

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF NETHERLANDIC
STUDIES**

**ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR
L'AVANCEMENT DES ETUDES
NEERLANDAISES**

JANUARY 1995

JANVIER 1995

NICO BADENHUIZEN

The Toronto chapter of CAANS reports with a great sense of loss the passing of Dr. Nico Badenhuisen, Honorary Member and Past President of the chapter.

Professor Badenhuisen was a founding member of the chapter and a keen participant in and co-organizer of a number of conferences and other chapter activities.

For many years, Professor Badenhuisen was the chair of the botany department of the University of Toronto; he had an international reputation in his field and was a respected member of the academic community. An active person till well past his retirement, he was unflagging in his enthusiasm for all things Dutch. He was a gentle man as well as a gentleman, and will be missed by all of us.

A.P. Dierick

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CALL FOR PAPERS

CAANS' annual Learned Societies meeting will be held at the University of Quebec at Montreal, on June 3 and 4, 1995. This year, CAANS would like to hold a special session on the 18th century in the Low Countries.

This century, in contrast to the 17th, has generally been neglected in Netherlandic scholarship, in the Low Countries as well as in North America. Yet it offers some fascinating topics to treat: in the domain of politics this is the period leading up to the Patriots and the French period; in literature there are the names of Betje Wolff and Aagje Deken, of Rijnvis Feith and the early Romantics, Bilderdijk etc. There is also a continued flourishing of fine art (Tromp etc).

Other topics could deal with economics, trade, population, the East and West Indies Companies etc. etc.

We would urge all colleagues and members to have another look at this period and offer a paper for the next session. We are especially interested in topics which bring in the Southern Netherlands (the Austrian Netherlands at that time). Remember that we are going to be in Montreal!

Papers on other subjects are also needed, of course!

If you wish to read a paper at this meeting, please send this form by April 1, 1995, and an abstract by May 1, 1995, to:

Dr. Gerrit Gerrits,
Department of History,
Acadia University
Wolfville, Nova Scotia,
B0P 1X0

Name:

Address:

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

Autobiographical note:

N.B.: Papers should be about 20 minutes long, or 8 pages of double-spaced typing.

INVITATION DE COMMUNICATIONS

Le congrès annuel de l'ACAEN aux Sociétés savantes se tiendra à l'Université du Québec à Montréal les 3 et 4 juin 1995.

Cette année, l'ACAEN propose une séance spéciale sur le 18e siècle aux Pays-Bas - y compris, bien entendu, les provinces méridionales, alors autrichiennes. (Nous nous réunissons en territoire francophone, après tout).

À la différence de l'Âge d'or, le 18e siècle a été plutôt négligé par les chercheurs des deux côtés de l'Atlantique. Il offre pourtant des sujets fascinants. En politique, c'est l'époque qui mène aux Patriotes et à l'occupation française. En littérature, on n'a qu'à évoquer des noms comme Betje Wolff et Aagje Deken, Bilderdijk, Rijnvis Feith et les premiers romantiques. Les beaux-arts continuent à fleurir, avec Tromp parmi d'autres. Et n'oublions pas l'économie, le commerce, la population, les Compagnies des Indes occidentales et orientales...

Nous invitons donc tous nos collègues et membres à regarder cette époque avec des yeux neufs et à proposer une communication pour notre réunion.

Bien sûr, il nous en faut aussi sur d'autres sujets!

Si vous voulez présenter une communication à ce congrès, veuillez envoyer la présente formule, au plus tard le 1er avril 1995, et un résumé de la communication, au plus tard le 1er mai 1995, à l'adresse suivante :

Dr. Gerrit Gerrits,
Department of History,
Acadia University,
Wolfville, Nova Scotia,
B0P 1X0

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE OF CAANS, 1995-96

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, 1995

Prof. Robert Sielbelhoff
Scarborough College
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1

CANDIDATURES A L'EXÉCUTIF DE L'ACAEN, 1995-1996

Je soussign(é) propose : _____

Adresse : _____

au poste de : _____

Signature du/de la candidat(e) : _____

Signature du/de la nominateur/trice : _____

Veillez envoyer cette formule au plus tard le 1er avril 1995, à l'adresse suivante :

Prof. Robert Siebelhoff
Scarborough College
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS

TORONTO

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Greater Toronto Area Chapter of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies.

Friday, September 12, 1994 at 8:00 pm at the Department of Germanic Studies, 97 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario

Present were ten dues paying members.

