Survey of recent historical works on Belgium and the Netherlands published in Dutch

C.R. EMERY AND J.A. KOSSMANN, EDITORS

This bibliographical article has been produced by members of the Dutch history seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, London university, and a number of Dutch and Belgian historians. A full list of contributors will be found at the end of the article. The majority of books reviewed here appeared in 1979 and cover the history of the Low Countries from the middle ages to the present day. We are unfortunate in losing the editorial experience and skills of Professor K.W. Swart. As regular readers will appreciate, it is largely to his efforts that the Survey owes its place as a respected and widely-read feature of this journal. However, our loss has been mitigated by his willingness to continue as contributor and adviser, and by the fact that his place has been taken by Dr. J.A. Kossmann who has long been associated with the Acta/Yearbook, both on the editorial board and as a contributor to the Survey.

GENERAL

It is most welcome that there should once again be a current series of compilations of shorter Dutch sources and documents.¹ The first volume in the series Nederlandse Historische Bronnen, comprises six separate collections of items, each introduced and annotated by an expert in the relevant field, covering the period 1371 to 1942. The two most extensive elements are a collection of hitherto unpublished letters of Prince Maurits of Nassau, mainly to leading regents and political figures in the Holland town councils, dating from the years 1617-19, and a set of reports from German security police officials in the Netherlands of 1942. The letters of Prince Maurits demonstrate more clearly than perhaps any other printed source just how preoccupied he became with the intricate manoeuvring of the remonstrant and counter-remonstrant factions at local level and how closely he followed developments in the individual town councils. The remaining items include a general report to the States General of March 1620 by Laurens Reael, former governor-general of the Dutch East Indies, on the Dutch forts, garrisons, shipping and trade in the East; and anonymous memorandum of the year 1727, composed in French, about Holland’s grand pensionary, Anthonie Heinsius;


182
private political notes by the Baron Jacob van Zuylen van Nijevelt who was Dutch minister for foreign affairs during the early 1850s; and a short fourteenth-century register referring to parts of South Holland.

In spite of the discouraging financial climate, specialized periodicals in the field of Dutch history still continue to be launched. One recent newcomer is a series of annual 'communications', published and largely written by members of the military history section of the Netherlands army. The second volume contains solid articles on a variety of subjects such as A.C.N. Koehoein's study of the efforts made to regulate military jurisdiction in the army of the Dutch Republic, an article by E.P.M. Ramaker on the introduction of the breech-loading gun (c. 1870), and a bibliography of current studies on the history of warfare, mainly in Europe. In a series of 'contributions', since 1977, the section has also published the results of research into the composition of the armies of the Republic and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The lists of regiments and the location of their garrisons in peacetime from 1715 to 1940, compiled by H. Ringoir, will be useful to those who are interested in the movement of troops and the composition of the army.

A committee from the Dutch cartographic society has compiled a welcome survey of map collections which are open to the public in the Netherlands. It provides information on the size and extent of each collection, the number of maps from given periods, and the most interesting items, together with a list of published inventories, catalogues etc. Thus we learn that the Algemeen Rijksarchief in The Hague possesses of 60,000 maps, printed and manuscript, from the period from 1800; that the University Library of Amsterdam has no less than 100,000 printed and manuscript maps, including many atlases and sea-maps and that a large collection of maps of overseas territories can be consulted in the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen in Amsterdam. Maps of a unique character, scattered over a great number of local collections, are given special mention in the directory.

On modern maps the northern part of the province Noord-Holland forms a coherent part of the mainland. From the second part of the twelfth century onwards, however, as a result of flooding, erosion and silting it consisted of a number of shifting islands not unlike those which nowadays line the North Sea coast from Texel to Fanø. One of them, Callantsoog, formed a seigneury with jurisdictio alta et bassa held by the influential family of Brederode in fief from the count of Holland. It must have been an uncertain possession indeed, changing its shape and surface constantly until the mid-

3. 'De totstandkoming van de resolutie van 25 maart 1651 als poging tot regeling van de militaire jurisdictie tijdens de Republiek', 51–75.
4. 'De invoering van achterlaadeweren bij de Nederlandse infanterie', 76–138.
sixteenth century when the diiking of the Zijpe connected it to the mainland again. H. Schoorl has minutely studied the history of the Oge, the courses of the many streams that surrounded and divided it, and the village settlement which on three occasions vanished into the sea and was rebuilt on a new 'safe' part of the island. He has also collected material on the political history of the seigneurie up to the time when a consortium of burghers had taken it over from the heirs of the Brederodes, as well as interesting details of the dike works carried out in the sixteenth and early seventeenth century. There is, in addition, a full collection of documents concerning Callantsgoog, including extracts from sixteenth-century tax registers and accounts of public works on the dikes and reclaimed polders.

It was a considerable feat of organization on the part of editor C.A. Tamse to assemble a series of eminently qualified historians to write biographical sketches of the successive Orange princes who have played a leading role in Dutch history either as stadholders or kings. The result is a collection of articles* of a high average quality. Apart from the first chapter in which H.P.H. Jansen explains how the Oranges gained a foothold in the Netherlands in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, it cannot be called a dynastic history. Nor is the historical role of the House of Orange evaluated systematically. It is more a matter of the relationship between each person and the age in which he lived and on which he exercised his influence. The various chapters are not composed according to a rigid scheme, and each author has been able to make his own particular points. In the case of William of Orange, K.W. Swart emphasizes, besides his acknowledged political leadership, his merits as a military organizer, a "paper general".

A. Th. van Deursen stresses two themes in his article on Maurice: his early and most successful period as a military commander and the tragic conflict of 1618, in which he places the political error of Oldenbarneveld alongside the human failings of Maurice. J.J. Poelhekke deals with both Frederick Henry and William II, and reaches a remarkably positive appreciation of the latter. D. Roorda explains, amongst much else, how William III put his policies into effect by means of a small group of trusted favourites with whom he surrounded himself. G.J. Schutte, who sketches the two eighteenth-century stadholders, gives in his portrait of William V a counterweight to the caricature which is still all too often presented. More than various other authors, J.A. Bornwasser has managed to give a genuine biographical interpretation of the first two kings. In this connection he attributes the reverses of William I's monarchy to a considerable degree to the king himself. He also sheds new light on the international complications in which William II became entangled in the first years of the restoration. C.A Tamse has used the insignificance of William III to give a more general survey of the function and scope of the monarchy in the nineteenth century. He also shows how the gifted

Queen Sophia was able, in her own personal style, to hold high the name of the House of Orange abroad. Finally, A.F. Manning demonstrates how those same personal characteristics of Queen Wilhelmina which during the war were to give new content to the myth of Orange were not always so suited to her role as head of state in the preceding years. The absence of footnotes in this collection of articles is regrettable.

MIDDLE AGES

In the series of regional collections of medieval charters and the like, now under preparation in the Netherlands, the publication of the first installment of the Oorkondenboek van Gelre en Zutphen tot 1326 follows an entirely new system of presentation. The editors' idea has been that whereas the completed work should undoubtedly be arranged chronologically, the length of time involved in its completion makes it desirable to publish interim results at an earlier stage. Thus the volume now available contains some sixty documents, collected from the archives of the monastery of Zennewijnen and one private collection, and is presented in looseleaf format. Documents from other archives are to be inserted by the owner of the volume as they appear. Whether the system will work remains to be seen; certainly all the items are edited with amazing perfectionism while each original is accompanied by a reproduction of at least a part of the document.

Another collection of documents is of more immediate use: the accounts, rent-books and charters relating to the domain of Putten, power base of the lords of Putten. This miniature country, squeezed in between Holland, Zeeland and Brabant, was an entirely independent seigneurcy until Holland managed to engulf it. The documents, edited by J. van der Gouw, reveal the main sources of the lord's income derived from the sale of accretions outside the dikes for salt-winning, the lease of such grounds for sheep-breeding and of fish grounds where salmon and pike were abundant; within the dike corn was grown on leasehold farms. The lord owned (and leased) wind- and watermills and found it no small task to keep them in good repair. The accounts give a rare insight into the methods of the salt deliverers who were organized in small companies. They also cover the period of disintegration after 1311. The editor, who used this source material in 1967 for his admirable study of the dike administration of Putten, explains the documents in a short introduction.

For the series Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatien (RGP), H.P.H. Camps is preparing a collection of documents concerning the history of North Brabant up to 1312, of which the first part appeared as two large volumes in 1979. Those who took the

11. H.P.H. Camps, ed., Oorkondenboek van Noord-Brabant tot 1312, I, De Meierij van 's-Herto-
initiative for this source edition were confronted with an obvious problem when determining its geographical limits. Nevertheless, the principle of sticking to the boundaries of the present-day province of Brabant, cutting mid-way through the ancient duchy, does not seem to have aroused serious objections although it inevitably results in an incomplete and lop-sided view of Brabant’s history. The material is divided along historical administrative boundaries which means that former non-Brabant seigneuries as well as the barony of Breda will be dealt with in separate volumes. In part I there are documents concerning possessions and rights held within the town and Meierei (villicatio) of Bois-le-Duc together with those relating to the small seigneur of Gemert, a possession of the Teutonic Knights. From c 1290 onwards, deeds relating to urban property in Bois-le-Duc become numerous. In his introduction the editor explains the main principles of selection and edition of this most welcome publication.

Monographs on medieval topics were scarce in 1979; however, two earlier studies not previously reviewed in the Survey deserve mention. An interesting work dating from 1978 by G. Maréchal analyses the nature and scope of medieval charitable institutions in Bruges.12 St. Jan’s general hospital, the Potterie which catered for infirm and mainly aged burgesses, several one-night guesthouses for non-residents, pilgrims and others, and the Leper House and the leper colony in the fields. In opposition to a widely accepted theory, the author claims that the oldest institutions were not set up by the church authorities but, like their later counterparts, by the burgesses themselves. It was only after some time that the church began to show any interest in the Bruges hospitals and tried to gain some control, but the town magistrates succeeded in remaining firmly in control. In studying the assistance provided for the weak and infirm of the town, the author finds that — as elsewhere in this period — many provisions benefited the members of the upper class able to buy themselves a sheltered old-age, and those of guilds and crafts for whom special homes were available. St Jan’s hospital, however, continued to provide apparently good accommodation to those in need, either residents of the town or strangers.

A more detailed study of one of the Bruges institutions, the Sint Juliaan’s hospital, was published in 197513 to commemorate 700 years of charitable work among poor travellers, foundlings and the insane. St. Juliaan’s began as a guesthouse for poor travellers, run by a small community of lay brothers and sisters and governed by a master. Their work gradually expanded until it included the direction of several institutions: the hospital for the insane, the home for the blind, as well as the control of foundlings and destitute waifs. For financial reasons, the guesthouse was combined with the home for the insane in 1600. Its efficient administration has provided the author, Father J. Geldhof, with a wealth of interesting information. The first part of the book deals with the period up to 1600.


