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Annual Report Biography Institute 2011 - 2012

# Biography Institute



## Annual Report 2011 - 2012



university of  
groningen

Annual Report Biography Institute  
University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
1 September 2011 - 31 August 2012

Voor het eerst op de Kermis alhier!

**Nieuw.**

**Nieuw.**

## *Levende Fotographiën.<sup>1</sup>*

**ENORM SUCCES.**

Gedurende de Kermis is alhier gearriveerd

# De Electrische Kinematograaf en BIOGRAAF, Standplaats Vischmarkt.

 Hiermede hebben wij de eer het geachte publiek deser gemeente en omstreken kennis te geven, dat wij zijn gearriveerd met de onovertroffen ELECTRISCHE KINEMATOGRAAF, zijnde een verbeterd systeem, waardoor het trillen voorkomen wordt.

De Machine geeft de beelden levensgroot en zeer duidelijk weer, zelst zoo, dat men meent de Tooneelen in werkelijkheid te aanschouwen. De Salon is geheel naar de eischen des tijds ingericht en electrisch verlicht.

De nieuwste en pracatigste Tableaux zullen worden vertoond, als:

Het optrekken der Transvaalsche Boeren naar het oorlogsterrein. Het transporteren van Engelsche krijgsgevangenen door de Boeren naar Pretoria. De aftocht der Engelsche Lanciers na den slag bij Modderrivier. Aankomst van den spoortrein te Pretoria. Een stierengevecht te Madrid (zeer interessant!) Gesnakte dieven, enz. enz. Meer dan 1000 verschillende tableaux!

Eik uur een voorstelling met afwisselend programma.

's-Middags Extra KINDERVOORSTELLING.  
DE DIRECTIE, N. H. SCHINKEL.

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# Biografie Instituut



RuG

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen  
[www.biografieinstituut.nl](http://www.biografieinstituut.nl)



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## Preface

On 1 September 2004 the University of Groningen established the Biography Institute. This annual report provides an overview of the principal activities, developments and activities of the Biography Institute in its eighth year.

The Biography Institute is associated with the Faculty of Arts. Its founding was financially made possible by *Stichting Democratie en Media* (SDM, Democracy and Media Foundation). However, the institute applies a strict policy of autonomy.

The Biography Institute has the following objectives:

- to offer an infrastructure and specific support to graduate students doing biographical research,
- to stimulate the development of theoretical perspectives on biography as an academic genre.

The Biography Institute supervises graduate students preparing PhD's, as well as undergraduate students writing master theses or taking part in research classes within the domain of biography. For Bachelor students the institute set up a lecture series, titled 'Dutch History II, Dutch identity; Theme: Dutch politics after 1900 in biographies'.

With regard to the development of theoretical perspectives on biography the Biography Institute aims at organising scientific conferences and symposia and at publishing biographies, conference proceedings and academic articles. In order to achieve these aims, a chair in biography was founded on 1 March 2007 and on 1 March 2012 the Department of History and Theory of Biography was established. Students may enroll for lecture series, organized by this department.

Over the next few years, researchers of the institute will study the theme of 'journalism, publishing, and social democracy' on various levels, focusing on sources, narrative forms, and social-cultural contexts. They will also explore related domains such as art, entrepreneurship, education, politics, religion and technology.

**MIRJAM DE BAAR, YME KUIPER  
& HANS RENDERS [RED.]**



# **BIOGRAFIE & RELIGIE**

## **DE RELIGIEUZE FACTOR IN DE BIOGRAFIE**

**Boom | BIOGRAFIE INSTITUUT**

### **1.1 Employees**

- Prof. J.W. Renders, director (0,4 fte), manages the institute.
- I.L. Hengeveld, coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of the institute.
- A. Dekker, PhD researcher, in September 2010 appointed to write the biography of Anton Kröller.
- B.B.J. de Haan MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte) in September 2009 appointed to conduct theoretical research on biographical traditions in international perspective.
- Dr H.J. Langeveld, associate professor (1 fte), in December 2005 appointed to write the biography of Willem Schermerhorn..
- Dr E.M. Rovers, senior researcher (1 fte), in September 2011 appointed to write the biography of Bouwewijn Büch.

### **1.2 PhD Researchers**

In the academic year 2011-2012 the Biography Institute guided six PhD's in total, apart from two senior researchers. Two of these PhD's are employees of the institute, the other four are external PhD researchers.

- Ariëtte Dekker writes the biography of Anton Kröller; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. P. Kooij (em. RUG).
- Binne de Haan is conducting research on the theory of the biography; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.

### **External PhD Researchers**

- Bas Kromhout is writing the biography of Henk Feldmeijer; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Dr B.E. van der Boom (UL) and E. Klijn MA (NIOD).
- Bouwewijn Smits writes the biography of Loe de Jong; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. J.C.H. Blom (em. UVA) and Prof. P. Romijn (NIOD/UVA).

- Maarten Ternede is writing the biography of J.C.J. Lammers; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.C.H. Blom (em. UvA), Dr H. Pruntel (Nieuw Land Erfgoedcentrum), Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. P. de Rooij (UvA).
- Roelie Zwikker is writing the biography of Vincent Willem van Gogh; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.

### **1.3 Advisory committee**

The Biography Institute is assisted in its development by an advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee are: Prof. J.C.H. Blom (chairman), Prof. E. Etty, Prof. G.T. Jensma, T.P.M. Strengers and Prof. G.C. Wakker.

### **1.4 Finance**

In terms of its finance the Biography Institute is, according to the Faculty Board within the University of Groningen, regarded as a project. This entails that external financial resources are acquired to cover the staff costs of the Biography Institute and the costs of conferences, symposia and conference volumes. The existence of the institute itself is supported by the Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM).

For the projects of the biographies of Anton Kröller and Helene Kröller-Müller, a grant was awarded by the Foundation for the National Park De Hoge Veluwe and the Kröller-Müller Museum, in addition to the contribution of the Faculty of the University (Graduate School OGWG). The Democracy & Media Foundation contributes financially the biography of Schermerhorn.

Other projects were financially supported by Archive and Documentation centre for Dutch Behavioral Sciences (ADNG), Municipality of Rotterdam (Arts and Culture), Foundation Harten Fonds, J.E. Jurriaanse Foundation, The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), National Museum of Education, Dutch Foundation of Literature, Foundation Nicolaas Muleriusfonds and Research School OGWG.

### **1.5 Website and Newsletter**

The Biography Institute has its own website: [www.rug.nl/  
BiografieInstituut](http://www.rug.nl/BiografieInstituut), also accessible via [www.BiografieInstituut.nl](http://www.BiografieInstituut.nl). On this website, visitors can access information about the objectives and the subjects of research of the institute, as well as information on ongoing projects and conferences, both in Dutch and English.

The site features a news section that is updated at least once a month. The website also includes files made accessible by the institute through digitalization. Furthermore the website contains an extensive list of related links about biography, and it is possible to contact the institute and its members via the website.

The website of the Biography Institute has been the most visited website of all the research websites of the Faculty of Arts since it was established. The annual number of visitors this year is more than 23.000.

Those who are interested, can be kept informed about activities of the institute through a newsletter which is distributed by email. Currently, more than 800 people are receiving the newsletter. Three newsletters have been distributed during this academic year.



## Projects

### 2.1 Biography projects

One of the main goals of the Biography Institute, giving guidance to biographers, was accomplished this year by guiding, among others, the following biographers: Ariëtte Dekker (Anton Kröller), Binne de Haan (Denken over Biografie), Bas Kromhout (Henk Feldmeijer), Boudewijn Smits (Loe de Jong) en Roelie Zwikker (Vincent Willem van Gogh).

