



CAANS NEWSLETTER BULLETIN DE L'ACAEN

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**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR NETHERLANDIC STUDIES**

**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
POUR L'AVANCEMENT
DES ÉTUDES NÉERLANDAISES**

April 2002

avril 2002

Editorial

BY BASIL KINGSTONE

Firstly, we have a web site! It is www.caans-acaen.ca, and we are vastly grateful to Peter Lowensteyn for having agreed to create it and be its webmaster. The programme for our conference in Toronto is on it (as well as in this newsletter, of course: p.3). So is a complete and fully searchable list of tables of contents for all the Journal issues back to the beginning; type in the author or a word of the title, and there it is. There are also links to many other sources of information. Explore and enjoy!

Secondly, need I say, we look forward to seeing you all at our annual conference in Toronto on May 25 and 26.

And thirdly, the Americans are also holding a conference (the ICNS conference) in Ann Arbor on June 6 - 9. The programme, registration forms and info on hotels, parking and transportation can be found at www.cms.housing.umich.edu/upcoming/dutch2002/
See you at one or the other meeting, or both!

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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!

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CAANS / ACAEN ANNUAL MEETING, 25-26 MAY 2002

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Room 152, University College, University of Toronto

Saturday, 25 May

- 9:00 - words of welcome: Mary Eggermont-Molenaar; Michiel Horn
- 9:15 - 10:15 - session 1: Mary Eggermont-Molenaar, Calgary, "Portret van een professor: een Nijmeegs incident geprojecteerd in een Chinese tempelschool?"
- 10:30 - 11:30 - session 2: Luc Bergmans, Université de Paris IV Sorbonne et Centre d'Études Supérieure de la Renaissance, Tours, "A Mystical Approach to Pictorial Art: New Ways of Interpreting the Old Flemish Masters."
- 11:30 - 12:30 - session 3: Hendrik J. Horn, University of Guelph, "Arnold Houbraken and the Golden Age of Dutch Painting."
- 12:30 - 13:45 - lunch
- 13:45 - 14:45 - session 4: Claire Carbonez-De Jaeger, Ottawa, "'The Belgian Connection': Maps, Atlases, and Engravings from Belgium in the National Library Rare Books and National Archives Collections."
- 15:00 - 16:00 - session 5: Jesse Vorst, University of Manitoba, "Jan Tinbergen and the Early Debate on European Unification."
- 17:00 - 19:00 - reception hosted by the Consul-General of the Netherlands, Mr. Henk Kroon, at his residence, 9 Castle Frank Road

Sunday, 26 May

- 9:15 - 10:15 - guest speaker: Dick de Boer, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, "Dynastieën achter de duinen."
- 10:30 - 11:30 - session 6: Augustinus Dierick, Kingston, Ont., "Sense and/or Sensibility: The Novels of Rijnvis Feith between Enlightenment and Pre-Romanticism,"
- 11:30 - 12:30 - session 7: Michiel Horn, York University, "Maarten 't Hart's *De Kroongetuige*: Murder Mystery or Something Completely Different?"
- 12:30 - 13:45 - lunch
- 13:45 - 14:45 : Christian Roy (Longueuil, Qc), "La réception française de *Homo ludens* de Johan Huizinga (autour de textes de Georges bataille, Roger Caillois et Émile Benveniste)"
- 15:00 - 16:00 Annual Business Meeting

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 - JULY 19, 2001

CREDITS

BALANCE (C.H.A	\$ 13.00
010101 (S.A	9,573.62
GRANTS NEDERLANDSE TAALUNIE	3,756.20
SSHRC	918.00
MEMBERSHIP/JOURNALS	2,846.61
FROM S.A.	<u>2,750.00</u>
	19,857.43

DEBITS

SPEAKERS CONFERENCE + CHAPTERS	\$ 3,869.40
JOURNALS / NEWSLETTERS	665.96
CELT	47.77
GENERAL EXPENSES	234.70
CONFERENCE	121.18
BANKCHARGES	14.20
TO C.A.	2,250.00
TO NEW TREASURER	<u>12,654.22</u>
	19,857.43