186
In 1302 the Flemish defeated the French army in the famous battle of the Golden Spurs; in 1304 they were crushed in their turn and were condemned to a heavy penalty at the Peace of Athus-sur-Orge the following year. The years 1323-28 witnessed the revolt of coastal Flanders (without Ghent) which was brought to an end by the victory of the French troops at Kassel. The question of how far the tribulations of these years affected the finances of the Flemish towns dominates a recent study of Ypres by J. Merlevede. More limited in scope than the work done on Ghent and Douai by Van Werveke and Espinas, it focuses on the town's finances between 1280 and 1330 and is based on Des Marez' and De Sagher's edition of the accounts from 1263 to 1329, the originals having been destroyed in the First World War. The author takes as his starting point the so-called Kokerulle rebellion of the textile workers in Ypres which, he believes, changed the social structure of the town by allowing the prosperous drapers to infiltrate the old patriciate and initiating the process of corporative organization of the crafts. The period, which saw the disastrous plague of 1316 and the temporary rule of the crafts from 1325-28, was characterized by serious strains on the town's resources. One problem raised by the source material is the instability during part of this period of the denarius parisis, the unit in which the accounts were written. Merlevede has taken care to allow for devaluation by using the stable Flemish gross as his touchstone. He argues that the Ypres authorities managed quite well in these years: there are few and relatively unimportant deficits to be noted and though the authorities borrowed rather heavily, they succeeded, he believes, in paying off their debts in the end. He also takes an optimistic view of the local textile industry in these decades and does not admit to more than a slight recession after 1312. However, his optimism does not appear to be borne out by his own figures which point rather to a reduction of productivity of at least 30 per cent from 1290. The author also pays special attention to the question whether or not the crafts in their short rule of the town, changed the existing financial system by, for instance, reducing the excises in favour of direct taxation. His answer is negative: the new rulers changed the personnel but left practically everything else untouched. Perhaps this was because the confiscation of the properties of a considerable number of rich patricians made direct taxation of property less attractive. They did, however, introduce salaries for those who sat on the town council, an office which had hitherto been unpaid.

Ghent's rebellion against Count Louis de Male (1379-85) is commemorated in a publication of the provincial government of Oost-Vlaanderen. M. Vandermaesen and M. Ryckaert's concise survey of events pays special attention to the expedition of the Ghent urban militia (the White Caps) against Bruges in 1382, and to the attitude of this

town during the rebellion. Whereas in Ghent the population was united in its hostility towards the count, in Bruges a short-lived social revolution — provoked by the victorious Ghent troops — was needed to bring the town over to the side of the rebels for a few months. In fact, relations between both towns at the time were far from good. Bruges was beset by the twin problems of a diminishing fresh-water supply and, because of the silting up of the Zwin, a deterioration in its access to the open sea. It tried to solve them, at least partly, by digging a canal which Ghent considered to be a threat to its own water supplies and trade. Thus the expedition of the White Caps was, according to the authors, primarily directed against the canal works. In a second article, M. Coornaerts describes the town’s continued efforts to ensure its supply of water and its connection with the sea, which resulted finally in the construction of a canal connecting both Bruges and Ghent with Ostende in c 1625.

The Flemish seigneurie of Herzele (near Alost) was confiscated by Count Louis de Male after the lord of Herzele supported Ghent in 1380 against the count. The domain thus came under the county administration and in 1386 a bailie-collector of the Chamber of Accounts of Lille was put in charge until 1394, when it was first pledged and then alienated by the count. In the meantime, the seigneurie and its inhabitants recovered from the devastations of the war as is shown in the domain accounts from 1386 to 1394. The document of 1390/1 shows a return to apparently normal levels of income from tithes in money and poultry and a new start in the payment of farm rents. V. Meyhuis and F. Daelemans have analysed the contents of these accounts in a modest publication which also contains the full text of the documents.16

In an attractive little book on Our Lady’s Chapter of Kapelle and the foundation of the parish of Biezelinge,17 C. Dekker provides an insight into some of the problems facing a Zuid Beveland community in the early sixteenth century. It all started on the death of the parish priest when the lords (ambachtsherren) who shared the rights of jurisdiction and patronage within the boundaries of the parish of Kapelle did not nominate a successor but decided to set up a chapter in the village church. The main settlement in the parish, however, was not Kapelle but the harbour and market place of Biezelingen. Its population resented the fact that they only had a chapel of their own and were forced to go to Kapelle for mass and sacraments. They also complained of neglect by the parish clergy and took steps to found a separate parish in Biezelinge, obtaining the necessary collaboration from the bishop and papal legate. Neither the chapter of Kapelle which saw its rights and income dwindle, nor the majority of the lords, who considered their rights infringed, were willing to accept this new situation and a complicated and costly struggle for the existence of the new parish followed. The fact that it finally came before the Grand Council of Mechlin has enabled the

author to unravel the story, giving full attention to the human aspects as reflected in the mass of juridical documents. At the same time he provides an admirably clear exposition of the practical workings of the specific Zeeland institutions.

A team directed by J. Th. de Smidt and J. Van Rompaey — whose tragic death occurred in 1981 — has produced a new volume of chronological lists of extended sentences from the archives of the Grand Council of Mechlin covering the years 1531-41.\(^{18}\) The sentences summarized here concern proceedings of appeal in first instance, and also the confirmation of agreements by so-called voluntary condemnation. Important events have left their traces. As a consequence of the new frontier agreed upon at the Peace of Cambrai, a considerable number of proceedings were transferred from the Parlement of Paris to the Grand Council. Many sentences apply to inundations and costs of dike repairs following the disasters of 1530 and 1532, supplementing the material collected by M.K.E. Gottschalk in her book on stormfloods. One sentence deals with the right to confiscate the possessions of a condemned anabaptist near Leiden, and presumably libellous charges of Lutheranism are considered in appeals from Hainault to West-Friesland. The excellent indexes facilitate the use of this rich collection.

To celebrate twenty years of solid work in this field the Faculty of Law of the University of Amsterdam has published a modest volume with articles on the Grand Council, its history and legal practices.\(^{19}\) Most of them have appeared previously in various periodicals but J. de Smidt’s and A.J. de Groot’s contributions (in German) on the methods applied by the collaborators on the project are new. The volume also contains a bibliography on the Grand Council.

EARLY MODERN PERIOD

During the later middle ages and throughout the early modern period, the fortress city of Maastricht was of crucial importance and strategic significance in the history of the Netherlands. There is therefore every justification for a historical work which focuses on the history of the city as a garrison town and on the evolution of its fortifications and their strategic role.\(^{20}\) Regrettably, however, in L.J. Moreau’s treatment, discussion of the various sieges, campaigns and strategies is kept to the barest minimum.

---


and hardly anything at all is said about the social and economic impact of the garrison or of the place of Maastricht in Dutch military thinking of the early modern era. The text is relentlessly technical, focusing mainly on the design and construction of the fortifications. The publication is lavishly provided with plans, sketches and photographs.

The Centre for social structures and economic trends of the Free University of Brussels sponsors research in the history of the domain of Herzele. In this context, H. Van Bocxlaer has prepared a report on demographic development in the parish of Herzele from 1643 to 1796.21 From his study of the parish registers he concludes, inter alia, that the level of corn prices does not run parallel to the mortality figures and, in contrast to data collected elsewhere, that the top of the mortality curve does not coincide with the lowest marriage and conception figures.

Following other recent work in which he has questioned whether there was in fact any significant increase in agricultural productivity in Flanders and Brabant during the sixteenth, seventeenth or eighteenth centuries,22 C. Vandenbroeke expands on this theme in a publication23 which brings together a group of six local studies by colleagues working in the field of agricultural productivity in the early modern South Netherlands. The collection is uncompromisingly statistical consisting of dozens of tables of tithe returns, yield ratios and rents. The text is kept to a bare minimum and much of what there is concerns method rather than interpretation. It is certainly a pity that there is not more attempt to relate the findings presented here to the general discussion among historians over the origins of the 'agricultural revolution'. While agreeing with Vandenbroeke that the data yield no evidence of anything resembling an agricultural revolution in Flanders or Brabant between 1450 and 1800, the reader may well find it hard to avoid the conclusion that this immense effort in quantitative history, for all its precision and sophistication, in fact shows nothing at all except that the only important influence on agricultural productivity in early modern times, and that a negative one, was warfare.

A number of publications have appeared this year dealing largely with the religious history of the Netherlands — especially of the northern provinces — and the 'humanist' roots of later Dutch culture. J.A.L. Lancée reviews the influence of the greatest humanist of his age, Erasmus of Rotterdam, on the civilization of his native homeland.24 The author concentrates on Erasmus's early life, especially the years spent in the Netherlands. His conclusions are, as he admits, fairly tenuous, due to the lack of source material and secondary works for this period of Erasmus's life and for the lives

of his friends and enemies during these years. He argues that while Erasmus himself underestimated the influence of these early years in the Netherlands on his own development, his influence in later years on 'men of letters' in Holland was indeed fairly limited. Few indeed would argue with the conclusion that the politics of tolerance pursued by such men as Viglius and William of Orange, while incorporating 'Erasmian' ideas, were conditioned to a large extent by political opportunism. It was largely thanks to the efforts of such seventeenth-century men of letters as De Groot, Vossius and Musius that Erasmus's reputation as a founding-father of Dutch culture was restored. Nevertheless, it was from their sixteenth-century predecessors, with their 'imperfect' image of the man, that these seventeenth-century scholars received their introduction to Erasmus and Erasmianism; this perhaps is the central problem in any attempt to quantify Erasmus's influence on the evolution of a distinct 'Dutch' culture which reached its zenith in the Golden Age.

A.F. Mellink has produced another source publication on the early history of anabaptism in the Northern Netherlands.25 This second volume in the series concentrates on the anabaptist community in Amsterdam from 1536 to 1578. While many of the sentences passed on anabaptists in the city during this period were previously known to scholars, the records of the trial proceedings which lay behind them, preserved in the 'confessieboeken' in the Amsterdam municipal archives, have remained largely unused; and it is this source material which forms the basis of this publication. The depositions of witnesses and accused alike provide us with a wealth of information concerning the developments which affected the anabaptist community in Amsterdam after the debacle of 1535. They also provide glimpses of Amsterdam's leading role within the anabaptist movement as a whole, and its relationship with, and developments in, other important anabaptist centres such as Leiden, Haarlem, Antwerp, Ghent, Emden and other towns in northern Germany. The volume is supported by useful indices and a glossary of the more obscure sixteenth-century Dutch terms and phrases. It will prove an invaluable aid for all those interested in the history of anabaptism and of Amsterdam itself in the mid-sixteenth century.

