NEWSLETTER - BULLETIN June/juin 1991

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Sixth Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies will be held on June 10-13, 1992, at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. If you wish to present a paper, please contact Martin Bakker, phone (616)957-6321 and this, as soon as possible; the conference may be a year away, but selection of papers gets underway this June.

MINUTES of the executive meeting of CAANS held at the Learned Societies meeting held in Jeffery Hall, Queen's University, June 1, 1991, at 12.30 p.m.

The agenda for the annual business meeting was discussed. It was also decided to reaffirm the policy of CAANS not to accept advertising in its publications.

MINUTES of the annual business meeting of CAANS held at the Learned Societies meeting in room 521, Jeffery Hall, Queen's University, June 2, 1991, at 3 p.m.

- 1. The agenda was proposed (Michielsen/Dierick) and adopted.
- 2. The minutes of the 1990 annual business meeting, as distributed, were proposed (Dierick/Michielsen) and adopted.
- 3. The President gave his report. He and the Treasurer, Trudy Joldersma, had prepared the triennial SSHRC request forms to renew the administrative and travel grants, and for the third time they had asked for an aid to publications grant for the Journal. In the course of this, the President realized we had not had a grant from the Taalunie for the past three years, and he invited his successors to work to obtain one again.
- 4. The President then reported on behalf of the Secretary, Haijo Westra. He recalled that last fall we were to have had a visiting lecturer, Dr. Braches, but that fell through. So did the proposed visit of Dr. Frans de Rover this past spring. However, it was hoped that Dr. Max Nord would come in September. He can speak on Vestdijk, Carmiggelt, or the effect of the second world war on Dutch literature.

In the fall also, Dr. Kees Snoek is making a tour, which was arranged independently; Dr. de Rover has asked to come in late November, and we have replied that he is very welcome if he can find funding; and Jean-Pierre Plooij says he has a stipend to visit us between October 15 and November 20. For our part, Haijo feels we should make an effort to find Flemish lecturers.

- 5. The Treasurer's report for 1990 and her interim report for 1991 were distributed and approved. It was reported that the result of the executive's deliberations about the fee structure, authorized at the last ABM, was a decision to leave it as it is. It is true that lower fees mean lower grants from SSHRC, but we break even now, and if we obtain a Taalunie grant again we will continue to do so.
- 6. Basil Kingstone now reported as the editor of the Journal and Newsletter. He apologized for the last Newsletter being late and printed without a masthead, and for the wrong issue number on the spring Journal (it should of course be XII,i).

He noted that the 100 extra copies of the translation issue (X, ii) had been distributed to chairs of Dutch language, literature and art history in the Low Countries.

- 7. The Learneds will be held in 1992 in Charlottetown, PEI; in 1993 at either Bishop's Univ. or York Univ.; and in 1994 at the Univ. of Calgary. It was agreed to continue to meet on Saturday and Sunday; next year's dates must therefore be May 30 and 31, not 29 and 30 as assigned to us.
- 8. The following were elected by acclamation to be the executive committee for 1991-92 (no changes were made to the council):

President: Sasha Zweers (Germanic Studies, Univ. of Waterloo) Vice-President: Beert Verstraete (Classics, Acadia Univ.) Secretary: Frans Schryer (Sociology, Univ. of Guelph) Treasurer: Johan van Wermeskerken (Delta, B.C.) with Basil Kingstone as past president and editor.

Trudy Joldersma and Gus Dierick were warmly thanked for putting this slate together, and the outgoing executive were thanked no less warmly.

It was noted that Marsha Blok has handed over the archives to Gus Dierick. A vote of thanks went to both the outgoing archivist and the incoming one.

9. Other business:

A vote of thanks was extended to Robert Siebelhoff and Gus Dierick for preparing the programme of this meeting, and to Hans Westenberg for making the local arrangements - and for very graciously having us to a reception and a catered dinner in his lovely home.

There was discussion of the relationship between chapters and the national organization. It was proposed (Siebelhoff/Seywerd) that the policy be reaffirmed whereby executive officers of local chapters must be members of CAANS national.

Hans Hageman proposed a meeting of teachers of Dutch to discuss new methods, to be held in Toronto on June 7. Gus Dierick, Robert Siebelhoff, Willemina Seywerd and others would meet with him. This would lay the groundwork for further work on the topic, starting in September; the Taalunie would be asked to fund it.