#### *Considering Biography*

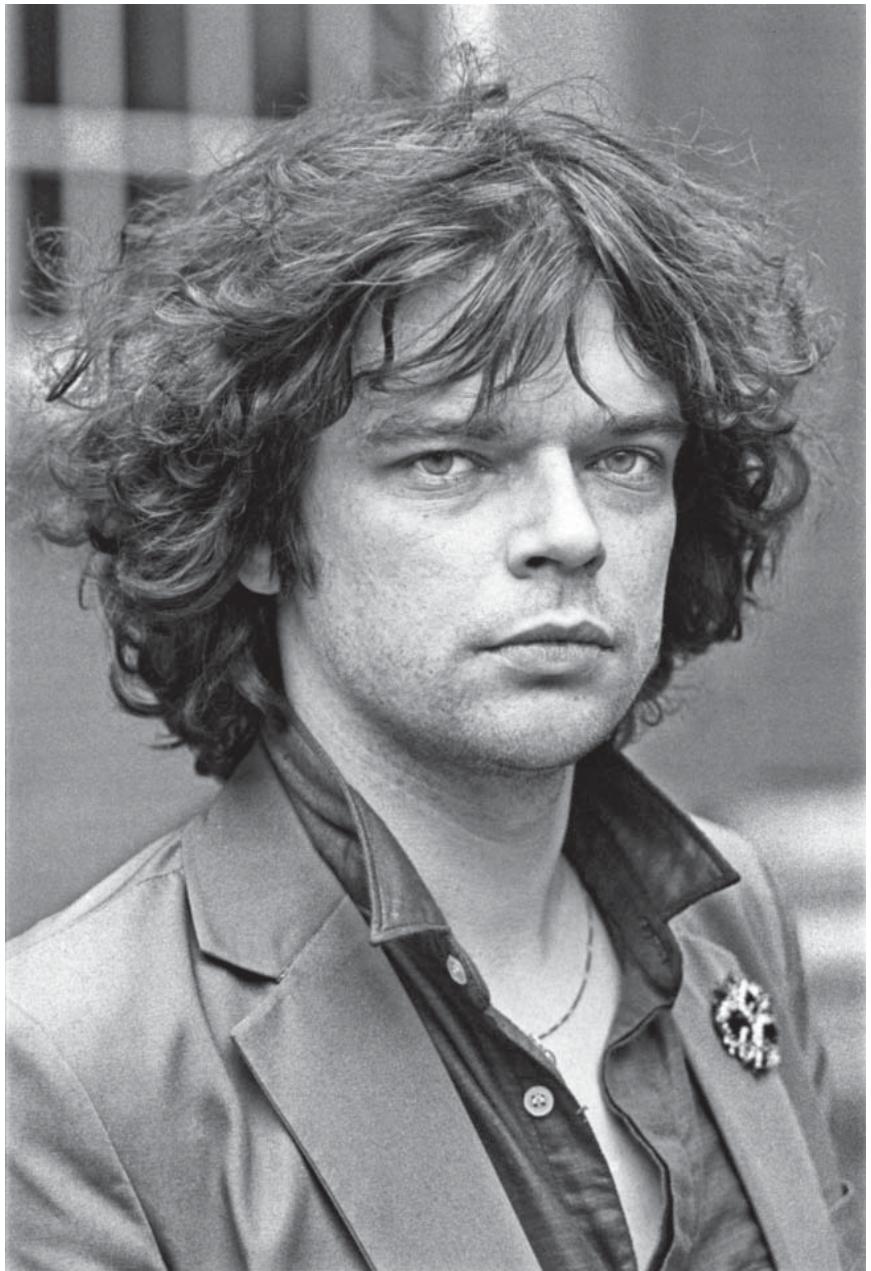
Which theoretical-critical approaches have shaped the international reflection on biography in the twentieth century and what have been the consequences of this reflection on the interpretation of biography as a form of historiography? This is the main topic of the PhD-thesis *Considering Biography. Criticism, theory and historiography in the twentieth century*. This research focuses on three fields of scholarly activity: the critical developments in social sciences and especially in historiography, the studies that have paid specific attention to biography, and finally the biographies themselves, the research conducted and the design chosen by biographers. The relationship between biography and historiography is especially at stake.

In the twentieth century, biography at large, and as a form of historiographical research, has been neglected in respect to critical investigation. Finally, biography was even considered more as a literary form than as a component of historical science.

Several objections have been raised against biography as a method being part of historiography. Because biography focuses on one individual only, we may not call it 'full' historiography. Furthermore, biographers would have put biography outside the fences of academic historiography by using too liberally 'literary' narrative techniques, and by not being transparent about their research criteria, as a result of which biographers fail to use new insights that have emerged in academic research.



Michelangelo, Mozes



Boudewijn Büch  
© Klaas Koppe

These and other questions that are raised by a reflection on biography, have been the subject of study for small groups of social scientists around the world, who worked in the previous decades on the margins of the academia to assess the merits of biography. Some referred to each other's work, but more often that wasn't the case. Partly due to the lack of this academic framework, a coherent interpretation and analysis of the different directions of academic research concerning biography in the twentieth century is missing.

For this reason this study will not only provide an overview of the academic visions on biography developed in the twentieth century, but also offer an interpretational framework for the questions which have been asked over time in considering biography.

#### *Boudewijn Büch*

After the death of writer Boudewijn Büch in 2002 many have tried to capture the life of this striking personality. Countless books, newspaper articles, and television programs have been dedicated to bibliophile Boudewijn, the poet Boudewijn, collector Boudewijn, Boudewijn who grew up in Wassenaar, Boudewijn the Goethe devotee, the fallen communist, the gay who was straight, the friend of... Most attention by far was paid to Boudewijn Büch the master of deceit, the man who needed more than reality alone and who therefore created a parallel universe.

The abundant attention which was devoted to his many mystifications eclipsed the perception of the person Boudewijn Büch and of his tumultuous career. That is a shame, as he left a collection of unusual poems, several moving books and countless unequalled coverages, which introduced a broad audience to the most remote corners of the world. Not in the least Büch knew how to convey his inexhaustible enthusiasm for books. As a weekly guest in the talk show of Frits Barend and Henk van Dorp for instance, he arose the curiosity of the Dutch for long forgotten novels and authors.

After Büch's death however, hardly any attention was paid to the role he had played within the Dutch cultural field the previous twenty years. The literary establishment considered him little more than a rascal who read a book or two. However, in retrospect he proves to be exemplary for the changing beliefs regarding taste in the last quarter of the twentieth century, when the traditional distinction between high and low art began to fade. In an infectious way Büch showed that a person does not need to

be a stuffy professor in order to love history or poetry. He was a cultural omnivore, who started his career as a poet and wound up to be a television personality. In the period between he worked as passionately on columns for *Playboy* and *Nieuwe Revue* as he did on articles on Rimbaud for a quality news paper as *NRC Handelsblad*. The one day he would write about major authors in literary journal *Maatstaf*, the next he would throw new publications he disliked around the studio of his television program *Büch's books*. At least as poignant was the contrast between the introspection of his own novels and the philosophical thoroughness of Goethe's work, whom he greatly admired. It was exactly his versatility and the range of media Büch used to ventilate his preferences, through which he managed to revive interest in literature, history and poetry among a broad and young audience.

#### *Vincent Willem van Gogh*

The leading emphasis of the extensive research that takes place at the Van Gogh Museum is on the artist Vincent van Gogh and his contemporaries. Until now, a more specific focus on his nephew, the founder of the Van Gogh Museum who died in 1978, has remained in the background. The planned biography will establish a picture of the life and career of this man, who was determined to preserve the collection of Vincent and Theo van Gogh and to open it up to the public.

Vincent Willem Van Gogh was born in Paris on 31 January 1890, the son of Theo Van Gogh (1857-1891) and Jo Bonger (1862-1925). They named their only child after Theo's brother, the artist Vincent Willem Van Gogh (1853-1890). After Theo's untimely death in 1891, Van Gogh's collection of drawings, paintings and letters, as well as Vincent and Theo's collection of the works of contemporaries, went to Jo. When she died in 1925, her son inherited the collection.

Van Gogh was a versatile and enterprising person. From 1907-1914 he studied mechanical engineering at the University of Delft. After marrying Josina Wibaut in January 1915, he lived and worked as an engineer in France, the United States and Japan. In the early 1920s, the couple returned



to the Netherlands. Together with a fellow student from his university days, Ernst Hijmans, Van Gogh founded an organisation consultancy firm in Amsterdam, one of the first in The Netherlands.

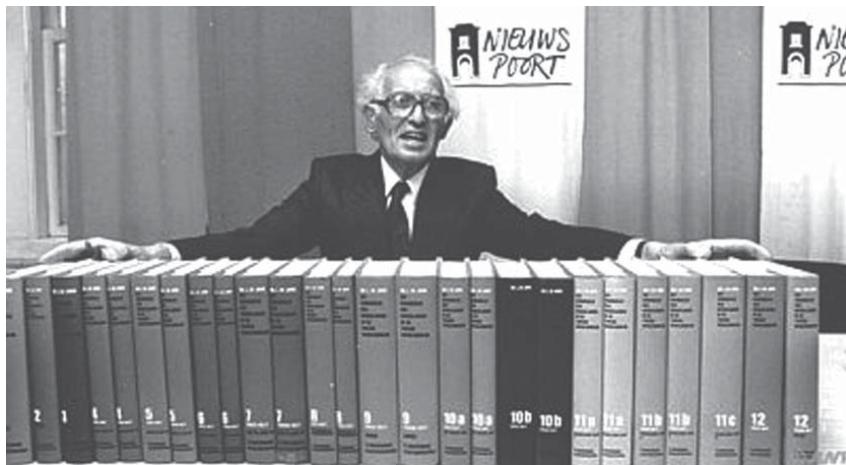
After 1945, he turned more and more to studying and publicising the work of his famous uncle. He thought it was important for the collection to remain intact after his death and so, in 1962, at the suggestion of the national government, he placed it with the Vincent van Gogh Foundation, which was established specifically for the purpose. On 3 June 1973, the Vincent van Gogh Museum opened its doors to the public. Van Gogh was in the museum virtually every day until shortly before his death on 31 January 1978 and he devoted his energies to everything related to Vincent, Theo and the museum.

#### *Loe de Jong*

Never before was such an extensive study, covering such a short time span, written by a single author who was able to devote decades of uninterrupted labour to it. Loe de Jong's standard work, *Het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de Tweede Wereldoorlog* (The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War), is a monument to the years of occupation. No individual researcher would allow him or herself to ignore what has become a benchmark (whether to confirm a particular interpretation by drawing upon the relevant facts, or to criticize the work). This is apparent from the history of the work's reception, which was published in 1991 as an extensive anthology and incorporated into the series as its fourteenth (most of them in two parts) and final volume.