The activities of one of the more outspoken supporters of Spanish policy in the Netherlands during the 1560's are the subject of a study by H. Th. M. Roosenboom.26 The Spanish Augustinian friar, Lorenzo de Villavicencio, served as chaplain to the Spanish merchant community in Bruges from 1560 onwards, and was one of the most assiduous and astute correspondents with the Spanish court concerning the religious and political situation in the Netherlands before 1566. Although some of his information was suspect, based as it was on the rather hysterical reports of the inquisitor Lindanus, his recording of events in the area with which he was familiar, Bruges and Flanders, seems more reliable. While Villavicencio was clearly unjustified in branding

as heretical and/or disloyal all those who failed to support the anti-heresy policy to the hilt, he was on firmer ground when accusing the central, provincial and local authorities of laxity in enforcing the anti-heresy edicts. However, it is more difficult to assess his influence on the formulation of Philip II's policy towards the Netherlands. The author points out that Villavicencio was held in high esteem by Philip, and that many of his enemies in particular believed him to have been one of the principal influences behind Philip’s reaffirmation of the hard-line policy in the autumn of 1565. But the friar also warned the king that to send a grandee to the Netherlands at the head of an army instead of going himself could only provoke revolt—an astute piece of advice which Philip seemingly chose to ignore.

The National Synod which met in Dordrecht in June, 1578 was a milestone in the development of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands. The period following the conclusion of the Pacification of Ghent at the end of 1576 was one of accelerated growth for the ‘new religion’, and it soon became clear that a general assembly of the Reformed Church could be delayed no longer. There was an urgent need not only to standardize teaching and discipline and provide support for the growing number of reformed communities, but also to review the relationship between the church and the civil power. To mark the quartercentenary of the assembly of the National Synod a collection of essays has appeared, edited by D. Nauta and J.P. van Dooren. Although rather uneven in length and quality this collection presents a useful reassessment of the work and significance of the synod. In a lengthy introduction D. Nauta traces the moves which led to the assembly of the synod, examines its composition, and shows how the records left by the assembly reveal its attempts to adapt to the changes which had taken place in religion and politics since the last synod at Emden in 1571, and especially since the Pacification of Ghent in 1576. Although the synod’s raison d’être was the formulation of a new Church Order, it could not operate in isolation from the political circumstances of the time. This is demonstrated by the important contribution of R.H. Bremmer, who argues that the truly ‘national’ significance of the synod lay in the role it played in Orange's attempts to ride the stormy political and religious developments which swept the Netherlands in 1578. He demonstrates conclusively the positive contribution to the synod to the formulation of Orange’s religious peace policy in the summer of 1578, and argues that this co-operation with Orange was one of the bases upon which a new republic was to emerge. The synod also marked a turning-point in the internal development of the Reformed Church itself. In a short essay, G. Moreau notes that the Synod of Dordrecht marked the end of the domination of the reformed movement in the Netherlands by the southern provinces and churches, which had drawn their inspiration from French Calvinism, and acknowledged the ascendancy of the Dutch-speaking churches. On the same theme


192
F.R.J. Knetsch shows that while the opinion of the Walloon churches carried considerable weight with the Synod of Dordt when revising the provisions of the Synods of Emden and Dordrecht (1574), the Walloons recognized that they would have to organize themselves separately if they were to continue to play a role in a movement now dominated by the 'Dutch' churches. J.P. van Dooren summarizes the stage reached in the organizational development of the Reformed Church in the localities by 1578, although he concentrates largely on the provinces of Holland and Zeeland, and notes the preoccupations of the local consistories, classical and synodal assemblies. The only surviving records of the synod are the text of the Church Order, the 'particular questions' submitted by the member churches and communities, and a collection of correspondence. In introducing a new edition of the text of the Church Order and the 'particular questions', W. van 't Spijker again emphasizes the central purpose of the synod. Although little different from the edition produced by F.L. Rutgers, it forms a useful addition to this volume.

Although the works and letters of Dirck Volkertsz. Coornhert are now mostly available in print, a satisfactory biography of the man has been lacking. H. Bonger has now partially filled this gap, although as the author admits, it is intended more as a popular work which might be used as a spur to further research. While clearly based on a sound knowledge of Coornhert's works and writings, it is not as complete a study of his life and work as the title suggests. The book falls into two halves, the first dealing with Coornhert's career and the second with certain aspects of his work, concentrating largely on his liberal religious views and their political ramifications. Although touching on Coornhert's literary activities, including his achievements as a translator, other aspects of his activities are omitted, for example his artistic work, his contribution to the development of the Dutch language and, more importantly perhaps, his influence inside and outside the Netherlands. But these are all areas which the author identifies as being in need of further investigation. The book concludes with an interesting bibliographical essay which traces the development of interest of scholars from a wide range of disciplines in the various aspects of Coornhert's work. This in itself gives us a picture of the enormous scope of the man's interests and activities, the complexities of his character and the tremendous energy which produced such a volume of writings. The author's stated desire was merely that Coornhert should be

32. J.P. van Dooren, 'Gegevens over de toestand van de Gereformeerde Kerk in 1578. Lijst van deelnemers van de synode', ibidem, 185–201.
accorded more recognition 'as one of the most remarkable men ever to have lived in the Netherlands'. While this book will undoutedly promote more interest in Coornhert there is still scope for a more critical assessment of Coornhert's contribution to the development of a truly 'Dutch' culture.

Two further volumes of the much-criticised new *Algemene Geschiedenis der Nederlanden* have appeared. They are two of the five which are to cover the early modern period, but it is difficult to pin either volume down in time further than that. Volume VII, for example, has three sections: socio-economic history from 1490-1650; overseas history up to 1680; and socio-cultural history 1500-1800. Moreover, the first section is not as unified as it might appear at first sight as, whereas the contributions on agriculture do indeed take their starting point as the late fifteenth century, the chapters on industry, trade, shipping and fishing all begin around 1580. Even more surprising, and certainly more irritating, the third section turns out to be only a first instalment. It is concerned only with education and the various branches of learning; for the arts the reader must turn to volume IX. However, the first two sections of this volume do provide a very useful introduction to the economic and colonial history of the Netherlands, even if the insistence on treating industry, trade and shipping in separate, unrelated chapters leaves the onus of producing an overall picture of economic development to the reader. In the third section, this method of division into separate, hermetically sealed chapters with no synthesis is much less satisfactory, despite the excellence of some of the contributions (particularly the treatment of literacy). In volume VIII, however, the weaknesses in the planning of the series are even more apparent. Again there are three sections covering different time spans: socio-economic history 1650-1800; political history 1648-1700; and religious history in the second half of the seventeenth century. The coherence of the volume is not increased by the fact that most of the chapters on religion deal with the whole of the seventeenth century and the remainder with the second half alone. Again the approach of the various authors is very different. While, for example, the chapter on agriculture in the Northern Netherlands is an exemplary introduction to modern scholarship on the subject, that on the coinage of the Southern Netherlands must be almost impene- trable to non-specialists. Similarly, the chapters on religion vary from the latest brand of religious sociology to a series of mini-biographies of bishops. Still, a number of individual contributions are of a high standard, the bibliographies of both volumes very useful, and the illustration simply splendid. On the evidence of these two volumes, the new AGN will be an invaluable reference work for the economic history of the Netherlands; political history is another matter.

Two of the greatest Dutch writers of the seventeenth century are the subjects of new biographies. Van Tricht's life of P.C. Hooft is in fact a re-working of the study first published in 1951, and is a significant contribution to our understanding of Hooft's life and work. Two matters, perhaps, deserve special attention, Van Tricht's analysis of Hooft’s political development, and his account of his part in the campaign for the purification of the language. Van Tricht argues that in reaction to the crisis of 1618 Hooft began to see rule by a prince as the solution to internal divisions, taking as his ideal an idealized Henry IV of France. In linguistic and poetic matters, Van Tricht stresses, perhaps over-stresses Hooft's subservience to the authority of the considerably younger Huygens. This is an important work for all interested not only in Hooft himself but in Dutch literary and intellectual life in the early seventeenth century.

Opportunistely there has also recently appeared a biography of Constantijn Huygens, though of a very different sort from Van Tricht's scholarly work. Smit aims at a non-academic audience, and this is biography with a light touch. What is more it is largely a literary biography, and does not tell us much about the public career of its subject. However this is a pleasantly-written account of the life of a fascinating and immensely gifted man, and is not without interesting and even intriguing speculations. Smit suggests, for example, that Huygens' frequently crude and denigratory comments on sex and sexuality sprang from an uneasiness about his own sexuality, as he found sex aesthetically unattractive. Whether this is specific to Huygens or was typical of the ambivalence towards sexuality in this period is another matter.

It is worth briefly noticing the appearance of the second volume of the correspondence of André Rivet and Claude Sarrau. It covers the period between May 1643 and December 1644. Interestingly enough for two men of learning in this period the letters are in French. This edition is well produced and helpfully annotated, with the notes coming immediately after each letter, and it contains much that illuminates the intellectual and political history of the period. Unfortunately, the only index is of names only.

A third volume of H. de la Fontaine Verwey's studies of Dutch publishing has appeared. Although most of them have been published before, at least one is new and others are printed here in an extended or emended form. The central focus of this

---

41. H. de la Fontaine Verwey, Uit de wereld van het boek, III, In en om de 'Vergulde Sonnewyser' (Amsterdam: Israel, 1979, 256 p., ISBN 90 6072 122 5, Df 36,--).
collection is, as the title suggests, the famous publisher Willem Jansz. Blaeu. There is much fascinating information in these essays, especially for the historian of publishing. Of more general interest is the discussion of Blaeu’s activities as a printer of the works of remonstrants, Socians and of dissenters in general, which he coupled with the printing of catholic works for export. The tradition was carried on by his son Joan, whose shop was raided on the orders of the Amsterdam schepenen, though the fine they imposed was later cancelled by the burgomasters. The essays include a curious, but interesting piece on the art of fencing in the early seventeenth century; and another on the great Blaeu-atlas, which includes an account of the practice of having maps coloured by ‘afsetters’ after printing.

The study of the New Testament at Dutch universities is considered briefly but illuminatingly by H.J. de Jonge.\footnote{42} His central point is that while theologians accepted the existing Greek text of the New Testament and had very little interest in any contextual reading of it, the philologists, or some of them, were prepared to treat it as having run the same risk of corruption as any other ancient text, and to read it in its historical context. The most important works on the New Testament, De Jonge argues, were the annotations of Drusius, Heinsius and De Dieu (and Grotius, of course, but he unfortunately falls outside the writer’s brief as he was not attached to any university). Above all, however, the author points to the overwhelming importance for the renewal of New Testament studies of the influence of the great Joseph Scaliger.

A lecture by R. Hooeykaas\footnote{43} discusses the place of Christiaen Huygens in the development of scientific methodology, and also his religious beliefs. The author explores Huygens’ attitude to reason and experiment (experience) and stresses the extent of his rejection of Descartes’ rationalism, although pointing out that, in his attempts to explain such phenomena as gravity he at times fell into similar errors.

