

AANS NEWSLETTER 60

October 2003

Newsletter of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies

Number 60

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

A Note from the President

Greetings to all!

This June marks the conclusion of terms of four positions on the Executive Council and Larger Board of the AANS: the positions of treasurer and president are open, and two positions on the board are open, of which one is held by a European. We invite nominations and self-nominations for these positions, to

be directed to the secretary, Michael Hakkenberg.

We warmly thank Inge van der Cruysse-Van Antwerpen for her valuable service as treasurer, and wish her well in completing law school. We gratefully thank Marybeth Carlson and Eep Francken, who have served two terms on the larger board. I've enjoyed being president, and would like to thank you all for your support and loyalty to the organization.

We are looking forward to the next ICNS in Minneapolis, at the University of Minnesota. Our thanks go to Jim Parente, Jenneke Oosterhoff, Ray Wakefield, and Klaas van der Sanden for planning this conference. At the business meeting in Minneapolis, the AANS will hold elections to fill the positions of Treasurer and President, and two members of the larger board. We would like to publish the slate in the Spring Newsletter. If you are interested in

becoming more participatory in the organization, please don't be shy! Let our secretary know!

We also invite comments and preferences about the possibility of the AANS Newsletter as an electronic publication, with print copies by request. We have heard from some of you, and realize this is a controversial topic. Please let us know your preferences!

The PAANS from Wisconsin is now published and to be distributed shortly; we thank the editors Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor and Rob Howell for their effort on this publication. The Berkeley PAANS is in press, and edited capably by Tom Shannon and Johan Snapper. And the Michigan PAANS is nearing completion, thanks to the editorial work

of Margriet Lacy and Ton Broos. A few copies of the PAANS volumes from Wisconsin and New York are still available. Future PAANS volumes, commencing with the Michigan publication, will be produced by Nodus Publications, which will make them more widely and easily available.

We continue to offer AANS members discounted subscriptions to Dutch Crossing, as a means of fostering ties between the AANS and ALCS.

The AANS Scholarship committee seeks applications for the 2004-2005 grant.

Met hartelijke groet,

Amy Golahny, Lycoming College

For updates, please don't forget to check the AANS web site at:

<http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/aans/>

Many thanks to Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor for keeping this site up-to-date and running

ICNS 2004: CALL FOR PAPERS

The Future of the Past: The Low Countries in the New Europe

The American Association for Netherlandic Studies is pleased to announce the 12th Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS) to be held 3-6 June, 2004, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, with a pre-conference workshop on the teaching of Dutch language and Dutch and Flemish literature and culture on 2-3 June 2004.

Proposals for papers relating to all aspects of Dutch and Flemish society, history, and culture are

welcome. We especially invite proposals in the following areas: Medieval Studies, Early Modern Studies, the history of philosophy and science, film studies, gender studies, and urban studies. Proposals should not be longer than 350 words in length and should be submitted by **16 January 2004**. Papers must be based on original, unpublished research and presentations should be no longer than 20-25 minutes, allowing for discussion.

Selected papers will be published in the series Publications of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies (PAANS).

Please send proposals for papers to
The ICNS Program Committee

Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch
University of Minnesota
205 Folwell Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455

More info at: <http://esc.cla.umn.edu/ICNS.htm>

A Note from the Treasurer

How to Update your AANS Subscription

Hello AANS Member,

The fall is coming around, and the year is slowly coming to an end. Despite being back into the full swing of the semester, you must still be basking in the memory of the summer sun, and of days of relaxation!

We are preparing the new calendar year, and want to remind you of your AANS dues. In the spring, I informed you how to check until what year your dues were paid on your address label. Due to a computer glitch, the address labels did not hold that information. On behalf of the AANS board, I apologize for all the inconvenience this caused.

Even more problematic is that the **postgiro** no longer communicates who sent in a check: all we have are dates and amounts.

Please, if you have paid into our postgiro account in the last three years (and for future payments), could you let the treasurer and the secretary (see p.13) know when you paid, how much and what you were paying for?

How can you check whether your dues are up to date or not? Look at the address label and check the year next to your name. This number indicates up till when you have paid your dues. If you are behind, please renew your dues now, because your grace period expires after one year. If you don't want to worry about updating your dues each year, you may pay up to five years of dues at once!

