

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

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

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DECEMBER 1998

DÉCEMBRE 1998

EDITORIAL or, Somebody else wanting money...

It's the time of year when we look at our financial state. This year, owing to a reorganisation here at the University of Windsor which means we have a new Dean, we missed out on an annual grant of \$2000; however, I am confident that after reviewing the subsidy arrangements she has inherited, she will resume our grant in April. At that time also, for the first time ever, the Journal will receive a grant from SSHRC. Our Editorial Board deserve a round of applause for helping to achieve this victory.

On the other hand, we have two Journal issues to catch up (the material will soon be to hand), and that will deplete our accounts. So now as much as ever, we need your support. It's time to pay for 1999. Those who did not pay in 1997 or 1998 will find enclosed a letter advising them that their membership will end now if they do not renew payment. The membership form is at the back of this newsletter as usual.

INSIDE/TABLE	
List of Officers/Membres du bureau	2
Call for Papers	3
Invitations de communications	4
Nominations for executive	5
Candidatures à l'exécutif	6
Huygens Programme Scholarships	7
News from Chapters:	
Calgary	8
Vancouver	8
AANS	9
Dutch Crossing	11
Septentrion	12
Holland Horizon	13
Flanders	14
Book Review	15
The Netherlands in Perspective	16
Central College	16
A Christmas Carol	17
Membership Form	19
Bulletin d'adhésion	20

CALL FOR PAPERS

CAANS' annual meeting will be held at the University of Sherbrooke on Saturday June 5, 1999, and at Bishop's University (a 10-minute shuttle bus ride away) on Sunday the 6th, with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

We propose to have sessions on "Heritage and identities" (one of the Congress themes), on Flemish art and literature, and on Belgian and Dutch immigration into Canada after World War II. 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, 1999, and an abstract by April 1, 1999, 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'Université de Sherbrooke le samedi 5 juin 1999, et le lendemain dimanche le 6 à l'Université Bishop's, les deux campus étant reliés par un autobus-navette (trajet: 10 minutes). Nous nous réunissons comme avant dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines et sociales.

Nous proposons trois thèmes pour notre réunion: Héritage et identités (C'est un des thèmes du Congrès); l'art et la littérature flamands; et l'immigration belge et néerlandaise vers le Canada après la guerre de 1940. Tout autre sujet, bien entendu, est le bienvenu.

Si vous voulez présenter une communication à ce congrès, veuillez envoyer la présente formule, au plus tard le 1^{er} mars 1999, et un résumé, au plus tard le 1^{er} avril 1999, 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,
1999-2000**

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, 1999:

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

CANDIDATURES A L'EXÉCUTIF DE L'ACAEN, 1999-2000

Je soussigné(e) propose : _____

Adresse _____

Au poste de: _____

Date: _____

Signature du/de la candidat(e) : _____

Signature du/de la nominateur/trice : _____

Veillez envoyer cette formule au plus tard le 1er avril 1999, à l'adresse suivante :

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

HUYGENS PROGRAMME SCHOLARSHIPS

Lieselot Scales writes:

"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 1999/2000 under the *Huygens Programme*....)

"The quota for Canada has been discontinued. Scholarships will be allocated on the basis of the quality of the application and the degree of institutional cooperation. Little or no importance will be attached to the country of origin of the candidate.

"The scholarships are intended for students up to the age of 35, who are in the final stage of their study (at university or higher professional level), who graduated no longer than two years previously, or who are completing a PhD programme and would like to continue their study at a university or institute of higher professional education or an eligible research institute in the Netherlands. The scholarships are awarded once only and cannot in principle be extended.

"Scholarships for students of Netherlandic Studies also are awarded for a minimum of three and a maximum of ten months. Selection is based on quality and the degree of institutional cooperation.

"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 1999**.

"Scholarships for the summer course in Dutch language and culture at the Woudschoten conference centre in Zeist have been made available as well. These scholarships are intended for students who have studied Dutch for at least a year as a main or secondary subject. The country quotas for these scholarships have also been discontinued. The Dutch Language Union has sent brochures on the course and application forms to universities where Dutch is on the curriculum. The intermediary role played by this Embassy in the past in arranging these summer scholarships has therefore been discontinued."

