would like to know your e-mail address if it isn't in the mailing list in the October issue of the Newsletter.

From which newsletter we learn many things, as always. They now have a website at <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/aans>, but it doesn't yet have information on future events. Everyone is invited to send announcements for the site to Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor. If you wish to apply for the Zomercursus Nederlands Taal en Cultuur (Zeist, July 17 - August 5, 2000; application deadline March 1st), you now get the forms and information from the Taalunie website at www.taalunie.org. Other sessions of the Zomercursus are being offered at Hasselt-Diepenbeek and at Ghent. The Certificaat Nederlandse als Vreemde Taal, incidentally, is now administered at the universities of Leuven (cnavt@arts.kuleuven.ac.be) and Nijmegen (cnavt@let.kun.nl). There will also be a Dutch Summer Institute at Indiana University from May 9th to June 15th; information can be obtained from Inge van der Cruysse at (deep breath) http://www.indiana.edu/~weur/_faculty_ivanderc/Dutchsummerinstitute.html, or by e-mail at ivanderc@indiana.edu.

The Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS) for 2000 will be held from June 25 to 30th at the University of California at Berkeley's Clark Kerr campus. The title of the conference is "Janus at the Millennium: Perspectives on time in the literature of the Netherlands." Information can be obtained from Johan Snapper at dodutch@socrates.berkeley.edu. Planning is also beginning for ICNS 2002. All those wishing to propose a venue for it should contact William Shetter at shetter@indiana.edu. Before any of these, there is the MLA session on Netherlandic language and literature, on Tuesday December 28 from 8.30 to 9.45 a.m. in Parlor G of the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. The session, organized by Gus Dierick, is entitled "Identities: issues of nation, culture, ethnicity and race from Multatuli to Hafid Bouazza" and offers papers on Bouazza, Arnon Grunberg and a comparison of Multatuli with Pramoedya Ananta Toer.

On the art scene, the College Art Association will hold its annual conference in New York, and Amy Golahny will chair the session on Netherlandish Art on Saturday February 26th from 9.30 to noon in the Regent Parlor of the Hilton Hotel. It will be devoted to Rembrandt.

There is an exhibition at the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University in Atlanta, which closes on January 9th, called "So many brilliant talents" and showing "more than ninety objects devoted to 17th-century art and culture of the southern Netherlands." Closing the same day at the Getty (publicaffairs@getty.edu) is a show on Adriaen de Vries (1556-1626), a pioneering sculptor

in bronze; a 350-page catalogue can be purchased (in English, Dutch or Swedish) for US\$60 by calling 800-223-3431.

There is a review of William Shetter's *The Netherlands in perspective, the Dutch way of organizing a society and its setting*, Utrecht: Nederlands Centrum Buitenlanders (a new publisher for the book). For foreigners (not only Americans) getting to know the country, or for students who haven't gotten there yet, the book offers an excellent introduction to all the interlocking aspects of life in the Netherlands. The way these are all tied together "makes the book lively," indeed it moves through its topics "in a breathtakingly short but clear manner" - like the Netherlands, it has to fit a great deal into a small space!

Also noted are:

- Carol Fehringer: *A reference grammar of Dutch* (Cambridge UP, New York, 1999, 209 p., US\$27.965 paperback; information from www.cup.org).
- Mary Kooy, Tonja Janssen and Ken Watson: *Fiction, literature and media*, the first of a new series on first language education. This volume is devoted to literary education, multiculturalism and the multimedia environment. 95p., Dfl 49.50, Amsterdam UP, e-mail francoisek@aup.uva.nl.
- Nanda Poulisse: *Slips of the tongue*, reports on an extensive study of errors committed by second-language learners. The book sheds light on speech production and second-language acquisition. 257p., US\$75 from John Benjamins (*Studies in bilingualism* 20), phone 1-800-562-5666 in US and Canada.

Last details:

- a Society for Netherlandic History has been founded in New York and plans to hold a history section at future ICNS conferences and a conference of their own in the years in between.
- President Bush has declared November 16 Dutch American Heritage Day (on that day in 1776 the Dutch were the first to recognize the new country by saluting an American warship at St. Eustatius). Every year a distinguished Dutch American will be honoured; this year it was Dr. Willem J. Kolff, the pioneer in artificial organ technology.

FLANDERS

No. 43 (Sept. 1999) features Charles V on the front cover. Born in Ghent in 1500, raised in Malines and given his first court in Brussels (at the age of 15), the emperor was perhaps more closely connected to Flanders than to any other land in his vast domains. He will be the subject of numerous activities in Flanders in 2000. On the back cover is James Ensor - a major exhibition is devoted to him at the Museum voor Oude Kunst in Brussels, till February 13 - but he was the subject of an article before. The lead article this time is about "A new technology for Flanders," not actually brand new: micro-electronics, the design and production of tinier and tinier computer chips. In this field IMEC, a research centre created 15 years ago in Louvain by the government, is a world leader. And a Flemish scientist working at the nuclear research centre CERN in Geneva, Robert Cailliau, is the unsung hero who invented the World Wide Web, as a research tool. In the business world, Christian Dumolin inherited a brick-making company but has branched out into financing other companies, either offering management expertise or actually running them. In

these cases and in providing venture capital, to high-tech startup companies especially, he always has the same objective: the company must achieve growth if it is not to be taken over.