The AANS Scholarship fund offers you the opportunity to make a contribution to the AANS legacy. The scholarship is handed out once per year to a promising graduate student with an interest in Dutch studies. It is a scholarship that adds to other funding and allows students to do field work in Belgium or the Netherlands for an extended period of time. The recipient publishes a report on his/her research in each spring newsletter.

If you make a gift toward the AANS Scholarship fund, it is tax deductible under US 501c(3) corporation.

If you want to take advantage of the twin offer: AANS + Dutch Crossing, please, include a separate check for \$22.00 for a Dutch Crossing subscription and indicated that on your payment form on the back of this sheet. For this tandem offer, please, send both payments before December of the year prior to the year of your subscription.

Below you find the two categories of dues the AANS offers, and guidelines for your payment. Please note that I will be abroad until after the holidays, and will not be able to cash your check or money order until I come back in January. If you want to post date the check or money order, please, do not hesitate.

Best regards, have a colorful fall, and ... wonderful holidays!

- inge

No Frills: AANS subscription & newsletter

U.S. & Canada: \$12.00 (We only accept personal checks & money orders)

Other Countries: \$15.00 or € 15 per year (We can only accept international money orders in U.S. dollars & direct deposit in Postbank Giro Account 4376210)

Luxury: AANS subscription & newsletter & PAANS publication of the bi-annual ICNS conference

U.S. & Canada: \$25.00 (We only accept personal checks & money orders)

Other countries: \$30.00 or € 30 per year (We only accept international money orders in U.S. dollars & direct deposit of euros in Postbank Giro Account 4376210)

PAANS volumes available for purchase with a no frills subscription:

Still available: New York volume (ICNS 1996) and Wisconsin volume (ICNS 1998). You can pre-pay: Ann Arbor volume (ICNS 2002)

All volumes are \$28.00 or € 28.

DUTCH STUDY

*Summer Courses in Zeist,
Hasselt-Diepenbeek and Ghent*

The summer courses offered in **Zeist** (the Netherlands), **Hasselt-Diepenbeek** (Flanders) and **Ghent** (Flanders) are intended for non-native speakers of Dutch, aged 18-35, who live outside the Dutch-language area and who for educational, professional or other reasons wish to extend their knowledge of Dutch language and culture. The Zeist summer course can accommodate approximately 160 participants, the course in Hasselt-Diepenbeek approximately 100 and that in Ghent approximately 60.

Those completing the whole course will receive a certificate of attendance from the Nederlandse Taalunie.

Prospective students are advised to apply as soon as possible - in any case before 1 February 2004. For details and an application form see the *Nederlandse Taalunie* website (www.taalunie.org).

Zeist (The Netherlands)

Lessons take place every morning, except on Sundays and when whole-day excursions have been arranged. The teaching program consists of language-skills training in 13 groups of a maximum of 15 people. In addition advanced participants are offered options in the field of linguistics, literature and history and institutions. In addition there are guest talks by university professors and other experts, followed by discussion. These talks are on aspects as politics, art, literature, architecture and media.

The 2004 summer course will begin on Monday 19 July and end on Saturday 7 August. The course is held in the Woudschoten conference center in Zeist. The participants are housed on site in two-person rooms. Meals are taken collectively. The cost of participation in the course is €600. This amount includes: lessons, accommodation, meals, excursions, cultural evenings and entry to museums and other sights visited as part of the excursions. A limited number of scholarships is available for this course.

Hasselt-Diepenbeek (Flanders)

Participants follow classes in Dutch language skills, literature and culture. Language lessons are also given in afternoon classes. They offer the opportunity of becoming acquainted with many different aspects of life in Flanders and the Netherlands. During these classes the excursions will also be prepared for and lectures given by guest speakers. In addition there are a number of optional classes on language and literature.

The summer course also offers a cultural program. This includes, for example, a number of excursions to well-known and less well-known destinations.

The course is held on the campus of the Limburg University Center in Diepenbeek. Participants are accommodated in a student hostel in individual rooms. Breakfast and dinner are eaten in the student

hostel, lunch is eaten in the university restaurant. The 2004 summer course begins on Monday 26 July and ends on Saturday 14 August.

For self-financing participants the cost of attending the course is €600. This amount includes: lessons, accommodation, meals, excursions, cultural evenings and entry to museums and other sights visited as part of the excursions.