Those who are interested and are learning about the scholarships from this Newsletter, of course, must act quickly. I have a description of the programme, which I can fax to anyone who wants it (see address on the front page of this newsletter). The Embassy's phone number is (613)237-5030 extension 225; fax no. (613)237-6471; e-mail nlgovott@netcom.ca

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS

CALGARY

Op woensdag 8 september hield Dr. Hans Visser, chemicus en Vestdijkbiograaf, een lezing in de University Club van de University of Calgary ter gelegenheid van Vestdijk's honderdste geboortedag. Vanwege de Air Canadastaking was Visser gedwongen via Frankfurt en Dallas naar Calgary te vliegen, hetgeen alleen maar weer eens laat zien dat Visser's enthousiasme voor Vestdijk door niets te dempen valt. Visser gaf een overzicht van Vestdijk's werk, een impressie van zijn problemen met de ons inmiddels bekende weduwe, commentaar op de receptie van zijn biografie en besloot door zijn mening over het obscuur worden van deze schrijver te ventileren: "Wat is er aan de hand in Nederland?" Het was Visser's vierde optreden in Calgary. Zijn gehoor, ik bedoel niet zijn oren, maar verschillende mensen die naar hem luisterden, hadden zich terdege, o.a. door middel van het Internet, voorbereid waardoor de discussie na afloop van zijn praatje ongeveer even interessant was. Met dank aan CAANS en aan de Taalunie die Visser's reis gedeeltelijk hebben gesponsord.

Mary Eggermont-Molenaar.

VANCOUVER

[Dr. Visser was also to speak in Vancouver on the theme "Hondert Jaar Vestdijk," on September 10, but I have mislaid the report of that talk. I know also that the chapter mounted a roster of members to be on hand at the World Press Photo Exhibition, which was in the Hongkong Bank on West Georgia Street from October 5 to 24, "voor het te woord staan van het publiek," and that all members were invited to a reception to mark the exhibition's opening. Now over to Herman van Wermeskerken:]

Bij mijn afwezigheid op de bijeenkomst van 8 oktober was Annette Dorrepaal zo vriendelijk een verslag te maken, dat ik hier in verkorte vorm weergeef.

Professor Alexander Moens (SFU) talked about "Past, present and future of International relations (IR)" which until recently was never a study in itself, but used to be an assemblage of quotations from different people, e.g. Augustine, Rousseau, Marx and Hugo de Groot.

After WWII, IR was dominated by the US with a behavioural approach which borrowed from psychology and sociology. The first study "Politics among nations" is by Hans Jorgen Morgenthal.

Prof. Moens favours a more philosophical approach in a comparative study based on different normative systems or clashing value systems. Martin Whyte, in his "International theories: The three traditions," organizes IR theories into the following groups:

1. The tradition of the realist, that holds human nature as fundamentally evil. Power is the main explanation of activity and national interest. No possibility of progress. (Machiavelli).
2. The tradition of the rationalist, considering the human being as essentially rational, able to make progress and in search of an international society that adheres to rules. (Hugo de Groot).
3. The tradition of the revolutionist. From Constantine to Robespierre, and also with Marx and Hitler, power was used to wage and justify wars and executions. A more peaceful variety, "soft revolution," we find in people like Gandhi, Martin Luther King and religious groups like the Quakers.

These traditions lie at the root of our contemporary problems: e.g. Lloyd Axworthy speaks a rationalist language bordering on soft revolution; the international court has Grotian overtones;

and it is a Grotian, rationalist belief that free trade can overcome all problems. Prof. Moens thinks modern IR tends to be Augustinian: realist and moralist. He mentioned three areas of uncertainty: 1. He is, unlike Marx, pessimistic about European unity, although he sees monetary unity as a strong step in that direction. 2. There is economic instability. The structure of economic security comes from the US, which is sometimes criticized as a "Roman Empire" of which we should be careful. 3. There is uncertainty about norms. The UN Charter is based on Grotian norms, whereas many people are now soft revolutionists. On the other hand, peacekeeping has become more aggressive. He thinks the UN should remain a free-standing organization, not linked to NATO.

Prof. Moens concluded by saying that the real basis for international order is good government, based on just law at the national level. Let the good states be strong and keep order. Canada, Western Europe and Japan should reinforce America's function, with its diplomatic, economic and military strength, and not undermine it by trying to build some international legal pie in the sky.