What might be called history from a feminist perspective is offered by Elisja Schulte van Kessel in a book of five related essays, four of which have been published before but are printed here in heavily revised and corrected form.\footnote{44} The subjects of the essays are Hugo van Heusden, groomed as successor to Neercassell as head of the Holland Mission but rejected by Rome; his sisters who were influential kloppen in the Dutch Roman - catholic Church; and the chief founders of the Academia dei Lincei. These are the subjects, but the main themes are the conflict between the extremely authoritarian counter-reformation church and the puritanical catholic reformers in the Netherlands, and the consequences of the spirit/flesh dichotomy, and the parallel man/
woman dichotomy in seventeenth-century thought. The author stresses the great importance of the *kloppen* (or spiritual virgins) to the Dutch Roman-catholic Church at this time, and the extent to which this influence was seen as a threat, and systematically opposed, by an 'androcentric' society. She also argues that the importance of the role of the *kloppen* has been played down by a similarly androcentric historiography. Just as it was axiomatic that women were spiritually inferior to men, so it was felt that all things of the flesh, and particularly sexuality, were the enemies of the spiritual and intellectual side of man. This attitude is demonstrated dramatically in the writings of Joannes van Heeck and Federico Cesi, with their stress on the necessity of chastity for members of their academy. This is a rich and stimulating book, which ends with a plea for a new 'human history' to replace 'men's history'. Her work is a telling example of the profits to be gained by such a new approach — not a new type of history perhaps, but certainly a rewarding new perspective.

A short but interesting source publication edited by R.M. Dekker, contains eight eye-witness accounts of four popular disturbances that took place in Holland in the period 1690 to 1750. It is certainly a useful compilation for anyone interested in the broad subject of popular unrest and crowd behaviour in early modern Europe as well as for those concerned specifically with the social history of Holland. Two of these outbreaks, the so-called tobacco riots of 1690 and a tumult in 1750, took place at Haarlem, which, as a manufacturing town with a relatively large number of poor, had something of a tradition of popular unrest, at least insofar as this can be said of any Holland town. The butter riots of 1624, perhaps the most serious outbreak of disorder in Holland during the first half of the century, had occurred in their ugliest form at Haarlem. The other two commotions, of 1696 and 1740, occurred at Amsterdam and Rotterdam respectively. All eight of these accounts were previously unpublished. Several of the texts provide a good deal of detail not only about the riots as such but also about conditions and social structure in these leading towns. The introduction and annotations, however, are very brief and not particularly informative.

Eight colleagues of the Utrecht historian J.C. Boogman have presented him with a collection of articles, two of which, dealing with eighteenth-century subjects, were reviewed in volume XIII of this *Yearbook*. The most substantial contribution is N.C.F. van Sas's perceptive analysis of the public career of Willem Fredrik Röell, a latter-day Amsterdam regent who readily accepted the new centralized form of government introduced after 1795 and held a ministerial post and other high offices in the reign of William I. He is characterized as a realistic conservative influenced by the views of Montesquieu and other enlightened writers of his time. Although loyally serving William I, he was critical of the king's attempts to overstep the constitutional limits of his authority and shared the misgivings of many of his Dutch contemporaries about

the royal policy in relation to Belgium. Röell was strongly opposed to any political agitation and never stated his views in public; his political attitude and that of other Dutch critics of royal policy in the second and third decades of the nineteenth century is, according to Van Sas, a clear indication that the widely held view that at that time Dutch political liberalism experienced an almost total eclipse, stands in need of revision. In another interesting article J.H. von Santen describes the history of the shortlived (1846-9) Amstelsociëteit, the first liberal organization in Dutch history. In the first two years of its existence it scored some notable successes in local elections but during the revolutionary year of 1848 many of its members became more concerned with maintaining law and order than with pressing for further liberal reforms. As a result the society, which had never enjoyed the support of the most outstanding liberal of the time, Thorbecke, decided on its liquidation in 1849. Two articles, respectively by L. Blok on the new electoral law of 1850 and by G.J. Hooykaas on the new rules adopted in that same year pertaining to the right of the council of ministers to act without previous royal authorization, clarify the manner in which Thorbecke's liberal constitution of 1848 was implemented. In the last contribution to this volume C.B. Wels re-examines the conflict between the foreign minister Van Kannebeek and the Dutch parliament in the years 1925-7 about the conclusion of a treaty with Belgium. The author suggests that Van Kannebeek was more aware than most of his contemporaries of the need to improve Dutch-Belgian relations but lacked both the necessary tact and the required political backing to overcome the strong opposition to a treaty which was widely considered detrimental to Dutch commercial interests.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century serfdom (horigheid) still existed at the periphery of the Dutch Republic in Twente and East Gelderland. A thesis from the Faculty of Law at Leiden now traces the steps by which this complex of laws and personal and material obligations was gradually dismantled after 1795. It must be stated first of all that in the eighteenth century the types of serfdom which still existed in the Netherlands were in no way regarded or experienced as something to be deplored. The emphasis was very clearly on the material aspect of a legal relationship. The patriots of Overijssel who under Van der Capellen tot den Pol had so strongly opposed the so-called 'drost-services' had no difficulty with serfdom. That does not mean that serfdom was not abolished as a matter of course in 1795 when the Rights of Man and Citizen were proclaimed, at least as far as the state of personal unfreedom was concerned. However, it was not obvious how matters stood with respect to the business aspect of the relationship and various solutions to this uncertainty were sought at regional level. In Overijssel the interests of both the dominium directum (mainly state-owned) and the dominium utile managed to make themselves heard. It was to be 1820 before any clarity was brought to the situation here. The majority of the former serfs (horigen) obtained their holdings in full proprietorship. For those who could not raise the purchase price, a lease was usually created. In East Gelderland

developments took a completely different course. There the legal and economic position of the serfs was so strong that during the long period of legal uncertainty they succeeded in gaining acceptance as full proprietors. The author has described the juridical implications of this in great detail, but it is a pity that although differences in the socio-economic circumstances of each region seem to have played a decisive part in the final juridical outcome, little attention has been paid to this context.

A major source for historians interested in the industrial development of the Netherlands in the first half of the nineteenth century has long been the two volumes of industrial statistics collected by J.S. Brugmans, which were reissued several years ago. These have now been joined by a supplementary volume which publishes a number of the replies to the industrial enquêtes of 1816, 1819, 1943 and 1948 which have recently been uncovered. Whilst this volume sheds some new light on industrial centres such as Amsterdam and the Zaan region, its main interest to historians is likely to be the information it provides on industry in rural areas. It will probably take some time for this material to be assimilated by historians but we can hopefully look forward in the future to a much more sensitive assessment of the regional distribution of industry in this period and much finer distinctions in the incidence of differences in nominal wages known to exist within the country.

In a series of three articles R.W.J.M. Bos has attempted to survey the current state (i.e. as of 1978) of the debate into the causes of the late industrialization in the Netherlands. In the first of these Bos explains the slow rate of technological diffusion in terms of the development of relative factor costs, primarily labour and raw material, and demand conditions. Moreover, these varied according to the cost structures of individual industries and individual technologies and he sketches, through a number of examples, how changing circumstances dictated the timing of the adoption of new technologies. A second and much shorter article develops this theme in relation to the supply of, and demand for, industrial capital. Bos adopts the standpoint that the relative weight of small-scale light industry in the Dutch industrial structure reduced the real demand for outside capital and thus the need for special financial institutions for mobilizing capital which were more commonly associated with heavy industry. When the nature of the industrial structure began to change after 1890, the banking system proved indeed responsive to the altered circumstances. The final article returns to the theme of the first, concentrating specifically on the change in regional factor costs in the course of the nineteenth century. Bos’s study must be added to the growing list of literature which has appeared in recent years explaining


199
the industrial retardation of the Netherlands in terms of economic circumstances rather than social climate.

Two studies have been published recently which help to enlarge our insight into individual Dutch industries. J. MacLean has performed a useful service in bringing together a wealth of factual information on the development of the glass industry in Belgium and the Netherlands in the first half of the nineteenth century. The failure of experiments to establish silkworm cultivation in the Netherlands in the third quarter of the nineteenth century is discussed in an article by H.F.J.M. van den Eerenbeemt. He places the blame for the failure partly on the amateurish way in which the experiments were conducted — by people lacking in background knowledge and experience, unwilling to commit sufficient resources to guarantee success — but also on the relatively high labour costs, the expansion of sericulture in more favourable areas, and the intensification of this competition after the tariff reforms of 1862.

In his doctoral thesis H. Lintsen examines the emergence of engineering as a profession in the Netherlands in the course of the nineteenth century — engineering being defined as the formal application of science to resolve problems of technology. In the eighteenth century, engineering, by this definition, was confined almost exclusively to army officers engaged in military construction projects for which they received a scientific education in military schools. During the Batavian and French periods (1795-1813) this group was augmented by the creation of a civil engineering sector based on the requirements for maintaining the nation's water defences, though for a long time it still retained the character of its military origins. As a group, however, engineers were still struggling to discover an individual identity and social recognition. The 'de-militarization' of the profession received important boosts in the founding of the 'royal academy' in Delft in 1842, the creation of the Royal Institute for Engineers in 1847 and the Association of Civil Engineers in 1853. Moreover, the expansion of the railway network created a new area of activity for trained engineers as too did the demand for qualified personnel in the colonies. It was not, however, until the last quarter of the nineteenth century that industry began to assert any real demand for engineering services. This impressive and well-documented study traces not only the growth of the profession but also examines the quality of the education given to engineers and the development of their social status in terms of social origins, incomes and administrative independence.

Throughout Europe in the nineteenth century one of the social blackspots was the deplorable state of working-class housing characterized by insanitary conditions and chronic overcrowding. Such conditions attracted the concern of well-meaning liberals

and led to the creation of public societies aimed at improving the situation. The first Dutch initiative in this direction came from Amsterdam in 1852 with the establishment of the Vereeniging ten behoeve der arbeidersklasse and this example was copied elsewhere in the country. One such society was the Vereeniging tot verbetering der woningen van de arbeidende klasse, and its history is the subject of a short study by J.M. Dirkzwager.54 The society issued shares bearing interest at 3 per cent to its members, the proceeds of which were used for the construction of new working-class houses of a high standard. The initiative was aimed at the deserving poor; the unemployed and irregular rent payers were to be excluded. Whilst the design of the houses were far in advance of current building practice (which is well illustrated by some excellent photographs and drawings) the quantitative impact of this and similar societies on the total size of the problem was marginal. Together the 120 housing societies in the country built only 5,000 houses between 1850 and 1900 or 1 percent of the total housing constructing in the period. Their impact can be more properly assessed in terms of setting standards and awakening consciousness.

The incidence of pre-nuptial conception in the Dutch countryside in the years 1811-62 is the subject of an article by T.L.M. Engelen and M.M. Meyer.55 They have examined the details of marriages in which a child was born within seven months of the wedding for ten rural municipalities in South-Holland, Utrecht, Gelderland and Zeeuws-Vlaanderen. These were chosen in pairs designed to reflect different religious compositions of the population yet within a close geographical proximity (to reduce the possible impact of different economic structures of the results). The authors found that 18.4 percent of all marriages in the period were 'forced' with the incidence more than twice as high among protestants than among catholics. Among wage-earners and employees and among illiterates the incidence of 'forced' marriages was more likely. During the period the trend proportion of 'forced' marriages was downwards, although it was marked by sharp fluctuations which appear to be influenced by food prices; 'forced' marriages being less frequent when food prices were high.