The Flemish Community offers scholarships to students from countries with which it has entered into a bilateral agreement or some other co-operative program.

Ghent (Flanders)

The course aims, in a short space of time and using intensive methods, to expand and especially activate participants' knowledge of Dutch, as well as giving them as complete as possible a picture of the culture of Flanders. The activities include language lessons using the language laboratory and computer component, working on dossiers preparing participants for the afternoon lectures by visiting teachers, becoming acquainted with various aspects of Flanders via the Internet, a choice of workshops, full-day excursions to the principal art centers in Flanders, a visit to a host family, a cycle trip, a poetry evening and much more.

The course is organized in the Language Center in the historic university town of Ghent. Participants have individual rooms in a student hostel. Meals are eaten in the university restaurant. The kitchens of the student hostel may also be used. The 2004 summer course begins on Sunday 8 August and ends on Saturday 28 August.

The Flemish Community offers scholarships to students from countries with which it has entered into a bilateral agreement or some other co-operative program. Participation in the summer

course in Ghent without a scholarship is *not* possible.

Dutch Summer Institute

The Dutch Studies program at the University of Minnesota will offer its Summer Dutch Institute from **June 14 - August 20, 2004**. The following classes are scheduled:

1. DUTCH 1001: *Intensive Beginning Dutch*.
Instructor: Jenneke Oosterhoff
(ooste003@tc.umn.edu)
2. DUTCH 1002: *Intensive Beginning Dutch*.
Instructor: Brechtje Beuker

For up-to-date information on the Summer Dutch Institute, please contact:

Jenneke Oosterhoff
Dept. of German, Scandinavian & Dutch
University of Minnesota
205 Folwell Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455
email: ooste003@umn.edu
phone: 612-625-0738

For more information, visit the Institute website at <http://esc.cla.umn.edu/SD.htm>.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

AANS Scholarship

The AANS is offering one grant of \$1000 in support of graduate research in the field of Netherlandic studies, to be conducted in the Netherlands or Belgium, during the academic year 2004-2005.

Under exceptional circumstances, an additional scholarship may be awarded.

The field of Netherlandic Studies is broadly defined and includes research on aspects of Dutch culture as they relate to Indonesia or South Africa, or research on the Afrikaans language. The grant is intended for citizens or residents of the United States who study at an American university. Preference is given to those scholars who do not receive research support from their home institutions.

Applicants must submit a proposal of at least two pages, timetable, budget, two letters of recommendation, curriculum vitae, and a set of transcripts. The proposal should establish the scholarly contribution and significance of the project, its relevance to the applicant's professional goals, and progress already made.

Applications for the year 2004-05 must reach the AANS by **February 15, 2004**. The selection committee will consist of members of the Executive Council of AANS.

Send completed applications to:

Dr. Amy Golahny
Box 147 - Art Department
Lycoming College
Williamsport, PA 17701
USA
fax: 570-321-4090
email: golahny@lycoming.edu

John Carter Brown Library Research Fellowships

The John Carter Brown Library will award approximately twenty-five Research Fellowships for the year June 1, 2004 – June

30, 2005. Sponsorship of research at the John Carter Brown Library is reserved exclusively for scholars whose work is centered on the colonial history of the Americas, North and South, including all aspects of the European, African, and Native American involvement. Fellowships are of two types:

Short-Term Fellowships, Regular John Carter Brown Library Fellowships, are available for periods of two to four months and carry a stipend of \$1,400 per month. These Fellowships are open to Americans and foreign nationals who are engaged in pre- or post-doctoral, or independent, research. Graduate students must have passed their preliminary or general examinations at the time of application.

Long-Term Fellowships are for 5 to 9 months (with a stipend of \$3,500 per month). The term for these Fellowships will typically begin between June 1 and July 15 or between January 15 and March 15. Applicants for NEH Long-Term Fellowships must be American citizens or have been resident in the United States for the three years immediately preceding the application deadline. Graduate students are not eligible for Long-Term Fellowships.

Recipients of all Fellowships are expected to relocate to Providence and to be in continuous

residence at the John Carter Brown Library for the entire term of the award.

Applications for all Fellowships will be evaluated by independent academic committees. Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of the applicant's scholarly qualifications, the merits and significance of the project, and the particular need that the holdings of the John Carter Brown Library will fill in the development of the project. A good guide to the spectrum of research supported by the JCB is the list of "Publications by Fellows." For more information, see: www.JCBL.org.

