



Biography Institute



Annual Report Biography Institute 2016

Annual Report 2016

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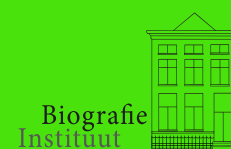
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rijksuniversiteit
groningen

Annual Report Biography Institute
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
2016

GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY PRESS




Voor het eerst op de Kermis alhier!
Nieuw. Nieuw.
Levende Photographiën.

ENORM SUCCES.

Gedurende de Kermis is alhier gearriveerd

De Electriscbe Kinematograaf
en BIOGRAAF,
Standplaats Vischmarkt.

 Hiermede hebben wij de eer het gesachte publiek dezer 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, zels 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 precietigste Tableaux zullen worden vertoond, als:

Het optrekken der Transvaalsche Boeren naar het oorlogsterrein. Het transporteeren van Engelsche krijgsgevangenen door de Boeren naar Pretoria. De aftocht der Engelsche Lanciers na den slag bij Modderivier. Aankomst van den spoorreijn te Pretoria. Een stierengevecht te Madrid (zeer interessant!) Gesnaptc dieren, enz. enz. Meer dan 1000 verschillende tableaux!

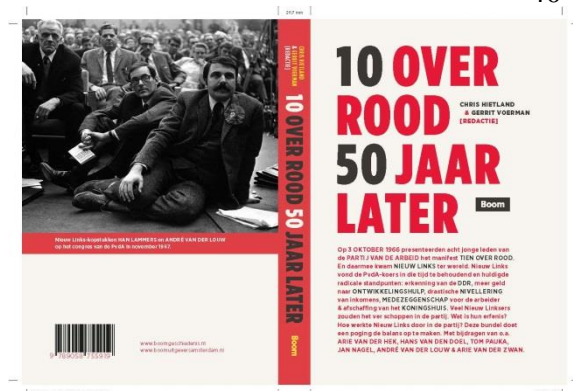
Elk uur een voorstelling met afwisselend programma.

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

Nieuwsblad Heusden en Altena 25 april 1900

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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 the calendar year 2016.

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.

With regard to the development of theoretical perspectives on biography the Biography Institute aims at organizing 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.

The Biography Institute supervises graduate students preparing biographies as PhD's, as well as Master students writing master theses or taking part in research classes within the domain of biography. For three successive years now, the institute has provided the research course 'Biographical Approach of History'. This course is also open for contract students.

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.

1.1 Employees

- Prof. J.W. Renders, director, manages the institute.
- I.L. Hengeveld, coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of the institute.
- B.B.J. de Haan PhD, PhD researcher; researcher/staff member, was appointed in September 2009 to conduct theoretical research on biographical traditions in international perspective.
- J.S. Harmsma MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte), appointed in April 2013 to write the biography of Jelle Zijlstra.
- Chris Hietland MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte), appointed in April 2014 to write the biography of André van der Louw.
- E.M. Rovers PhD, senior researcher (1 fte), appointed in September 2011 until September 2016 to write the biography of Boudewijn Büch.
- D. Veltman MA, PhD researcher (1 fte), appointed in September 2016 to write the biography of Felix De Boeck.

1.2 PhD Researchers

In 2016 the Biography Institute guided ten PhD's in total. Three of these PhD's were employees of the institute, eight were external PhD researchers.

- Jonne Harmsma writes the biography of Jelle Zijlstra; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. J.M. Berk.
- Chris Hietland writes the biography of André van der Louw; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. G. Voerman and Prof. P. van de Laar.
- David Veltman writes the biography of Felix De Boeck; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. J. Tollebeek.

External PhD Researchers

- Richard Hoving is writing the biography of Joseph Kotälla; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.

- Roelie Zwikker is writing the biography of Vincent Willem van Gogh; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Gerben Wynia is writing the biography of C.O. Jellema; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. G.J. Dorleijn and Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Co Strootman is writing the biography of P.J. Bouman; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. K. van Berkel and Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Nigel Hamilton wrote a partial biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. D.F.J. Bosscher.
- Chris Gevers is writing the biography of Petrus Tammens; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. D.F.J. Bosscher.
- Coen Brummer is writing the biography of Samuel van Houten; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. G. Voerman.
- Jacqueline van Paaschen writes the biography of Marie Tak van Poortvliet; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.

1.3 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 costs of conferences, symposia and edited volumes. The existence of the institute itself was supported by the Democracy & Media Foundation and by the Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG).

Other projects were financially supported by the funding bodies mentioned below.

1.4 Funding

The funding bodies mentioned below financially supported projects within the Biography Society in 2015:

De Nederlandsche Bank (The Dutch Bank)

Dr. Abraham Kuyperfonds

Municipality of Rotterdam

NOS

NPO
VARA
Graduate School RUG
Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM)
SNS Reaal
Stichting Felix De Boeck

The funding was allocated to the biography projects Felix De Boeck, André van der Louw and Jelle Zijlstra.

1.5 Website and Newsletter

The Biography Institute has a bilingual website (Dutch and English): www.rug.nl/BiografieInstituut, also accessible via www.BiografieInstituut.nl. On this website, visitors can access information concerning the objectives and the topics of research of the institute, as well as information on ongoing projects and conferences. The site features a news section which is updated continuously.

The website also includes files made accessible by the institute through digitalization. Additionally, the Biography Institute has published online a database with pseudonyms, the National Archives of Pseudonyms. Furthermore the website contains an extensive list of related website links on 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 29.860.

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. During this year, six newsletters have been distributed.

1.6 Founding of The Biography Society

On Saturday November 7, 2015 The Biography Society has been founded at Aix-Marseille Université. The aim of The Biography Society is to foster international research and practice in the field of biography studies.

President of the Society is Prof. Joanny Moulin (Aix-Marseille Université). Vice President is Prof. Hans Renders (Biography Institute/University of Groningen). Nigel Hamilton (University of Massachusetts Boston) has been appointed as

Honorary President. Other members of the Board are Prof. Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon (Reykjavík Academy), Alexandre Tremblay (Aix Marseille Université), Prof. Martine Boyer-Weinmann



(Université Lumière-Lyon 2), prof. Sophie Vallas (Aix-Marseille Université), Binne de Haan (Biography Institute/University of Groningen) and Maryam Thirriard (Aix-Marseille Université). More information can be found on the website of The Biography Society: biographysociety.org.

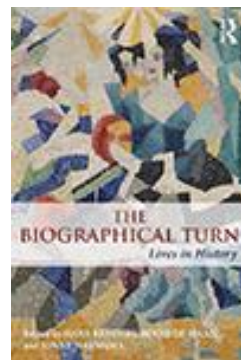
New scholarly publication series: Biography Studies

From 2017 on, under editorship of the Biography Institute and in collaboration with The Biography Society, the scholarly publication series ‘Biography Studies’ will appear at Brill Publishers (Boston/Leiden).