10. The meeting adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Basil D. Kingstone.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

We sometimes glean from other sources news of members' activities that they have been too modest to tell us about. Thus we note:

Steven Wolinetz (Memorial) has an article on "Socio-economic bargaining" in Hans Daalder and Gabe A. Irwin, eds.: Politics in the Netherlands: how much change? (London: Frank Cass, 1989), which was originally vol. 12 no. 1 (January 1989) of the journal West European Politics.

Joyce Mastboom (Cleveland State Univ.) spoke on "The struggle to survive: rural weavers vs. merchants in the eastern Netherlands" at an interdisciplinary symposium on "17th Century Dutch art and life" at Hofstra University (Hempstead, LI, NY) on May 7th. Richard Unger (UBC) spoke at the same symposium on "Beer and beer drinkers in Dutch art."

Our congratulations to all.

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS; MONTREAL

A meeting of the chapter was held on October 19, 1990, at the McGill University Faculty Club. Dr. Hans Visser gave a lecture on Simon Vestdijk, on whom he is a well-known expert.

TORONTO

There was a meeting of the chapter on February 21, 1991, at the Metro Toronto Reference Library. The members were taken on a conducted tour of all those treasures which the casual visitor or user rarely gets to see. They were especially happy to welcome Mr. Gerrit Kulsdom, the Netherlands Consul.

There was another meeting on May 16, 1991, at which the documentary film Liberation! Canadians in the Netherlands 1944-45 was shown.

It is proposed to start a "17th century New Amsterdam" cooking class.

The annual general meeting is planned for June 13th.

NOTES ON THE NEWSLETTER AND THE JOURNAL

Some apologies and some further information:

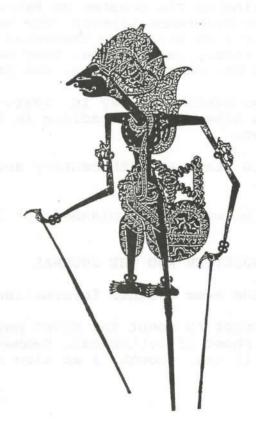
- The printer forgot to mount the front page of the March Newsletter on a sheet of letterhead. Members no doubt recognized what it was, though. I am also sorry it was mailed out so late that I had to send the Learneds meeting programme out ahead of it. First our print shop was swamped with work, then the collating machine broke down and the Newsletter had to be sent out for this operation.

- Another printer put XII, ii on the cover of the spring Journal. It should, of course, be XII, i. Members may wish to take the correcting fluid to their copy; I did so for all copies sent to libraries, who like these things to be right.
- The Journal's cover picture was striking, and readers may well be interested to know what it represents. As it happens, our generous Dean, Sue Martin, came across a description of a similar figure, which was recently donated to the Detroit Institute of Arts:

"Javanese male figure shadow puppet (Wayang Kulit, Purva), late 19th century. Carved leather, 58.42 x 15.24 cm (23 x 6 in.) including rod.

Puppetry is an extremely diverse art form in Java. All of the various forms of Javanese puppets are known as Wayang, meaning shadow. This puppet is constructed in the Kulit style in which water buffalo hide is carved and pierced and decorated with paint. Javanese puppet theatre is performed in many cycles, and the four oldest cycles are known as Purva. This puppet was used in Purva dramas, which present the legendary history of Java."

With the rods that the puppeteer uses to move it, the puppet looks like this:



AADAS

We published in the last Newsletter an appeal from this organization to help revitalize it. The Board is certainly doing its part: a bigger and better Newsletter has reached us, to be published twice yearly, and calling on people to send information about institutions and other organizations in the field of Dutch American history and current affairs; individuals working in these fields; and conferences and publications. It also wants to know about Dutch North American newspapers. Indeed, it carries some news of this kind, notably the announcement of the AADAS conference to be held on September 19 and 20 at the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College in Holland, Michigan 49423.

AANS

The April 1991 Newsletter is as highly informative as ever.

1. It lists various summer programmes in Dutch studies: - The Netherlands Institute, 54 W 39th Street, New York 10018 (212-869-4310);

- University of Antwerp (ICTL, Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerp,

phone 03 220 47 79);

- Dutch summer courses in Maastricht (WorldNeth, Bredestraat 12, 6211 CM Maastricht, phone between 4 and 5 p.m. Dutch time 31 43 257052);

- Internationaal Seminarium voor Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur, to be held in Amsterdam (Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen, R. O. van Ravenswaay, Postbus 25000, 27700 LZ Zoetermeer, or contact the Dutch embassy); Amsterdam Summer University (Postbus 53066, 1007 RB Amsterdam, phone 31 20 20 02 25); and University of Groningen (Drs. Lydia Bruins, Faculty Teaching Coordinator, University of Groningen, Grote Kruisstraat 2-1, 9712 TS Groningen).
- 2. It publishes the Call for Papers for the Sixth Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies, which will be held on June 10-13, 1992, at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. If you wish to present a paper, please contact Martin Bakker, phone (616)957-6321 and this, as soon as possible; the conference may be a year away, but selection of papers gets underway this June.