Met dank aan de staf van het consulaat-generaal alhier en de Simon Fraser University kunnen we terugzien op een najaar met vele activiteiten. De preview van de tentoonstelling "Twee Eeuwen Architectuur in Nederland" werd in ons nabijzijn op 12 november op waardige wijze geopend door de consul-generaal Karel Birkman. Zij krijgt een permanente opstelling in het Nederlandse Architectuur Instituut (NAI) in Rotterdam. De ingenieuze wijze waarop het materiaal werd getoond, de duidelijke indeling van de bouwstijlen en de keuze van de representatieve voorbeelden en begeleidende teksten verdienen alle lof.

Na de officiële opening hield Hans Ibeling, Architectuurhistoricus en conservator van het NAI, een voordracht met als titel "The Dutchness of Dutch Architecture: A Look at Contemporary Design." Na een weinig verwarrend en met dia's toegelicht overzicht van de Nederlandse architectuur in deze eeuw geeft hij enige voorbeelden van bouwwerken die onder invloed van de globalisatie tot stand zijn gekomen, die niet meer aangepast zijn aan de omgeving en die los zijn komen te staan van het postmodernisme. Hij vreest dat de intense internationale communicatie globalisatie verder in de hand zal werken. "Downtown" in India zal dan hetzelfde zijn als "downtown" in Holland. Er zal dan geen Dutchness meer zijn in de Nederlandse architectuur.

De sombere toon van dit verhaal wekte een nogal heftige reactie op. Zo vestigde Anke Lamboij de aandacht op de Nederlandse architect Ton Albers, die, wel wat verder van Rotterdam, verantwoordelijk is voor een aantal schitterende moderne gebouwen, zoals de ING-Bank in Amsterdam, het Hoofdkantoor van de Gasunie in Groningen en het Museum voor figuratieve kunst ("de Buitenplaats") in Eelde.

Misschien zijn wij wat te voorbarig met het proberen de huidige stijlperiode al een predikaat te verlenen.

AANS

The October 1998 issue of the Newsletter begins by thanking all those running for office, and recalls that the membership fee now comes in two flavours: no frills (newsletter only) US\$12 a year, and luxury class (newsletter plus an annual PAANS volume) US\$25 a year. The Treasurer is Amy Golahny, Box 147, Lycoming College, Williamsport PA 17701.

There are also details of some scholarships to study in the Netherlands. One, the Friends of the Mauritshuis Foundation Fellowship, is for a PhD student in art history to study in Holland for six months. The stipend is US\$8000 including travel expenses and the deadline is February 15, 1999. Apply with description of project, academic background and two letters of

recommendation to the selection committee chair, Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York NY 10021.

One of the conferences is announced in time for us to pass on the information - in good time, indeed. ICNS 2000 will be held on June 25 - July 1, 2000 at Berkeley and has the provisional title: "From Chronos to Janus: the fickle function of time in Dutch/Flemish society, language, literature, history and the arts." The organisers add: "We also hope to expand the cultural playing field to include Dutch/Flemish/Afrikaans/Colonial music, art, politics, etc." Inquire of Johan P. Snapper, Dept. of German and Dutch Studies, U of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-3243.

An exhibition of 19th-century Dutch watercolours and drawings from the Museum Boymans-van Beuningen is touring the US. It was at the Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh in the fall and will be at the Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC from Jan. 16 to March 21, then at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI from April 16 to August 15.

There are reviews of:

- Theresia de Vroom: *Netherlandic Secular Plays from the Middle Ages*, which we have seen reviewed elsewhere. The present reviewer likes the volume but would have enjoyed reading more on the background of each play and its originality, as well as samples of the original text which would allow "some assessment of the translator's craft."
- C.A. Davids, W. Fritschy and L.A. van der Valk, eds.: *Kapitaal, ondernemerschap en beleid: studies over economie en politiek in Nederland, Europa en Azie van 1500 tot heden*, Amsterdam, NEHA, 1996. Dfl.63. 624pp. This large volume honours the work of P.W. Klein, the recently retired Leiden economic historian. Its numerous essays are grouped into three areas, each headed by an essay by Klein himself: the age of the Republic; the 19th and 20th centuries; and Dutch trade in the context of European-Asian relations. The dates of Klein's essays (1967, 1973 and 1989) show the evolution of his own interests. The general thesis of Klein's research and that of his disciples seems to be that in the successful times Dutch entrepreneurs were never so brilliant, and in the less successful times never so lazy or hidebound, as might appear; one must consider the unusually favourable circumstances in the first case and the increasing competition and other constraints in the other.