Annually, one new study in the field of biography studies will appear in this series. The editors of the series are Hans Renders and Binne de Haan (both Biography Institute). The Advisory Board consists of Joanny Moulin (Aix-Marseille Université), Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon (Reykjavík Academy), Nigel Hamilton (University of Massachusetts Boston/Biography Institute) and Lindie Koorts (University of the Free State).

Publication *The Biographical Turn*

In September the volume *The Biographical Turn: Lives in history*, edited by Hans Renders, Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma, was published by Routledge. The volume counts 16 chapters in which the 'biographical turn' is being studied from the perspective of various topics and research fields in the humanities. The authors of the volume are Debby Applegate, Enny de Bruijn, Sjoerd van Faassen, Binne de Haan, Nigel Hamilton, Jonne Harmsma, Craig Howes, Christian Klein, Lindie Koorts, Sabina Loriga, Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon, Joanny Moulin, Hans Renders, Carl Rollyson en Kaarle Wirta.



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: Jonne Harmsma (Jelle Zijlstra), Chris Hietland (André van der Louw), Richard Hoving (Joseph Kotälla), Nigel Hamilton (Franklin Delano Roosevelt; finished); Chris Gevers (Petrus Tammens) and David Veltman (Felix De Boeck).

Felix De Boeck

The artist Felix De Boeck (1898-1995) lived and worked all of his life on his farm at Drogenbos, near Brussels. He wanted to be seen as the artist who had to earn his living as a farmer, and dismissed the Romantic image of a painting farmer. Therefore, he could only work on his paintings on Sundays. In egodocuments, contributions to periodicals and interviews he used to present himself as the loner, who did not belong to an artist's group or movement, and wanted to present his work preferably in solo-exhibitions.

During his life, De Boeck's work developed in the direction of greater abstraction. At the beginning of his artistic career, he was greatly influenced by movements such as fauvism, cubism and futurism. But in this early work also a religious factor and an interest in nature's treasures

was already an essential feature. He did not only choose a physical distance between the metropolitan art centres – Paris, Antwerp – of his time. He also tried to give a new interpretation to modernism itself, with its rejection of the ‘natural’ or the use of religious themes in art.

In this biography attention will be given to the tensions arising in culture and society after De Boeck’s decision to live his life as a farmer. How did he join the artist’s debate on modernism and the Flemish activism? How was his opinion on this art influenced by World War I and II? How could he be influenced by Van Gogh or Picasso? Which position did he have in the group surrounding the art periodicals *Les Sept Arts* and *Het Overzicht*? And how did he live during his self-chosen retreat from public life after the death of his parents, brother and children? How did this life as a hermit contribute to the mythologization of De Boeck’s person?

The research is of importance for the knowledge of the history of modernistic art in Belgium. Did this art develop only in the metropolitan cities, in which many of the avant-garde groups searched for renewal of the arts, or is there something like an ‘arcadian modernism’ in Belgian 20th century art?

P.J. Bouman

At the age of thirty Pieter Jan Bouman (1902-1977) took a task upon himself: ‘to be a spiritual leader in a dislocated time’. To this end he wrote several books, which made him the most famous and widely read historian in the 1950’s. In Bouman’s books the point of focus are his fellow creatures with their personal fortunes and perception of history. His *Revolution of the lonely* (1953) became a best-seller with thirty-four print and translated into eight languages.



Bouman, from 1946 professor of sociology in Groningen, was often asked as a speaker and had an extensive network: journalists, university colleagues at home and abroad, entrepreneurs, ministers and members of the Royal family.

Historians were unhappy with the work of Bouman. His so-called ‘free books’ were firmly criticized and vilified. The publications were said to be unscientific and shoddy works. Bouman was convinced, however, that his ‘free books’ should not be assessed scientific but still could meet the highest standards.

Within the sociological world Bouman with his socio-cultural attitudes found himself in an equally awkward position. When starting in Groningen he brought his own manual of sociology. Many generations of sociology students were trained this way. But when in the early 1950’s the so-called ‘modern’ sociology became dominant, attitudes such as Bouman’s classic socio-cultural concept were seen as irrelevant.

Bouman harboured a distrust of science and preferred not to use the title of professor. At his retirement in 1968 he refused to be portrayed in cap and gown. Twenty years later the university restored this omission. It symbolizes the struggle with science Bouman engaged in virtually all his life. In the domain of science he didn’t want to feel at home, it was the perfect place for him to be out of place. And yet he belonged there and did what he had to do. He wrote several scientific publications, was proud to be rector magnificus and happy to be free of its burden.

Never before have Bouman’s fight with science and cause of his popularity been examined in a full biographical approach. The biography reveals an almost unknown Bouman: the obsessive labour on his project of life and his underlying motives, his simultaneous fight against and service to science. The biography shows Bouman as a self-appointed culture carrier who sometimes took a wrong turn, but above all gained success and fame.

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 publicizing 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 28 January 1978 and he devoted his energies to everything related to Vincent, Theo and the museum.

C.O. Jellema

C.O. Jellema (1936-2003) studied theology and German language and literature and taught German literature at Groningen University. He was a well-respected poet: his work has been translated into English, German and French. Jellema participated in Poetry International, was a member of literary juries and committees and reviewed literature for several newspapers for many years. He was also an essayist and a translator.



In this research project there are two main angles: the struggle to maintain literary autonomy and the role of homosexuality in the construction of Jellema's personal and poetic identity.

The autonomy issue will be explored using a set of cohering questions. For example, how did Jellema achieve his hard-won literary recognition? Jellema's work and poetic principles showed little, if any, resemblance to the views of the then-dominant poets and critics. That is why it is interesting to explore the development of his literary work and his views on literature. His interest in the work of the German mystics, which he also translated, is of special importance in this matter. As early as in his 1961 debut a religious theme can be observed in Jellema's work. What did this thematic interest signify during a time in which it was unusual to address religious and metaphysical issues?

In the second half of the Twentieth century homosexuality underwent an important transformation, from a taboo subject to being socially accepted. Important questions are: how did Jellema's acceptance of his own homosexuality develop? In what way did his encounter with a German soldier as a six-year-old, an early initiation into homo-eroticism, influence his life and work? To what extent is the eroticism in his work homo-erotic? How do these things all relate to the characteristics of the lives and works of other authors from this period, during which homosexuality and homosexual emancipation received a lot of attention.

For Jellema writing was a quest for identity, an affirmation of self-worth. Key factors in this are the one-and-a-half-year period during which he underwent tuberculosis treatment as a young boy, his struggle with his homosexuality, being raised with a strong class-consciousness, and his aborted theology studies. The chosen research method makes it possible to explore these and other factors and expand their implications beyond the particular, creating insight into the literary and socio-cultural climate in which Jellema worked.