The volume of the Tijdschrift voor geschiedenis devoted to electoral systems56 contains a number of interesting contributions on the nineteenth century, which have thus helped to make a preliminary map of a still largely uncharted terrain. In a thorough survey article57 C.B. Wels traces the development of the electoral system and the political participation of the population from 1795 to 1922 when universal suffrage was extended to women. It was a period in which the electoral system itself was the subject of political contention. An analysis of the successive systems of the Batavian-French period shows how the democracy of 1795 was gradually eroded. The complex

56. Tijdschrift voor geschiedenis, XCII (Groningen, 1979) iii, Kiestelluks en stemgedrag.
system of ranks and degrees introduced in 1814-15 hardly managed to stimulate interest in politics. This only changed in 1848 when the introduction of direct election meant that the electoral system was able to play a part in raising political consciousness. The volte-face of 1848 is investigated in more detail by L. Blok.\textsuperscript{58} With the aid of local and regional samples he first demonstrates how the old system functioned in practice and then shows how the new system brought radical changes in the composition of the Second Chamber and the Provincial States. The fact that there were scarcely any changes in the municipal councils suggests that little need was felt to attack the local elites in their positions of power. J.J. Huizinga follows the development of the electoral system from 1848 to 1917 with the emphasis on the years up to 1887.\textsuperscript{59} The need to revise the district system periodically was a guarantee of virtually continuous political discussion. The liberals were always able to profit from this 'electoral geography'. The introduction of a system of proportional representation was eventually inevitable. One of the conditions necessary for it to function, the creation of modern party organizations, had meanwhile been fulfilled. In the petitions presented to the Second Chamber in 1848-50, the question of the franchise was not notably prominent. But J. Talsma in his article\textsuperscript{60} is concerned less with the right to vote than with the petition as an historical source. He discusses the possibilities and problems of a broad systematic investigation of the petitions which reached the Second Chamber in the years 1840-1920. Such a project would also lead to a more precise definition of the concept of public opinion for this period.

Mr Harm van Riel, who died in 1980, was a well-known figure in Dutch politics. For a long time he led the liberal VVD party in the senate and for many years he was also a member of the Standing Committee of the States of South Holland. In a large volume he has written a history of the government of this province from 1850 to 1914,\textsuperscript{61} which includes a detailed account of the constitutional reforms of 1840 by which the old province of Holland was divided into two parts. The book is very diffuse and unsystematic, and its argument can scarcely be discerned. It was probably never intended to conform to the demands of present-day historical study, but even as a 'memorial volume' in the traditional sense, it falls well short of the required standard. It is above all a compendium of information on all kinds of matters, some of them hardly connected to the actual subject. The sources which Van Riel has relied on are predominantly printed and have not been as neglected by professional historians as he suggests. The rather negative conclusion to be drawn from this book is that there is not in fact much to say about the activities of the Provincial States in this period,

\textsuperscript{58} L. Blok, 'Van een wettelijke fictie tot ene waarheid. Beschouwingen over kiesstelsel en kiesrecht in Nederland in de eerste helft van de negentiende eeuw', \textit{ibidem}, 391–412.
\textsuperscript{59} J.J. Huizinga, 'Een gebroken spiegel, zeventig jaar districtenstelsel (1848-1917)', \textit{ibidem}, 426–37.
\textsuperscript{60} J. Ralsma, 'Geeft met verschuldigde eerbied te kennen. Petities over kiesstelsel en kiesrecht uit de periode 1848-1850', \textit{ibidem}, 438–51.
except possibly that the province was being crowded out between the growing activities of the government on one hand and the two great cities of the region, The Hague and especially Rotterdam, on the other.

The second volume of the correspondence of Thorbecke\textsuperscript{62} in the new series begun in 1975 covers the period from September 1833 to September 1836, up to his marriage to nineteen-year old Adelheid Solger from Dresden. In these years we see Thorbecke active in the first place as a professor at Leiden: still concerned to establish his place among his colleagues in the faculty of law, taking a part in all the academic questions and by no means disdainful of the usual gossip and intrigue. We also see him as a teacher, discussing and publicizing his students' theses and so attracting attention to himself as well as to them. Domestic politics are discussed only occasionally in this volume. In the autumn of 1835 Thorbecke began his famous course of lectures on the constitution which was to lead to his \textit{Aantoekeuning op de Grondswet} (observations on the Constitution) in 1839, but his preparations for this are barely mentioned in the correspondence. True, it appears that in March 1836 he had nothing good to say about the financial policy of the government or the way in which it treated the Chamber. But details needed to trace the relationship between such criticism and the development of his political theories are lacking. There is much more about his emotional life. There is a series of letters to his fiancée, and her mother, Thorbecke's old friend Henriette Solger. Once again, they make clear how easily he could express himself in the vocabulary of German romanticism. A special place is occupied by the letters which Henriette addressed to him, and in which she poured out an almost unstoppable stream of romantic feelings. Thorbecke's reaction makes it clear that her romanticism was not his: against her unbridled emotion he sets organic order and harmony. A similar perspective appears prominently in a pair of interesting appendices, entitled 'revolution and legitimacy' and 'organic life' in which we hear, as it were, Thorbecke thinking aloud about the organic bond between the past, present and future. In the line of reasoning which he follows lies also the legitimation of his personal political development.

As a contribution to nineteenth-century historiography, J.A.L. Lancée has written a short study of Bakhuizen van den Brink.\textsuperscript{63} It is not always entirely clear what the author has in mind as he tends to pose different problems at different times. The title refers to the problem of the 'spirit of the age'; according to the introduction the book is concerned with history as a science, in which Bakhuizen serves as a case study; while the back cover suggests that the relationship between Bakhuizen as a man and as a scholar is the main theme. In fact, this last description seems to fit the content best. Lancée sees in the 'classical sense of style' with which he believes Bakhuizen to have been imbued, the connection between his life and his works. He describes him in

C.R. EMERY AND J.A. KOSSMANN

conclusion as a 'nineteenth-century Ciceronian'. It is very doubtful whether such a characterization does justice to the personality of someone who in many respects gives the impression of being a genuine romantic. As far as the significance of this 'classical sense of style' for Bakhuizen's work is concerned, Lancée postulates it rather than making a serious attempt to evaluate and relate the various influences which he underwent, and he pays no attention to the impact of romantic conceptions which is certainly demonstrable.

The revolutionary year 1848 meant for the Dutch government not only the careful guidance of a domestic process of political modernization, but also confrontation with a complex problem of international order: the so-called Limburg question. At stake was the position of Limburg, which in 1839, in the definitive treaty with Belgium, had once again and against its will become a Dutch province as well as a member of the German Confederation. In the excitement of 1848 the expansionism of the German revolutionaries and the separatist movement in Limburg made overtures to each other. The way in which these tensions were calmed, formed the pièce de résistance of I.C. Boogman's dissertation Nederland en de Duitse Bond (1955). The problem has now been investigated from another angle, by H.G. Kraume, who analyses the way in which the case of Limburg was approached in Frankfurt as a case study in the central problems of the German revolution. This does not lead to new insights into the Limburg question as such. The result is mainly a summary of the existing literature.

What were the factors which, in the nineteenth century, determined whether a person would remain loyal to the church or abandon the traditional religion? J. Art has set out to answer this question for the diocese of Ghent and once again has displayed his mastery of Belgian church history. Making use of the extensive church archive available, he has analysed the church's official attitude towards the growth of religious disengagement, its success in interpreting and anticipating developments, and to which all this had upon the relationship between priest and parishioner as well as upon the degree of religious participation as a whole within the diocese. He supports his arguments with a mass of quantitative data on fulfillment of Easter duties, attendance at Mass, the number of people called to the priesthood and monastic life, the yield of collections, the choice of either a Catholic or a state school, natality out of wedlock and natality in general, as well as political preferences. The author argues that loyalty to the church was determined by a combination of ecclesiastical attitudes on the one hand, and local tradition on the other. Backsliding resulted from the inability of the church to respond effectively to the disruptive effects of developments such as industrialization, urbanization and social mobility upon traditional community life.

A long-standing grievance in Flemish intellectual circles was the exclusively francophone character of the Royal Academy of Belgium. They demanded a Royal Academy of Language and Literature of their own which would constitute an official acknow-

Acknowledgement of Flemish as a fully accepted language in a francophone state. After an abortive attempt to establish a combined academy with Dutch and Belgian membership, the Flemish academy was finally founded in 1886. From the start it had to struggle for its independence. The Catholic government of the time, reserving to itself the right to nominate eighteen out of the twenty-five members, tried to put its own ideological stamp on it, which made it unpopular with Flemish liberals who boycotted it. In this way the academy added to the existing dissension within the Flemish movement. The Académie Royale de Belgique, its more ancient counterpart showed a marked lack of sympathy for what it regarded as an undistinguished competitor which, by concentrating too exclusively on the cultivation of medieval studies in the beginning, had some difficulty in gaining full recognition as a scholarly institution. Its history and function in the first decades of its existence have been described by W. Rombouts who has used a mass of biographical material to shed light on all these growing pains. He might have added depth to his interpretation by paying more attention to the general political situation which influenced the young academy's early activities.

Little has been known until now of the influence exercised in Belgium by the Frenchman of letters, Charles Maurras, and his Action française. This gap has been admirably filled by E. Defoort's able and thorough study of the subject. Placing the phenomenon in its evolving socio-political context and drawing useful comparisons with the situation in France, he analyses closely the factors which affected the acceptance or rejection of Maurras's socio-political ideas in Belgium. Before 1914 these found only limited support among small, mainly Catholic groups. Their influence spread, however, during the First World War reaching a peak soon after, nourished by rapid social, economic and political change, de-confessionalization and growing pluralism. Whereas Catholic conservatives generally tried to put a brake on this development, a small group of exclusively francophone catholics opted for an openly reactionary policy and became the exponents of Maurras' movement in Belgium. They believed that his extreme anti-democratic political doctrines pointed towards a better future and provided an up-dated version of the nineteenth-century counter-revolutionary traditionalism to which they felt akin. His anti-liberal, organic view of society, his rejection of social and political democracy, his corporatism and authoritarianism had a strong appeal on these followers. But their obedience to the church was stronger than their political inclinations for when the pope condemned the Action française in 1926, its Belgian adherents bowed to the decision.