The issue also notes some other publications:

- Two from the IVN, namely a list of faculty members teaching Dutch studies at universities outside the Dutch language areas, and a list of suggested course materials and library acquisitions.
- An important special issue of *Callaloo*, edited by Hilda van Neck-Yoder and devoted to "Caribbean literature of Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and the Netherlands." Available for US\$15 from Johns Hopkins UP.
- An anthology entitled *The defiant Muse: Dutch and Flemish feminist poems from the Middle Ages to the present*, ed. and intro. Maaïke Meijer. Available from the Feminist Press, CUNY, Wingate Hall, Convent Avenue and 138th Street, New York, NY 10031, phone 212/650-8968, fax 212/650-8893.
- Wayne Franits, ed.: *Looking at 17th-century Dutch art, realism reconsidered*. Fourteen essays which survey "the principal interpretative methods and debates" from the 1960's till now. Available from Cambridge UP at Dept. AJB, 40 W. 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211.
- Renee van Bezooijen and Rene Kager, eds.: *Linguistics in the Netherlands 1998*, proceedings of the Linguistic Society of the Netherlands' 1998 annual meeting. Available from John Benjamins.

In other news:

- AANS has a web site. In due course it will no doubt get an easier address than its present one: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/german/homes/jvtaylor/> Don't forget the final slash.
- A *steunpunt* has been created at the University of Amsterdam "to exchange information and

to promote co-operation between Dutch Studies faculty within the Netherlands and abroad." It offers course materials, professional development, co-ordination of research on teaching practice and exchange of expertise. Address: Steunpunt Nederlands als vreemde taal, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen, Spuistr. 210, 1012 VT Amsterdam, phone +31-20-5253152, fax +31-20-5253021, e-mail Steunpunt.NVT@hum.uva.nl

and last but not least, Frits van Oostrom, professor of Middle Dutch literature at Leiden, will hold the Erasmus chair at Harvard from January to June 1999. If you would like to invite him, please contact Marja Kristel at the IVN, at ivnnl@wxs.nl

DUTCH CROSSING

The main item in vol. 22 no. 1 (Summer 1998) is a new annotated English translation, by Alistair Duke (Southampton), of William of Orange's *Apology* of 1580. It will be recalled that this long document was written to refute a variety of charges - sedition, ingratitude to his king, defiance and mistrust of the Spanish, and also bigamy, hypocrisy and being a foreigner - made in Philip II's Edict of Proscription declaring William an outlaw with a bounty on his head. In reply, the authors accuse Philip of adultery, incest, murder and parricide, most of which charges are baseless. This version is intended to be easier to read than the inflated 1581 version, with few crossheadings, modernised proper names, and full notes on the persons and events referred to.

A somewhat shorter translation follows. Koos Daley (Adams State College) has published her versions of poems by Huygens in our Journal; here she gives us three of the *Heilighe Daghen*: "Nieuwe Jaar," "Goede Vrijdagh," and "'s Heeren Avondmaal," the last named of which our readers will recognize.

Paul R. Sellin (UCLA) writes about the insufficiently studied Michel Le Blon, a man of many accomplishments: gold- and silversmith, engraver and heraldist, collector and art dealer who changed Swedish taste in painting and sculpture (Queen Christina and her chancellor were among his clients) - and intelligence agent for Sweden. Sellin makes a start on Le Blon's activities in England (he was accredited to London as a diplomat) by determining the dates of his stays there. From his conclusions it can be inferred that van Dyck's portrait of Le Blon must have been painted in April-May 1635, and that Vondel's epigram on it dates from somewhere between 1635 and 1638, and also that he probably discovered Donne's *Devotions* in 1638-40 (he had a hand in the publication of its 1655 Dutch translation). Sellin knows his English history and is certainly not responsible for the two strange sums of British money given in his article: £5.15.18, and £4.1.

A poem and a painting also come together in an article by Judit Gera (Budapest) which examines thematic and formal parallels between van Gogh's painting *Gauguins Stoel* (1888) and Herman Gorter's poem "Ik ben alleen in het lamplicht" of 1890. (The painting is not illustrated, alas). Both works are on the threshold of expressionism, or modernism, using simple objects to convey personal emotion.