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS
VANCOUVER

Drs. Alexander Harmsen sprak op januari 10 j.l. over Immanuel Kant en het raakvlak tussen de leer van filosofie en van medicijnen in de 18de eeuw. Eerst legde hij de algemene context uit van Kant's gedachtengoed. In de tijd van Newton, waarin er geweldige interesse is in de wetten van de natuur en de wetenschap, houdt Kant zich bezig met de relatie tussen vrije wil, die, door de hersens en de geest vertegenwoordigd, controle houden over het mechanistische lichaam dat uit materie en instincten bestaat. Kant beschouwt rationele, intellectuele discipline als superieur over gevoelens, en als een voorwaarde voor de geestelijke gezondheid. Sentiment moet zoveel mogelijk worden uitgeroeid als de mens hoger wil rijzen: De enige vrije keus is een actie die onbesmet is door natuurwetten. Via een correspondentie met een Pruisisch vrouw, Maria van Herbert (omstreeks 1798) die geïnteresseerd is in zijn theorieën, tracht hij zijn ideeën te toetsen met het betreurenswaardige resultaat, dat zij zelfmoord pleegt. Vandaar de titel van deze lezing: "Een apocalyptische, gevoelloze Verlichting."

Onze zeer gewaardeerde Dr. Tineke Hellwig van UBC presenteerde ons op 14 maart met een interessant stukje recente literaire/sociologische research. Beginnende met een z.g. "pasar of volks Maleise" roman geschreven door ene Gouw Peng Liang in de jaren twintig, getiteld *Het verhaal van Nona Diana, echt gebeurd in Batavia*, neemt ze kennis van een thema over een inheemse, of half-Indische vrouw en haar relatie met een Nederlandse ritmeester. Ze vindt dit zelfde thema terug in E. du Perron's *Het land van herkomst*, een autobiografisch verhaal. Uiteindelijk, alweer onder andere namen, leest ze het relaas wederom in een bijna vergeten *roman à clef* van Elizabeth Overduyn-Heyligers, *Warm bloed*. Dit alles geeft Tineke reden genoeg om de archieven (bibliotheken in Leiden, Kuala Lumpur, Djakarta, privé, leger- en andere lijsten, kranten) in te duiken en om uit te vinden wie de personen echt geweest kunnen zijn ter tijd in Nederlands Indië. Dit lukt haar. Een pikant verhaal van intrige en passie, bedrieging, wraak en geweld komt er uit te voorschijn, eenals enkele astute observaties over ethniciteit, het klassenstelsel, vrouwen in die maatschappij in het algemeen, en een attractieve en levendige (lees: sexy) Indo vrouw vis à vis de vele (blanke) mannen die haar begeerden in 't bijzonder.

Een goede bijeenkomst: de zaal gonsde bijna van de energie en animo! Veel dank Tineke!

De maand daarvoor, op 14 februari, hadden we Dr. Ludo Jongen uit Leiden, die sprak over de Gulden Sporen Slag. Op soepele, bewonderenswaardige manier legde hij binnen drie kwartier volledig uit hoe het ingewikkelde politieke, sociale en economische landschap eruit zag in de jaren die aan de slag bij Kortrijk in 1302 vooruit liepen. Zoveel over Philipen, Karels en Lodewijken, ridders, graven en hertogen hadden de meesten van ons waarschijnlijk niet meer gehoord sinds onze schooltijd, en het was een goede gelegenheid om weer eens na te denken over onze lange en bewogen geschiedenis.

Drie goede voorbeelden van de variëteit van onderwerpen, waarin we ons bij CAANS hebben mogen verdiepen dit jaar.

Mariken van Nimwegen.

DUTCH CROSSING

Vol. 25 no. 1 (Summer 2001) opens with an article by Tony Watling (UC London) on the role played today by the churches in a typical small Dutch town. He finds they are all concerned to develop moral responsibility and encourage social activity; none of them, not even the Catholics, dictate beliefs or actions. Attendance at services has declined but social activity is flourishing. Between the churches, and between church and faithful, we see negotiation balancing tradition and change, and the connection between religion, politics and culture, that have always been considered characteristic of the Dutch national character. Scholars are again interested in that concept, and historians have been looking at the first attempts to define it, made during the Renaissance at the University of Leiden. Now Raingard Esser (Univ. of the West of England, Bristol) looks at the definition which emerges from early descriptions of Amsterdam. Such works trace the city's foundation to poor fishermen, then recall the civil liberties granted by counts of Holland and the sufferings of the city at the hands of the Spanish who took those rights away. (Actually the city was slow to join the struggle for independence).