Application forms are available by e-mail from JCBL_Fellowships@Brown.edu or from the Director, John Carter Brown Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912.

The deadline for submission of application materials is **January 15, 2004**.

Fellowships for study or research in Belgium

The *Belgian American Educational Foundation* (BAEF) encourages applications for fellowships for advanced study or research during the academic year 2004-2005, at a Belgian university or institution of higher learning.

The BAEF will award up to eight fellowships each carrying a stipend of \$17,000 for one year. The fellowship period must be at least 6 months. In addition to the stipend, the Foundation will provide health insurance. No other supplements can be expected.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States and either have a Master's degree or equivalent degree, or be working towards a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Preference is given to applicants under the age of 30 with a reading and speaking knowledge of Dutch, French, or German. BAEF Fellows must reside in Belgium during the tenure of their fellowship.

Applicants should make their own arrangements to register or affiliate with a Belgian university or research institution.

In addition to the application form (download from www.baef.be/content/fellow_us_to_bel.html), applicants must send 3 letters of recommendation, a letter of nomination from the Dean of their school, a brief biographical statement, and a statement of purpose.

For additional information contact the Foundation (www.baef.be), call (203) 777-5765, or email: emile.boulpaep@yale.edu

Completed applications are due no later than **January 31, 2004**.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS

College Art Association Conference

The Annual Conference of the College Art Association will be held **February 18-21, 2004**, in Seattle, Washington. Sessions of particular interest include "Cultural Exchange: the Netherlands and Italy, 1400-1530" (Friday, Feb. 20, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.), "The Long Legacy of the *Devotio Moderna*",

a session sponsored by Historians of Netherlandish Art (Friday, Feb. 20, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.), and "Cultural Crossings: Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, the Americas" (Saturday Feb. 21, 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.). For further information, check their website at: www.collegeart.org.

Hendrick Goltzius: Prints, Drawings, Paintings

This exhibition is on view at the Toledo (Ohio) Museum of Art **until January 4, 2004**.

Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher

This exhibition, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston **from October 26, 2003 through January 19, 2004**, will be on view at the Art Institute of Chicago **from February 14 through May 9, 2004**.

In Boston a number of lectures are organized related to the Rembrandt exhibit. On November 12 Dr. Ernst van der Wetering, professor emeritus of the University of Amsterdam and director of the Rembrandt Research Project, will give a talk entitled *Rembrandt: The Artist's Touch*. For reservations, call (617) 369 3306.

A more comprehensive listing of exhibitions of Netherlandish art throughout the United States and the world can be found at www.codart.com.

Morsels in the Melting Pot

On November 4-5, 2004, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will organize a symposium entitled *Morsels in the Melting Pot: The Persistence of Isolated Dutch Communities in North America, 1800-2000*. See www.relic-vu.nl for details.

J. B. Jongkind (1)

An exhibition dedicated to **J. B. Jongkind** at the Gemeentemuseum Den Haag opened earlier this month, and will be on view in The Hague until January 17, 2004. For additional information see http://www.codart.nl/?page_id=119&event_id=534

J. B. Jongkind (2)

The association "La Société des Amis de Jongkind" announces the publication of "Johan Barthold Jongkind (1819-1891), héritier, contemporain et précurseur," by François Auffret, president of this society. A publisher for an edition in English is being sought. Please see www.JB-Jongkind.org for more details.

The 119th MLA Annual Convention San Diego, CA

On Sunday 28 December 2003, 3.30-4.45pm, in Torrey 2, San Diego Marriott, the Discussion Group on Netherlandic Language and Literature will meet, presided by Francien Marks, Ball State University.

New Readings of Dutch Literature and Culture

1. "Between Goethe and Mick Jagger: Positioning Boudewijn Buech," Simon Richter, UPenn
2. "'Zonder jou ben ik minder waard': Connie Palmen's 'Friendship,'" Jenneke Oosterhoff, Univ of Minnesota
3. "The Three Elements of Multatuli's Affirmation of Life: Love, Knowledge, and Struggle," Gary Lee Baker, Denison Univ.
4. "Guilt and 'The Discovery of Heaven,' by Harry Mulisch," Josephine Ann McQuail, Tennessee Technological Univ.