Joseph Kotälla

A 'human devil', he was called by the former resistance newspaper *Het Parool* shortly after the war. The paper reported on excavating the victims of Joseph Kotälla in the vicinity of the German concentration camp

Amersfoort in November 1945. As a deputy camp commander, the small SS member was extremely cruel and led several firing squads during the war years. The newspaper stated that Kotälla ‘found his greatest pleasure in looking at tormented bodies and watching the pain and agony in the eyes of the dying’.

This study gives a detailed outline of Kotälla’s problematic youth in Upper Silesia, a region that was dominated by ethnic conflicts. His career in the German army during the war will be described in detail.

After a brief period at the Eastern Front, he was transferred to the Netherlands. His work in concentration camp Amersfoort is an important part of this research. It answers the question whether Kotälla with his cruel actions was an exception compared to the other guards in the camp. Studying the deputy commander gives the perspective of a participant (or agency perspective) on the notorious camp Amersfoort that has never been used before, namely that of ‘perpetrators’. On the basis of unique sources and eyewitnesses accounts it becomes clear what Kotälla thought of himself.

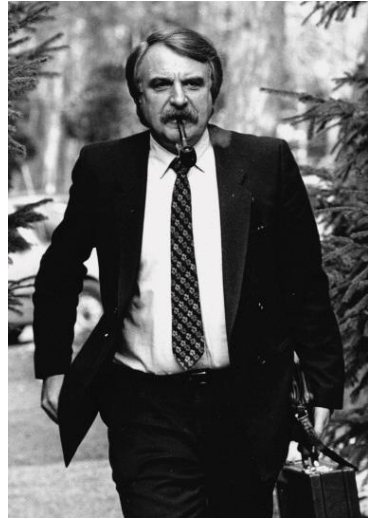
Hitherto the study’s concerning the postwar trial of Joseph Kotälla and the lingering debate on his parole are dominated by the political and public discussion on how to deal with war criminals. This study, however, focuses primarily on Kotälla’s motives and interpretations.



André van der Louw

André van der Louw (1933-2005) had a versatile career. He was a journalist, a social democratic politician and a chairman of several public organizations. As a journalist he worked for the social democratic broadcasting association *vara* and the cultural youth magazines *Twen/Taboe* and *Hitweek*. In the late sixties, Van der Louw became widely known as a leading member of *Nieuw Links*, a movement that strived for

change within the social democratic party. He was chosen in the central committee of the PvdA in 1967, and became the party's chairman four years later. From a rebellious party member, he turned into a professional politician. Van der Louw was sworn into office as mayor of Rotterdam in 1974. He seemed to be in his element in Rotterdam. Even so, he became Minister of Culture, Recreation and Social Work in the second Van Agt government in 1981. After the rapid fall of this unsuccessful cabinet, Van der Louw appeared to be in the running to become Den Uyl's successor as PvdA leader. Instead, he disappeared from the political scene in The Hague. He became, among other things, chairman of the Dutch football association knvb (1986-1989) and chairman of the national broadcasting organization nos (1994-1997). In the early nineties, twenty years after Nieuw Links dissolved, Van der Louw campaigned once again in order to chart a new political course for the PvdA. With little effect this time.



This biographical research aims to show the connection between Van der Louw's personal background and his public activities, and it will put it into a historical context. This will probably shed light on how Van der Louw's various activities related to one another and it will give insight in the development of his political views. Four research subjects are of central importance: Van der Louw's journalistic and cultural activities, his position within the PvdA, his political style and his (self)representation. This research will contribute to the historiography of postwar Dutch social democracy and political culture in general.

Petrus Tammens

Petrus Tammens was 'by far the least popular mayor of Groningen', wrote town historian Beno Hofman in his book about the men who have headed the municipal offices of the city Groningen until today. Tammens was probably also the one who had least hoped that he once would fulfill the

office, which he did from 1943 to 1945. After the German occupiers removed prewar mayor P.W.J.H. Cort van der Linden from office, the Dutch collaborationist National Socialist Movement (NSB) searched for a suitable successor for a long time. Several candidates dropped out, mostly because they accepted another post. Finally, the choice was made for the farmer Tammens from the Groningen agrarian village Ruigezand. Until then, he held various managerial positions in agricultural organizations and assisted as administrative council member the commissioner of the province, his party colleague C.F. Staargaard. In first instance, Tammens refused to accept the position. However, there were not many suitable candidates for the NSB, and Tammens yielded to the pressure exerted on him personally by the national NSB -leader Anton Mussert. In the beginning of 1943, the inauguration took place, with much national-socialist display of power.



Peter Romijn made a distinction between two types of NSB-mayors in his study *Burgemeesters in oorlogstijd* [Mayors in wartime]. The first group of mayors aimed to prove that nazis could be good mayors. Some of them even managed to gain a certain popularity in their community. The other group of mayors consisted of convinced national-socialists who seized the public office to achieve a political goal. This group mostly consisted of hawks. This biography will demonstrate that Tammens belonged to the second category. Furthermore, Tammens also is a type of individual that has not been studied in a Dutch biography before: a combination of governor, farmer and NSB-politician.

Jelle Zijlstra

During Jelle Zijlstra's (1918-2001) career the Frisian economist acted as minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, senator, prime minister and finally became president of the De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB). Even though Zijlstra was active in politics for over fifteen years between 1952 and 1967, he never regarded himself as a politician. Zijlstra labeled the academic world of the Vrije Universiteit as his 'paradise lost' and only when he became president of De Nederlandsche Bank he felt in place. In

his memoirs Zijlstra pointed out that the reason for this was he had never been a homo politicus and had always remained a homo economicus.

Nevertheless, Zijlstra's departure from the political stage took a long period and several of his attempts to withdraw from The Hague failed or were short-lived. Seemingly unwilling Zijlstra stayed on as minister, leader of the Antirevolutionary Party (ARP) and ultimately even became prime minister.

Trained as an economist, Zijlstra distanced himself from political routines and preferred a professional, businesslike style, favoring consensus and the long term above devout phrases and idealism. On the level of both national and party politics Zijlstra represented pragmatism, earning him popularity as well as fierce criticism. Zijlstra held a prominent role within the modernization of the ARP and the rapidly changing landscape of Dutch politics in general; where the importance of national reconstruction and governing on a broad basis began to fade.

This research aims at the life and work of Jelle Zijlstra in which the following questions play a significant role: What was the influence of the crisis and the Second World War on the development of Zijlstra as a person, politician and economist? What was Zijlstra's role within the Antirevolutionary Party and Dutch politics? This research will contribute to the historiography of Dutch post-war politics, balancing between reconstruction, social engineering and fiscal policy.