From guide books we may turn to travel books. Michiel van Groesen (UC London) discusses the series of volumes on the discovery of the East Indies published from 1590 onwards in Frankfurt by the de Brys, father and sons. One of their sources was the 1596 *Itinerario* by Jan Huygen van Linschoten. However, they added pious commentary in the form of further illustrations, and titles and extended captions for all of them - in short, they adopted the format of a book of emblems, an innovation in travel literature. - The East Indies was the occasion of a dispute between Britain and the Netherlands in the period 1875-1892, as Y. M. Mead (Voorschoten) tells us. First the British chartered a company which held land granted to it by a local sultan - a territory the size of France - in northern Borneo, then they declared it to be a protectorate (annexing places as colonies was out of fashion). The Dutch, throughout their history, had often been protected by Britain against bigger states and could not afford to offend it now, so that although they began by protesting confidently, they had to accept a more realistic image of their power and give way.

There is an article on language education: June Effemey (UC Dublin/Univ. of Southampton) compares the stated educational goals for the teaching of Irish and Frisian in the areas where they are spoken. The Frisian authorities are obviously worried about the language's survival and their (very modest) curriculum seems only designed to encourage its continued spoken use in the home, whereas Irish is taught more completely and in more innovative ways, as the vehicle of a whole culture.

And there are two articles on literary works. A. Agnes Sneller (Budapest) challenges the current view that Samuel Coster's tragedy *Polyxena* (1617) carried the typical political and moral message of the period that reason must prevail over passion. This gory tale of the fall of Troy and the Greek slaughter of King Priam's family - Polyxena is his daughter - does not admit of such a simple reading. For one thing, the Greek and Trojan "choruses" are characters and express their conflicting views of reality, not an ultimate truth. For another, Hecuba has no man to protect her but fights back anyway, killing the murderer of her son Polydorus. If the play tells us anything besides its story, it is that power creates murderers. - Hilda van Neck Yoder (Howard Univ.) discusses the dénouement of Cola Debrot's novella *My Black Sister*, set on Curaçao: the black woman who loves the plantation owner overhears that they have the same father. The whole social system designed to suppress the voice of the blacks (and of women) abruptly breaks down and is revealed for the horrible sham it is. Patriarchy does not look good either in the 17th-century work or in the 20th.

There are several book reviews, three of them on painting. Eddy de Jongh's *Questions of meaning: theme and motif in Dutch 17th-century painting* (Leiden: Primavera, 2000, £23) is a collection of essays by "this important scholar" who made us look beneath the depiction of objects - but who is reproached for dividing that too firmly from the "meaning." Another well-known art critic, Eric Jan Sluiter, has published a book of essays, *Seductress of sight: studies in Dutch art of the Golden Age* (Zwolle: Waanders, 2000, 150fl.), and he leaves intact the "dialectic between form and subject" - the painter is not solely concerned to create an illusion, nor is that subordinate to another purpose. Likewise Walter S. Gibson's *Pleasant places, the rustic landscape from Bruegel to Ruisdael* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2000), while acknowledging the layers of meaning under the representation in Dutch painting of the period, stresses the importance and rightness accorded to sheer visual pleasure.

The other books reviewed are historical. Michael Wintle has written *An economic and social history of the Netherlands 1800-1920*, a period which was, as his subtitle says, a prolonged transition. He uses recent economic scholarship to rewrite this history. If the Netherlands did not experience the first industrial revolution much, he argues, it made the right choice after 1850 by concentrating on international trade and a developed service and transportation sector. This book is "an extraordinary feat." *The education of a Christian society, humanism and reform in Britain and the Netherlands* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1999) offers papers delivered to the 13th Anglo-Dutch Historical Conference in 1997. They are very interesting, but the reviewer notes with regret that none of them actually seem to have profited from reading European history to understand British history or vice versa. Adrian Verhulst's *The rise of cities in Northwest Europe* (Cambridge UP, 1999, Themes in International History no. 4, £13.95 in paperback) examines a neglected topic, namely the causes of city formation from after the Romans till 1200, in Belgium and adjoining territories. In that time and place, towns seem to have grown up around abbeys and castles. More proofs, and the answers to more questions, would be welcome, but still, this is "a concise and lucid summary."

The reader then finds himself back at the question of national identity. Rob van Ginkel's *Op zoek naar*

eigenheid, denkbeelden en discussies over cultuur en identiteit in Nederland (The Hague: Sdu, 1999) "discusses a wide range of 20th-century Dutch nation builders and their contributions to the public debate on identity, culture and Dutchness." The last word in this issue, however, goes to Hans Bakker's review of our joint publication (though he does not mention that it is) with the Univ. of Calgary Press, Herman Ganzevoort, ed.: *The last illusion*. He calls it "a marvellous gem" which "can be heartily recommended as a study of the Dutch experience in Canada" and will be useful as a reader in various kinds of university courses.