After the author had withdrawn from public life for more than a decade, he passed away in 2005. This presents a unique opportunity to examine a particular aspect of his life's work: the extent to which public discussion of the Second World War was, since 1945, tied to Loe de Jong in one way or another. When the last, that being the thirteenth, volume of the series was published in 1988, the author had spent nearly half a century in the centre of the collective processing of the war record. De Jong's scientific practice was inextricably bound to his interpretation of democratic citizenship. He therefore tried to direct the undigested past according to his will. As a historian and public persona, who was well known in the newspapers, on radio, film and television and as the director of the Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (National Institute of War documentation, RIOD), he knew how to leave a prominent mark on the collective conceptualization

of the Second World War. His socialist convictions, his prewar journalistic career as the foreign editor of the newsmagazine *De Groene Amsterdammer* and his personal experience of the war as an (assimilated) Jew, contributed to his unyielding conviction that he had a moral duty to let Good triumph over the Evil of National Socialism in the post war Netherlands.



This research project aims at evaluating De Jong's position and his influence over national themes and incidents of fundamental importance, such as foreign journalism in the Netherlands during its period of neutrality, in particular the latter half of the 1930's, as well as the Cold War, with the focus on the 1950's and 1960's, Allied propaganda during the occupation, the continuous Good versus Evil debate, the Three of Breda and the downfall of the well-known ARP-politician, Willem Aantjes. From the perspective of a biography, it is possible to cast light on the formation of his opinions and to determine which cultural historical factors influenced this process. One can also identify the networks he belonged to and the role he played by journalism therein. This study will make a meaningful contribution to the history of public opinion and the social repercussions of Journalism in the Netherlands during the second half of the twentieth century.

*Anton Kröller*

Anton Kröller is known to most of the public only due to his wife, Helene Kröller-Müller, who used her husband's money to create a world-famous art collection. Yet this Rotterdam entrepreneur was one of the richest, most powerful and most controversial figures in the Netherlands during the first half of the twentieth century. Before the First World War, Kröller was a successful business man. During the war he and a small group of business leaders determined the Netherlands' foreign and economic policy. This earned him the nickname 'the uncrowned king of the Netherlands'.

He continued to do justice to this reputation throughout the 1920's thanks to the global company Müller & Co, a great number of commissions, involvement in the establishment of Hoogovens and KLM, an enormous estate named De Hoge Veluwe, a warm friendship with the German Prince Henry and his wife's internationally acclaimed art collection. However, during the crisis years, his business ran into stormy weather. Sky-high debt to the Rotterdamsche Bankvereeniging (Robaver), a bank of which Kröller was a commissioner, almost led to the collapse of both Robaver and Müller & Co.

*Han Lammers*

When Han Lammers died in July 2000, this event was given much attention by the press. In obituaries, the authors especially stressed the activities of Lammers as alderman in Amsterdam and as a provincial officer in the Flevopolder. After his death, Lammers was described as an energetic, wilful and an exceedingly self-assured statesman. He was a 'wilful regent' and a 'strong statesman with a national persona'. Only on a few occasions was it attempted to analyse the tension in Lammers' character between the characterizations mentioned above and his role as critical journalist and columnist and his role as spokesman for the Nieuw Links-movement (New Left).



In this PhD-research this apparent ambivalence in his life and career is an important starting point. By analyzing which persons or events influenced the development and change in his thinking, a useful and clarifying biography of Lammers will be written. This biography will contribute to the study of Journalism in the Netherlands in the second half of the twentieth century, the understanding of the political struggles within the PvdA (Dutch Labour Party) in the sixties and seventies, and of an interpretation of the functioning of the public governing board in the Netherlands in the second half of the twentieth century. More concretely Lammers's role as a concerned journalist in the public debate in the Netherlands during the fifties will be examined. This research also will focus on his method of realising ideas within the Dutch Labour Party as prominent member of the New Left-movement, on how Lammers functioned as alderman in Amsterdam during difficult times for the municipal authorities and, finally, this study reflects on his acts as provincial officer in the IJsselmeerpolders, where he sometimes literally aimed for the ideal society.



#### *Willem Schermerhorn*

For a long time, it seemed that the son of a farmer Willem Schermerhorn would acquire fame through a scientific career rather than from his political work. When he was aged 31, he had already been appointed as professor at Delft University of Technology. As a pioneer of air cartography he became internationally recognized. However, at the end of the thirties he became politically involved when he became the president of Unity through Democracy, a movement that tried to end the emergence of the Dutch Fascist Party (NSB). Because of his leadership of this movement, Schermerhorn was imprisoned during the Second World War, together with a number of other prominent Dutch political leaders, in the internment camp in Sint Michielsgestel. Here, Schermerhorn became a leader among the prisoners: he was seen as a suitable person who should become Prime Minister after the war, to guide the Netherlands into an era of political and social renewal. In the early summer of 1945, Queen Wilhelmina appointed Schermerhorn and Willem Drees as architects of a cabinet of 'Convalescence and Renewal'; Schermerhorn became Prime Minister. In the same year, the Dutch Labour Party was established, as an embodiment of the renewal in Dutch politics. Yet, at the elections of 1946, it appeared that this renewal was only supported by a minority of the Dutch population; also in the political area the pre-war, religious- and ideologically-based frameworks returned. Schermerhorn could not return as Prime Minister, and there was no place for him in the new cabinet.

Schermerhorn was sent to the Dutch East Indies to try to find a peaceful solution in negotiations with the leaders of the Republic of Indonesia on the issue of decolonisation. This resulted in the agreement of Linggadjati in November 1946. However, because both parties did not maintain the provisions of the agreement, Schermerhorn's policy failed, and the Netherlands opted for a violent 'solution' (July 1947). This in fact marked the end of Schermerhorn's political career; after his return to the Netherlands he was not appointed to any important political function again, and he decided to return to science.



# Gedragen door de oosterstorm

## GESCHIEDENIS Vergleken met Henk

Feldmeijer was Mussert een doetje. In Duitse ogen was De Voorman een voorbeeldige nazi.

Bart Funnekotter

**H**einrich Boere kon niet anders, zei hij. De Nederlandse ss'er stond in 2009 in Aken terecht omdat hij tijdens de bezetting onschuldige Nederlandse burgers had vermoord. Waarom gaf hij gehoor aan het bevel hiertoe, wilde de rechter weten. Als hij dat niet deed, zouden zijn meerdelen hem naar een concentratiekamp sturen, zei Boere. Wie in het Sonderkommando-Feldmeijer zat, moest gehoorzamen.

Feldmeijer was al meer dan zestig jaar dood toen de misdaad van naar hem genoemde moordbrigade in Aken de revue passerden. Door het proces tegen Boere raakte een breder publiek bekend met het optreden van de leider van de Nederlandse SS, volgens Bas Kromhout, redacteur van het *Historisch Nieuwsblad*, was Feldmeijer tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog de grote concurrent van nss-leider Anton Mussert. Hij ontwouwde deze thees in zijn biografie *De voorman: Henk Feldmeijer en de Nederlandse SS*, waarop hij afgelopen maandag promoveerde aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Feldmeijer, en niet Meinoud Rost van Tonnissen, was voor de nazi's de aangewenste persoon om de slappe en onvoldoende Duitsgezinde Mussert op te leveren.

volgen, stelt Kromhout.

Johannes Hendrik Feldmeijer werd in 1910 in Assen geboren. Zijn vader was beroepsmilitair, net zoals zijn grootvader. Henk bleek goed te kunnen leren. Na de hbs kreeg hij een beurs om in Groningen wis- en natuurkunde te gaan studeren. Die studie bracht hem niet wat hij zocht, schrijft Kromhout. Feldmeijer wilde deel uitmaken van iets 'groots', iets wat de wereld zou veranderen. In het national-socialisme vond hij wat hij zocht. Hij werd in 1932 lid van de Nationaal-Socialistische Beweging (nsb) van Anton Mussert, die een jaar ervoor was opgericht.

**Eigengereid**

De officiële partijlijn van de nsb werd eerst stap van Feldmeijers radicalisering, die uiteindelijk toe zou leiden dat hij niet gaf om het leven van de onschuldige Nederlanders die hij door ondergeschikten als boere liet vermoorden.

Nadat de Duitse Nederland in 1940 waren bezet, kreeg Feldmeijer de kans de strijd met Mussert aan te gaan. In september van dat jaar werd het voorbeeld van de Duitse Schutzstaffel, het elitekorps der nazis. De bezoeker benoemde Feldmeijer tot voorman van deze organisatie. Hanns Rauter, de Duitse ss-baas in Nederland, en zijn chef Heinrich Himmler waren gecharmeerd van het ideologisch fanatisme dat Feldmeijer van de dag legde.

Van dat moment was er sprake van een constante strijd tussen de nsb en de Nederlandse ss, die later werd omgedoopt tot Germaansche SS in Nederland. Feldmeijer was formeel gehoorzaamheid verschuldigd aan Mussert, maar deed er alles aan om achter diens rug om rechtshandigen te doen met de Duitsers.

Himmler en Rauter maakten graag gebruik van de diensten van Feldmeijer. Terwijl Mussert nog sprak over een 'Duits' bestuur voor een en ander Vlaanderen, bekende de leider van de Nederlandse ss zich tot de Groot-Germaneegedachte. Van Feldmeijer mocht Nederland opgaan in het Duitsland van Adolf Hitler. Hij legde dan ook zonder bezwaren een eind aan vroouwen op de Fronten.

De Germaansche SS moest volgens Feldmeijer de radicale voorhoede zijn van het Nederlandse nationaalsocialisme. Voorwaarde daarvoor was dat de ss'ers gehard werden aan het front. Feldmeijer gaf het goede voorbeeld, en reisde in de zomer van 1942 af naar de Kaukasus, waar hij als lid van de ss-divisie Viking tegen het Roode Leger vocht.