Reference was made to the letter of the CAANS Toronto Ad Hoc Committee, dated June 15/94, stating that the two year term of office of the previous Executive has expired. There has been no reaction from this Executive. It was agreed that the Toronto Chapter was presently without an Executive. Thus a proposal was made for the election of a new committee. Moved by Margie Kidd, Seconded by Wil Seywerd.

Nominations for the slate were as follows:

President:	Willemina Seywerd
Vice-President:	Ineke van Weel
Secretary:	Theodora Schryer
Treasurer:	Tonni Grabowski
Members at large:	Sylvia Drop Krystyna Henke Margie Kidd
Honorary Member:	Prof. Nico Badenhuisen

The members present accepted the slate as presented. The new executive was appointed by acclamation.

List accepted. Motion made by Marietta vanderMeer, Seconded Ellen Chamberlain van Praag.

The new President referred to the aims of CAANS and mentioned the importance of an attractive program.

Due to sickness, the treasurer was absent. On her behalf Margie Kidd read the treasurer's Report. This was approved. Moved by Ineke van Weel, seconded by Helena Heesen.

A discussion followed about the Program Plans for 1994/95. Ineke van Weel suggested to show movies in the Dutch language on a regular basis i.e., every two months, which would also appeal to students of the Dutch language courses. Margie Kidd proposed to start a discussion program of selected Dutch books. Another proposal included inviting guest speakers.

No specific dates could be set at this moment due to availability of the movies/videos. Announcements will be sent out as soon as dates can be confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned by 10:00 pm.

TORONTO

OTTAWA

On Friday, October 7 a reanimated group of local CAANS enthusiasts met in the Senate Chambers of Carleton University to hear a delightful presentation by Leo Heistek on the life and work of Annie M.G. Schmidt. Leo Heistek is well known locally for his Thursday evening videos on prominent contemporary Dutch authors and entertainers, and he took great pleasure in talking about Annie Schmidt who is obviously a kindred spirit.

Annie Schmidt was born in 1911 in Zeeland where her father was a "hervormde predikant". Perhaps because her mother had a domineering spirit, Annie early showed an independent bent and a pronounced literary talent. Her first employment (1941) was in a library in Vlissingen. After the war she spent a number of years with the newspaper Het Parool of Amsterdam where she was stimulated in the feverish atmosphere of journalism. Her first publication, *Jip en Janneke*, is the tale of two children who discover each other through a hole in their garden fence. It initiated a long series of witty, tongue-in-cheek creations that offer an incisive and ironic comment on contemporary life from the child's point of view. What typifies her style was a rather shocking novelty at the time of her early publications: she uses ordinary, everyday language rather than the stilted tones of the traditional moralizing children's novel. This daring initiative met with considerable resistance at first from the critics but an enthusiastic reception from her readers. Annie Schmidt's penetrating and perceptive mind reveals in a laconic style that has won her a vast public as time passed. Her countless children's stories are understandably works that delight all ages and she has also written successful musicals and radio serials. All her creations are characterized by what the speaker called a merry anarchy and a disregard for propriety. In her verse tale *Slordige Saartje*, for instance, Slovenly Sally flees to a grubby kingdom where she marries a sloppy prince and has lots of dirty children. The excellence of her ebullient creativity has won her prestigious literary prizes from the 1960s on, culminating in the Constantijn Huygens Prijs for her collective work in 1987 and the Hans Christian Andersen Prize for children's literature in 1988.

The second part of the evening was devoted to a television interview of 1991 by the talk show host and writer Adriaan van Dis. Here Annie Schmidt comes across as a lively, witty conversationalist with a ready repartee, cheerfully expressing sometimes controversial opinions on many subjects. Her gleeful participation in the dialogue reveals an unusually active mind and the vitality of a person much younger than her years.

Jim Tassie

On the evening of Friday, 4th November twenty people, including representatives of the Dutch and Belgian Embassies, attended a meeting held at Carleton University to found or, strictly, to re-found an Ottawa Chapter of CAANS.