2.2 Completed projects

J.C. Bloem

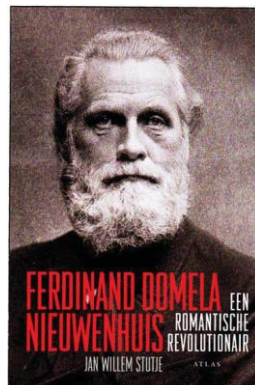
Bart Slijper wrote the biography of Bloem entitled *Van alle dingen los. Het leven van J.C. Bloem*, which was published by Uitgeverij De Arbeiderpers in May 2007. A reprint



appeared in the same year. Bart Slijper obtained his doctorate on 10 May 2007.

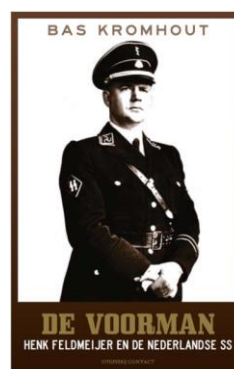
Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis

The project Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (1846–1919) is made possible by a so-called Vidi-subsidy from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). *Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis. Een romantische revolutionair* was first published May 2012 by publisher Atlas. In 2012 the biography was short-listed for the Libris History Prize and in 2013 for the Gouden Boekenuil.



Henk Feldmeijer

Johannes Hendrik (Henk) Feldmeijer was the ‘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.



Bas Kromhout obtained his doctorate on his thesis on 6 June 2012. The commercial edition, entitled *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*, and from 1930 he was editor-in-chief of the paper. In 1933 he became editor of the *Utrechtsch Nieuwsblad*. He became involved with the resistance and through it with the illegal



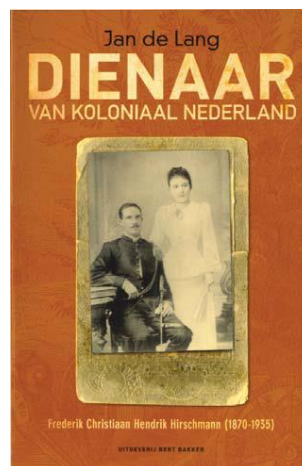
newspaper *Het Parool*. Van Heuven Goedhart edited *Het Parool* from 1942 until mid-1944, when he had to flee to London, where he was named Minister of Justice in the government in exile.

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.

Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann

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

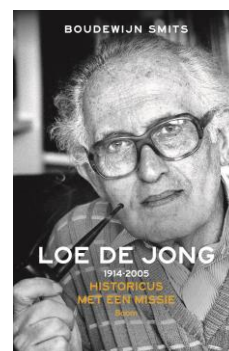
Jan de Lang obtained his doctorate on 14 October 2010. The commercial edition of his thesis, entitled *Dienaar van koloniaal Nederland. Biografie van Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann (1870-1935)*, was published by Bert Bakker in April 2011.



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 published between 1969 and 1988 the standard work *Het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de Tweede Wereldoorlog* (The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Second World War).

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 inextricable 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.

This study, defended as PhD thesis by Smits on April 24, 2014, 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. This biography, published by Boom, has been nominated for the Boerhave Biography Prize 2015 of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities.

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'.

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. The commercial edition of *De eeuwigheid verzameld. Helene Kröller-Müller 1869-1939* was published by Bert Bakker. In 2012 the thesis was awarded with the Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize and in 2011 with the Jan van Gelderprijs.



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. His research resulted in doctorate on 27 October 2008 and was published entitled: *'Ik heb de liefde liefgehad'. Het leven van Alice Nahon* ('I loved love itself'. The life of Alice Nahon), Lannoo, Tiel 2008.

Radio Orange

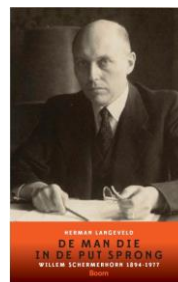
At the outbreak of the Second World War, radio was considered the fourth fighting arm, as important as the army, the navy and the air force. Many celebrities, including the German writer Thomas Mann and the French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, supported the allied war effort and broadcasted to their compatriots in the occupied territories. The Dutch language radio stations saw many well-known writers like A. den Doollaard 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 a 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.

Willem Schermerhorn

When he was aged 31, Willem Schermerhorn 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 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. *De man die de put in sprong. Willem Schermerhorn 1894-1977* was published in 2014 by Boom Publishers.



Jan Wier

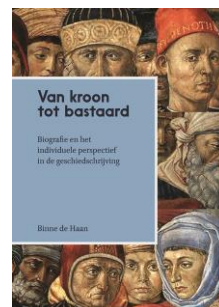
The physician Jan Wier is known as the first serious opponent of the witch persecution. In his view, the witch trials were unlawful because they dealt with non-existing offences and because suspects were tortured.

Because Jan Wier described some witches as mentally ill, he can be regarded as a founder of modern 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.



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 *Van kroon tot bastaard: Biografie en het*



individuele perspectief in de geschiedschrijving [From prince to pauper. Biography and the individual perspective in history].

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.

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 was not 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. Binne de Haan obtained his doctorate on May 28, 2015.

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



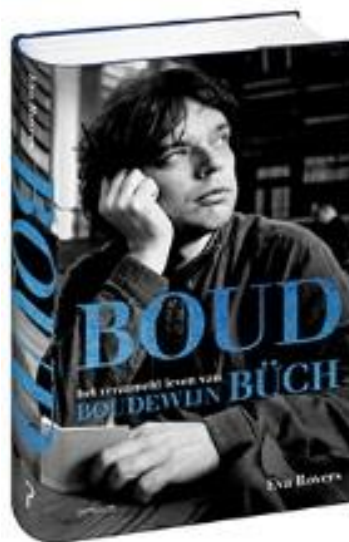
was a successful business man. During the war he and a small group of business leaders determined the Netherlands' foreign and economic policy. This earned him the nickname 'the uncrowned king of the Netherlands'.

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.

On June 2, 2015, Ariëtte Dekker obtained her doctorate for the biography *Leven op krediet. Anton Kröller (1862-1941)* [Indebted Life. Anton Kröller 1862-1941]. The commercial edition has been published by Prometheus/Bert Bakker.

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. 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 newspaper 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. *BOUD* was published on 13 november 2016 by Prometheus Publishers.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Although many biographies have been written about Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), they have largely ignored or dismissed his command of all U.S. Armed Forces throughout the global conflict we call the Second World War.

Since the role of Commander in Chief in peace and war is one of the essential tasks of a U.S. President – mandated by its Constitution – and since that role has been exercised with both



success and failure over the past seventy years of American global hegemony since his death, this dearth is a surprising gap in our biographical understanding and knowledge. Was America's military

victory in World War II only attributable to its generals and admirals – men like Marshall, MacArthur, Leahy, Arnold, King, Nimitz, Eisenhower, Patton and Bradley? Was Churchill really the architect and strategic mastermind behind the Allied winning of the war – as Churchill painted his own performance in his great six-volume memoir, *The Second World War*, which helped win him the Nobel Prize for Literature after the war?