3. It contains reviews of:

-Marga Minco: An empty house, tr. Margart Clegg, and The fall, tr. Jeanette Kalker Ringold, London: Owen. Bitter herbs and The glass bridge have been translated already, so now Minco's four major novels are available in English. The reviewer welcomes this, finding fault only with some English

turns of phrase that he thinks are faulty (but which seem to me perfectly good British).

- Antonius M. Broos: Tussen zwart en ultramarijn, de levens van schilders beschreven door Jacob Campo Weyerman.

 Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1990. Weyerman's Levens der konstschilders (1729 and 1769) is of importance for "a basic knowledge of art and aesthetic topoi for the eighteenth century," and Broos has done a fine job of bringing this "rather neglected figure" to our attention.
- Johan Snapper: De spiegel der verlossing in het werk van Gerard Reve. Utrecht and Antwerp: Veen, 1990. Reve's work is unlike any other and hard to penetrate, but Snapper has studied his work for some years, and this "excellent book" shows the unity of that work by detailed analysis. You need to have read Reve thoroughly already, but if you have, then reading this "major contribution to our understanding of modern Dutch literature" will amply reward you.
- 4. It notes the publication of:
- our Journal issue on women writers;
- two Prisma Pocket books usful for students, namely: Cees van der Zalm: Prisma van de letterkunde, a dictionary of current literary terms; and Heleen Kost: Prisma van de taal, a dictionary of grammatical and linguistic terms; for those who know linguistics, Hans Bennis and Teun Hoekstra: Generatieve grammatica (Foris, 1989); and a collection of articles entitled H.J. Pos (1898-1955), taalkundige en geëngageerde filosoof, "of interest to linguists, phenomenologists and philosophers of language," which can be ordered from Vrije Universiteit Letteren, De
- 5. Among the miscellaneous news, we note that users of the Algemene Nederlandse Spraakkunst are invited to send in comments to those who are revising it for a second edition (Dr. W. Haeseryn, Instituut Nederlands, KUN, Postbus 9103, 6500 HD Nijmegen). There is also a useful survey by Nancy Chadburn of the secondhand bookstores of Utrecht.

Boelelaan 1105, kamer 9A-36, 1081 HV Amsterdam.

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DUTCH CROSSING

No. 42 (Autumn 1990) opens with an article by E.M. Beekman (U. of Massachusetts) which ties in with his article in our current Journal issue on the East Indies (as another contribution here, by Nancy Chadburn, ties in with her article on Marja Brouwers in our issue on women writers). Prof. Beekman points out that from the very first Dutch expedition to the East Indies in 1596, fascination with the exotic was as strong a driving force in that exploration as commercial interests. The 461 publications of Indies travel accounts in the 17th century were romantic because of their subject; their style was plain and oral. However, the East India Company became an empire and bureaucrats took over from self-made men, who in reaction became an aristocracy of idealism and reserved the right to be eccentric and quixotic. Multatuli and du Perron were both honest, loyal, vulnerable and uncompromisingly true to themselves - and went broke and had to demonstrate their nobility by writing. There are other ways to fight bureaucracy, of course. Jeremy Black (Durham) presents a description of a tax riot in Haarlem in 1748, a fine old custom which should be revived.

We turn now to painting. Joanna Woodall (Courtauld Institute, London) discusses the ways in which 17th century Dutch burghers are justified by symbolic details in their portraits (and by statements in the poems which accompany these) in their claim to the nobility that traditionally made one worthy of being portrayed: rank, military prowess or artistic genius. These criteria were modified into traits of character: public altruism and devotion to family. In some sense, the sequel to this interesting analyis is the lecture by David R. Smith given in the same series at the Courtauld and printed in *Dutch Crossing* 41 (cf. our December Newsletter).

The issue then works its way back to literature with an article by Gus Dierick on the literary image of the painter. As those who heard him read it at Victoria last June will recall, he contrasts the conventional tormented genius of Theun de Vries' Rembrandt with J. Bernlef's attempt in De maker to reduce a painting to a thing of raw materials and technique in which the talent of the painter plays no part an attempt which fails.