26th Rensselaerswijck Seminar

In September the New Netherland Project (www.nnp.org) held its 26th Rensselaerswijck Seminar, entitled *Nieuw Amsterdam: A Dutch City in the New World*, in New York City, commemorating the 350th anniversary of the city's charter. A narrated cruise around lower Manhattan concluded the day. (Also see www.nyc350.org.)

BOOK REVIEWS

Jan Pieter Guépin. *Drietaligheid*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Voltaire bv, 2003. (ISBN 90-5848-038-0)

“Latin for the clergy and the academics, French for the upper classes and the Huguenots, and Dutch for everyone else.” So begins the latest creation of Jan Pieter Guépin, *Drietaligheid*, a project exploring the use of Latin, French and Dutch by “Dutch” writers throughout history. Guépin discusses the prevalence of foreign languages in Dutch literature and propounds the strong influences of other cultures in the Netherlands which aided in the perpetuation of these languages long after other nations had established their national literatures in their respective languages.

The book starts, logically enough, with a determination of the most important writers from the Low Countries. Not wanting to be reckless in his assessment of “great writing” Guépin created a set of standards to help him sort through the jumble. The end result is a distillation of all Dutch writing to a list of 33 writers spanning 500 years. His criteria were quite simple. First, the writer needed to be of Dutch or Belgian origin. He did allow a grandfather clause for non-Low Country origins if the person exercised great influence over Dutch culture and as he puts it, “set down roots” in the

Low Countries. Mandeville was eliminated from consideration, because although he was born in Holland he worked in England and had no influence over intellectual life in the Netherlands. Because his greatest influence was exercised outside of the Netherlands he was not considered a “Dutch” writer for Guépin’s purpose. The same goes for Belgian and Dutch writers writing in French and having their greatest influence and success over intellectual life outside of the Netherlands.

Second, there needed to be at least one international conference devoted to the author. This seems to me the most stringent of his criteria. After all, we have all read great literature that did not necessarily merit an international conference. However, this is the ultimate definition of international attention. It is one thing to be read by a broader public than your homeland, but to be studied by a large enough group to merit a conference is certainly a clear qualification of international standing.

Finally, there needed to be at least one monograph written by a foreign scholar dedicated to the writings of that person. This final step eliminated Joris Cassander, Harry Mulisch and Jacques Perk, while it made room on the list for Anne Frank, Van Gogh, Van Mander and Etty Hillesum. So Van Gogh and Van Mander qualify because of the presence of monographs and conferences centered specifically around their writing.

While reading *Drietaligheid* it is very import to keep in mind that Guépin’s claim is not to create a history of great Dutch writing, but a history of writings created by the Dutch and important to the rest of the world. I felt Guépin was being narrow in his criteria, and thereby omitting the great Dutch poets and novelists of the 20th century, but reading further I realized Guépin was not concerning himself with great writing. His only concern was writing known to the world community. The two are not necessarily one and the same. With his limited criteria soundly in hand Guépin continues on to the period of greatest fame for writers from the Netherlands: Dutch Tolerance and the protestant enlightenment.

His discussion of Tolerance is beautifully organized and very informative. He bases his extensive discussion on Dutch Tolerance in the fact that most Dutch writers have received their international attention because of their writings during this time. Describing the influences of Calvinism on different areas of society, he points out the immigration of many French citizens seeking more religious freedom. This influx of immigrants, combined with the needs of spreading the word of a religious philosophy to a broader range of people, encouraged the publication of many works in Latin and French. A precious few published in Dutch with the intention of reaching the masses instead of just the elite. Since the enlightenment was happening in other lands as well, it was necessary for any Dutch contribution be understandable to the masses.

Chapter 3, entitled *Drietaligheid*, demonstrates the institutional existence of trilingualism and its pervasiveness well into the 19th century. He tells of the state of Dutch education as it existed from the 16th century well into to the 19th century. Since the House of Orange spoke primarily French at the time it was important for anyone hoping to gain access to the upper classes to speak French, and Latin was mandatory throughout Europe. This set the stage for a series of academies, where students would first learn Latin, then finish their schooling in French. Thus, members of the educated class were, for the most part, trilingual. Most interestingly, this continued well into the 19th century when the rest of Europe had already standardized their national languages and was in the process of building a solid canon of national literature.