Clearly, the death of Franklin Roosevelt from a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1945, several weeks before the fall of Adolf Hitler, was a calamity for his biography as the dominant military leader of the western Allies, for the President had fully intended to write his war memoirs, and had already begun assembling the materials. He had, after all, rallied his country after defeat at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and had been the ultimate figure responsible for turning that misfortune into military victory – victory that then permitted the United States to become the world’s foremost postwar superpower, for good and ill.

This biography seeks to re-examine and more deeply research the character, *modus operandi*, decisions, relationships and true role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt – who often called himself an ‘obstinate old Dutchman’ – as U.S. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States in World War II.

On 28 April 2016, Hamilton defended his thesis *Commander in Chief. FDR’s battle with Churchill, 1943*. The trade edition was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

2.3 Edited volumes conferences

In 2016, Chris Hietland organized together with Gerrit Voerman a colloquium on the ‘Nieuw Links’-movement in the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA). During this conference an edited volume *10 over Rood 50 jaar later* was presented. Jonne Harmsma organized with George Harinck (Vrije Universiteit) a colloquium on the Zijlstra-administration, titled *Waar we heen gaan, Jelle zal wel zien*.



Edited volumes published under auspices of the Biography Institute.

2.4 Digitization projects

In order to facilitate faster and easier access to biographical research materials and to open up new opportunities for research, biographical research materials are being made available digitally via the website 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 Groningen Archives.

With our digitized documents, we also contributed to the content of the Dutch Biography Portal (www.biografischportaal.nl). As of October 20, 2014, Hans Renders has taken over as chairman of the Foundation Biografisch Portaal from previous chairman Hans Blom.

Dutch National Pseudonym Archives (NPA)

Last year, corrections, additions and technical improvements have been made to the National Pseudonyms Archives, which 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 is accessible via www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa.



2.5 Publications

Scientific publications

- Haan, Binne de, 'Personalised history: On biofiction, source criticism and the critical value of biography', in: Hans Renders, Binne de Haan en Jonne Harmsma ed., *The Biographical Turn: Lives in History*, Routledge, London/New York 2016, p. 53-67.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 'Honest politics': A Biographical Perspective on Economic Expertise as a Political Style, in Hans Renders, Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma (red.), *The Biographical Turn: Lives in History*, Routledge, London/New York 2016, p. 104-117.
- Renders, Hans (samen met Sjoerd van Faassen), 'Les Éditions de Minuit and De Bezige Bij. A Comparison of a French and a Dutch Resistance Publishing House during and shortly after World War II, 1941-1946', in: *Quarendo. A quarterly journal from the Low Countries devoted to manuscripts and printed books* 46(2016)1, mei, p. 53-74.
- Renders, Hans, 'De geschiedenis van Oote. Een door de avant-garde gewantrouwe provinciaal', in: *Uitgelezen Boeken* 18(2016)1, augustus, p. 24-52.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Sjoerd van Faassen en Erik Buelinckx) "'De stem uit de diepte": een onuitgegeven "simultanéistisch spel" van Theo van Doesburg, in: *Zacht Lawijd* 15(2016)3, september, p. 4-55.
- Renders, Hans, 'The Biographical Turn. Biography as critical method in the humanities and in society', introduction with Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma, in: Hans Renders, Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma, *The Biographical Turn. Lives in History*, Routledge, London/New York 2016, p. 1-11.
- Renders, Hans (with Sjoerd van Faassen), 'Biographies as multipliers: The First World War as turning point in the lives of modern artists', in: Hans Renders, Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma, *The Biographical Turn. Lives in History*, Routledge, London/New York 2016, p. 91-103.
- Renders, Hans, 'Biography is not a selfie: Authorisation as the creeping transition from autobiography to biography', in: Hans Renders, Binne de Haan and Jonne Harmsma, *The Biographical Turn. Lives in History*, Routledge, London/New York 2016, p. 158-164.

Professional publications

- Haan, Binne de, 'Biografie', in *Geschiedenis Magazine* 51(2016)3, april/mei, p. 60-61.
- Haan, Binne de, en Marijn Molema, 'Agrarische bedrijfsveranderingen 1955-1980: enkele observaties uit een oral history-project', in: *De Vrije Fries* 96(2016), p. 163-176.

- Harmsma, Jonne, 'In Rotterdamsche sfeer': Economische wetenschap aan de Vrije Universiteit tussen Ridder en Zijlstra' [*The Rotterdam tradition: Economics at the Free University between Ridder and Zijlstra*], *TPEdigitaal* 10(2016)3, pp. 99-112.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 'Jelle Zijlstra: op het kruispunt tussen wetenschap en politiek' [*Jelle Zijlstra: on the crossroads between science and politics*], in A.C. Flipse (red.), *135 jaar VU en samenleving: 25 portretten*, VU University Press, Amsterdam 2016, p. 115-122.

- Hietland, Chris en Gerrit Voerman, 'Nieuw Links in de Partij van de Arbeid, 1966-1971. Een beknopt historisch overzicht', in: Chris Hietland en Gerrit Voerman (red.), *10 over rood 50 jaar later*, Boom: Amsterdam 2016, p. 15-26.
- Hietland, Chris, 'Van rebellengroep tot partijelite? André van der Louw en de kerngroep van Nieuw Links', in: Chris Hietland en Gerrit Voerman (red.), *10 over rood 50 jaar later*, Boom: Amsterdam 2016, p. 99-130.
- Hietland, Chris and Gerrit Voerman, 'Inleiding', in: Chris Hietland en Gerrit Voerman (red.), *10 over rood 50 jaar later*, Boom: Amsterdam 2016, p. 7-14.
- Hietland, Chris: 'Het imaaasje van Provo. Vijftig jaar later', in: *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 129(2016)3, p. 433-446.

- Renders, Hans, recensie Niall Ferguson, *Kissinger: 1923-1968. The Idealist*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)1, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Heere Heeresma, *Bleib Gesund. Brieven*, in: *Het Parool* 14-1-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Max de Jong, *Dagboek*, bezorgd door Marsha Keja, in: *Het Parool* 28-1-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Sytze van der Zee, *Hare Majesteits loyaalste onderdaan. François van 't Sant 1883-1966*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)2, p. 16.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Jan de Vries & Marijke de Groot (red.), *Van*