The development of income inequalities over an extended period is the theme of an article by J. de Meere on Amsterdam between 1877 and 1940. Using municipal

---


68. J.M.M. de Meere, 'Inkomensgroei en ongelijkheid te Amsterdam, 1877-1940. Een schets',
income-tax figures (a national tax on incomes was not introduced before 1914-15) and employing statistical techniques, De Meere demonstrates that there was very little change in the structure of income inequalities in the years before 1914. The war witnessed a sharp increase in inequality in the distribution of income but this declined again after 1921-22. Thereafter the pattern remained more equitable than it had been before 1914. If one considers that the timing of the 'economic revolution' in the sense of an increased tempo of industrial growth, is generally placed around 1895, then the 'social revolution' in terms of changes in income distribution, lagged some quarter of a century behind.

The dock workers have been a somewhat neglected group in the early history of the Dutch workers’ movement. A detailed descriptive survey of labour conditions in the ports of Rotterdam and Amsterdam lays a foundation for the filling of this lacuna. In particular, it provides material for an answer to the question why the dock workers in Rotterdam began to organize themselves so late. The answer is to be sought in the specific conditions in the port of Rotterdam, where large-scale firms were unknown and large numbers of casual workers were employed.

At this point mention must be made of two statistical publications which should prove indispensable to economic historians concerned with the Netherlands in the twentieth century. The Central Bureau of Statistics has published the third edition in its series Statistiek in tijdsrekenen, which appears once every ten years. Covering the period 1899-1979, it contains over 1,000 statistical series divided into 24 categories. By way of illustration of the range of topics included one could cite population, industry, agriculture, trade, balance of payments, national accounts, public finance, income and wealth, consumption, prices etc. The credit institutions for the period 1900-75. Also useful is an appendix detailing the commercial banks in the Netherlands with dates when they were founded, together with details of liquidations and mergers.

The fortunes of the Dutch fishing industry during the First World War are discussed in an interesting little book by D.J. Gouda. After the initial shock of hostilities had subsided, the industry experienced something akin to boom conditions – demand was strong, prices were high and shipping losses, running at treble peace-time levels, were within acceptable limits. The industry, however, was exposed to diplomatic pressures for the British, who were anxious to cut supplies to Germany and to retaliatory threats by the Germans to check vital coal supplies to the trawler fleet. Although the Dutch

Tijdschrift voor sociale geschiedenis, V, xiii (Amsterdam, 1979) 3–46.
71. Balansrekenen 1900-1972 van financiële instellingen in Nederland (Amsterdam: Nederlandsche Bank, 74 p.).
managed to stave off these pressures in the first two years of the war, the industry could do little to deflect the impact of intensified submarine warfare, increased British harassment and acute fuel shortages. In the course of 1917/18 the industry declined dramatically. By 1918 the level of activity had been reduced to 25 per cent of the pre-war level and, measured against this reduced activity, shipping losses were fifty times higher than normal. Almost half the workforce was unemployed. The author sets these events against the background of the expansion of the industry in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the fitful recovery in the 1920's and the renewed collapse in the Great Depression. Using primary Dutch sources, the book presents a well-documented picture of the social and economic impact of the war on a uniquely vulnerable industry, though the discussion on the political and diplomatic activity surrounding the industry must have been limited by the one-sidedness of the source material.

The industrial history of North Brabant and Zeeland between the two world wars is the subject of a study by H.F.J.M. van den Eerenbeemt, written to celebrate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Brabants-Zeeuwse Christelijke Werkgeversvereniging (Brabant-Zeeland employers' association). The book is, however, characterized by both a one-sidedness of sources and a one-sidedness of vision. In the first case Van den Eerenbeemt's laudable intention of demonstrating the value of Chamber of Commerce reports as a historical source has led him to ignore virtually all other primary sources which may have shed some light on the subject. In the second case, possibly because of the limited sources, the work is pervaded by an ethos of old-fashioned paternalism which might perhaps reflect the prevailing attitude of employers, but is less appropriate for a work written with the benefit of historical perspective. Yet, given the constraints imposed by the type of book the author has chosen to write, it is still a valuable introduction to a study of the period. Van den Eerenbeemt has a fluid and succinct style which carries the reader through a complex sequence of prosperity and decline in the two provinces. He also provides an insight into the mentality of this particular group of employers, at least insofar as it manifested itself to the public, and this particular aspect is developed in a final chapter devoted to the career of L.H. van Aken who founded the association in 1919.

The activities of another important figure in the inter-war and post-war periods are described in a study by A.J. Teychini Stakenburg, who chronicles the career of K.P. van der Mandele, chairman of the Rotterdam Chamber of Commerce from 1938 to 1963. Van der Mandele began his career with the Rotterdamsche Bank in 1906 as secretary to the directors, becoming one of its directors in 1910. Described by his biographer as not an initiator, Van der Mandele nevertheless supported initiatives in

the promotion of higher education, improved housing and other schemes of social and cultural importance. As chairman of the Chamber of Commerce he played an important role in leading the city through the period of German occupation (he was a member of the underground Fatherland Committee which channelled intelligence information to the British) and the equally different period of reconstruction. Although the destruction of much archive material in the bombing raids of May 1940 must have made this a difficult book to write, in a number of other aspects it is less than satisfactory. The attempt simultaneously to provide an insight to Van der Mandele’s thoughts, trace his career and public activities, and give an impression of background events in Rotterdam (the last rather ineffectually) is not altogether successful and gives the book as a whole a rather disjointed character.

Volume XIV of the new General History of the Netherlands provides a trio of excellent essays on the history of the Netherlands in the interwar period. In forty five pages Johan de Vries gives a clear account of the most important structural and short-term changes in the Dutch economy, seeing ‘expansion and maintenance of the position’ as the most essential traits of the period. The great recession of the thirties is given a rather less dominant place than has hitherto been normal. De Vries concludes that, up to a point, it was in these years that the foundations were laid for the mixed economy which was the basis of the expansion in welfare after World War II. J. Bosmans gives an able description of ‘social and political life’. After an account of demographic developments and the available information on social stratification (particularly on data about occupational prestige and mobility) he sketches the leading political events. The most characteristic trait was conservatism, in the sense of a desire to maintain the existing order against political and social upheaval. Confessionalists and liberals were not really divided on this issue to begin with, despite their great differences on other matters. Bosmans even speaks of an ‘incipient Christian-liberal coalition’, which, however, was undermined by the economic malaise. This led to some of the confessional parties, especially the catholics and Christian Historical Union, growing closer to the social democrats. This was made possible by the increasing acceptance of existing society on the part of the social democrats, but it did not result in a new alliance which could have dominated political life. It did, on the other hand, lay the foundations for the ‘Red-Roman’ coalition after World War II. Although anti-democratic ideas were far from absent (they suited the times) national socialist and fascist groups only won a very limited support. The compartmentalization of Dutch life played a not insignificant role in this. The grip which this compartmentalization had on the Dutch population resisted the influences of fashion and of economic change. Foreign policy is discussed by A.F. Manning who succeeds in giving a clear and informative sketch of the Dutch policy of aloofness and ‘wait-and-see’. The architects of this policy, for their part, spoke of ‘a policy of independence’ and an active neutrality.

Under the influence of the débacle of 1940 this policy was much criticized and in part not without reason. At the end of this chapter Manning explicitly poses the question whether there was alternative. He does not give an explicit answer but his implicit denial is clear. As a result of the lack of an up-to-date survey of Dutch foreign policy in this period, this chapter, although perhaps rather long in relation to the whole book, is exceptionally useful.

The other contributions on the Netherlands seem of lesser value. S.L. van der Wal and C. Godlinga had to be content with very little space for their respective contributions on the East and West Indian colonies. H.W. von der Dunk’s chapter on the Netherlands in the First World War confines itself almost entirely to the diplomatic side. The literature on other aspects is not particularly abundant, but it is strange (and the editors ought to have seen this) that the important domestic political events of 1917 (the peaceful solution of the schools question, the introduction of universal suffrage) and 1918 (a revolutionary attempt by the social democrats) have been omitted. H. van Galen Last does not succeed in elevating his article on ‘cultural life’ much above a list of familiar names and facts. One may wonder whether he was faced with an impossible task. How could one deal clearly and coherently in thirty pages with such diverse subjects as the physical sciences, the socialist youth movement, the conductor Willem Mengelberg, the catholic literary periodical De Gemeenschap (the community) and much else besides?

H. Gaus is no more successful in his treatment of Belgian cultural life. His ‘solution’ of the problem is simply to reduce the subject to three aspects: religion (which occupies most of the chapter), the educational system and cinema-going. Of writers, painters or architects there is no mention, giving a wholly misleading impression of cultural dreariness during this period. A recurring theme in Gaus’s contribution, as in most of the others on Belgian history, is the all-pervading Flemish question. Only J.L. Vellut’s short contribution on the Congo and R. Van Eno’s lucid treatment of the frustrations and dilemmas of Belgian foreign policy between the wars are more or less untouched by it. L. Schepens’ succinct description of Belgium during World War I concludes that the war not only hastened political and social change in general, but was above all instrumental in driving Walloon-Flemish antagonism to the point of no return. And although K. Veraghtert’s analysis of the Belgian economy between 1918 and 1940 does not stress regional differences in the process of industrialization, agricultural change and the monetary problems afflicting Belgium from the armistice onward, his conclusion nevertheless gives prominence to the gradual but fundamental shift of economic power from the old industrial Walloon provinces to the steadily industrializing provinces of Flanders which benefited from the opening of new coalfields in Limburg. H. Balthazar’s admirable and substantial contribution on Belgian social and political life defines the period as one of far-reaching change and unresolved problems. He describes the unequal growth of the two linguistic groupings and draws attention to the separate development of Brussels with its dwindling Flemish-speaking population, foreshadowing its ambiguous position in the second half of the century. However, the backbone of the chapter is his study of party politics between 1919 and

209
1939 which includes analyses of voting patterns, broad political movements and the role of pressure groups on the fringe of the main political parties. It is typical of Balthazar's even-handed treatment of the subject that as well as the Flemish movement, Walloon regional nationalism receives its fair share of attention.

A very useful supplement to this volume is the first volume of the new Biographical dictionary of the Netherlands,76 — intended as a continuation of the Biografisch woordenboek der Nederlanden of A.J. van der Aa (1852-78) and the Nieuw Nederlandsch biografisch woordenboek (1911-37). The work, which has no predetermined limits, will include representatives from politics, administration, arts and science, technology, industry, etc. The first volume largely concerns persons deceased since 1910, among them a large number of jurists and historians.

Some other publications are also of biographical interest. To begin with, there is the edition of the correspondence between the historians Geyl and Gerretson, of which the first volume, covering the period 1911-28, has now appeared.77 Most of it refers to Dutch-Belgian relations, especially the controversial Scheldt treaty, which was finally repudiated by the Dutch First Chamber in 1927, and to the Flemish Movement. Without a preliminary knowledge of these matters, the correspondence may be difficult to follow. Far more stimulating are the personal details which the authors reveal about themselves: emotions, partis-pris and reciprocal irritations. Most of the letters are by Geyl, who at that time was living and working in London and regarded himself as an exile, cut off from adequate contacts and information. So that his letters often take the character of cri de coeur, intended to demonstrate the unappreciated rightness of his points of view. Gerretson, who was an established figure in politics and scholarship, can often only comply with difficulty, and sometimes not at all, with the demands made upon him.