After words of welcome from Martien de Leeuw, Director of the School of Industrial Design, Hans Kruishoop, First Secretary for Press and Cultural Affairs at the Netherlands Embassy, introduced Professor Robert Siebelhoff, national president of CAANS, who then gave an illustrated talk on the Hague School of late 19th Century painters. With the showing of slides and the ensuing discussion this took us to 10 PM when we adjourned for wine and (Dutch) cheese, kindly provided by the Netherlands Embassy. We then reconvened to discuss organization and future plans. A suggestion from Wim Gilles that the present ad hoc committee that had organized this meeting should continue in office as president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, at least

for the remainder of the academic year, was accepted without dissent, as was the proposal that local executive members should also be members of the national CAANS, but should not hold office for longer than two years consecutively. Robert Siebelhoff, citing difficulties with what had been the CAANS Chapters in Toronto and Montreal, urged local members to prepare a written constitution. As to the frequency of meetings, it was felt that four or five annually in the period from September to May would be suitable, of which at least two should aim at a wider public not necessarily familiar with Dutch and Flemish life and culture, on such topics of general interest to Canadians such as euthanasia or the ecology. At such meetings the language used by participants would be English. At the remaining two or three meetings, such as the one given in October by local CAANS member Leo Heistek, on the work of the Dutch humourist Annie M.G. Schmidt, whether the proceedings were conducted partly or entirely in Dutch would depend in each case on the kind of audience involved.

The meeting also considered possible topics for the Learned Societies AGM in Montreal next year. One suggestion concerned the work of the late Nicolaas Badenhuis, a CAANS member and an international distinguished botanist who had taught for many years at the University of Toronto.

Those present were also asked to think of possible themes for the 1996 AGM, when CAANS would be celebrating twenty five years of existence. Matters such as the fee for local membership to cover incidental costs, were left for the interim executive to decide. The Netherlands Embassy promised to help out wherever it could. When the meeting ended at 11:30 PM most of those present felt that a good start had been made towards an Ottawa Chapter.

Christopher Levenson

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VANCOUVER

Maple Ridge, 30 juni 1994

Geachte Leden,

Opnieuw mochten wij genieten van een boeiende Rembrandt presentatie door Carol Janson, op 9 juni j.l. in een vol huis! WILL THE REAL REMBRANDT PLEASE STAND UP? Carol Janson, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Art History at the Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225, gave a presentation on current Rembrandt scholarship. She traced the role of Rembrandt in Northern art through the eyes of British, American, and European scholars by focussing on the differing views that have previously categorized Rembrandt as a rather romantic rebel and an anti-classicist.

Because Rembrandt has come to represent Dutch seventeenth century art for many art lovers, his interpretations of such themes as the Prodigal Son, Samson and Delilah, as well as militia company scenes (such as the Nightwatch), have remained a source of fascination.

The contributions from recent scholarship on Dutch culture such as attitudes toward the family, the depiction of street life, and classical themes (such as Lucretia or Flora), gave a framework for recognizing Rembrandt's contributions.

Rembrandt's studio practices were discussed through analyzing slides of his etching and painting techniques for those interested in collecting his art! The on going work of the Rembrandt Research Project team from the Netherlands was also discussed in relation to how this group of specialists makes decisions about identifying Rembrandt works using the latest technological methods as well as traditional connoisseurship methods of the art historian.

Herman Suttorp (invaller)

Tsawwassen, 1 september 1994

Geachte Leden,

Van Rie van der Horst werd een schenking ontvangen van ruim 200 Nederlandse boeken, welke eertijds een onderdeel vormde van de bibliotheek van ons overleden lid Henk van der Horst. Deze boeken vormen een welkome aanvulling van de CAANS Vancouver bibliotheek.

Namens het bestuur van CAANS Vancouver Chapter,
J. Herman van Wermeskerken

Vancouver, 1 oktober 1994

Geachte Leden,

Aan het einde van de nog steeds warme zomer werden we door Richard Unger op 8 september j.l. verrast met een lezing over een verkoelend onderwerp: Bier en Bierdrinkers.

Aan de hand van lichtbeelden en statistieken werden sociale en commerciële facetten afgewogen tegen de weergave van het leven in de XVIe en XVIIe eeuw door de schilders uit die tijd.

Enkele feiten mag ik u niet onthouden. Bier was na laken het grootste export artikel van de Nederlanden. 5% van de bevolking was betrokken in het brouwen van bier. Brouwers waren dan ook invloedrijke figuren. In 1480 had bij voorbeeld Gouda ongeveer 350 brouwerijen. Van het stadsinkomen van Leiden en Haarlem was rond het midden van de XVe eeuw 50% afkomstig van belasting op het bier.

Voor de schilders was het uiteraard niet de kwestie van voedingswaarde of economie die bier een onderwerp in hun werk zou maken. In tegenstelling tot wijn vormde bier ook geen bijbels onderwerp waarop zij hun werk konden baseren.