- Sintels vuurwerk maken. Kunstkritiek en moderne kunst 1905-1925*, in: *Het Parool* 18-2-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Paul Fischer, *Een Kim Jong-Il Productie*, in: *Het Parool* 3-3-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Paul Damen, *Bloemen van het kwaad. Gedichten van dictators*, in: *Het Parool* 17-3-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Elisabeth Leijnse, *Cécile en Elsa. Strijdbare freules*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)4, april, p. 87.
 - Renders, Hans, 'Een correctie op de geschiedenis', in: Nigel Hamilton, *Roosevelt vs. Churchill. Bevelhebbers in oorlog – 1943*. Veen Media, Amsterdam 2016, p. 7-12.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Boris Pasternak, *Dokter Zjivago*, in: *Het Parool* 31-3-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Rosemary Sullivan, *De dochter van Stalin. Het veelbewogen leven van Svetlanan Alliloejeva*, in: *Het Parool* 14-4-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, 'Inleiding. Eenzaam en meestal alleen', in: Willem Oltmans, *Memoires 1985-A*, Papieren Tijger, Breda 2016, p. 7-10.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Frank Westerman, *Een woord een woord*, in: *Het Parool* 21-4-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Henk van Osch, *Kardinaal de Jong. Verzetsheld en conservator*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)5, mei, p. 87.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie *Dienstbaar tot het einde. Brieven van en aan Elisabeth Couperus-Baud 1923-1958*, bezorgd door H.T.M. van Vliet, in: *Het Parool* 12-5-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Sylvia Heimans, *Josepha Mendels. Het eigenzinnige leven van een niet-nette dame. Biografie*, in: *Het Parool* 26-5-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Andrea Wulf, *De uitvinder van de natuur. Het avontuurlijke leven van Alexander von Humboldt*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)6, juni, p. 87.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Pauline Micheels, *De waarheidszoekster. Henriette Boas. Een leven voor de joodse zaak*, in: *Het Parool* 9-6-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Frank Dikötter, *De Culturele Revolutie. Een volksgeschiedenis 1962-1976*, in: *Het Parool* 23-6-2016.
 - Renders, Hans, recensie Mark Verheijen, *Harm van Riel. Een rechtse provo*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)7/8, augustus, p. 91.
 - Renders, Hans, Elias Canetti, *Het boek tegen de dood*, in: *Het Parool* 14-7-2016.

- Renders, Hans, 'Naschrift' [bij 'Aantjes werd te zwaar beshuldigd], in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)9, september.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Luc Sante, *Het andere Parijs. Stad van het volk*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)9, september, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Simon Sebag Montefiori, *De Romanovs 1613-1918*, in: *Het Parool* 1-9-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Felix Klos, *Winston Churchill; vader van Europa*, in: *Het Parool* 15-9-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Peter Ackroyd, *Thomas More. Biografie*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)10, oktober, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Peter Longerich, *Hitler*, in: *Het Parool* 29-9-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Luc Panhuysen, *Oranje tegen de Zonnekoning. De strijd tussen Willem III en Lodewijk XIV om Europa*, in: *Het Parool* 13-10-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Jolande Withuis, *Juliana. Vorstin in een mannenwereld*, in: *Het Parool* 26-10-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie *Rusteloos en overal. Het leven van Albert Helman*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)11, november, p. 91.
- Renders, Hans, recensie *Ferdinand en Johanna Bordewijk*, in: *Het Parool* 17-11-2016.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Jeroen Vullings), 'Interview Richard Holmes: "Een biografie moet rechtvaardigheid brengen"', in: *Vrij Nederland* 19-11-2016, p. 60-67.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Rémon van Gemeren, *Couperus. Een leven*, in: *Het Parool* 24-11-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Diederick Slijkerman, *Wim Treub (1858-1931)*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 25(2016)12, december, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Catherine Merridale, *Lenin in de trein. De reis naar de revolutie*, in: *Het Parool* 8-12-2016.
- Renders, Hans, 'Gertrude Pape – inspiratory van het surrealisme', in: Gertrude Pape (alias Evelyn Palmer), *Verses by a female Robinson Crusoe*; Theo van Baaren, *A Sheaf of simple poems*, De Utrechtse Boekhoudpers, Utrecht 2016, p. 43-45.
- Renders, Hans, recensie Hans Janssen, *Piet Mondriaan. Een nieuwe kunst voor een ongekend leven. Een biografie*, in: *Het Parool* 17-11-2016.
- Renders, Hans, recensie J. Goudsblom, *Geleerd. Memoires 1932-1968*, in: *Het Parool* 31-12-2016.

Rovers, Eva, *BOUD. Het verzameld leven van Boudewijn Büch*, Prometheus, Amsterdam 2016.

- Wynia, Gerben (red.), C.O. Jellema & Jan Siebelink, *Uit diepe verwantschap*, Flanor, Nijmegen 2016.
- Wynia, Gerben (red.), C.O. Jellema, *Late roos*, Avalon Pers, Woubrugge 2016.

Lectures and scientific activities

- Brummer, Coen, 2 februari 2016, ‘Een kloof tussen theorie en praktijk van de politiek?’, D66 Den Haag.
- Brummer, Coen, 29 oktober 2016, ‘Van idee, via macht, naar werkelijkheid’, Bijeenkomst mr. H.A.F.M.O. van Mierlo-stichting.
- Haan, Binne de, 29 april, Academiegebouw, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. ‘Heads of State: The Impact of Presidential Biography on Public Opinion’, paper workshop ‘The Impact of Presidential Biography: Correcting Historiography and Entering Public Political Debates’, Biografie Instituut/ICOG.
- Haan, Binne de, 24 augustus, NUI Galway, Galway. ‘Richard Holmes: A biographer-historian *par excellence*: Biography as a handshake and a coffee-house form’, paper seminar S63 ‘Biography’, congres ESSE-2016 (The European Society for the Study of English).
- Haan, Binne de, 16 december, WTC Expo/Noord-Nederlandse Landbouwbeurs, Leeuwarden. ‘Agrarische bedrijfsveranderingen 1955-1980: enkele observaties uit een oral history-project’, paper Sieperda Symposium, Fryske Akademy/Koninklijk Fries Genootschap.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 7 april 2016, “A Rhetoric of Truth: Economic Expertise as a Political Style – a Dutch Case”. Speaking in Parliament: history, politics, rhetoric, Queen Mary University of London, UK.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 29 april 2016, “Mission-X: Jelle Zijlstra’s quest to undo the Nixon-shock”. Workshop, The Impact of Presidential Biography, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 28 mei 2016, “Firefighting on an international stage: Salvaging the Bretton Woods system”. N.W. Posthumus Conference, Wageningen University.

- Harmsma, Jonne, 25 augustus 2016, “From Model to Vision: A Biographical Turn in Political Economy?” ESSE 2016 Conference, NUI Galway, Ireland.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 22 november 2016, “De begroting als symbool” [“*The government budget as a symbol*”]. Symposium ‘Waar we heen gaan, Jelle zal wel zien’: Het kabinet-Zijlstra (1966-1967) na vijftig jaar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 9 december 2016, “Zijlstra’s gematigd monetarisme” [“*Zijlstra's moderate monetarism*”]. Seminar Nederlands Economisch Denken, Universiteit van Amsterdam.