J. Engels belonged to a completely different group in Dutch society. Born in 1896, he was at an early age a member of the socialist workers' movement, and felt himself attracted to the left wing. He has now given an account of his experiences in a variety of organizations in his memoirs, entitled 'sixty years socialist movement'.78 He pays more attention to events and to ideas than to personalities and his book has no strongly autobiographical character. In a sense this is a pity. What he has to say here is rather abstract and not very original. Engels stresses the intellectual foundations of socialism and is a supporter of pacifism and non-violence, even in the revolutionary struggle.

Also biographical are the articles, of the greatest interest to historians, in the first volume of the new Yearbook for democratic socialism79 which, encouraged by the

78. J. Engels, Zestig jaar socialistische beweging (Amsterdam: Van Gennep, 1978, 244 p., ISBN 90 6012 351 4, Dfl 36,—).
growing interest in the history of the workers' movement and socialism in the Netherlands, aims to 'relate the development of political theory to historical analysis'. Although not formally associated with any political party it directs itself expressly to what the title describes as 'democratic socialism, or in present day political terms the Dutch Labour Party. In that sense it can be seen as a rival of the Jaarboek voor de geschiedenis van socialisme en arbeidersbeweging which, though not tied to any party either, has a more radical socialist character. The first volume of the new yearbook contains, beside a number of papers which do not refer to the Netherlands, and several theoretical contributions, biographical articles on F. van der Goes, J.G. Suurhof and J. de Kadt, each of which is solid without being remarkable.

P. de Rooy's doctoral dissertation on unemployment policies between the wars provides some fascinating insights into the period as a whole. His research was primarily concerned with the steps taken by government to help the unemployed and the measures considered (though not always adopted) for combatting unemployment. Focusing mainly upon the 1930s, his extensive research in the central government and Amsterdam municipal archives has uncovered a mass of very interesting material. De Rooy sketches the way in which politicians, civil servants, various specialists and representatives of the zulen (pilars: the formal political, confessional and cultural organizations which permeated and divided Dutch society at every level) wrestled with the problems of unemployment. Failures far outnumbered successes. The measures pursued to combat unemployment were a mere drop in the ocean, while the steps taken to alleviate unemployment have often been sharply criticized, particularly in respect of the amount of assistance and the manner of its provision. However, from a wider perspective it can be seen that during this period, for the first time in the history of the Netherlands, support for the unemployed ceased to be a charitable activity dependent upon private initiatives, and became a recognized 'right to benefit'. Furthermore, this new system continued to operate in the face of huge numbers and colossal difficulties. The author traces its workings in detail through the bureaucratic maze of government and zuil organizations. Despite the determined efforts of the latter to keep a finger in every pie (care for the unemployed youth is a good example), the nature and sheer scale of the problem led to the government's having to play a relatively ever-increasing role. In his conclusion, De Rooy makes some interesting observations on the zuil-system, the 'pillarization' (verzuiling) during these years. Its success, indeed its survival, demanded a harmonious relationship between employers and employed, or perhaps one should say a regulation of the conflict of interests between labour and capital. Ideological reconciliation between the zulen was an essential concomitant of pacification in the socio-economic field, for without it verzuiling and the entire social order with which it was intimately connected, would have been seriously threatened. Reconciliation, however, did occur and in fact fairly rapidly after the 'warning' of the so-called 'attempted revolution' of Troelstra in 1918. The complex high-level socio-

economic consultation which resulted ensured that any ideas of direct action by workers or labour organizations on the shop-floor, or theories of worker participation had no chance of success. In fact, they attracted little interest within most of the workers' organizations themselves. The book makes an interesting and important contribution to the history of the inter-war period.

Also of considerable interest for this period are the papers and proceedings of a conference on the Netherlands in the nineteen thirties which was held in 1977. Like most collections the contributions are wide-ranging in scope and importance. Among the more interesting discussions of economic issues are chapters devoted to an analysis of agrarian exports to England, the development of shipping and shipbuilding, a discussion of economic policy and the presentation of an econometric simulation model for the economy. Contributions to the social history of the period include chapters on the regional and sectorial incidence of unemployment, the incidence of unemployment in the cigar industry, regional differences in birth and fertility rates and the activities of the *werkfonds* established in 1934 to provide government credit to industry. Two chapters are local demographic studies of Leiden and a district in the town of Groningen. The political chapters include discussions of the reaction of the socialist party leadership to the crisis, the bases of the political power of the prime minister Colijn, the political control exercised over the catholic section of the population, the development of democratic socialism and electoral success of the fascist party in 1935. Finally, two chapters are devoted to an analysis of how the crisis was reflected in contemporary newspaper and periodical literature and one to how it was reflected in the writings of economic historians at the time. Although some topics are obviously more peripheral than others, it is a useful book in that it reflects the work currently being undertaken in the Netherlands into the inter-war period. Similarly, its omissions, some of which are indicated in the concluding chapter, highlight those areas in which further research still needs to be undertaken.

L. de Jong publishes new volumes of his study of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War with great regularity. Volume IX is entitled *Londen* and its central theme is the government which fled to London in May 1940 (the queen and her ministers) and the institutions which it set up. The government in exile had many tasks to perform: to make what contribution it could to carry on the war, to deal with matters concerning the Dutch East Indies, to regulate Dutch possessions abroad, including the merchant fleet, to receive refugees from the occupied Netherlands, to attempt to make contact with resistance groups and to gather information on the state of affairs in the home country, to prepare for the situation after the liberation, etc. All

this is discussed in detail by De Jong. The period covered extends from the German invasion of the Netherlands to the allied landings in Normandy in 1944. Despite its bulk (c 1500 pages) this is a stimulating book. The high points are the detailed discussion, which is definitive and exhaustive, of the so-called *Engelandspiel* and the account of the varied and often exciting relationships between the leading figures in the small world of Dutchmen in London, especially those between the queen and her ministers. As far as the *Engelandspiel* is concerned, De Jong shows once again that it was not treachery which caused the tragic failure of this espionage scheme, set up from England and successfully infiltrated by German counterespionage, but blunders on the English side, from which Dutch organizations cannot be entirely absolved. Among the many able character sketches, the passages on Queen Wilhelmina take the place of honour. De Jong’s admiration for her has not prevented him from showing in a clear light those parts of her opinions and policy which are open to criticism. In the pre-war Netherlands the constitution had prevented her from exercising any real power. In London, the situation was different and she imagined that after the war she would be allowed to retain her leading position. This brought her into conflict with many of her ministers, and not least with that other strong personality the prime minister, P.S. Gerbrandy, who came increasingly to oppose her.

Apart from De Jong’s *Magnum opus*, a number of other publications on the Netherlands during the Second World War can be mentioned. The first volume of a history of Zeeland from 1940-45 is a treasure-house of precise information. The military operations and many kinds of administrative activities take up the greater part of the book, and it was here that the source material was plentiful. The description of the mood among the population, which is presented as naturally anti-German and above all opposed to the National Socialist Movement (NSB) is based less firmly on source materials. In the period covered in this volume (to summer 1943) there was hardly evidence of resistance activities, and Zeeland’s participation in the well-known strikes of April and May 1943, with which the volume ends, was relatively slight. The author regrettably died before publication of the book. It is to be hoped that his successor will be able to complete the work before long.

In a fairly short, but still impressive book B.A. Sijes has gathered the results of an investigation into the persecution of gypsies in the Netherlands during the German occupation. After May 1940 the existing police measures were at first stepped up and eventually altered to conform to the German racialist approach towards gypsies, resulting in outright persecution and deportation. This exhaustive study of a small and generally unpopular group can be seen as a case-study of how the nazi ideology could be put into effect by taking advantage of an existing situation.

83. For publications on the *Engelandspiel* see also the Surveys in *The Low Countries’ History Yearbook 1979* and 1980.
In a useful article, A.F. Manning discussed the attitude of Dutch catholics at the beginning of the German occupation. For lack of preliminary studies, he has devoted himself wholly to the leaders both of the church and of the catholic social and communal organizations. This seems unexceptionable in view of the ready obedience to their leaders which typified the catholic part of the Dutch nation. Though first reactions were not very militant, national socialism was regarded as corrupt and the NSB remained a forbidden organization to catholics. After July 1941, however, the leaders firmly refused to co-operate with the German policy of incorporating their social organizations into unitary organizations sponsored by the Germans. Many catholics then followed their lead.

As the war continued and German defeat grew more likely, the problem of reconstruction of Dutch society after the liberation seemed urgent. By no means everyone wanted an unaltered return to the pre-war situation. 'Renewal' was a word often heard in discussions in all circles in the occupied country. The ideas which arose in the hostages camp at Sint Michielsgestel proved of great importance. M. de Keizer has written an important book on the discussion of certain groups among these hostages, almost all of them from the social and intellectual elite. Although most of the contacts remained informal, a small group inspired by Banning and Schermehorn went to work more purposefully, working from the idea that post-war Dutch society ought no longer to be typified by its social and religious fragmentation. In its place there should be a new mentality of solidarity and unity, which was to put 'spiritual' matters above 'material'. This idea, which found its inspiration, *inter alia*, in French personalism, was vague enough, but this did not prevent the group from making preparations for the realization of their hopes after the war. The result was the short-lived flowering of the Nederlandse Volksbeweging (Netherlands People's Movement).

As a result of military developments the south of the Netherlands was conquered by the allied troops about six months before the rest of the country. Thus the town of Nijmegen was at the front line for some time. Its political situation in that period is the subject of a carefully written and well-documented book by H. Termeer. Here, as apparently in other places in the south, the group of 'newers' was strong to start with, and was moreover supported by the military authorities. It did not, however, start organizing anything on a larger scale, preferring to wait for the liberation of the whole country. By that time the favourable tide for the newers in the south had turned and the old powers who had called the tune before the war had regained much

88. On this subject see the publication by J. Bank discussed in *The Low Countries History Yearbook* 1980, p. 183.
lost ground. The partly communist-inspired Unity trade union movement also experienced a short period of popularity, but soon fell back because of its identification with communism. The broad-based socialist party, transcending the boundaries of socialism and communism, aimed at by some in Nijmegen, also failed to get off the ground.

This desire for the co-operation of radical socialists from various pre-war organizations had been echoed during the war in the underground periodical De Vonk (the Spark). After the war it was continued under the name De Vlam (the Flame). Although in financial difficulties from the outset, De Vlam played a political role for a time as the mouthpiece of left-wing radical socialism. Using the archives of this paper, now at the International Institute for Social History at Amsterdam, J. Rogier has written an interesting article on three subjects from the history of De Vlam. He shows how difficult it was to achieve greater co-operation between various sorts of left-wing socialists. In December 1946 personal conflicts affecting the editorial board foreshadowed, according to Rogier, the social and political failure of the Vlam formula.