FLANDERS

The December 2001 issue opens with a preview of events in Bruges in 2002, when that city will be a Cultural Capital of Europe. The plans include exhibitions plus two "visual arts events" featuring *contemporary* art, so that the city becomes a bridge (of course) from the Middle Ages to our own time. A new concert hall will also open; inside the entrance you will cross a glass bridge. In another European event, the ceremony at which Belgium took over the EU presidency featured a dance performance by Teresa de Keersmaeker's company Rosas. In the course of 20 years her "dance language has ... evolved from short, angular, endlessly repeated movements to a flowing, rich and complex fabric." The importance of Europe's future, and of Flanders' role in it, was stressed in an exhibition aimed at people aged 15 to 24, which travelled to six cities on a boat, the Euronautilus, seeking Euronauts. Its target audience no doubt also appreciates the widely acclaimed Flemish disc jockeys and the prizewinning Technopolis, with its interactive exhibits about science, in Malines.

Flemish furniture design has gained a reputation in the last ten years; the work of Maarten van Severen, Bataille and ibens (the small i is deliberate), Vincent van Duysen and others are all distinguished by clean and simple lines. We need not recall the success in recent years of Flemish fashion designers, but here we learn about the innovative textiles being created in labs, which they will no doubt seize on. Soon we will have clothes that will play music for us, or monitor our health, call the ambulance if we have a heart attack, and guide it to us. Very practical research is also done by Puratos, a Brussels-based but now international firm that specializes in "bread improvers ... chocolate coverings and imitation chocolate." The products of Belgium's 113 breweries, also presented here, are no doubt in a form more recognizable to the consumer.

Bruges is the Cultural Capital of Europe for 2002, and the March-May issue of *Flanders* lists all the events planned to celebrate this event: exhibitions about the Flemish Primitive artists' influence on Italian painting, late medieval Bruges as the trade crossroads of Europe linking the Hanseatic cities with southern Europe, and three shows of contemporary art, one spread around eight locations. A new concert hall will open, and various concert and dance series will be held there and in churches and on the downtown streets. Artistic production continues all the time, of course. Jewelry designers such as Nadine Wijnants, Claire Moens, Hilde Simkens, Georges Cuyvers, Isabelle Yi-Pei Chang and Peter Quijo have made Flanders famous for this kind of work, while architects like Stéphane Beel, Xaveer de Geyter, Robbrecht & Daem, Marie-José van Hee and many others are appreciated at home and abroad for the way their buildings fit into their surroundings and are good architecture even when their purpose is mundane.

Politically, the Flemish government reports progress both on the European scene - the regions

are to have more powers in future - and at home, where the government has published policies arrived at in consultation with "a number of organizations it considers representative of the civil society," on training for employment, the economy, welfare and culture, the environment, road safety and "social cohesion" (the latter term refers to the goal that by 2010 "one in two people in Flanders will take an active part in clubs and societies" - presumably the idea is a society of volunteers). Co-operation with foreign countries continues and has led to hybrid bananas growing in Tanzania that have double the yield obtainable five years ago (KU Leuven is a world centre for improving tropical crops), while all Flemish universities offer courses for students from abroad in the sciences, public health, education and the like.

MORE ON A LITTLE DITTY

Readers will recall that in the last Journal issue, in his article on a picture by Jan Steen, Willem Steur quotes a verse by the English foreign secretary George Canning:

In matters of commerce the fault of the Dutch
Is giving too little and asking too much.

In their periodical called *Tijding*, the ING ("Nee, niet de bank," they explain; they are the Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis and they publish various series of historical documents) has an article explaining why Canning wrote this. In 1826 England and France had signed a treaty abolishing "discriminatory" tariffs, but the Netherlands had not agreed to the same terms; so, as Canning's ditty continues, a 20 per cent tariff was imposed on Dutch goods:

The French are with equal advantage content
So we clap on Dutch bottoms just 20 per cent.

(Bottoms means ships). In a frivolous mood - I suspect the poem is meant to be sung to the same tune as an unprintable song I have heard - Canning sent his opus to the British ambassador in The Hague in a code that the ambassador did not have, and waited a week to send him the right one. "You have fretted me to fiddlestrings," the poor man wrote back. Without fretting over it, I do wonder how this diplomatic dispatch comes to be in Dutch hands...