Erik Jones (Nottingham) gives a very insightful explanation of how Belgium comes to be in its present sorry political mess. It began in the 60s with the weakening of the religious divisions of society, the "pillars." The Left and Right parties which now dominated, corresponded to the regions, and politicians started to play on the old regional identities and resentments. This new alignment led to constitutional change in 1970-71, but it concerned language rights, a personal matter, and Flemish politicians realized they had more to gain by pushing for collective rights - especially tax income. Such was the thrust of the second round of decentralisation, in 1980-81. The third round, in 1987, was set off by a fight over language rights in Voeren/Fourons, which paralysed the central government for four months; the solution merely made it plainer that Flanders and Wallonia both had their eyes on Brussels and its high-income residents. The fourth

round, in 1993, produced a system probably less devolved than Canada's, but certainly more involved. Flanders is again arguing for more taxation powers (the regions actually have very little), but that would endanger the social security system: Wallonia has an older population and far higher unemployment. This problem, plus the question of language rights in border areas (here it is the federal government which cannot intervene) and the effect of Belgium abolishing the franc and adopting the euro (if it decides to, and if Europe will have it), mean further constitutional change is imminent. Relations with Europe have had varying effects on Belgium's internal problems; today they may teach the regions that they are not countries and some things are best left up to the federal government.

There are reviews of:

Theresia de Vroom, tr. and intro.: *Netherlandic secular plays from the Middle Ages. The "Abele spelen" and the farces of the Hulthem Manuscript*. Ottawa: Dovehouse Editions 1997. 246pp. The reviewer regrets the large number of misspelled names (including her own - but the review, and indeed other parts of the issue, have them too), the anachronistic geographical names, and one or two other matters, but she welcomes the work as very useful and the translations as successful, especially in view of the difficulty of the task.

Karel Bostoën: *Bonis in Bonum. Johan Rademacher de Oude (1538-1617), humanist en koopman*. Hilversum: Verloren, 1998. 80pp. Fl25.00. Rademacher, a merchant and scholar born in Germany who lived in Antwerp, London and Middelburg, learned in London about the Italian Protestant Michel Angelo Florio and, as a labour of love, published Florio's history of Lady Jane Grey. He intended to publish other works by Florio, but if he did, we do not have them. Bostoën has written "a delightful book about an interesting and most likeable man."

Marco van der Hoeven, ed.: *Exercise of arms, warfare in the Netherlands 1568-1648*. Leiden: Brill, 1997. xi+235pp. £65. The first volume by Dutch historians in 25 years on the military history of the Eighty Years' War, it is a disappointing mixture of essays, good and indifferent, relevant and irrelevant, and inevitably, the hazards of translation being what they are, readable and less readable.

Joseph Taylor: *A relation of a voyage to the army in several letters from a gentleman to his friend in the year 1707*. Ed. C.D. van Strien. Leiden Academic Press, 1997. 143pp. Strange as it seems today, visiting wars was a common tourist destination in former times. Taylor's account of a trip to the War of the Spanish Succession, well written and full of his obvious pleasure in all he saw and did (he had just finished studying law), are an enjoyable read. At the same time, it is obvious from what he reports that the Low Countries were suffering great damage.

Michiel Horn: *Becoming Canadian, memoirs of an invisible immigrant*. Univ. of Toronto Press, 1997. 336pp. Gus Dierick, who has also become Canadian, wrote this finely nuanced review. This account of Horn's life is not personal enough to be an autobiography, indeed it is called a memoir; but that term implies analysis of the elements in his view of Canada which stem from his being Dutch, and this does not come until the last chapter, after an account of the things he has done and the people he has known. Here he makes some insightful observations on the contrasts between Canada and Holland and their people, but his experience is in some ways untypical and incomplete.

SEPTENTRION

Le n° 3 de 1998 est entièrement consacré (sauf les Actualités) à la commémoration de la guerre de 1914. Les Flamands ont lieu de s'en souvenir: les combats se sont figés sur une même ligne pendant quatre années, de Nieuport en passant par Dixmude et Ypres à Armentières, et dans cet

espace restreint, les deux adversaires ont sacrifié des centaines de milliers de jeunes hommes. Mon père a fait cette guerre-là, il a été à Mons; j'ai donc lu ce numéro avec une émotion profonde, devant parfois interrompre ma lecture.