De nietontzilende wredeheid van de Duitsers aan het Oostfront leidde de volgende fase in van Feldmeijers radicaliseringssproces, schrijft Kromhout. 'Hier werden de lasten die Feldmeijer verboden in de germaanschappij verbroken. (...) Aan het front in de Sovjet-Unie, waar hij



Aankondiging van een voordracht door Feldmeijer op 24 maart 1943. Foto Beeldbank WO2/NIOD

medestrijders zag sneuvelen en zelf op 'wonderbaarlijke' wijze aan de dood ontsnapte, werd hij nog fanatieker en meedogenlozer.'

Terug in Nederland vormde hij in het najaar van 1943 de moordbrigade die later zijn naam kreeg. Tijdens de zogenoemde Silbertanne-acties vermoorden Feldmeijers mannen 45 mensen als represaille voor aanslagen van het verzet.

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De Germaansche SS moest volgens Feldmeijer de radicale voorhoede zijn van het Nederlandse nationaalsocialisme. Voorwaarde daarvoor was dat de ss'ers gehard werden aan het front. Feldmeijer gaf het goede voorbeeld, en reisde in de zomer van 1942 af naar de Kaukasus, waar hij als lid van de ss-divisie Viking tegen het Roode Leger vocht.

De nietontzilende wredeheid van de Duitsers aan het Oostfront leidde de volgende fase in van Feldmeijers radicaliseringssproces, schrijft Kromhout. 'Hier werden de lasten die Feldmeijer verboden in de germaanschappij verbroken. (...) Aan het front in de Sovjet-Unie, waar hij

voorman van de Nederlandse ss in een schandaal verwikkeld was. Feldmeijer drukte geld achterover dat aan de beweging toebehoorde, hij dronk te veel en had een aantal buitenechtelijke affaires. Iedere keer opnieuw werden zijn fouten hem veroordeeld, omdat de Duitsers niet wisten dat de ss een andere leider kreeg. Niemand was zo recht in de leeuw en troouw als Henk Feldmeijer. Daarvoor werd hij keer op keer beloond.'

Toen het eind van de oorlog naderde, wilde Feldmeijer zichzelf aan het hoofd plaatsen van de Landsturm, die aan de Maas tegenover de Britten en Canadezen lag. Op weg naar het front werd de auto waarin hij zat door een Brits vliegtuig beschoten. Feldmeijer stierf aan zijn verwondingen op 22 februari 1945.

Zijn laatstestandplaats vond plaats op paleis Het Loo. In het blad *Stormss* was daags eer te lezen: 'Zoo rees rondom van het Germaansche natielichaam dan herhaaldelijk de grizige wolken, flarden hoog over de koepelen joegen, gedragen door den Noorderstorm, die de stijgende hemelpaarden zuid-

Bas Kromhout: De voorman. Henk Feldmeijer en de Nederlandse SS. Atlas Contact. 584 blz. €39,95

## 2.2 Completed projects

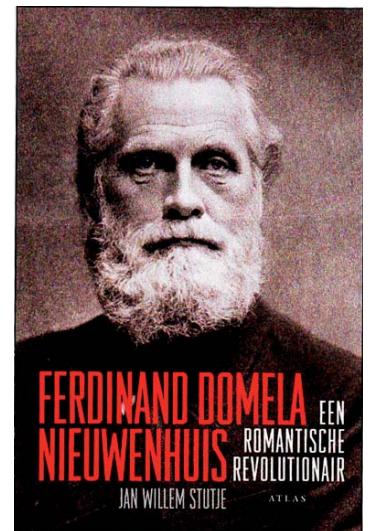
### J.C. Bloem

Bart Slijper (1963) wrote the biography of Bloem under the title *Van alle dingen los. Het leven van J.C. Bloem*, which was published in May 2007 by Uitgeverij De Arbeiderspers. A reprint appeared in the same year. This biography was short-listed for 'The Best Historical Book 2007, Historisch Nieuwsblad/de Volkskrant Award'. Bart Slijper obtained his doctorate on 10 May 2007.

### Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis

Few figures in the labour movement have captured the imagination like Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (1846–1919). Since 1 September 2006, Jan Willem Stutje has been researching the life of the founding father of Dutch socialism. This project is made possible through a so-called Vidi-subsidy from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

Through the use of a number of new approaches, Stutje seeks to supplement and correct the prevailing image. Central to this is Domela's charisma, his romantic revolutionary commitment, the oral culture and international contacts. His leadership is compared to that of contemporaries within his own country, among them Abraham Kuyper and Pieter Jelles Troelstra, as well as foreign kindred spirits such as César de Paepe and Ferdinand Lasalle. This biography of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis sheds new light on three separate, but interrelated components: Domela's work in the socialist movement, his theoretical and published work and his personal life. The biography is a contribution to the history of ideas and to the historical sociology of social movements and political culture. The biography *Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis. Een romantische revolutionair* was first published on May 2012 by publisher Atlas.



Feldmeijer in het uniform van de Nederlandse SS. Vanaf 1940 woedde er een machtsstrijd tussen deze Germaansche SS en de NSB. FOTO NIOD

### *Henk Feldmeijer*

Johannes Hendrik (Henk) Feldmeijer was 29 years old when the German occupational regime in the Netherlands appointed him ‘Foreman’ of the Dutch SS. As such, he was one of Heinrich Himmler’s most valuable pawns in the occupied Netherlands.

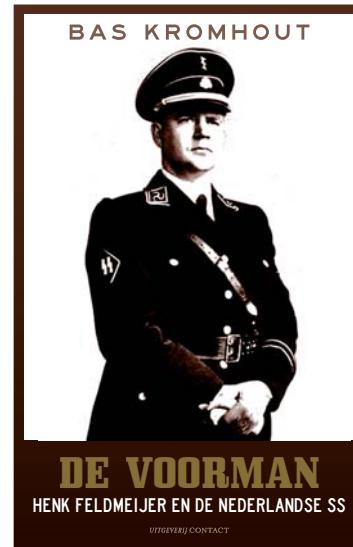
Feldmeijer radicalized rapidly. Because of this Feldmeijer in 1937 clashed with NSB-leader Mussert. In 1939 he established a new militia that was modelled after the German SS: the ‘Mussert-Guard’. After the occupation of the Netherlands in 1940 Feldmeijer was made responsible for building up the Dutch SS.

Feldmeijer’s ‘Great-German’ politics put him into a five-year conflict with Mussert. Meanwhile, due to the course of the war, Feldmeijer had to put his political SS-organization more and more into service for the German warfare. He himself went to serve at the front as a soldier twice, respectively in Greece and the Soviet-Union.

Bas Kromhout obtained his doctorate on his thesis on 6 June 2012. The commercial edition, titled *De Voorman. Henk Feldmeijer en de Nederlandse SS*, is published by Contact.

### *Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart*

After studying law at Leiden, Van Heuven Goedhart was employed by the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf*. Within a few years he became a member of its editorial board and from 1930 he was editor-in-chief. In 1933 he was fired by the owner H.C.M. Holdert for, among other reasons, resisting the newspaper’s pro-German slant. A month later, he became editor of the *Utrechtsch Nieuwsblad*. He turned this newspaper into a leading daily with a national tone. As editor-in-chief, he took a stand against Nazism. He became



involved with the resistance and through it with the illegal newspaper *Het Parool*. Van Heuven Goedhart edited *Het Parool* from 1942 until mid-1944, when he had to flee to London, where, within one month, he was named Minister of Justice in the government in exile.

Back in the Netherlands, after its liberation, he became editor-in-chief of *Het Parool*. On 1 January 1951 he was named High Commissioner for Refugees of the newly established UNHCR. He continued to occupy this position until his death on 8 July 1956.

Jeroen Corduwener obtained his doctorate on 28 February 2011. The commercial edition of his thesis, titled *Riemen om de kin! Biografie van mr. dr. Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart*, is published by Bert Bakker.

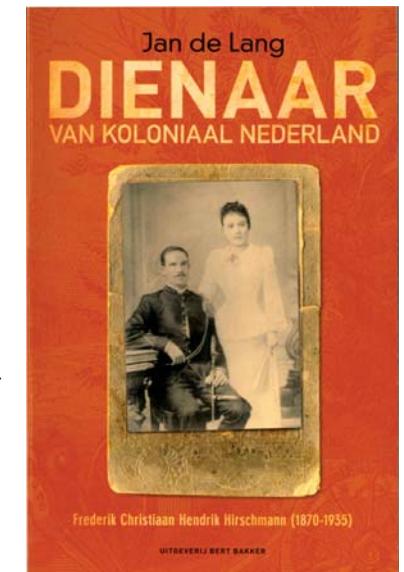
### *Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann*

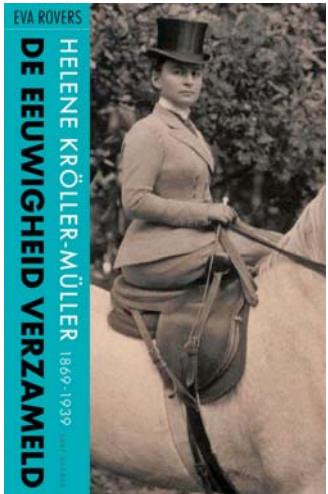
This project consisted of a biographical study with a colonial military historical perspective. The central question was to what extent Hirschmann was exemplary for the Dutch officer of the KNIL trained at the Royal Military Academy in Breda in three decades around 1900.