LE LIVRE

TITRE: *L'œil de l'eau*

SOUS-TITRE: *Notes sur douze écrivains des Pays-Bas*

AUTEUR: Jacques Beaudry

FORMAT: 5po x 8po

ILLUSTRATIONS: 12 n/b

PAGES: 120

PRIX: 17\$ CAD

ISBN: 2-89578-008-0

« À la magie d'un lieu correspond un génie », écrit Jacques Beaudry. Aussi, se demande-t-il, « quelles idées peuvent traverser la littérature d'un pays dont on dit qu'il a pour montagnes les nuages? À quelles surprenantes inclinations un pays plat prépare-t-il les esprits qui l'habitent? » À travers douze notes sur autant d'écrivains néerlandais du vingtième siècle, c'est donc à saisir quelques-unes de ces idées et de ces inclinations que le présent essai voudrait contribuer. Certes, il ne s'agit pas de débrouiller toute l'œuvre de chaque auteur retenu, « mais de tenter d'atteindre en elle un de ces nœuds où s'entrelacent une émotion et une vision, de rendre compte d'une sensibilité et d'un esprit — d'un regard ». Fruit de l'enthousiasme, ce très beau texte témoigne de l'attachement de son auteur à un lieu, les Pays-Bas, et à sa littérature.

Textes sur W. F. Hermans, G. Reve, J. Wolkers, H. Mulisch, C. Nootboom, J. Bernlef, J. Hamelink, J. Brouwers, M. 't Hart, F. Kellendonk, C. Palmén, J. Zwagerman.



L'AUTEUR

Docteur en philosophie, Jacques Beaudry enseigne la littérature à l'université de Sherbrooke.

Pour obtenir plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Micheline Gauthier
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THE LOW COUNTRIES



BELGIUM: MURISSONSTRAAT 260, 8930 REKKEM / FLANDERS - TEL (056) 41 12 01 - FAX (056) 41 47 07

Rekkem, March 13, 2002.

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

On April 9 the tenth yearbook

The Low Countries. Arts and Society in Flanders and the Netherlands 2002 —
will be published.

For a decade now, the Foundation has been presenting the culture and society of the Dutch language-area to the English-speaking world in this yearbook.

The articles in this publication, by contributors from Flanders, the Netherlands and abroad, survey the living, contemporary culture of the Low Countries as well as their cultural heritage.

The tenth volume contains 320 pages and is copiously illustrated in four colours.

It costs **CS 75**.

We enclose a flyer with the complete list of contents.

We sincerely hope that you will be interested in this yearbook.

In anticipation of your order,

Yours faithfully,

Jozef Deleu
Managing Director
Chief Editor

Bernard Viaene
Head of the administration

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF NETHERLANDIC STUDIES
(CAANS)
2002 SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Members of CAANS pay for two things at once: ten dollars for the Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies and fifteen dollars for their membership fee, which includes the Newsletter and which is a charitable donation; total twenty-five dollars. Seniors pay ten dollars for membership and ten dollars for the Journal; total twenty dollars. Students pay five dollars for membership and ten for the Journal, for a total of fifteen dollars.

Local chapters may assess an additional fee. If you are joining a local chapter, you can mail this form with your cheque or money order to that chapter along with their local fee, or pay them separately. Chapters and contacts are listed on page 2 under "Officers". If you are not joining a local chapter, please mail your cheque or money order to Mr. J. Herman van Wermeskerken, Treasurer, CAANS, 5291 - 4A Avenue, Delta, BC, V4M 1H4.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (home)
_____ (work)

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

This is a membership renewal for 2002

This is a new membership

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'AVANCEMENT
DES ÉTUDES NÉERLANDAISES
(ACAEN)
BULLETIN D'ADHÉSION 2002

Les membres de l'ACAEN peuvent payer deux choses à la fois: dix dollars pour s'abonner à la Revue canadienne d'études néerlandaises, et quinze dollars comme cotisation, qui inclut le Bulletin et qui compte comme donation charitable; soit vingt-cinq dollars au total. Les personnes du troisième âge paient dix dollars pour la cotisation et dix dollars pour la Revue, donc vingt dollars au total. Les étudiants paient cinq dollars pour la cotisation et dix dollars pour la Revue, donc quinze dollars au total.

Pour ce qui est des sections locales, la liste des personnes à contacter se trouve à la page 2 sous la rubrique "Membres du Bureau". Si vous devenez membre d'une section locale également, vous pouvez lui envoyer les deux cotisations à la fois, ou bien payer séparément. Sinon, vous enverrez un chèque ou mandat à M. J. Herman van Wermeskerken, Trésorier de l'ACAEN, 5291 - 4A Avenue, Delta, BC, V4M 1H4.

Nom: _____

Adresse pour correspondance: _____

Téléphone: _____ (domicile)

_____ (travail)

Télécopieur: _____

Courrier électronique: _____

Je désire renouveler mon adhésion pour 2002.

Je désire devenir membre.