Vanaf 1533, toen Cornelis Anthonisz een lid van de burgerwacht met een glas in de hand afbeeldde komen drinkende figuren regelmatig voor op schilderijen zoals die van schilders van de Utrechtse school en van Frans Hals. Ook Pieter Brueghel de Oude hield zich bezig met bier drinken en taveernen.

Kan in de tweede helft van de XVIe eeuw het bierverbruik per hoofd van de bevolking geschat worden op 1 liter per dag, dit gebruik van bier als volksdrank (water was ondrinkbaar door vervuiling en melk slecht voor de gezondheid) komt niet in dezelfde mate tot uiting in de werken van schilders uit die tijd.

Nam het aantal brouwerijen in de XVIe eeuw aanvankelijk af door consolidatie van brouwerijen, in de XVIIe eeuw komt er een drastisch einde aan het bloeiende brouwersbedrijf. Zo waren er in Gouda in 1616 nog maar 14 brouwerijen over van de 350 aanwezig in het jaar 1480. Dit is te meer frappant aangezien concurrentie van nieuwere dranken zoals koffie en thee zich pas doen voelen in rond 1850 wanneer vooral de koffieprijzen sterk dalen. Ook wijn, die alleen werd gedronken door beter gesitueerden en jenever die pas zijn intrede had gedaan waren nauwelijks concurrenten te noemen.

Bier werd in vaten verkocht aan de bierhuizen (Adriaen van Ostade) of rechtstreeks aan de consument thuis. Amsterdam had in 1613 518 van zulke schenkerijen (1 op elke 200 inwoners). 65% van het bier werd thuis geschonken.

Door het ontbreken van belasting op het bier op het platte land en door de aldaar goedkopere grond werd "cross border drinking" in taveernen rond de steden zeer aantrekkelijk (Frans Mieris). Zo was Amersfoort tot ca 1850 verwickeld in wettelijke disputen om hier een einde aan te maken.

Ondanks statiegeld en plaatselijke verordeningen kwamen biervaten dikwijls niet terug bij de brouwers. De kroegbazen waren daar zeker niet onschuldig aan blijkens de schilderijen waarin meubilair veelvuldig vervaardigd blijkt te zijn uit biervaten.

Bier werd uit de koeltroggen overgeschonken in vaten en voor het gebruik wederom in bierkannen zoals bijvoorbeeld getoond door Frans Hals. Kennelijk heeft de jongen daar rechtstreeks uit de kan gedronken. Voor het consumeren werd het bier geschonken in bierpullen.

De glazen waren oorspronkelijk vervaardigd van ondoorzichtig glas, waardoor zwevende bestanddelen in het bier dan ook niet zichtbaar waren. De glazen waren

voorzien van uitstulpingen voor een beter houvast (krautstrunk).

Tot in het begin van de XVIIe eeuw waren het meestal de afstotende en liederlijke zaken die bij het afschilderen van taferelen in taveernen werden benadrukt (Judith Leyster, Adriaan Brouwer, Cornelis Dusart en tot op zekere hoogte Adriaen van Ostade en Frans Hals). Ook het roken (uit Goudse pijpen) werd snel op een lijn gesteld met overmatig gebruik van drank in de taveernen. Op de schilderijen is veelal niet uit te maken of het om bier gaat. Waar dit wel zo is blijkt het meestens om wijn te gaan. Zo Jan Steens schilderij met de moeder die haar kind bier geeft meer te zien als een positief gebruik van bier dan als decadentie zoals soms gesuggereerd.

Met het afnemen van het bierverbruik aan het einde van de XVIIe eeuw werd ook de aandacht voor het misbruik daarvan minder. Dit in tegenstelling tot Engeland waar William Hogarth, een bewonderaar van Jan Steen, het gebruik van gin veroordeelt ten gunste van de heilzame werking van bier. In de Nederlanden is bier op zijn slechtst afgeschilderd als een bedreiging van de goede orde, op zijn best als misschien goed voor kinderen.

Richard, hartelijk dank voor deze informatieve en boeiende lezing.

J. Herman van Wermeskerken

29 oktober 1994

Door de grote opkomst kon onze vergadering van 13 oktober j.l. niet plaatsvinden op Sitka Square. Dankbaar gebruik werd gemaakt van de gelegenheid, die Haro Park ons bood, om het Penthouse te gebruiken. De reden van die grote opkomst: Jan Blom, die ons een epos opdiende van het ontstaan van de Pittpolder.