In the final chapter, using Louis Couperus as his example, Guépin displays how the literature of the Netherlands was not valued to the extent it should be until about 1900. Even within the Netherlands works in Dutch were virtually ignored until the 20th century. He uses a long discussion of the reception of Couperus and criticisms of his work as being decadent to some and late-decadent to others, to point out the debate over whether or not Couperus was a good writer or a copycat. If he is a copy-cat,

Guépin seems to state, then international conference or not he is not one the Netherlands shining stars.

Overall, I found the book to be informative and well reasoned. It was occasionally marred by the intrusion of statements not worthy of scholarly works, i.e. "I know women and they always have a hidden agenda." These statements seemed to come from left field and occasionally caused me to question the validity of everything else I was reading. In spite of these, I found the book very worthwhile for any student of the history of the Netherlands, Literary History, and Comparative Literature. The main section of the text (156 pages) is followed by a glossary (102 pages) that is the more than perfect supplement to Guépin's discussion. The glossary contains a brief discussion of almost every person, movement, philosophy and other potentially unknown mentioned in the book. This provides the opportunity for anyone with a basic knowledge of the Netherlands' history to dive into the work without fear of not understanding its progression without the thorough background that would otherwise be necessary.

I would say that *Drietaligheid* should be added to the collection of any library and individual with an interest in the uses of language in a culture, the formation of a national literature, or with just a general interest in the history of the Netherlands. *Drietaligheid* is a laudable final publication. Guépin has said that this will be the last work in a long line of publications which include *Typisch Nederlands*, *Niets is Precies*. His is a career that has stretched more than 40 years and comes to rest with this final tribute to the most famous of Dutch writers. Perhaps one day a translation of *Drietaligheid* will be published, which would keep Guépin from suffering the fate of so many other Dutch writers that didn't make his list of international acclaim.

Donald Backman, San Francisco State University

Bart Besamusca. *The Book of Lancelot. The Middle Dutch Lancelot Compilation and the*

Medieval Tradition of Narrative Cycles.

Translated by Thea Summerfield. *Arthurian Studies* LIII. Cambridge: D.S.Brewer, 2003. ISBN 0 85991 769 X. ix + 210. Bibliography, Index.

The Middle Dutch *Lancelot* Compilation is one of the great (literally and figuratively) books of the medieval Dutch canon, a vast codex containing a verse translation of the Old French *Lancelot en Prose*, with additional medieval romances inserted at various places. The text, 87,000 lines of verse transmitted in a single manuscript written between 1320 and 1325 in Brabant dialect, was edited by W.J.A. Jonckbloet in 1846-49, but never drew much attention until Maartje Draak raised some challenging questions in 1954 (and more in 1976). In 1977 the *Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie van Wetenschappen* (KNAW) decided to sponsor a new edition and Dutch scholarship on Arthurian literature has not been the same since.

Medieval literature lends itself naturally to comparisons across national borders, and Arthurian literature even more so, but attention is most generally paid to English, French and perhaps German, to the frustration of Dutch medievalists. This book aims to remedy that condition. Bart Besamusca has been closely involved in the new edition of the *Lancelot* Compilation, which is still in process and presently contains four volumes. He has also published extensively on various parts and aspects of the compilation.

His book consists of a brief Preface, followed by five chapters, a bibliography and an index. Chapter 1 opens with a brief description of a 15th-century French manuscript and then focuses on the concept of cyclicity--the medieval practice of compiling various romances into one vast "whole," and the study of such compilations--then introduces the subject of his study: The Hague Royal Library Codex 129A, generally known as The *Lancelot* Compilation, its physical appearance, the production process, the scribes, possible owner and/or compiler, the components, etc. This leads naturally to the plan of the following chapters. The decision, for instance, to have Chapter 2 deviate