Returning completely to literature, Duco van Oostrum (Rice U.) shows that Max Havelaar portrays the other oppressed people besides natives, namely women, as confined to their family role and to silence, but also shows a way out of this: Multatuli inserts into his novel a "women's story," that of Saijah and Adinda. The discourse that can create heaven on earth is feminine, but he shows that a man can also utter it and thereby shake authority (if only in one family). It is a hard job to speak out for women, however,

as Nancy Chadburn (Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota) finds in her examination of male critics' reaction to Marja Brouwers' Havinck. They fail to see that, since Havinck is selfish and insensitive, he is an unreliable narrator; they fail to understand Lydia because they are tired of feminist terms. In short, they ignore the novel's honest tackling of social attitudes which keep women down - and thus they prove the novel is right!

The last article is a change of subject: Michael Wintle (Hull) reports on "Research and teaching in Dutch history in the United Kingdom." He finds gratifying growth in this small field.

The issue also carries reviews of:

- Hans J. van Miegroet: Gerard David (Mercatorfonds 1989). A sumptuous book, of course, and a welcome start to correcting past neglect of David (1460-1523), but some of the book's conclusions are dubious and the catalogue section is badly done.
- Margriet Bruyn Lacey, ed.: The Low countries, multidisciplinary studies (a.k.a. PANS 3, the proceedings of the 1988 AANS conference in Minneapolis). The reviewer puzzles over the fact that an interdisciplinary conference has given rise to multidisciplinary proceedings; he concludes that the latter term is more accurate, since each individual paper is usually in one discipline. Withal they all "conform to a high standard of scholarship" and the editing is excellent.
- M. de Smidt and E. Weever: An industrial geography of the Netherlands, an international perspective (Routledge 1990). A welcome overview of recent developments, considered region by region, but it should have discussed the effect of rising environmental concerns.
- The first issue of a new journal, Economic and social history in the Netherlands (we reproduced a flyer from them in our last Newsletter). It is the first periodical in English on Dutch history since 1982. This first issue (it will be annual) has mostly good, informative and readable articles and "provides us with some answer" to the question of what is different about the Dutch experience and the way it is analyzed.
- Hans Daalder and Galen A. Irwin, eds.: Politics in the Netherlands: How much change? (London: Frank Cass 1989). Not very much, apparently. The book began life as a journal issue, and it is good that a wider audience can now read it. Guido Gezelle: The evening and the rose, 30 poems translated by Paul Claes and Christine d'Haen (Antwerp: Guido Gezellegenootschap 1989). Yann Lovelock finds faults in these translations, but admits "they may well be the best that can be done" with Gezelle's verse forms, dialect and simplicity, and we certainly should expose ourselves to his "purity of heart."

SEPTENTRION

Le no. 2 de 1991 contient, à la p.92, une note signalent la parution du numéro de notre Revue consacré aux femmes écrivains des Pays Bas. Nous en remercions la rédaction. Le no. de Septentrion, loin d'avoir un seul thème, foisonne de matières tellement variées que nous renonçons à les regrouper aux fins de la description; nous les prenons donc dans l'ordre où elles se présentent.

Donc, on commence par un cinéaste, Johan van der Keuken, qui - même alors qu'il fixait l'ambiance des années soixante - décelait l'abstraction sous la réalité et la réalité dans l'abstraction. Hugo Claus, également, a tourné des films, où se font voir ses talents de peintre et d'écrivain; en plus, "Claus est le scénariste de la moitié des meilleurs films flamands." Il a aussi écrit une trentaine de pièces de théâtre, qui révèlent par leur diversité le même refus de se laisser classer qui le mène à pratiquer tant de métiers artistiques. On commence à publier son Théâtre complet en version française; la série comprendra sept volumes.

Un autre peintre: Jan Mankes (1889-1920), qui exprimait son ême dans ses tableaux (il était donc symboliste). Un état de choses qui aurait sans doute choqué cet artiste: l'Escaut est encore plus pollué que le Rhin, et on ne fait rien pour l'assainir. Mais il aurait peut-être apprécié la poésie de Charles Ducal (né en 1952), dont les deux recueils font, l'un du mariage et l'autre du rapport entre père et fils, un portrait réaliste et même cynique, derrière lequel se discerne cependant - grâce à la forme stricte et à l'usage des mythes - un monde idéal créé par et pour lui-même.