Eigenlijk had Jan ons niets nieuws te vertellen. Door de eeuwen heen hebben wij, Nederlanders, polders ingedijkt. Toch waren er vele aspecten aan dit project, die dit gebeuren uniek maakten. Zo werd Jan naar Vancouver gezonden om een handelskantoor te vestigen. Een half jaar later, terug bij zijn baas, wist hij deze een plan te verkopen om een eendenjachtgebied in te polderen. Waarschijnlijk heeft hij er toen niet bij verteld dat twee eerdere pogingen, door respectievelijk Chinezen en Mennonieten, waren mislukt.

De technische rapporten mochten dan wel zeer gunstig luiden, latere ervaringen zouden anders leren. Bijvoorbeeld: zoals het regent in Vlissingen regent het ook in Den Helder (180 km verder). Maar zoals het regent op de vlieghaven regent het vijfmaal zo hard in de Pittpolder (35 km verder). Geen wonder dat ook de kosten vijfmaal zo hoog waren als oorspronkelijk geraamd.

Al in het begin werd afgezien van uitvoering via aannemers vanwege de hoge kosten daaraan gepaard gaande. Een manager werd wel ingehuurd, maar deze verliet het zinkende schip toen het geld op was. "Dr. Blom", zoals Jan in de wandeling heette, heeft toen - met toestemming van Koos - het heft zelf in handen genomen. Dit hield in een uiterst primitief leven temidden van water, water dat je echter niet kon drinken.

In verband met de deviezenbepalingen kort na de oorlog mochten geen dollars worden gekocht. Om het Nederlandse aandeel in dit project hier te krijgen moesten materialen zoveel als mogelijk in Nederland worden aangeschaft, zoals bijvoorbeeld de Storkpompen en zelfs een prefab houten huis!

In deze Pittpolder roman mochten imminente calamiteiten natuurlijk niet ontbreken. Behalve door financiële perikelen werd de Pittpolder tot driemaal toe bedreigd door hoog water. De eerste keer was wel heel penibel toen onverwacht hoog water, gepaard gaande aan een noordenwind, de noordelijke dijk in gevaar bracht. Maar gelukkig gold ook hier de Nederlandse oerwet: "wie niet dijkt in nood, verbeurt zijn erf". Vele vrijwilligers hielpen met het versterken van de dijk middels zandzakken en het gevaar werd bezworen. Later bleek dat bij het overbrengen van het peil van Alouette Lake één voet was verloren. De dijken werden daarna twee voet opgehoogd.

Het financiële resultaat van de onderneming is toch bevredigend te noemen, wat een wonder mag heten na de schromelijke onderschatting van het benodigde budget.

De voordracht werd besloten met twee korte videos. De eerste, een videoreproductie van een smalbeeldfilm, door Jan zelf opgenomen en waaruit de primitieve omstandigheden blijken waaronder werd gewerkt. De tweede werd vervaardigd door BC TV in 1973 en toont de voltooide polder. Deze video wekt bijna de indruk van: wat fijn dat die jongens in zo'n mooi gebied hebben kunnen werken.

Tenslotte nog een citaat uit Jan Bloms lezing:

"Het succes van dit project is geen wonder;
Het is een wonder dat niets mislukt is!"

Waar wij wel aan toe kunnen voegen:

"Jan kennende, is ook dat geen wonder."

Hartelijk dank, Jan Blom.

J. Herman van Wermeskerken

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DUTCH CROSSING

No. 50 (Winter 1993) is something of a new departure for this review. It is devoted entirely to comparing Britain and the Netherlands from the point of view of environmental policy and action. As Michael Wintle (Hull) remarks in his Introduction to the issue, the Netherlands are somewhat given to telling other governments what to do in order to clean up pollution, while Britain refuses to do anything about it and has acquired the reputation of "the dirty old man of Europe." The issue examines whether reputations and realities match.

The survey begins with an account by Theo van der Tak (Amersfoort) of the Dutch political parties' attitudes. A cleanup policy with ambitious goals was developed in 1984 and thousands of people were hired, at the federal level to make policy and at the provincial and local level to implement it. But the goals have nowhere near been met, for an obvious reason: "politics is more about symbols than about achieving concrete results." In theory, all the parties except the VVD (Liberals, in fact conservatives) favour government intervention in the form of taxes on avoidable energy consumption. In practice they hesitate to hurt anyone's pocketbook. The wide public consensus in favour of the environment probably stops short of agreeing to real sacrifices.