from the order of the manuscript and take up "The core of the *Lancelot* Compilation," is a sensible one. This core, the so-called *Lancelot—Queste—Mort Artu*, or rather, in the Dutch version *Lanceloet—Queste vanden Grale—Arturs Doet*, is present in all compilations of the *Lancelot* material, while the additional romances inserted at various places vary from one codex to the next. A detailed synopsis of each of the three romances is given, followed by discussion of a possible Flemish source, the French original, and what we can deduce about translation and narrative techniques. All quotations in other languages are provided with an English translation. Chapter 3 discusses the two romances inserted between the *Lanceloet* and the *Queste: Percheval* and *Moriaen*. Again, a synopsis is given, sources described, criticism reviewed. Attention is given to changes made by the compiler to fit these insertions into the whole, with links to earlier and later tales. Chapter 4 features the five romances inserted between the *Queste* and *Arturs doet: Wrake van Ragisel, Ridder metter mouwen, Walewein ende Keye, Lanceloet en het hert met de witte voet, and Torec*. Finally, Chapter 5 comes to a more general discussion of the work as a whole, its nature and its qualities. What makes a collection of tales into a narrative cycle? How has the compiler of Ms. 129A done this and how does his work compare to that of other composers of narrative cycles in his times? To this last purpose, five other cycles are brought in, three French (MS BN fr. 1450, Chantilly MS 472, MS BN fr. 112), one English (Malory's *Morte Darthur*) and one German (Ulrich Fueterer's *Buch der Abenteurer*). The Dutch *Lancelot* Compilation is compared to each of these others on various important aspects of the Narrative Cycle, such as use of sources, narrative technique, and the imposition of structure. The author ends with a conclusion: The essence of the *Lancelot* Compilation.

Surprisingly (and admirably) Besamusca manages to cover all this material in 210 pages, including 14 pages of Bibliography and a 6 page Index. This is not a book for casual reading, but such complex material could not be made simple without gross distortion. In the chapters 2, 3, and 4, for instance,

romances from the compilation are compared with earlier versions in Dutch or Flemish and with their French examples, often featuring names in slightly different versions or spelling, but the attentive reader will get the hang of it. These chapters are packed with information and even a reader somewhat familiar with the material will find much that is new and of interest. A reader who is new to it will have a more difficult task, but will not find all of this anywhere else in such a compact format. Chapter 1, of necessity, introduces several distinct topics which will be part of the “argument” of the book. Overall the chapter is only 17 pages long, however, and the parts are clearly set off by headings. The final chapter is somewhat less satisfactory and the attempt to impose order by typographical means (as in the first chapter) is not successful, because there is so much more material. Although it makes sense to want to compare the *Lancelot* Compilation to other narrative cycles, this necessitates introducing five entirely new manuscripts, and in the case of Malory a discussion of both the manuscript and the two printed copies. Furthermore, the introduction of *translatio imperii* at the beginning of this chapter is confusing. Perhaps it is, as Besamusca states, the organizing principle of Ms. BN fr. 1450, but this is a side issue. The relevance to the *Lancelot* Compilation is later denied by the author himself (165).

The bibliography is extensive, but rather confusing. Editions of medieval texts are sometimes listed under editor, sometimes under title. The index does not cover the bibliography or the footnotes. This means, for instance, that it takes considerable sleuthing to trace a reference to “Te Winkel 1878” to Te Winkel’s edition of the *Roman van Moriaen*, and the seminal edition-with-translation of the *Roman van Walewein* by David Johnson is hard to find indeed. These may seem quibbles, but the richness and compactness of the book needs (and deserves) better.

In his Introduction, Besamusca writes: “I am convinced that, if it had not been written in Middle Dutch, the *Lancelot* Compilation would have played a prominent part in investigations of compilations

and cycle formation. The language barrier is unfortunately insurmountable for the majority of medievalists.” He also notes “the inward-looking tendency of much Low Countries scholarship” citing Saskia Murk-Jansen (5). We have all noted that inward-looking tendency at times, which affects both sides. The outside world knows little about Dutch literature, and scholarship in the Netherlands often neglects the outside scholarship. This book makes an impressive move towards bridging the gap.

Anneke Prins, Amsterdam
jcprins@hetnet.nl

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Call for proposals

The Seventh National Conference of the National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL), entitled *Identifying Individual and National Needs in the Less Commonly Taught Languages*, is scheduled for April 30- May 2, 2004, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Proposals are solicited for individual papers, colloquia and poster sessions. The formats are described below. Proposals should fall broadly within the Conference theme. Although proposed presentations may focus on individual languages, each should address issues that clearly relate to more than just that one language. The focus of

session topics might include: Bilingual education students; Autonomous and self-instructional setting students; Distance education students; Individualized instruction students; Heritage learners; Addressing individual learners needs; Analyzing individual learners needs; Use of technology in teaching the LCTLs; Addressing national priority in language programs. Proposals for other topics will be considered.