Hirschmann retired with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Some biographies of famous members of the KNIL have been published, but detailed biographies that focus on the ‘average’ officer of the East Indian Army, like Hirschmann, were not published yet.

The life and work of Hirschmann also include his activities after the completion of his military career. He has been an expat for 28 years, due to which one might expect that upon his return in the Dutch society he would have faced major difficulties. The opposite is the case. He became a tax inspector and mayor.

Jan de Lang obtained his doctorate on 14 October 2010. The commercial edition of his thesis, titled *Dienaar van koloniaal Nederland. Biografie van Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann (1870-1935)*, is published by Bert Bakker in April 2011.





### *Helene Kröller-Müller*

Between 1907 and 1938 Helene Kröller-Müller assembled a collection of modern art which was unrivalled in Western Europe,. At first she collected out of personal interest, guided and inspired by art teacher H.P. Bremmer. But soon, in 1911, she decided to build a museum for her collection in order to establish a ‘monument of culture’. This goal had a major impact on Kröller-Müller’s manner of expanding her collection: according to herself she was no longer led by personal taste, but by the question whether a work of art would stand the test of time.

Who was this woman, who seemed hardly interested in art until the age of thirty five, and who then suddenly dedicated her life and a considerable part of her family’s fortune to establishing a collection of modern art?

Eva Rovers obtained her doctorate on 15 November 2010. Since then the commercial edition of *De eeuwigheid verzameld. Helene Kröller-Müller 1869-1939* has been reprinted four times by publisher Bert Bakker.

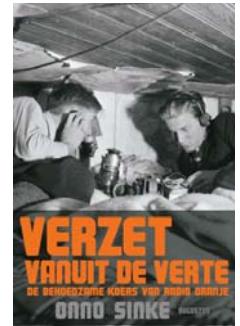
### *Alice Nahon*

Apart from Guido Gezelle, no other Flemish poet has sold more copies than Alice Nahon (1896-1933). Her poetry was received with enthusiasm by literary critics in Flanders and the Netherlands. Yet, her work was also dismissed as sentimental, doggerel verse, or ‘*Gartenlaube*-poetry’, as Paul van Ostaijen coined it. Manu van der Aa wrote her biography. He has paid close attention to her role within literary circles, her relation to Flemish nationalism and her unconventional attitude to sexuality and relationships, which was ahead of her time. Van der Aa worked under the auspices of the Biography Institute and obtained his doctorate on 27 October 2008. His thesis entitled: ‘*Ik heb de liefde liefgehad*. Het leven van Alice Nahon (I loved love itself. The life of Alice Nahon) was published by Lannoo, Tielt 2008.



### *Radio Oranje*

At the outbreak of the Second World War, radio was considered the fourth fighting arm, as important as the army, the navy and the air force. Many celebrities, including the German writer Thomas Mann and the French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, supported the allied war effort and broadcasted to their compatriots in the occupied territories. The Dutch language radio stations saw many well-known writers like A. den Doolaard and Herman de Man, and journalists like Henk van den Broek and Loe de Jong, taking up the cause and fighting the Germans through their spirited talks. As a government broadcaster Radio Orange had authority that other Dutch radio stations such as the Dutch division of the BBC or WRUL station from Boston lacked. Onno Sinke obtained his doctorate on 20 April 2009 and his thesis entitled *Verzet vanuit de verte. De behoedzame koers van Radio Oranje* was published by publisher Augustus. He was nominated by the University of Groningen for the Praemium Erasmianum 2008/2009.



### *Jan Wier*

The physician Jan Wier is known as the first serious opponent of the witch persecution. In his books *De praestigiis daemonum* or *On diabolic delusions* of 1563 and *De lamiis* or *On witches* of 1577 he called it nonsense that old women made a pact with the devil and that they thus obtained magical powers by which they caused harm to others. In his view, the witch trials were unlawful because they dealt with non-existing offences and because suspects were tortured, humiliated, confined in degrading circumstances and subjected to the water ordeal.

Because Jan Wier described some witches as mentally ill, he can be regarded as a founder of modern psychiatry. He furthermore advocated the necessity of a humane treatment of (some) suspects, the result being that he has been presented as a champion of human rights *avant la lettre*. Critics believe that he inadvertently stirred up the witch persecution, that he is wrongly regarded as a figure-head of psychiatry.

Vera Hoorens obtained her doctorate on 6 June 2011. The commercial edition of her thesis *Een ketterse arts voor de heksen. Jan Wier (1515-1588)* was published by Bert Bakker.

## 2.3 Candidate biographers

The Biography Institute has proven and continues to prove to be very attractive to researchers and aspiring biographers. Some proposals are immediately rejected because they are incompatible with the aims of the institute, because they do not hold sufficient promise to warrant the mobilization of high-quality support by the institute, or because the proposal addresses an issue outside the institute's domains of specialization. If required advice was given to postgraduate scholars envisaging biographical research.

### Selection

The selection of all candidate biographers took place on the basis of a research plan. The workload associated with the selection process is a matter of concern because the selection activities pose a major burden on the capacity of the institute. Nevertheless, in order to realize its own policy the Biography Institute has devoted much of its time to initiatives leading towards the creation of PhD positions. The PhD positions with regard to the biographies of Henk Feldmeijer, Vincent Willem van Gogh, Anton Kröller and Binne de Haan's research project on biography in international perspective are successful cases in point. Over the past year, plans were made for the doctorate programs 'Biography HJA Hofland' and 'Biography Jelle Zijlstra'.

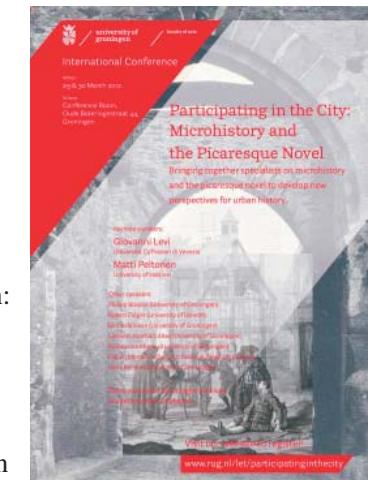
## 2.4 Congresses and Edited Volumes

### Participating in the City: Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel

Microhistory is a scholarly approach based on reconstructing individual perspectives and experiences in order to question and adjust macro-scale generalizations. The Picaresque Novel is a literary genre that chooses the first-person perspective of a marginal character in order to question the validity of the appearance of a society as it is portrayed in the established modes of representation. In fact, the Picaresque Novel finds its origins in the humanist search for an expansion of the historiographical genre, merging literary form with historical form.

Microhistory and Picaresque Novel coincide on the level of the represented perspective: they start from the particular. These two disciplines, then, share the interest for the problematic relation between the individual participant's perspective (agency) and the generalizations of historiography. In different ways they pose the same question: How can the perspective of an individual be used to problematize the understanding of the larger context?

The conference took place on 29 & 30 March 2012 at the University of Groningen and was organized by the Biography Institute in cooperation with the Department of Romance Languages and Cultures and the Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG). The conference brought together an international group of experts in the field of Microhistory, Biography, the Picaresque Novel and literary representation in general. Key note speakers were prof. Giovanni Levi (Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia), who founded the discipline of microhistory together with Carlo Ginzburg, and prof. Matti Peltonen (University of Helsinki). The programme of the two day conference also included an excursion to the Archives of Groningen (RHC Groninger Archieven). An edited volume of the contributions will be published.

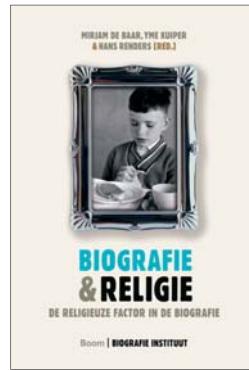


## **Edited volume conference *Biography and Religion***

Less church, more religion – the relationship between religion, society and individuals in the Netherlands in the present time has already been summarized this way.

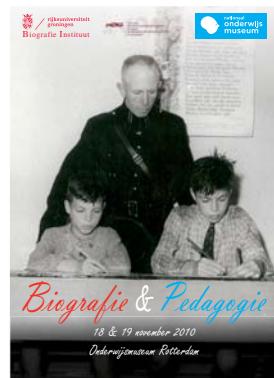
Social life from the late nineteenth century was increasingly organized and disciplined on a religious and ideological basis, but after the secularization that started in the 1960s religion primarily became a matter of personal faith, according to public opinion. In biographies of people from the period 1880-1980 however, rarely attention has been paid to personal religion in order to interpret public actions of authors, politicians, entrepreneurs, scholars or artists.

Following the conference ‘The religious factor in biography’ an edited volume is published early 2012, with contributions by Erik Borgman, Doebo Bosscher, Han van Bree, Fia Dieteren, Jan Fontijn, Gert van Klinken, Jeroen Koch, Yme Kuiper, Herman de Liagre Böhl, Elsbeth Locher-Scholten, Paul Luykx, Marit Monteiro, Hans Renders and Jan Willem Stutje.



## **Edited volume conference *Biography & Pedagogy***

Work has been done on this edited volume by Jaques Dane and Hans Renders. It will be published in the following year.



Published conference proceedings until now



## **2.5 Digitization projects**

In order to facilitate faster and easier access to (rare) biographical research materials and to open up new opportunities for research, biographical research materials are being made available digitally via the website <http://biografieinstituut.ub.rug.nl>.