Pieter Glasbergen and Peter Driessen (Utrecht) blame the failure to carry out cleanup plans on the way government has gone about the job. There is no co-ordination between environmental and other policies (for example, the government encourages intensive agriculture, which pollutes); and when scientists identify a problem, a mechanical solution is decided on (cut carbon dioxide emission by 20%, say) with no concern as to whether it is possible or socially desirable (e.g. all industrial development around Rotterdam would have to stop), and so the plan is tacitly abandoned. What is needed instead is for government, being one interested party, to work out a plan for change in consultation with everybody else. The authors call this network management.

Gary Haq (Lancaster) takes up the tale with respect to transport (or transportation in the North American sense). The predicted increase in vehicle transport in the next few decades will cause serious bottlenecks in a country which earns good money as Europe's distribution centre - to say nothing of pollution. In the sixties the Dutch government responded to environmentalists' prodding sector by sector, but today they have learned to consider the problem as a whole and to consult all parties about sustainable development, specifically cleaner safer vehicles, more reliance on railways, waterways, streetcars and bicycles, and locating housing, workplaces and recreational facilities near transport links. By contrast, the British government has yet to coordinate the different sectors into one plan.

Ute Collier (Hertfordshire) examines Dutch energy policy. Global warming could raise the sea level considerably, so the Dutch government has taken this question seriously, revising its plans in 1990 to hasten the decrease of carbon dioxide emissions, especially from power sources. Thus coal-fired stations are out of favour and natural gas, wind, biomass and perhaps even nuclear power are in. The electrical generating companies accordingly propose to scale back the increase in the use of coal and to counter the effects of burning coal by planting miles of trees; the distributors will co-operate on such measures as subsidising the price of energy-efficient light bulbs. The targets are modest and may not be enough in the long term - environmentalists feel that "some fundamental changes in consumption behaviour are required" - but a start has been made.

Jane L. Bone (Luton College of Higher Education) looks into household waste, comparing one Dutch and two British local rural initiatives. In the Netherlands, here again, they are ahead of Britain: the scheme in Lemsterland is better financed, the garbage is divided into more types, a higher proportion of material is recycled, and the whole operation has given rise to valuable data. Country people seem more aware of the environment and expect to do things themselves.

Rachel Reeve (Oxford) compares the British and Dutch responses to the 1991 European Community directive to reduce water pollution caused by nitrate run off from farms, which is all the more unnecessary because Europe has enormous stockpiles of food it produces and cannot use. The 1988-92 European environmental plan was therefore designed to do something about the death of coastal waters (notably the Waddenzee) and the increased risk of stomach cancer and blue baby syndrome. However, Britain and the Netherlands used their powers under the plan very differently. The British are slowly deciding which parts of the country are vulnerable, and the farmers are trying to leave it up to the water boards to take the nitrates out of drinking water. The Dutch government, on the contrary, has declared the entire country at risk and imposed a limit for nitrates five times as strict as the European guidelines lay down. Even so, EC limits on the use of cow manure as fertiliser frustrate the plans the Dutch already had and seem designed to reduce cattle farming, whereas they bother the British less, being indeed largely of British inspiration.

The final article, by Jan van der Straaten (Tilburg) and Judith Ugelow (Aarhus School of Business) surveys Dutch environmental policy, notably on air pollution. They remind us that "the Netherlands is the most polluted European country, due to its geographical location and its very high density of inhabitants and industrial activities." They remind us further that such matters concern the Ministry of the Environment but also the Transport and Agriculture ministries, indeed to some extent every ministry, and they all take decisions "independently and not with respect to the total system effect," and are all "potentially faced with dual and conflicting functions: regulating versus promoting." Consequently, the environmental policy may seriously confront the pollution problem, but when it comes to actual planning, the environment gets forgotten. For example, the 1988 transport plan for the Randstad cheerfully foresaw more passenger cars and more roads, but no increase in public transport. The 1989 modification of the plan foresaw a smaller increase in traffic, achieved by making drivers pay for using certain roads, but Parliament is not about to debate that. In most cases, vested interests get their way - all interests are consulted in the Netherlands when policy is being planned - and traditional cost benefit analysis, which cannot fully quantify certain benefits of a stricter policy, helps them to do so. And so the mess worsens.

The issue concludes with a tribute to the late Reinder P. Meijer. Author of the standard work *Literature of the Low Countries*, about 700 reviews of Dutch and English fiction in the *NRC Handelsblad*, and much else besides, he also changed the periodical *Neerlandica extra muros* "from a modest newsletter into a widely respected journal," and last but not least, led the Dutch department at London University back to University College, enlarged it and changed its focus. Somehow he found time to play classical music on the piano every day, but his ambition was once to be a jazz drummer.