Tous les aspects de cet abattoir sont représentés ici: l'incrédulité des civils au début des hostilités, l'euphorie vite dissipée des combattants, les tranchées (le gaz, les mines...), le lendemain de la guerre. Nous lisons des extraits d'auteurs de tous les pays en cause, qui ont écrit en flamand (Franz de Backer, Paul van Ostaijen, Martial Lekeux et - hors du zone des combats - Cyriel Buysse), en français (L.-F. Céline, Maurice Gauchez, André Demedts), en allemand (Ernst Jünger), en anglais ("In Flanders Fields" de John McCrae, dont on oublie le message vindicatif). Ce dernier titre a été repris de nos jours par Hugo Claus, dont le poème de ce nom clôt le recueil.

Et puis les photos, et les peintures de Paul Nash ("La route de Menin," un paysage d'arbres déchiquetés et de boue pleine de trous d'obus) et de John Singer Sargent, mieux connu pour ses portraits mondains: "Gassed," une file de soldats aveuglés par le gaz moutarde, qui passent entre des cadavres *entassés*. Ce sont sans doute ces images-là qui me hanteront.

HOLLAND HORIZON

Vol 10 no. 2 (June 1998) has on its cover a ditch-vaulting contest (*fierljeppen*) in Friesland; a photo essay inside marks that province's 500th anniversary. That, and an article on the rising popularity of researching one's family tree, are the issue's bows to the past. Otherwise it is all about change and how to handle it. Villages are being merged to form larger administrative units, as is inevitable with more services being downloaded onto local government - but the old village "town halls" are still functioning as well. This national ability to compromise in order to fit people's needs has led to the growth of a huge consulting industry, which is in demand worldwide. A related development is the call centre industry, which is what you use if you phone to ask such questions as why a programme won't work on your PC; the Netherlands is establishing itself as a international centre for this, employing 100,000 people. Speaking of computers, a six-person Dutch company has just been asked by the Pentagon to supply for 200,000 computers in military hospitals a programme which replaces X-ray photographs - you read the image on the screen. The country also has expertise in international trade in electricity, a useful skill to sell now that it is proposed to bring in hydro power produced by non-polluting means from Norway and... Iceland, via undersea cable.

And the people behind all this innovation? A study shows the Dutch go to church less than they did 30 years ago, but believe more in a god or a higher power. Although Christian political parties, radio and TV networks etc. are losing importance, "the information that churches provide on social issues is regarded as much more reliable than that produced by the government and political parties." An opinion I share.

Vol. 10 no. 3 (September 1998) shows in its lead article how old and new impact on each other. All the buildings, highways, railroads (the Betuwe line) and subways (Amsterdam is getting one) are constructed at a danger to priceless relics of the past, and archeologists are forever racing ahead of the bulldozers. Since the peaty Dutch soil preserves not only stones and ceramics but also shoes, fruit, vegetables and Iron Age rhinoceros remains, their work is especially valuable. The same spirit of preservation has led to Dutch expertise in wind power (they are building windmill parks in China) and water conservation (by 2025, two-thirds of the countries of the world will be short of it).

Continuity and change also mark the work of Dutch diplomats, especially change. Today they have to be lobbyists for their country's industries, expert at multilateral negotiations, and aware of what several ministries want, not only Foreign Affairs but also Defence, Finance and Economic Affairs. Among the companies they speak for are no doubt the various Dutch software

HOLLAND HORIZON

companies, which now employ 60,000 people and are growing at the rate of 20% a year. The government is creating clusters of them so that they can help startup companies succeed - a multisite Silicon Polder. The Dutch space industry is also flourishing. Fokker Space is building, among other things, a robot arm for an international space station (the Fokkerarm?). And even old industries flourish still; the railways, for example. While preserving the fine old train stations, of which the Gothic castle of Amsterdam Central is perhaps the most magnificent, they are replacing others with striking modern glass and steel buildings.

Vol. 10 no. 4 (December 1998) opens with a success story: the comeback of Dutch shipping. Three years ago the number of ships flying Dutch flags was less than a quarter of what it had been, but changes in tax laws and in the regulations governing working conditions has doubled the number of "loyal" vessels, and the shipyards are beginning to innovate and to find niche markets. What benefits may accrue from other changes in law and policy announced in last September's throne speech, remains to be seen. More spending on infrastructure is proposed, and foreign and domestic policy will be overhauled (i.e. more emphasis on trade - without, one may hope, stifling criticism of dictatorships who happen to be trading partners).