Vient ensuite un article sur la crise de la télévision publique néerlandaise, divisée qu'elle est entre diverses associations représentant les "piliers" traditionnels de la société, et concurrencée aujourd'hui par les chaînes commerciales des pays voisins. Rien de moins commercial, par contre, que le style de danse de Truus Bronkhorst: on la voit seule sur la scène, souvent presque immobile, présentant des fragments de danses qui sont des rituels. Puis on nous présente "La situation actuelle du français en Flandre" (on y consacre moins d'heures à l'école, et pourtant il reste essentiel pour mainte carrière professionnelle); un conte de Godfried Bomans (1913-1971); et plusieurs "Jeunes compositeurs flamands," qui n'ont en commun qu'une tendance à vivre hors de Flandre et de former des ensembles pour jouer leur propre musique comme il faut. Ainsi on arrive au chronique de Sadi de Gorter, qui nous donne le plaisir d'écouter cet homme si intelligent et curieux qui a vécu longtemps. Cette fois, entre autres sujets, il contraste le bruit fait autour du centenaire de la mort de van Gogh avec le silence entourant celui de la disparition de Jongkind, peintre quand même très important.

ALSO RECEIVED

- Paul van Hauwermeiren and Femke Simonis: Waar Nederlands de voertaal is, Nederland- en Vlaanderenkunde. Brussels: J. van In, 1990. Produced with the financial support of the Nederlandse Taalunie. Has chapters on geography, water, history, language, politics, society, education, the media, the economy, science, art and culture, and also on Northern and Southern (i.e. Dutch and Belgian) identity and on the economic and cultural integration of the two countries. The work ends with a list of the chief places to visit, a one-page bibliography, and a very useful list of administrative terms which differ between the two countries (e.g. Dutch inkomstenbelasting = Belgian personenbelasting). We thank the Taalunie for this gift.
- R. Salverda: Linguistics and the Dutch, an inaugural lecture delivered at University College London on November 26, 1990. Published by UCL. Dr. Salverda shows that in practical fields - classical and oriental philology, Dutch grammar, vocabulary and phonetics, foreign languages and comparative linguistics - the Netherlands dominated things in the 16th and 17th centuries. In this century, the Dutch may not have invented theoretical general linguistics, nor any of its proliferating subdivisions, but they are contributing to all of them. They are also the great creators of organizations and arrangers of conferences, and they publish vast amounts of work in linguistics. Today, in the field of grammatical theory alone, Dutch grammarians approach grammar according to a wide variety of theories, and study languages all over the world then apply their findings to Dutch. We thank Dr. Salverda for sending us a copy of this most interesting lecture.

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NETHERLANDIC STUDIES
REQUEST FORM for National and chapter membership
I wish to start/renew my CAANS/ACAEN national membership:
Regular membership January-December 1991 \$15.00 Student or Senior membership January-December 1991 \$ 7.50
Members of CAANS receive the Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies and the Newsletter (total value \$10.00). \$5.00 is a charitable donation.
Name
Address
(postal code)
Phone (home)(work)
Local chapters may assess an additional fee (Winnipeg \$5).
Please mail this form and a cheque or money order, to the local chapter if you are joining one (<u>in which case please add the local fee</u>), or to:
Mrs. Trudy Joldersma, Treasurer, CAANS, 2835 - 26A St. S. W. Calgary, Alta. T3E 2C8
We invite you to list your suggestions for CAANS/ACAEN activities (national and local) below:

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR L'AVANCEMENT DES ÉTUDES NÉERLANDAISES
BULLETIN D'ADHÉSION nationale et à la section de
Je désire adhérer/renouveler mon adhésion (rayer la mention inutile):
Cotisation régulière, janvier-décembre 1991 15,00 \$ Étudiant(e) ou troisième âge, janvier-décembre 1991 7,50 \$
Les membres de l'ACAEN reçoivent la Revue canadienne des études néerlandaises et le Bulletin, valeur 10,00 \$. 5,00 \$ comptent comme donation charitable.
Nom
Adresse pour correspondance
(code postal)
Téléphone (domicile)(travail)
Les sections locales peuvent exiger une cotisation supplémentaire (Winnipeg 5,00 $\$$).
Veuillez envoyer cette formule et votre chèque ou mandat à l'éventuelle section locale (<u>n'oubliez pas la cotisation locale</u>), sinon à:
Mrs. Trudy Joldersma Trésorière de l'ACAEN 2835 - 26A St. S.W.

Nous vous invitons à noter ci-après vos suggestions pour des activités (nationales et locales):

Calgary, Alta. T3E 2C8