In 1976, when the law case against P.N. Menten, accused of having committed war crimes during the Second World War was reopened, the Dutch government decided on an independent historical investigation into the earlier official proceedings in connection with the defendant and the various influences to which these proceedings had been subjected. The committee which was appointed for this purpose consisted of two historians (J.H.C. Blom and I. Schöffer) and one jurist (A.C. 't Hart), who were given free access to all government documents as well as the right to obtain information from any government official concerned. Their highly readable report thoroughly examines most aspects of this complicated case and makes an important contribution to our understanding of Dutch history in the post-World War II period. Besides attempting to determine any miscarriage of justice it investigates the extent to which any errors made were due to the general attitude toward political delinquency prevailing at the time rather than to any personal deficiencies of government officials or politicians. In the immediate post-war period, when a mood of revenge against any war-time collaboration was rampant, Menten was in some respects more harshly treated than was warranted by the scant evidence that at that time was available about his activities in Poland. But later on, when there was much clearer indication that he had been involved in large-scale atrocities, he benefited unduly from the lenient view which was then taken of war-time collaboration with the enemy. The Report also points out that Menten and his lawyers took unfair advantage of the safeguards which Dutch democracy provides for protecting the innocent and is highly critical of the


attitude taken by some officials and other persons involved in the proceedings. On the other hand, it concludes that the allegations that Menten secured his favourable treatment as a result of bribery or blackmail, are unfounded. The Committee purposely refrained from any statements about the guilt or innocence of Menten himself whose case was still pending when its investigations took place. But the appendix to the Report contains an informative sketch of Menten’s background and war-time activities as well as the text of numerous official documents and personal testimonies relating to the Menten case.

The second volume of R. Roegholt’s work on Amsterdam in the twentieth century has now appeared commendably soon after the first volume in 1976. This volume covers the period 1945-70. Like the first it is handsomely illustrated and very readable, and will be most stimulating for those who know the city. The external development of the city and its intellectual and cultural life, especially that of the avantgarde élite, are the central themes of a strongly narrative account with an eye for telling detail. However, one looks in vain for a consistent more analytical account of the political situation of economic developments, even though political and economic subjects are of course regularly discussed. The most familiar part for non-Amsterdammers will probably be the last chapter on the turmoil in the city during the sixties, when events in Amsterdam, especially the so-called ‘Provo’ riots drew a wide attention. Roegholt sketches all this again, but once more the emphasis is on the external facts which made the front pages of the newspapers at the time. The observations which the author makes to fill in the background are few and not very penetrating.

For the period after the Second World War, we must deviate from our usual custom to mention two reprints, both heavily revised and expanded. Firstly P.J. Oud’s famous survey of the political and parliamentary history of the Netherlands from 1840 to 1940, which first appeared in 1946 under the title of Honderd Jaren. Just how far this book filled a gap is plain from the many reprints which were required. Now a revised and amplified version has been published, edited by J. Bosmans. For the period described by Oud himself, who died in 1968, Bosmans has modified the text where necessary to conform to the present state of historical knowledge, and has also divided each chapter into sections. His real achievement however, is in the hundred pages which he has added to cover the period since 1940. In a clear style, which fits in remarkably well with that of Oud himself, he continues the narrative up to the creation of the Van Agt cabinet in 1977. Such a survey was lacking up to now and without doubt, ‘Oud and Bosmans’ will often be consulted for Bosmans’ share in it. The fact that the title is no longer accurate need cause no concern.

The second, expanded and usefully enlarged, new edition is that of Schneider’s study of Dutch newspapers, which first appeared in 1943. It has been prepared in

collaboration with J. Hemels and thoroughly reorganized and amplified and made
up-to-date. For the twentieth century the result is a virtually new book, a mine of
information on the history of the Dutch press, with a useful series of appendices,
including statistical material and a bibliography. It is hardly the authors' fault if their
book leaves a variety of questions as yet unanswerable. For example, an obvious
desideratum is a survey of all the newspapers which have appeared in the Netherlands,
with all relevant details such as ownership, printer, editors, etc. This new book shows
that the basic material is available.

In the years since the Second World War, and especially in the sixties, important
changes in the prevailing climate of sexual morality took place in the Netherlands.
Until the sixties public opinion and legislation were, under the influence of the
churches and confessional parties, very strict. Nowadays the atmosphere is much freer.
One aspect of this subject is opinion on abortion, on which J. de Bruijn has written a
carefully documented dissertation. In his many-faceted discussion of the subject in
its political, ethical and religious, juridical and medical dimensions, the debate on the
permissibility of abortion is the central theme. This has only been looked upon as a
problem since the end of the nineteenth century. Before that time, abortion, though
considered a crime, scarcely attracted any attention. The discussion of it, which was
initiated by the radical liberals, was regarded for a long time as part of the wider
question of birth control and thus as a question of morality in general. Abortion came
out of the tabooed sphere quite suddenly at the end of the nineteen-sixties and in the
seventies became a not unimportant political question. De Bruijn has compiled a useful
book, seen both as history and in the context of the political debate which ended in a
special Abortion Law in 1981. The author's calm tone and the absence of a biased
opinion serve to give the debate an historical dimension.

Finally, there is an attempt to recount the most recent past in a short compass but
covering many aspects. Using the results of public opinion surveys in the sixties,
1970 and 1975, C.P. Middendorp tries to survey the trends in what he calls the 'culture
terrain', which he analyses under three headings: politicization (also including ideo-
logical formation, deconfessionalization and the breakdown of the old 'pillars')
democratization and individualization. To explain these cultural changes he regards three
structural developments as of greatest importance: technological process (which has
brought with it more welfare, more leisure, better communications and education, and
changes in the occupational structure) the increasing scale of economic activity and
the increasing possibilities of individualization. These and other abstractions recur
throughout the book and form the basis of Middendorp's analysis. The leap from very

94. M. Schneider and J. Hemels, De Nederlandse krant 1618-1978. Van 'nieuwstijdinghe' tot
95. J. de Bruijn, Geschiedenis van de abortus in Nederland. Een analyse van de opvattingen en
Also thesis Faculty of Arts, Groningen).
96. C.P. Middendorp, Onztulling, politiseren en restauratie in Nederland. Progresstiteit en con-
concrete empirical material on the one hand to lofty abstraction on the other is sometimes very great and not always clear. One may wonder whether it would not have been useful to bring the 'middle level', the leading political, social and economic events more explicitly into consideration. This objection, and the fact that much of the statistical evidence is technically difficult to follow, do not detract from the challenge which this book can be said to offer: a challenge both to indicate what exactly is wrong with it, and also to do it better or to build on its foundations. It is also interesting to report that according to the author the stagnation of structural change in the early seventies did in fact bring about a trend to restoration, as was to be expected. He too comes to the conclusion that the changes of the sixties were in some respects less radical than has been believed.

Contributors to this article:

Dr. J.C.H. Blom — University of Amsterdam — twentieth century Dutch social and political history
Dr. R. Griffiths — Free University, Amsterdam — nineteenth and twentieth century Dutch economic history
Dr. C. Hibben — Bath — early modern history
Dr. J. Israel — University College London — early modern history
Dr. Johanna Kossmann — Groningen — medieval history
Dr. J.L. Price — University of Hull — early modern history
N. van Sas — University of Utrecht — nineteenth century Dutch social and political history
Dr. H. Van Velthoven — Free University, Brussels — later modern Belgian political history
Dr. K.W. Swart — University College London — later modern Dutch political history

SELECT LIST OF RECENT WORKS ON THE HISTORY OF THE LOW COUNTRIES PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH


Of interest for Dutch medieval history because it contains full documentation of the claims to the Scottish throne put forward by Florence V, count of Holland. In their introduction (vol. I) the editors pay due attention to the count's enigmatic behaviour in this matter.


Contains documents on Edward I's preparation for his campaign in Flanders (1297) and his difficulties in collecting an army and enough money to meet the vast ex-
penditure involved. His measures included a 'prise' by royal officials of the wool intended for export.

A useful and workmanlike survey of the Dutch herring industry in the seventeenth century and its interaction with Dutch Baltic trade. The explanation given for the pattern of herring exports, however, is rather incomplete as the author takes little or no account of the impact of war and salt-shortages on the herring industry in the period before 1650.

An excellent collection of papers, eleven of them in English and five in French, which modify in important ways our picture of the place of the treaty in European political and diplomatic history. Two useful contributions on Dutch policy by D.J. Koorda and H.H. Rowen and a stimulating introduction by Ragnild Hatton.

An analysis of the slow industrialization of the Netherlands in the two decades following the Belgian secession by reference to the factor-cost mix confronting different sectors of industry and different regions. Also of interest is the suggestion that whilst industry may not have been expanding dramatically there was clear evidence of growth in other sectors of the economy.

A survey of the main lines of Dutch foreign policy since 1945 with a full historical introduction on the period before 1945. A useful addition to the not very voluminous literature on the history of Dutch foreign policy.

A detailed account of an incident concerning the ship Martin Bohrman, which could have had serious repercussions for Dutch-US relations in early 1947, but which was successfully defused.

Very useful data for the economic history of the former Dutch East Indies.

A collection of articles in honour of P. Creutzberg, editor of many useful source publications. The volume contains articles in Dutch and English.

Papers of the Dutch-Indonesian Historical Conference held at Noordwijkhout, the Netherlands, 19 to 22 May 1976. Published by the Bureau of Indonesian Studies under the auspices of the Dutch and Indonesian Steering Committees of the Indonesian Studies Program (Leiden & Jacarta, 1978, 253 p., obtainable from the Bureau of Indonesian Studies, Stationsplein 10, Leiden).

The unofficial theme of this collection appears to be the structural effects of the colonial regime. Most of the articles refer to the nineteenth-century history of the Dutch East Indies.
The Authors

R. ABMA teaches history at Fivel College, Delfzijl.

Dr. W. BRULEZ is Professor of Economic History at the University of Ghent.

Dr. HILDA COPPEJANS-DESMEDT is a Head of Department of the State Archives, Ghent.

Dr. A. TH. VAN DEURSEN is Professor of Modern History at the Free (Calvinist) University, Amsterdam.

Dr. C. R. EMERY is a Senior Lecturer at Teesside Polytechnic.

Dr. O. J. DE JONG is Professor of the History of Christianity at the University of Utrecht.

R. JURRIENS, a sociologist, is now Sales Manager of the Rubber Department, DSM (Chemical Industries), Heerlen.

Dr. E. H. KOSSMANN is Professor of Modern History at the University of Groningen.

Dr. J. P. VAN DE VOORT is Director of the MARDOC Foundation (Documentation on Maritime History Collections), Rotterdam.

Translations by:

J. C. Coonan, Atlanta (GA)
Dr. C. R. Emery, Darlington (Co. Durham)
J. C. Grayson, Liverpool
Dr. C. C. Hibben, Bath
J. J. Ravell, Bilthoven