- Hietland, Chris, 9 maart, ‘Biografie André van der Louw’, seminar Onderzoeksschool Politieke Geschiedenis, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden.
- Hietland, Chris, 23 juni, studiedag Biografie Instituut, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, bespreking teksten en werkplannen met collegabiografen.
- Hietland, Chris, 3 oktober, ‘Van rebellengroep tot partijelite? André van der Louw en de kerngroep van Nieuw Links’, Symposium Nieuw Links en de Partij van de Arbeid, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.
- Hietland, Chris, 8 december, ‘Conflicting perceptions of democracy. André van der Louw and the social democratic elites of the 1950s and 1960s’, workshop Political Elites and Contested Democracy in Post-war Western Europe (1945-1965), Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen.

- Renders, Hans, Reviewing onderzoeksaanvraag National Research Foundation of South Africa.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing onderzoeksaanvraag Institut Universitaire de France (IUF, Paris).
- Renders, Hans, Peer review NWO Lerarenbeurzen, reports and preparation, januari-maart.
- Renders, Hans, Voorzitter commissie Leraren Promovendibeurzen NWO, 21 april.
- Renders, Hans, Peerreview diverse artikelen voor *Quaerendo. A quarterly journal from the Low Countries devoted to manuscripts and printed books*.
- Renders, Hans, Peerreview voor *Historisch Jaarboek Groningen*, 19 april.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing biografieprojecten Stichting Democratie & Media.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing CLARIAH-CORE project, NOW project voor digitaal toegankelijk maken biografisch materiaal reformers 19de eeuw.

- Renders, Hans, Beoordelingscommissie proefschrift/ biografie Clare Lennart door Petra Teunissen-Nijssse, Universiteit Leiden.
- Renders, Hans, Beoordelingscommissie Cum Laude Guido van Hengel biografie van Gavriilo Princip.
- Renders, Hans, Openingslezing over biografieën van kardinalen in de Lage Landen, ‘Het roomse rood’, Luce (platform voor postinitieel onderwijs van de Tilburg School of Catholic Theology) in samenwerking met het Cardinal Willebrands Research Centre.
- Renders, Hans, 28 april Promotor proefschrift Nigel Hamilton, Cum Laude, 28 april.
- Renders, Hans, Dagvoorzitter en medeorganisator Workshop Presidential Biography, 29 april.
- Renders, Hans, Panel John Adams Institute: Paul Brill, Nigel Hamilton, 2 mei.
- Renders, Hans, Jurylid Erik Roelfzema-Halzelhoff Biografie Prijs, 10 mei Noord Hollandse Maatschappij der Werenschappen, uitspreken jury rapport Erik Roelfzema-Halzelhoff Biografie Prijs.
- Renders, Hans, Aix-Marseille Université - Département d’Etudes du Monde Anglophone Conference Doctoral School PhD-students, lezing 27 mei.
- Renders, Hans, Jurylid Plutarch Award for Best Biography, Richmond, Virginia. Toespraak over nominatie, 4 juni.
- Renders, Hans, Biografie Instituut Terugkomdag voor promovendi, 23 juni.
- Renders, Hans, Organisatie (met université Aix-Marseille) 22-26 augustus, drie panels Galway. Biography, 23, 24 en 25 augustus.
- Renders, Hans, Lezing Galway, ‘Biography’, 23 augustus.
- Renders, Hans, Schwobfestival Groningen. Lezing en workshop leiden Zivagho Pasternak, 4 september.
- Renders, Hans, *The Biographical Turn. Lives in History* op 29 september verschenen bij Routledge Publishers.
- Renders, Hans, Oktober Geschiedenis Festival Haarlem. Panel Pers tijdens WO II en interview Nigel Hamilton over Roosevelt, 13 oktober.
- Renders, Hans, In ontvangstname eerste exemplaar boek Jan Cremer, lezing familiegeschiedenis, Amsterdam 13 oktober.
- Renders, Hans, 15 oktober-17 november Guest Professor Aix-Marseille Université – Lerma, La Maison de la Recherche / The Biography Society, 15 oktober-17 november.

- Renders, Hans, 'The changing reputation of genres: Autobiography, Memoires and Biography', lezing Aix-en-Provence 19 oktober.
- Renders, Hans, Master Class publique : doctorants du Lerma et Master ACMA, 20 octobre.
- Renders, Hans, 'The Biographer, The Publisher, The Press and the Market', Séminaire Biographie, Aix-en-Provence 26 oktober.
- Renders, Hans, 'The challenge of Life Writing', Séminaire Biographie, Aix-en-Provence 8 november.
- Renders, Hans, 'L'état de l'art en études biographiques : le tournant biographique', Conférence de l'École doctorale, Aix-en-Provence 10 november.
- Renders, Hans, 'The role of Biography in Public Life', Séminaire Biographie, Aix-en-Provence 11 november.

- Rovers, Eva, 23 november 2016, 'De Reve-tapes. Over een winkel, een spel en verwarring in het kamp van de tegenstander', Bijzondere Collecties Universiteit van Amsterdam.
- Rovers, Eva, 30 november 2016, 'Boudewijn Büch: boekpromotor met bibliobesitas', Vrienden Academische Erfgoed Groningen.

- Veltman, David, 28 oktober 2016, 'Vlaanderen wilde Felix De Boeck als een icoon zien', interview Glasnost, Oog Radio.

2.6 Editorships and advisory committees

Nigel Hamilton is Honorary President of The Biography Society/Société de Biographie.

Hans Renders is editor of the Flemish-Dutch scientific journal *ZL. Literair-historisch tijdschrift* (Antwerp) and the Brill series ‘Biography Studies’, and is 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 for *Quaerendo*, *Spiegel der Letteren. Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Literatuurgeschiedenis en voor Literatuurwetenschap* and *Zacht Lawijd*. He is member of the editorial board of the scholarly series ‘Microhistories’ (Routledge).

Renders has been requested to be advisor by NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM), was member of the board of the Biographers International Organization (BIO) and Member of the Board of Governors of Stichting Media Ombudsman Nederland. He is vice-president of The Biography Society/Société de Biographie.

Renders is member of the jury of the international Plutarch Award 2015 of BIO and of the Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize 2015.

Renders is chairman of the board of Stichting Innovatie Media, is a member of the board of editors of the Dutch Biography Portal and is chairman of the Foundation Biography Portal. Additionally, he was a book critic for the Dutch radio programme on history on Sunday OVT (VPRO Broadcasting Corporation). Since December 2016, he is invited to talk on a monthly basis on biography in the radio programme *Met het oog op morgen*.

Eva Rovers was Board Member of the *Werkgroep Biografie/Tijdschrift voor Biografie* [Journal of Biography] and Member of the Supervisory Board Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

Interview Historicus Nigel Hamilton

‘Roosevelt verborg zijn kracht’

Franklin Roosevelt heroverde Europa op de Duitsers – niet Winston Churchill, zoals wordt gedacht. Dat betoogt zijn biografie: ‘Hij heeft zijn rol in de oorlog niet kunnen boekstaven.’