One change that is coming, with little outcry, is the replacement of the guilder by the euro. It is an example of change coming from outside. In education likewise, many outside influences are reflected in the wide variety of schools available in the Netherlands: Montessori, Jena, Dalton, Steiner... The state does not tell any system, public or private, what or how to teach, but in return for funding them all it ensures the teachers are qualified and sets national tests at different levels and a national school leaving exam. The Netherlands also, to be sure, exports a great deal, and naturally two examples are featured in this issue: opera productions (Pierre Audi's staging of Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* is going on the road for the third time), and Dutch design. There was a good exhibition of this latter in San Francisco last summer. It may be seen as marked by simplicity, but the designers deny that they have anything in common except a concern with function. Perhaps related is the fact that other countries can feel the Netherlands are like themselves. The cover photo of soccer fans dressed in orange and with painted faces reminded me of Varsity Cup day in Toronto.

FLANDERS

A business success story opens issue no. 39 (September 1998): Kinopolis, a family firm that brought multiplex cinemas to Flanders and adjoining countries (one in Lille has 2.2 million customers a year) and which now wants to expand worldwide, produce and distribute films, be ready for digital films, and develop restaurants, videotheques, CD stores and congress centres in their movie theatres (if that is still the word for them). Other industries already launched continue to grow. The Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp produces crop after crop of fashion designers, the latest rave being Veronique Branquinho.

A multi-part review of scientific research in the region begins with two archeological projects. One uses aerial photography to trace signs of human activity in Flanders, from Bronze Age burial monuments to the signs in the ground of World War II bombing. The other uses every possible science to learn the history of the Sagalassos region in southern Turkey, with its 200 settlements ranging in age from 10,000 BC to the Ottoman period. Almost as many ages are represented in Bornem Castle near Antwerp, built in Roman times and often rebuilt till now it is neo-Gothic. Its priceless collection of furnishings from three centuries has been opened to the public by the de Marnix family, descendants of Philips de Marnix, author of the Dutch national anthem.

BOOK REVIEW

Ludo Jongen: *Heiligenlevens in Nederland en Vlaanderen*. Amsterdam: Bert Bakker, 1998. 277p.

Wie gelooft er nog in wonderen? Wie schrijft er over wonderen? Ik wilde net schrijven: niemand toch. Maar dan bericht de *Globe and Mail* op 25 juli over de helende werking van het water van het St. Annemeer, 50km ten noorden van Edmonton. De wonderen zijn de wereld, ook de nieuwe wereld, nog niet uit.

Ludo Jongen, Neerlandicus te Leiden, nam de moeite 38 overgeleverde, opgetekende verhalen over heiligen uit de Lage Landen, die wonderen verrichten en aan wie bovennatuurverschijnselen worden toegeschreven, op zijn eigen kenmerkende wijze in hedendaags Nederlands om te zetten en deze zo prettig toegankelijk te maken voor een groter publiek.

De betreffende heiligen moesten in de Lage Landen geboren zijn of daar gewoond hebben. Bij hun leven moesten deze lieden een aantoonbare relatie, welke zich uitte in wonderen tijdens en/of na hun leven, met God hebben gehad.

Ook voor mensen zoals ik die sceptisch staan tegen het bovenaardse, niet afwijzend want pas, tijdens een Indiaanse ceremonie had ik een visioen en dat is toch echt anders dan wegsukkelen in een leuke droom, is dit een zeer leeswaardige interessante verzameling verhalen. Jongen legt er niet zo de nadruk op, maar het drong wel tot me door dat het geloof, dat tijdgenoten van deze heiligen aan bovenaardse verschijnselen hechtten, er borg voor heeft gestaan dat we in veel gevallen tot op de dag van vandaag kunnen bogen op een Lage Landenkultuur van kapelletjes, kerken, abdijen, bedevaartsplaatsen en in Geel, België, vanwege de heilige Dymphna zelfs thuisverpleging van krankzinnigen. Waar we niet meer op kunnen bogen zijn de afgodsbeelden die te vuur en te zwaard door Ierse en andere missionarissen werden vernield, de bron van de Friese god Frosite en door Bernlef bezongen mythen.

Wat Jongens *Heiligenlevens* ondanks de indeling en rangschikking naar kalenderjaar ook laat zien is dat heiligheid in veel gevallen met een ambt was verbonden. De ene na de andere Maastrichtse bisschop, te beginnen met Servaes in de 4/5de eeuw, Domitianus tot 539 en Monulphus na 539, Gondulphus na 578, Amandus in 611, Remacles in 627, Theodardus en Hubertus in 718, werd heilig verklaard. Deze bisschoppen onderhielden nauwe relaties met de Merovingische hofmeiers wier dochters en echtgenotes ook al heilig waren. Geertruida van Nijvel, bijvoorbeeld, dochter van Pippijn I, die ooit Dagobert ontving.