SEPTENTRION

Le n°2 de 1994 commence par célébrer le 500^e anniversaire de la mort du peintre flamand Hans Memling. Une centaine de ses oeuvres nous sont parvenues, dont de nombreux diptyques et triptyques (tableaux sur deux ou trois panneaux de bois) représentait la Vierge ou un autre sujet religieux et le bourgeois qui a commandé le tableau, agenouillé devant l'objet de son adoration.

Du temps de Memling, l'industrie du verre artistique n'existait pas aux Pays-Bas. En effet, il fallait attendre 1836 pour voir établir une fabrique de verre; les artistes en verre y paraissent en 1912, mais ce n'est qu'aux années 60 qu'il leur est permis de créer des oeuvres artistiques uniques. L'architecture, par contre, est depuis toujours un art autonome. Elle a désormais son propre musée à Rotterdam, le *Nederlands Architectuurinstituut*, un ensemble de bâtiments d'un style très moderne (naturellement) situé à côté du musée Boymans - Van Beuningen. Il contiendra notamment les archives des grands architectes des XIX^e et XX^e siècles.

Ce numéro présente également le cinéaste Harry Kümel, "auteur" brillant dont l'oeuvre est pourtant inégale. Ses films qui connaissent un succès commercial ne le satisfont pas, puisque le producteur lui impose des conditions contraignantes et des acteurs et actrices qui ne comprennent pas ce qu'il veut faire; par contre, ses films d'auteur, complexes, stylisés, pleins d'allusions à d'autres cinéastes, n'attirent pas le grand public. Et la Flandre ne le subventionne pas comme il faudrait.

Côté littérature, nous découvrons Tom Lanoye, qui écrit dans tous les genres et satirise dans chacun toutes les institutions. Son cynisme semble toutefois cacher quelque chose de plus profond : détresse devant la banalité de la vie et l'inévitabilité de la mort. Nous apprenons aussi que la biographie littéraire fleurit aux Pays-Bas, mais que ce mouvement est relativement nouveau, de sorte que le biographe fait d'habitude oeuvre de pionnier en parlant de tel ou tel auteur. Par hasard, un des biographes hautement loués dans cet article - et à juste titre - Pierre H. Dubois, co-auteur avec son épouse de la biographie de Belle van Zuylen, contribue également un article au présent numéro. Nous y apprenons que l'éditeur G.A. van Oorschot écrit des romans sous le nom de plume R. J. Peskens. Ses premiers ouvrages sont gâtés par la sentimentalité, mais il a appris à la maîtriser et à sonner la note de l'émotion véritable, notamment en évoquant ses parents et son enfance.

Pour finir, un examen de l'enseignement du néerlandais en Belgique francophone. Trois constatations s'en dégagent. La première, c'est que les cours de néerlandais fleurissent :

Il est quelque peu paradoxal que cet engouement pour le néerlandais se produise à un moment où la Belgique est menacée d'éclatement et où la Flandre aspire à une autonomie poussée à un point tel, que certains y voient déjà l'antichambre d'un État indépendant. Mais il demeure que les francophones apprennent de plus en plus le néerlandais.

La deuxième constatation, c'est que les manuels offerts aux étudiants regorgent de régionalismes syntaxiques et lexicaux : purismes et gallicismes - en un mot, ils sont en flamand. Les maîtres et maîtresses d'école ne voient aucun mal à cela. Or, l'auteur trouve cela inacceptable parce que les Néerlandais sont plus nombreux que les Flamands; il pense donc à l'échelle européenne. Sa troisième constatation, c'est que les étudiants qui poursuivent leurs études du néerlandais à l'université après l'avoir

étudié pendant six ans à l'école secondaire à raison de quatre heures par semaine, s'en servent très mal, n'ayant jamais éliminé des interférences et des fautes élémentaires.

Ces faits nous semblent étrangement familiers.

À propos, nous venons de recevoir la version provisoire d'un livre au titre curieux de *Gents Idiotikon*. C'est un lexique du dialecte de Gand. L'auteur, dans son Introduction, prend exactement le contrepied de l'article que nous venons de discuter; en effet, il regrette que le savoureux gantois soit en train d'être "verbastert" par le néerlandais standard.