This includes the project ‘Book Production 1940-1945’. The total [Dutch] book production between May 1940 and May 1945 has been mapped out and made digitally searchable for online research. *Brinkman’s catalogus van boeken en tijdschriften* forms the basis of this project.

The family archive of Van Calker-Clemens Schöner is being digitized by the Groningen Archives for the intended research project ‘Connoisseurs and trendsetters. Bourgeois culture in Groningen between nationalism and cosmopolitanism (1870-1970)’. This rich archive is freely accessible through our website [www.biografieinstituut.nl/familiearchief](http://www.biografieinstituut.nl/familiearchief).

With our digitized documents, we also contributed to the content of the Dutch Biography Portal.

## **Dutch National Pseudonym Archives**

Last year, corrections, additions and technical improvements have been made to the National Pseudonyms Archives, that was established by the Biography Institute in 2010. The National Pseudonyms Archives is an online searchable database of pseudonyms and corresponding civilian name, which can be searched at pseudonym, civilian name, or both.

Users can send additions and corrections to us by e-mail. These will be checked before being added to the database. The National Pseudonyms Archives can be found via a link on our website or directly at [www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa](http://www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa).

## 2.6 Publications

### Scientific publications

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- Renders, Hans, 'Jan Hanlo', in: Gert Hekma & Theo van der Meer (redactie), 'Bewaar me voor de waanzin van het recht'. *Homoseksualiteit en strafrecht in Nederland*, AMB, Diemen 2011, p. 190-199.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Binne de Haan), 'The limits of representativeness. Biography, life writing and microhistory', in: *Storia della Storiografia* 29(2011)59/60, p. 32-42.
- Renders, Hans, 'Kunst of katholiek – Godsdienstbeleving als uitgangspunt voor biografisch onderzoek', in: Mirjam de Baar, Yme Kuiper en Hans Renders (red.), *Biografie & Religie. De religieuze factor in de biografie*, Boom, Amsterdam 2011 [=2012], p. 221-236.
- Renders, Hans, 'Alles Mag. Een protest tegen de tijdgeest', in: *Zacht Lawijd* 11(2012)1, p. 50-72.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Vera Hoorens), 'Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa and Witchcraft: A Reappraisal', in: *Sixteenth Century Journal* 43(2012)1, p. 3-18.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Sjoerd van Faassen), 'J'emmerde toutes les dictatures, de Lénine à Mussolini, à travers Breton'. Variétés en het surrealisme: tussen modern en bourgeois', in: *Zacht Lawijd* 11(2012)3/4, p. 186-225.
- Eva Rovers, 'A Dutch collector with a German heart. The regional aspect of life writing in the case of Helene Kröller-Müller (1869–1939)', in: Marijke Huisman, Anneke Ribberink [e.a.] (red.), *Life Writing Matters in Europe*, Universitätsverlag Winter, Heidelberg 2012, p. 193-207.

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- Haan, Binne de, 'Biografie', in: *Geschiedenis Magazine* 46(2011)7, September, p. 60-61.
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- Langeveld, Herman, 'Johannes Jacobus Buskes jr. (1899-1980)', in: George Harinck (red.), *Mijn protestant. Persoonlijke ontmoetingen* (Amsterdam 2011) p. 79-80.
- Langeveld, Herman, review Maarten van Buuren, *De afrekening. Ontmaskering van het gewapend verzet*, in: *Trouw* 17-12-2011.
- Langeveld, Herman, review Margit van der Steen, *Drift en Koers. De levens van Hilda Verwey-Jonker (1908-2004)*, in: *Tijdschrift voor Biografie* 1(2012)1, p. 86-88.
- Renders, Hans, review Marcel Bergema, *Klein krijgen ze me niet. Het levensverhaal van Anneke Olivier*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 13-8-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Joost van Kleef & Henk Willem Smits, *De zaak Kooistra. Opkomst en ondergang van een horecamagnaat*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 13-8-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Annie Cohen Solal, *Leo Castelli en zijn kunstenaarskring in New York*, in: *Het Parool* 17-8-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Bruno van Moerkerken/Minke Vos, *Emiel van Moerkerken*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 20-8-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Julian Barnes, *Polsslag*, in: *Het Parool* 24-8-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Michael Scammell, *Koestler. The Indispensable Intellectual*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 3-9-2011, p. 64-66.
- Renders, Hans, review Aleid Truijens, *Geluk kun je alleen schilderen – F.B. Hotz, het leven en F.B. Hotz, Mannen spelen, vrouwen winnen – Een keuze uit de verhalen*, gekozen en ingeleid door Aleid Truijens, in: *Het Parool* 14-9-2011.
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- Renders, Hans, review Lucebert, *Unica*, toegelicht door Suzanna Héman en Piet Gerbrandy, in: *Het Parool* 26-10-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review *De As*, nummer 175, themanummer Alexander Cohen, in: *Vrij Nederland* 29-10-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review *Dat nooit meer. De nasleep van de Tweede Wereldoorlog in Nederland*, in: *Het Parool* 2-11-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review Steven Naifeh en Gregory White Smith, *Vincent van Gogh. De biografie*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 12-11-2011.

- Renders, Hans, review Karel van het Reve, *Verzameld werk 6*, bezorgd door Lieneke Frerichs, Elma Drayer en Nop Maas, in: *Vrij Nederland* 12-11-2011.
- Renders, Hans, review John Julius Norwich, *Pausen – Een geschiedenis*, in: *Het Parool* 16-11-2011.
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- Renders, Hans, review Bert van der Veer, *Mr. TV. Over leven in TVland*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 19-11-2011.
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- Renders, Hans, review Peter Raedts, *De ontdekking van de Middeleeuwen. Gescheidenis van een illusie*, in: *Het Parool* 22-2-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Thijs Rinsema, *Thijs & Evert Rinsema. Eigenzinnig en veelzijdig*, in: *Het Parool* 7-3-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Evert Rinsema, *Denkbeelden*, in: *Het Parool* 7-3-2012.
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- Renders, Hans, review Peter Longerich, [biografie] *Goebbels*, in: *Het Parool* 21-3-2012.
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# Boek van de week

Mark Kranenburg

# Jan Willem Stutje: *Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis. Een romantisch revolutionair*. Atlas>Contact, blz. €34,95

**D**e 'geloede spreker uit 't Gravenhage' aangekondigde predikant had in het Belgische Gent voor een bomvolle zaal gezorgd. 'Grond en bodem in gemeenschappelijk bezit' was het thema van zijn lezing geweest. Omdat het een 'Wetenschappelijke Avondstond' betrof was arbeiders tevoren verzocht kinderen jonger dan zeven jaar thuis te laten.

Toen Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis – hij was de geloede spreker – na afloop van zijn toespraak nog stond na te praten brak opeens tumult uit in de zaal. Onder het podium hadden de organisatoren tussen het spinnag een politiecommissaris betrapt die zich daar had verscholen. De man werd met zijn hoge hoed het podium op gesleurd om daar de hoop te ondergaan van de Gentse socialistische leider Edward Anseel. Onder het woedende geschreeuw van arbeiders droop de commissaris vervolgens af. Zo ging dat in de zomer van 1879.

Het is één van de vele vaak hilarisch beschreven anekdotes in de vandaag verschenen biografie over Domela Nieuwenhuis, Nederlands' voorvechter der anarchist, die leefde van 1846 tot 1919. In zijn leven groeide de van oorsprong Latijnse predikant veel uit tot een haast religieuze verlosser. Zijn aiferel en rotorisch vermogen droegen bij aan het messiaanse beeld. De 'heersende klasse' beschouwde hem als staatsvijand nummer één.

In zijn biografie portretteert auteur Jan Willem Stutje Domela Nieuwenhuis consequent als 'romantisch revolutionair'. Dit predicaat is in feite ook de rechtvaardiging voor opnieuw een boek met de levensgeschiedenis van één van de grondleggers van het Nederlands socialisme. Het is niet alleen de revolutionair, het gaat om de *romantisch revolutionair*. Tot 1993 heeft Domela Nieuwenhuis het zonder biografie moeten stellen. Daar jaar verscheen *Domela, een hemel op aarde* van Jan Meyers, waarvoor de auteur later nog de prestigieuze Doptprijs voor biografie kreeg toegekend. Dat Stutje zich op hetzelfde, zeer omvangrijke, onderwerp heeft gestort – de in 1985 verschenen bibliografie met verwijzingen naar Domela Nieuwenhuis telde alleen al 917 pagina's – met onder meer verwijzingen naar 4500 publicaties van de hoofdpersoon – hoeft te maken met het onvolledige beeld dat Meyers volgens Stutje heeft

Internationale oriëntatie is in deze biografie een welkomme aanvulling

geschat. Of zoals hij het in de inleiding stelt: 'Meyers' biografie stelt door het beperkte politieke kader teleur. Er is veel, soms al te sentimentele anekdote in het werk schiet tekort in de analyse van de sociaal-culturele context waardoor Domela te zeer als een geïsoleerde figuur wordt voorgesteld.'

**D**e socialistische beweging aan het eind van de negentiende eeuw kan niet beschouwd worden als louter politieke organisatie, meent Stutje. Ook de 'charismatische symbolen' en de 'romantisch revolutionaire inspiratie' waarvan Domela 'de voorbeeldige belichaming' was horen er volgens hem bij. Vandaar zijn wat in geschiedwetenschappelijke termen 'Umersetzung' wordt genoemd: een nieuwe duiding en kritische analyse van het bestaande verhaal. Bovendien heeft Stutje dat verhaal kunnen aanvullen met nieuw materiaal, zoals briefwisselingen van Domela Nieuwenhuis met familie en gescreewanten en diens nog ongedrupte gepubliceerde internationale correspondentie.