This review commonly has two themes: business/industry, and a bit of history. With this issue it becomes a triptych, with a "green" panel as well. The (Flemish) Kalmthoutse Heide and the (Dutch) De Zoom heathland nature preserves adjoin, and joint planning is being done to protect them against such threats as farmers' fertilizers. In politics, the Green party Agalev (= anders gaan leven) is in a four-party governing coalition formed after the landmark June elections that ended the age-old domination of the Christian Democrats. Encouraging.

HOLLAND HORIZON

The Sept. 1999 issue was produced by a new team and incorporates suggestions from a poll of readers. The poll is not presented as the editorial promises, but its chief effect seems to be that some articles are mini-interviews with several people on a given topic, each part presented separately on the page: visual sound bites. The team has also introduced a feature called Dossier. This time the file is on refugees; the Secretary of State for Justice speaks of the new stricter rules for qualifying as a refugee and the need for a European policy about them. On the business front, we learn about Amsterdam's Southside Corridor near Schiphol, "the future financial heart of the capital and the country." (Note that here, in 20 years' time, the rail and subway lines and the freeway will all be underground). Meanwhile some very flourishing businesses are becoming one: some Dutch families already receive TV, phone and fax, and Internet service over one line, and soon they will operate them with one appliance. Government departments are already setting the working conditions of staff who work at home.

However, the two lead stories are about the arts. (The cover shows the Queen and the State Coach, but that is a propos of a photo essay on the royal family's love of horses). Under culture, we have an interview with the mural painter Rob Schouten, interspersed with references to his major works. Under Literature, we learn that Harry Mulisch's novel *The discovery of Heaven*, as vast as any mural, is to be made into a film. A challenge...

SEPTENTRION

Je devrais souligner à quel point la forme de cette excellente revue s'assouplit. En plus des articles, on y trouve des *Actualités*, souvent presque aussi longs que les articles, et les *Actuelles*, de simples entrefilets: tous deux traitent de prix littéraires, de morts d'auteurs, de centenaires de naissance, de nouvelles traductions ou de livres récents sur un sujet donné... Mais toutes ces richesses déborderaient la présente rubrique, je m'en tiens donc aux articles.

Et parmi ceux-ci, je crois distinguer une autre catégorie: l'article de tête, sensiblement plus long que les autres. Il s'agit de la situation politique en Belgique, que les élections de cet été sont venues bouleverser. Elles ont en effet mis fin à l'hégémonie des trois fractions traditionnelles et ont vu monter les verts à gauche et les nationalistes à droite. Nous vivons une époque de transition et

d'incertitudes, l'Europe se fait, et le vieux système corrompu - qu'on se rappelle les scandales qui se sont succédé là-bas - a fait son temps. Aletta Jacobs, la première femme médecin aux Pays-Bas (sa soeur fut la première pharmacienne dans ce pays), féministe qui a lutté pour le droit des femmes au vote et à la contraception, aurait sans doute salué cette évolution, bien qu'elle fût libérale-radical.

Côté littérature, on nous gâte comme toujours. Marius Möring (dont *In Babylon* vient de paraître en version française) met en scène des êtres seuls qui recherchent un sens à la vie et qui découvrent leur propre passé; il s'agit de raconter l'histoire, qui consiste d'histoires, en somme fiction et réalité s'affrontent. Sur Hugo Claus, déjà célèbre, nous avons un essai critique excellent qui accompagne quelques textes tirés de la version française de son oeuvre poétique - corpus unique, d'ailleurs, car Claus le remanie chaque fois qu'il est publié.

Chaque année, la France accueille la littérature d'un autre pays. En 1999, c'est la Belgique qui a eu droit à cette suite de lectures publiques, tables rondes etc., qui s'est déroulée dans vingt villes avec dix-sept écrivains belges, dont huit de Flandres. On édite une anthologie de leurs poèmes et nouvelles en traduction française, qui s'appelle... *17 auteurs belges*.

Dans les autres arts, nous apprenons que le musée van Gogh à Amsterdam a été rénové. Le visiteur sera frappé par l'aile nouvelle, à la silhouette courbe (au contraire du musée existant, l'oeuvre de Rietveld) et admirera la vaste collection d'oeuvres de van Gogh et de son siècle - les premières prenant tout leur sens en présence des autres. On nous démontre enfin que le cinéma néerlandais d'animation, représenté par Gerrit van Dijk, Paul Driessen et Ties Poeth, s'est taillé "une place spéciale" fort loin de la bande dessinée, "à la limite de l'art cinématographique et de l'art plastique."

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Frans J. Schryer is currently a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph. He spent his childhood in the Netherlands.



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