Door Sander van Walsum

Dat de Duitse Wehrmacht in 1940 niet heel Europa kon bezetten, hebben we aan Winston Churchill te danken. Maar dat het continent vervolgens op de Duitsers werd heroverd, is niet de verdienste van de Britse oorlogspremier, maar van de Amerikaanse president Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Dat betoogt de Amerikaanse (van oorsprong Britse) historicus Nigel Hamilton (1944) in de zogenoemde deelbiografie van Roosevelt, waarop hij onlangs promoveerde aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Commandeur in Chief heeft dat boek. Het spilt zich toe op de strategische verschillen van inzicht tussen Roosevelt en zijn voornaamste bondgenoot, Churchill, in 1941. Churchill wilde de Wehrmacht zo snel mogelijk oprollen vanuit het zuiden van Europa. Roosevelt wilde de Duitsers om te beginnen in Afrika confronteren, zodat de Amerikanen – onervaren op het moderne krijgstoneel – in een later stadium Europa konden bevrijden. En zo gebeurde het, uiteindelijk. Het nageslacht kan zich daarmee gelukkig prijzen, zegt Hamilton. Om met de Britse veldmaarschalk Bernard Montgomery te spreken: geen andere man dan Churchill had in 1940 kunnen standhouden, maar geen andere man had de zege vervolgens zo kunnen verspeelen.



Hoe komt het dan toch dat Churchill als strateeg zoveel meer krediet krijgt dan Roosevelt?

Nigel Hamilton.
Foto Frank Morkowicz

‘Churchill heeft zijn eigen monument kunnen bouwen. Daar was hij al tijdens de oorlog mee bezig. Met het oog op de geschiedschrijving bewaard hij elk memorandum en elke oekaze die hij deed uitgaan. Daarmee heeft hij na 1945 zijn uitgebreide oeuvre – goed voor de Nobelprijs voor de literatuur – kunnen documenteren. In overeenstemming met zijn eigen uitspraak dat de geschiedenis door de overwinnaars wordt opgetekend, Roosevelt heeft de oorlog niet overleefd. Hij heeft zijn eigen rol in de oorlog niet kunnen boekstaven. Daardoor wordt hij tot op de dag van vandaag vooral geassocieerd met de New Deal en met de vier vrijheden die naar hem zijn vernoemd, maar niet met de geallieerde overwinning in de Tweede Wereldoorlog.’

Hadden historici vóór u dat monument voor Roosevelt dan niet kunnen oprichten?

‘Dat vereiste een zekere moed. Wie de president recht wilde doen, moest de verdiensten relativeren van Churchill en van al die Amerikaanse generaals die hun prestaties na de oorlog breed hebben uitgemeten. Roosevelt kon hun geen weerwerk meer bieden.’

Maar waren Roosevelts verdiensten voor zijn tijdgenoten niet gewoon zichtbaar?



President Roosevelt kijkt een semi-automatisch wapen in 1940 tijdens zijn bezoek aan het ‘laboratorium’ van het leger in de Amerikaanse plaats Aberdeen, waar militaire voorraden werden opgeslagen. Foto AP



Premier Churchill probeert een Tommy gun, 1940. Foto AP

CHURCHILL 1874 - 1965

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was minister-president van Groot-Brittannië van 1940 tot 1945 en van 1951 tot 1955.

Daarnaast bekleedde hij ministersposten in verschillende kabinetten. Zo was hij tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog minister van Marine en van Munisie (in die hoedanigheid gaf hij de aanzet tot de ontwikkeling van de tank). Hij schreef meerdere boeken en duizenden tijdschrift- en krantenartikelen (zijn voornaamste bron van inkomsten). Hij was fel gekant tegen concessies aan nazi-Duitsland. In 1953 werd de Nobelprijs voor de literatuur aan hem toegekend.

‘Hij wist zijn kracht goed te verborgen, wat wellicht ook samenhangt met het feit dat hij gehandicapt was. Hij consuleerde zijn generaals, big ego’s, en hij luisterde ook werkelijk naar hen. Anders dan Churchill bedreef hij de democratisch leiderschap. Daardoor kon het misverstand ontstaan dat hij geen eigen opvattingen had. Maar

ROOSEVELT 1882 - 1945

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was van 1933 tot zijn dood in 1945 de 32ste president van de Verenigde Staten.

Tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog was hij onderminister van Marine. In 1921 werd hij getroffen door kinderverlamming, waarna zijn onderlichaam blijvend verlamd raakte. Met zijn New Deal maakte Roosevelt een einde aan de Grote Depressie van de jaren dertig. Voordat de Verenigde Staten door de Japanse aanval op de marinebasis op Pearl Harbor (1941) bij de Tweede Wereldoorlog betrokken raakten, voorzag hij Groot-Brittannië en de Sovjet-Unie van wapens.

Het klinkt alsof u een hekel hebt aan Churchill.

‘Verre van dat. Ik heb grote eerbied voor hem, en ik koester de herinnering aan een weekend dat ik in 1960 in Chartwell, het buitenhuis van Churchill, heb doorgebracht. Het was 19 jaar oud, de gastheer moet 89 zijn geweest. Natuurlijk was ik mij ervan be-

wust dat ik een ontmoeting had met de geschiedenis. We waren we met ‘n zessen, onder wie Churchill, zijn vrouw Clementine en veldmaarschalk Montgomery, een bekende van mijn vader die mij had getrouweerd.

Is u nog veel bijgebleven van de conversatie?

‘Eigenlijk niet zo veel. Churchill was hooggejaard, hij was allang niet meer de sprankelende figuur van weleer. Hij gronde naar me, kijkend door zijn wijnglas, nadat Montgomery had gezegd dat ik een socialist was. Maar eigenlijk had ik meer oog voor de Zwedse verpleegsters die de oude man verzorgden.’

U bent de 70 gepasseerd. U bent een geseluwde biografie, onder anderen van Montgomery en de jonge Kennedy. Waarom promoveert u pas nu en waarom in Groningen?

‘Het antwoord ligt ten dele besloten in uw vraag: ik ben biograaf. Dat is een hoedanigheid die in de academische wereld nog niet erg serieus wordt genomen. Behalve in Groningen, waar een Biografie Instituut is gevestigd dat zijn gelijke in de wereld niet kent. En dat is het antwoord op het tweede deel van uw vraag.’

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 courses for both Bachelor and Master students. In the previous academic year the course 'Historical approach to Biography' was developed and lectured for Master students of the Faculty of Arts.

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 edited volume *Biografie & Pedagogie* (Biography and Pedagogy).

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) is designed to promote scientific research by making biographical reference books with biographical information on 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 (OUC), Parlementair Documentatie Centrum,
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie

WWW.BIOGRAFISCHPORTAAL.NL