Zoals in het begin aangevoerd schuwt ook Stutje de anekdotiek niet. Gelukkig maar: de tijd en de personen waren er naar. Het 'format' – en in tegenwoordige termen te spreken – was rawe strijd en polarisatie. Die worden ook in de biografie van Stutje veelvuldig en beeldend beschreven. Soms neemt hij zelf ongemerkt terminologie uit die tijd over. Bijvoorbeeld wanneer hij het heeft over het 'gespuis' dat Domela Nieuwenhuis belaagde of de 'rode ván' die gehavend uit de strijd kwam.

Dat laatste suggerereert vooroorlogenheid, maar de biografie kenmerkt zich, zeker in de meer analytische delen, nu juist door een nuchtere, afstandelijke en kritische toon.

Zo noemt Stutje het antisemitisme waar mee

# Staatsvijand verlosser, anarchist

Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, oprichter van de socialistische beweging, leidde 'een dwaalleven', blijkt uit een nieuwe, meeslepende biografie.



Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, zoals beeldhouwer Johan Poelhem in 1931 portretteerde, op het Nassauplein in Amsterdam

Domela Nieuwenhuis behept was. Afkeer van joden was in die tijd ook onder socialisten een veel voorkomend verschijnsel. Naderhand is dit vaak gebagatelliseerd als eerder speels en folcloristisch en haarsaald, maar volgens Stutje ging het antisemitisme van Domela Nieuwenhuis verder, en wilde hij het publiek er wel degelijk mee beïnvloeden. Zo typeerde hij Karl Marx eens als een 'berekenende, diplomatiek aangelegde jood', terwijl het blad *Recht voor Allen* waarvan Domela Nieuwenhuis oprichter en redacteur was, het in 1887 had over 'joodse socialisieverdeelgevende' en over effectenhandelaren sprak als 'joodjes met hun blanke schooljeachtige trouwe'.

Kritisch is Stutje ook over de door Domela Nieuwenhuis gepredicte gelijkberechting van vrouwen. In 1885 wees hij in één van zijn best verkochte geschriften (500.000 exemplaren) op de onderdrukkelijke rol van de man en de heersende sekseongelijkheid. 'Waar alles voor geld te koop is kunnen we niet anders verwachten dan dat de prostitutie bloeft, dat het huwelijc een geldband is en de vrouw als voorwerp van genot verkort is in haar rechten', schreef Domela Nieuwenhuis. Zelf trouwde hij vier keer, drie keer werd hij weduwnaar. In zijn privé-omgeving golden de toen gebruikelijke man-vrouw verhoudingen, waarbij de vrouw niet alleen de man moet verzorgen, maar ook de man 'het strijdjen gemakkelijker moet maken', zoals hij in *Recht voor Allen* stelde.

**E**n welkomke aanvulling op alles wat al over Domela Nieuwenhuis bekend was, is ontzeggelegelijk de uitvoerige beschrijving van diens internationale oriëntatie. Zeker in het huidige tijdsgevoel, waar voor talloze politici het buitenland niet meer lijkt te kennen, valt hoe weergeven alsof het vindt van de negentiende eeuw dat de belangrijkste politieke contacten waren, juist op het vlak van ideologie. Over dat thema werd heel wat gecongresseerd. Over de inhoud van de leer en de weg er naar toe voerde Domela Nieuwenhuis correspondentie met Karl Marx en Friedrich Engels. Kopstukken van de internationale socialistische beweging ontving hij thuis of bij reisde naar hen toe.

In 1880 schreef Domela Nieuwenhuis aan Marx dat hij socialist was geworden na lezing van *Das Kapital*. Hij had zich aan een Nederlandse bewerking gezet en vroeg Marx of deze de drukproeven wilden nakijken. Die had daar geen tijd voor, maar hij liet Domela Nieuwenhuis per brief weten op zijn kennis te vertrouwen. Maar uit Marx' in 1959 ontdekte exemplaar van de Nederlandse bewerking, vol on-

Marx had geen tijd voor de drukproeven van Domela Nieuwenhuis

derstrepingen en op- en sammenmerkingen in de kantlijn, bleek dat Marx vere van tevreden was over Domela's uitleg van zijn theorie.

Marx was voor Domela Nieuwenhuis ook leidend bij zijn legendarische conflict met Pieter Jelles Troelstra, de andere Nederlandse socialistische leider. De laatste optreedde in 1894 voor de parlementaire weg, terwijl Domela Nieuwenhuis in navolging van Marx – althans dat dacht hij – 'koos voor "revolutie" en "omverwerping van de maatschappelijke orde". Arbeiders dienden zichzelf te emanciperen en niet van bovenaf gestuurd te worden, zoals Troelstra wilde. Dit alles om te komen tot een, aldus Stutje, 'sociale en culturele verlossing'. Van die verlossing was Domela Nieuwenhuis niet alleen de proef, maar ook de personificatie. Toen in 1891 uit een postuum werk bleek dat Marx er anders over dacht en ook vond dat het proletariaat geleid diende te worden, was Domela Nieuwenhuis diep ontgooid. Hij bekeerde zich tot de Russische Marx-criticus en anarchist Michael Bakoenin.

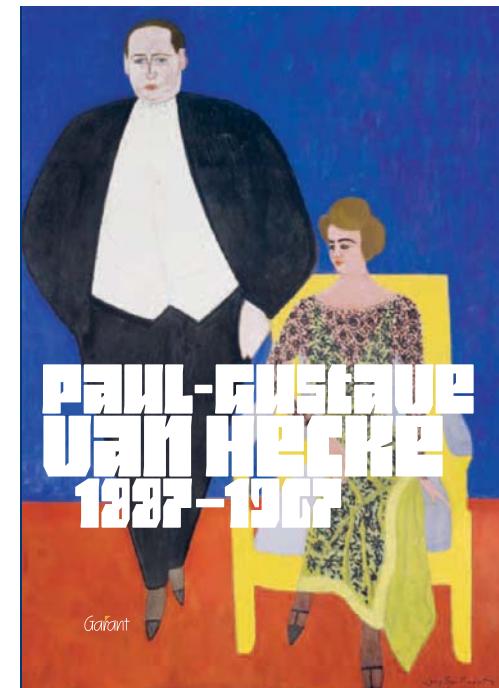
In zijn in 1910 onder de titel *Van Christen tot anarchist* verschenen levensherinneringen schrijft Domela Nieuwenhuis: 'Eindelijk was ik waar ik uitkommen moest.' Het was zijn als ware logische vertrekplaats voor zijn overgang naar het anarchisme. Maar volgen zijn biografen was Domela Nieuwenhuis 'intellectuele filosoof, religieuze en politieke levens' 'allerminst een omgesteld parcours'. Zijn leven lijkt meer op een 'onvoltooide zoektocht' een dwaalleven dat zich afspeelde op kronkelende soms uit het zicht verdwijnende wegen.'

In de nu uitgekomen biografie beschrijft Stutje deze zoektocht doorwocht, kritisch, meeslepend, soms ook met de nodige ironie en enkele keer met empathie. Zoals het hoort bij een romantisch revolutionair.

- Renders, Hans, review Jan Willem Regenhardt, *Micha's spel en de ondergang van de familie Hillesum*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 7-4-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Emmanuel Carrère, *Limonov*, in: *Het Parool* 11-4-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Tessel Pollmann, *Mussert & Co. De NSB-Leider en zijn vertrouwelingen*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 21-4-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review H.L. Wesseling, *De man die nee zei. Charles de Gaulle 1890-1970*, in: *Het Parool* 25-4-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Ewoud Kieft, *Oorlogsmythen – Willem Frederik Hermans en de Tweede Wereldoorlog*, in: *Het Parool* 9-5-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Peter ter Horst. *De dag dat de krant viel. Een journalistiek jongensboek*, in: Persinnovatie.nl doorgeplaatst op Denieuwereporter.nl 9-5-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Leontine Buijnsters-Smets, *Straatverkopers in beeld. Tekeningen en prenten van Nederlandse kunstenaars circa 1540-1850*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 12-5-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Christel Jansen, *De Woonschool – Het verhaal van een meisje dat opgroeide tussen zwakbegaafden en 'asocialen'*, in: *Het Parool* 23-5-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Bob de Graaff, *Op weg naar Armageddon – De evolutie van het fanaticisme*, in: *Het Parool* 16-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Enny de Bruijn, *Eerst de waarheid, dan de vrede. Jacob Revius 1586-1658*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 9-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Vefie Poels en Zjuul van den Elsen, *Bibliografie van Katholieke Nederlandse Periodieken*, in: Persinnovatie.nl doorgeplaatst op Denieuwereporter.nl 7-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Meindert van der Kaaij, *Een eenzaam staatsman. Dirk de Geer (1870-1960)*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 16-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Antony Beevor, *De Tweede Wereldoorlog*, in: *Het Parool* 20-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans, review Jan Fontijn, *Tederheid en storm. De persoonlijkheid van Jacob Israël de Haan*, in: *Vrij Nederland* 23-6-2012.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. anderen), P.-G. van Hecke 'Vooraf', in: *Zacht Lawijd* 11(2012)3/4, p. 5.
- Eva Rovers, 'Het voyeurisme van de biograaf', in: *Tijdschrift voor Biografie*, 1(2012)1, p. 34-36.