Vu d'un angle, le n° 3 de 1994 marque des anniversaires et des morts. On célèbre en effet les 400 ans de la tulipe aux Pays-Bas et la cinquantenaire de la maison d'édition De Bezige Bij. Mais on regrette aussi des décès. Celui de Jan Tinbergen, prix Nobel, inventeur de l'économétrie et de la planification nationale, "un des principaux fondateurs de la société d'abondance néerlandaise," dont nous abandonnons les idées à nos risques et périls. Celui de Rob van Genneep, co-fondateur de la maison d'édition Athenaeum/Polak en van Genneep, aux idéals non moins admirables que la maison de Bezige Bij. Et celui d'un des premiers grands auteurs édités par celui-ci, le poète et artiste polyvalent Lucebert, "dont le miracle verbal ne sera plus jamais égalé aux Pays-Bas," dit Rob Schouten. On nous offre un poème de lui et un poème sur sa mort, de Gerrit Kouwenaar.

Deux poèmes de Hugo Claus figurent également dans ce numéro. La version française de l'une d'entre elles est de Maddy Buysse, qui à son tour fait l'objet d'un article évoquant sa vie; nous sommes ravis de voir aussi honorer cette traductrice distinguée qui comprend si bien qu'il faut reproduire la musique du texte original. Travaillant en sens inverse, si j'ose dire, le journaliste Rudy Kousbroeck a longtemps interprété la vie et la littérature de France à ses compatriotes néerlandais.

Côte beaux-arts, un article évoque ce mouvement à facettes multiples que fut le surréalisme belge. Bilingue, basé dans trois endroits: Anvers, Bruxelles et le Hainaut, il n'a jamais renoncé au symbolisme; ses membres n'ont pas tous accepté le communisme, ni l'écriture automatique d'ailleurs; et le mouvement s'est également distingué dans la musique, le cinéma et la photographie. En somme, les surréalistes belges ont eu l'esprit beaucoup plus ouvert que leurs confrères parisiens.

Dans "le paysage encore flou du monde cinématographique néerlandais," Alex van Warmerdam est connu pour ses deux films d'un style bien particulier. Il nous montre des traits du caractère national, mais caricaturisés, et ses décors ont l'artificialité d'une scène de théâtre. Même sobriété et simplicité dans l'oeuvre sculpturale monumentale de Marc Ruygrok (un ouvrage typique installé sur une pelouse: la lettre E en acier laqué en jaune, haute de 2m75, posée au bord d'un petit étang; à 50m à gauche, un sphère en bronze haut de 2m20; à 50m derrière le "E", un sphère en aluminium également haut de 2m20).

Passons aux sciences avec, comme sujet-transition, le musée Teyler à Haarlem. Fondé en 1784, il est non seulement un bel exemple du style architectural néo-classique, mais aussi le premier musée scientifique du pays. Fondé en 1931, L'Institut de recherche Prince Léopold à Anvers forme les médecins qui partent vers les pays tropicaux et fait notamment des recherches sur le sida, le malaria (qui se répand de nouveau) et la maladie du sommeil, sans parler des maladies des vaches et des porcs.

Terminons en évoquant le météorologue néerlandais Paul Coutzen; il a prédit l'hiver

nucléaire, expliqué le trou dans la couche d'ozone au-dessus de l'Antarctique, et attiré notre attention sur l'énorme danger que représente l'augmentation récente de la quantité de méthane que nous lâchons dans l'atmosphère.

FLANDERS

We mean the magazine with this name. Issue no. 22 (June 1994) has its typical mix of articles, giving due attention to both the past and the future of the region. The "tourist city" of the issue is Dendermande, and two articles deal with tourist attractions in Ghent: the opera house, which is being restored, and the museum of fine arts, which is about to have some renovation done. There are articles on two industries of Flanders: chocolate, and the development of new materials. The latter survey goes company by company; university research into the matter will be covered in the next issue.

Finally, two articles on the political scene. The first describes Domus Flandria, the scheme for government-subsidized housing. The second, signed by the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, is about Flemish foreign policy. Since the latest constitutional changes in Belgium, indeed, we may speak of such a thing. Flanders can now become a party to international agreements (so long as they are consistent with Belgium's obligations under them) and is an equal partner in mixed treaties, i.e. those involving communities, regions and the central government. All revisions of European treaties are approved at every stage of the negotiations by the regional parliaments. Flemish ministers and their opposite number from Wallonia take turns with their "federal" counterparts in chairing the various councils of the European Community, and Flanders decides the role she will play in overseas aid and the World Bank and United Nations organizations. There is a body called the interministerial conference, which co-ordinates the policies of the different governments within Belgium. Flanders is already using her new powers to conclude agreements with Central and Eastern European countries in the fields of foreign trade and investment, and sending diplomatic and economic representatives abroad, in addition to working through the Belgian representatives.