Dagoberts naam, dit terzijde, komt veel voor in literatuur over graal en tempeliers. Vreemd om die naam tegen te komen met betrekking tot zoiets huiselijks als ergens, bij Pippijn I, op visite geweest te zijn. Koning Dagobert moet volgens tempelierenliteratuur over een schat beschikt hebben. Oom Dagobert, Walt Disney's schepping, is ook erg rijk. Zou alles dan toch met alles te maken hebben?

Willibrord, de aartsbisschop der Friezen, had ook al nauwe betrekkingen met de hofmeierij. Irmina, schoonmoeder van Pippijn van Herstal, gaf hem in 697 een deel van har onroerend goed in Trier. Willibrord stichtte hierop wat nu als het klooster te Echternach bekend staat, een centrum van cultuur en wetenschap.

Al met al doet Jongens boek meer dan overgeleverde heiligenverhalen toegankelijk maken. Lezing ervan maakte dat ik veel meer zou willen lezen, vooral over de Lage Landen in de tijd van voor Karel de Grote.
Mary Eggermont-Molenaar.

THE NETHERLANDS IN PERSPECTIVE

William Shetter has issued an entirely revised and updated edition of his well-known textbook which, as the publishers say, "offers a wide-ranging contemporary picture of the country occupied and shaped by the Dutch. The author does not neglect the common stereotypes about the Netherlands and the Dutch, but invites the reader to see the complex modern society that lies behind them." The first edition won high praises in all quarters, and I have no doubt the new version is better than ever.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Cornelia Fuykschot, whose poetry I reviewed in the August Newsletter, has also published a number of medieval Dutch carols and other religious songs, with her translations (*Now Sing and Shout for Joy*, Olim Press, 1998). Below and overleaf I offer you, with season's greetings, one of the carols.

5. Komt, Wilt U Spoeden naar Bethlehem Oud-Nederlands lied

Gedragen



Komt, wilt u spoeden naar Bethlehem,
Hooft, als de vroeden, der englen stem.
Vervoegt u mede bij't zoet akkoord,
'tis pays en vrede, dat men daar hoort.
Nu is verdwenen de duistre nacht;
't Licht is verschenen Adams geslacht.
Een dauwe daalt neer, geen rouwe nu meer,
Ziet, in de kribbe ligt onze Heer!

De Heer der engelen en hemelse feesten
Ligt in een kribbe tussen de beesten.
Hij die ons toedeelt ons aardse goud
Huilt van de honger en heeft het koud.
De God der glorie ligt hulpeloos



'tis onze vrijheid die Hij verkoos
Zijn handen zo klein ontdoen onze pijn
Hij kwam hier om ons tot vriend te zijn.

Komt, wilt beminnen den jongen Prins!
Zijn zachte zinnen vergramt geenszins.
Begeeft uw leden tot zijnen eer,
Zijn wet en zeden volgt meer en meer.
Wilt u verkloeken dag ende nacht
Om hem te zoeken met al uw kracht.
Zijn paden zijn slecht, zijn reden oprecht.
Al komt gij spade, gij wordt zijn knecht.

5. Come Now, and Hasten to Bethlehem West-Friesian Christmas Carol

Come now, and hasten to Bethlehem
The angels praise Him, come join with them.
Come join with them in sweet harmony
For peace on earth is their melody.
The night of darkness was cold and long
But light has come with the angels' song
His blessing like dew, makes everything new
His gifts are many, His burdens few.



The Lord of Angels and heaven's feasts
Lies in a manger among the beasts.
He who bestoweth all good and gold
Now cries with hunger and suffers cold.
The God of glory here helpless lies
For our transgressions He pays the price.
With His little hands He loosened our bands
His heart, so lonely seeks us as friends.

So come and love now this Prince so mild
Lord of creation, though now a child.
Sing praise and honour unto His name
Who left his splendour to bear our blame.
Come join the shepherds and worship Him
And with the wise men your treasures bring.
His law be your guide, His mercy abide,
His love forever is on our side!

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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. Sinon, vous enverrez un chèque ou mandat au docteur Gerrit Gerrits, Trésorier de l'ACAEN, Dept. of History, Acadia University, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0.

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