### Lectures and scientific activities

- Haan, Binne de, 12 November 2011, Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, Den Haag. 'Publieke levens, gewone levens en persoonlijke geschiedenis. Biografie en genealogie in maatschappij en wetenschap', lecture for Koninklijk Nederlandsch Genootschap voor Geslacht- en Wapenkunde, together with a lecture of prof. Hans Renders, with joint panel title 'De trechter van de geschiedenis: maatschappij, generatie en familie in het individu'.
- Haan, Binne de, 30 March 2012, Bestuursgebouw Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, 'Capturing City Life. How Biography and Urban History Meet in the Street'. Lecture for congress: 'Participating in the City: Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel', congress organized by Biography Institute, Dept. of Romance Languages and Cultures (RUG) and ICOG.
- Haan, Binne de, 17 April 2012, 'Kroon of bastaard? De biografie en geschiedschrijving', Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Lecture for 'Geschiedenis rond de middag'.
- Renders, Hans, 22 September 2011, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, member of the defending committee, PhD dissertation/biography Albertinus van der Heijden.
- Renders, Hans, 12 April 2012, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, member of the defending committee, PhD dissertation/biography Willem Jansz Blaeu.
- Renders, Hans, 8 May 2012, Universiteit Utrecht, member of the defending committee, PhD dissertation *Eerst de waarheid, dan de vrede. Jacob Revius 1586-1658*.
- Renders, Hans, 18 & 19 May 2012, Los Angeles USA, (co)organisator as Member of the board Biographers International Oranisation (BIO).
- Renders, Hans, 4 June 2012, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, promotor PhD dissertation Bas Kromhout, biografie Henk Feldmeijer.
- Renders, Hans, 4 July 2012, Universiteit Antwerpen, doctorate jury dissertation Dieter Vandenbroucke, *Dansen op een vulkaan. Victor Brunclair als representant van de activistische tegentraditie in de Vlaamse letteren (1899-1944)*.
- Rovers, Eva, lecture 'De eeuwigheid verzameld. Helene Kröller-Müller', Otterlo 5 September; Holten 21 September; Hoenderloo 1 October; Schagen 12 October, Wageningen 13 October; Amen 14 October; Borne 2 November 2011; Wageningen 10 January; Hengelo 23 January; Rotterdam 25 April 2012.
- Rovers, Eva, 22 November 2011, UvA, course Culturele Informatiewetenschap, 'Data, dodo's en duizenden brieven'.
- Rovers, Eva, 28 November 2011, UvA, course Dutch Art History and Museums, 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the breakthrough of modern art in the Netherlands'.
- Rovers, Eva, 10 January 2012, Sociëteit de Hereeniging Deventer, 'Keizerin, erfgename, zakenvrouw: hoe verzamelaarsters de kunstgeschiedenis bepalen'.
- Rovers, Eva, 24 February 2012, Inheritance/Nottingham Contemporary, 'Missing houses. The collaboration between Helene Kröller-Müller and Mies van der Rohe'.
- Rovers, Eva, 20 April 2012, Vereniging Kunst, Cultuur en Recht, 'Kröller-Müller: de dubieuze schenking van een miljoenencollectie'.
- Rovers, Eva, 25 April 2012, De Balie, Amsterdam, panel discussion Mediawijsheid.
- Rovers, Eva, 26 April 2012, Instituut Posterheide, Oosterbeek, 'Helene Kröller-Müller als inspiratie voor het huidige mecenaat', seminar.



Theme issue P.-G. van Hecke, *Zacht Lawijd*

## 2.7 Editorships and advisory committees

During the year 2011-2012 Herman Langeveld has been chairman of the Workgroup Biography of the Society of Dutch Literature.

Hans Renders is editor of the Flemish-Dutch scientific journal *ZL. Literair-historisch tijdschrift* (Antwerp) and a member of the editorial board of the scholarly magazine *Quaerendo. A Quarterly Journal from the Low Countries Devoted to Manuscripts and Printed Books* (Leiden) and of the scholarly magazine *Le Temps des Médias. Revue d'histoire* (Paris). He was asked as peer reviewer or the Royal Academy of Science in Flanders, Gent (Belgium) and for the scientific publishing house Routledge.

For the project on the history of newspapers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 24 European countries, ‘Dictionnaire de la presse (écrit) en Europe XX<sup>e</sup> siècle’, or ‘Encyclopaedia of the European Press’, hosted by the research institute Sciences Po in Paris, Hans Renders is coordinator for The Netherlands.

Renders has been requested to be advisor by Elsevier Academische Enquête, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Research School KU Leuven, Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM). He is member of the board of the ‘Biographers International Organization’ and Member of the Board of Governors of Stichting Media Ombudsman Nederland.

As in previous years, Hans Renders was a book critic for the Dutch radio programme on history on Sunday *OVT* (VPRO Broadcasting Corporation).

Renders is chairman of the board of Stichting Innovatie Media, founded last year, and is a member of the board and the board of editors of the Dutch Biography Portal.

Renders (co-)edited the following titles:

- Mirjam de Baar, Yme Kuiper & Hans Renders (red.), *Biografie & Religie. De religieuze factor in de biografie*, Boom, Amsterdam 2011 [=2012], 300 pagina's.
- Manu van der Aa, Sjoerd van Faassen en Hans Renders, Themanummer P.-G. van Hecke, *Zacht Lawijd*, 307 blz.

Eva Rovers was in 2011-2012 editor and member of the board of *Tijdschrift voor biografie* [Magazine for Biography].

## Education and partnerships

### 3.1 Education

The Biography Institute supervises graduate students preparing PhD's, as well as undergraduate students writing master theses or taking part in research classes within the domain of biography. The chair History and Theory of Biography provides lecture series for both Bachelor and Master students. In the previous academic year the lecture series ‘Historical approach to Biography’ was developed and given, intended for Master students of the Faculty of Arts. For Bachelor students the institute set up a lecture series, titled ‘Dutch History II, Dutch identity; Theme: Dutch politics after 1900 in biographies’.

### 3.2 Partnerships

With the Library of the University of Groningen is being collaborated on the aforementioned digitization projects.

With the Archive and Documentation centre for Dutch Behavioral Sciences (ADNG) and the National Museum of Education has been collaborated with regard to the conference Biography and Pedagogy.

With the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen and the School for the Study of the Humanities (OGWG) has been collaborated with regard to the edited volume *Biography and Religion*.

### 3.3 Dutch Biography Portal

The Biography Institute collaborates with a number of other institutions, led by the Institute of Netherlands History (ING), on the project Dutch Biography Portal. This portal ([www.biografischportaal.nl](http://www.biografischportaal.nl)) is designed to promote scientific research by making biographical reference books with biographical information about the inhabitants of the Netherlands, from the earliest times to the present, digitally accessible via the internet.

## BIOGRAFISCH portaal van nederland

Op de website van het Biografisch Portaal van Nederland vindt u wetenschappelijk onderbouwde informatie over steeds meer opmerkelijke Nederlanders uit het verleden (nu ruim 63.000). De gegevens komen uit een groot aantal collecties en naslagwerken. U kunt op alle mogelijke manieren zoeken en uw eigen selecties samenstellen. Het portaal is gratis toegankelijk.

De leveranciers van informatie zijn onder meer:  
Biografie Instituut, Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie,  
Digitale Bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse Letteren,  
Huygens ING, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale  
Geschiedenis, Joods Historisch Museum, Koninklijke  
Bibliotheek, Nationaal Archief, Museum Catharijne-  
convent, Onderzoekscentrum voor Geschiedenis en  
Cultuur (UC), Parlementair Documentatie Centrum,  
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie.

[WWW.BIOGRAFISCHPORTAAL.NL](http://WWW.BIOGRAFISCHPORTAAL.NL)

## Publicity (selection)

- *Bres*, May/June 2012
- *Dagblad van het Noorden*, 25 April 2012, 9 June 2012.
- *De Gelderlander*, 25 May 2012.
- *De Groene Amsterdammer*, 13 May 2012.
- *NRC Handelsblad*, 22 January 2012, 24 April 2012, 18 May 2012, 9 June 2012.
- *Historisch Magazine*, October 2011.
- *Historisch Nieuwsblad*, March 2012.
- *Leeuwarder Courant*, 19 May 2012.
- *Het Parool*, 24 April 2012.
- *De Telegraaf*, 27 April 2012.
- *Tijdschrift voor Psychiatrie*, December 2011.
- *Trouw*, 3 March 2012.
- *Vrij Nederland*, 27 June 2012.
- *de Volkskrant*, 19 January 2012, 21 April 2012, 25 April 2012.

## Radio

- *Kunststof*, Radio 1, 9 May 2012.
- *OVT*, 27 May 2012, 3 June 2012.

## Prizes

- Eva Rovers: Jan van Gelderprijs 2011 (Dutch Association of Art Historians).
- Eva Rovers: Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize 2012.



Suetonius      Aubrey      Boswell      Plutarchus      Stephen      Brantome      Vasari



J.F. Ankersmit      J.C. Bloem      Jan Campert      Jan Hanlo



F. Domela Nieuwenhuis      Vincent Willem van Gogh      F. Hirschmann      G.J. van Heuven Goedhart



Loe de Jong      Henk Feldmeijer      Anton Kröller      H. Kröller-Müller



D.F. Malan      Alice Nahon      W. Schermerhorn      Jan Wier