Individual papers are 20 minutes long. A paper should focus clearly on one or more issues related to the theme. Papers may be based on research or practical experience.

Colloquia are 90 minutes. A colloquium proposal should specify three or more presenters who will address one of the conference themes. Preference will be given to panels that cut across different languages or language groups.

Poster and presentation sessions may focus on completed work or work in progress related to the teaching and/or learning of less commonly taught languages. They may be of either the traditional poster format, such as presentation of materials or of results of research in progress, or demonstrations of instructional or information technology. However, any proposal requiring technical support must specify in detail the type of hardware and software needed.

Proposals should indicate the title and kind of presentation (paper, colloquium or poster session) in the upper left-hand corner, and the name of the presenter and the presenter's primary language(s) in the upper right-hand corner. The proposed title should not exceed ten words. Next should be a 50-75 word abstract suitable for inclusion in the conference program. The proposal text should be 150-200 words long and may not exceed one page in length.

For inquiries, contact:

Sookyung Cho, NCOLCTL
4231 Humanities Building

455 N. Park Street
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-7903. Fax: 608-265-7904

The deadline for receipt of proposals is December 15, 2003. Applicants will be notified by the Program Committee by January 15, 2004 whether their proposal has been accepted.

Taalunieversum

The **Nederlandse Taalunie** has just started an electronic site for job openings at **Taalunieversum** (www.taalunieversum.org). This site has job openings as well as jobs for people who are professionally involved with Dutch. Full-time jobs, part-time jobs, freelance jobs, final-year projects, and internships in the Netherlands, in Flanders and in the rest of the world can be found on the site. It is possible to advertise such positions at <http://taalunieversum.org/vacaturebank/> for free.

ReLiC

ReLiC refers to the Center for Dutch Religious History, an organization for historical research established at the Faculty of Arts of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in October of 2002. ReLiC aims to initiate, stimulate and coordinate research into the religious history of the (Northern) Netherlands, and enable the publication of findings in various media.

On March 18 and 19, 2004, ReLiC will organize a symposium entitled 'Soul and Salvation. Manifestations of Religion in the Netherlands after 1950' (Ziel en zaligheid in Nederland na 1950). The objective of this symposium is to examine manifestations of religion as they have surfaced or developed in the northern Netherlands after about

1950, with a view to developing new perspectives in religious history.

For more information, please visit www.relic-vu.nl.

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AANS Newsletter

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The *AANS Newsletter* is published twice a year (spring and fall) by the American Association for Netherlandic Studies as a service to its membership and is sent to all current, paid members. Any change of address notices should be sent to the secretary of the Association:

Dr. Michael Hakkenberg
Department of History
Roanoke College
Salem, VA 24153

tel.: 540-375-2379
fax: 540-375-2577
email: hakkenbe@roanoke.edu

This issue of the AANS Newsletter was edited by Rob Naborn. Please send reviews, announcements, or any other pertinent information you may have for the next issue to the address below, preferably before March 20, 2004. If you can provide your text—especially longer ones such as reviews—either via electronic mail (see address below) or on a 3 1/2 inch computer diskette, preferably done in Microsoft Word, this would save us much time and would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to have your diskette returned, just enclose a SASE.

Rob Naborn
Dutch Studies Program
University of Pennsylvania
133 Bennett Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6203

tel.: 215-898-7331
fax: 215-573-7794
email: Aansnews@hotmail.com

Dutch Crossing. A Journal of Low Countries Studies

Dutch Crossing is the refereed journal of the Association for Low Countries Studies in Great Britain and Ireland (ALCS). It also functions as one of the journals of the Association for Language Learning (ALL). It appears in two issues per year, each of about 150 pages, with illustrations. *Dutch Crossing* receives financial support from the Nederlandse Taalunie (the Dutch Language Union, The Hague).

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Editorial address: **Dutch Crossing**, Department of Dutch, University College London,
 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom.
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Administrative address: Sandra Drop, Department of Dutch Studies, University of Hull,
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 Telephone +44-1482-465893 // FAX +44-1482-465898 // E-mail: s.drop@hull.ac.uk

Annual Subscription Rates

Dutch Crossing is available to members of AANS at the same 50% discount that applies to members of the ALCS in Great Britain and Ireland. AANS members can obtain the 2004 volume (2 issues) for just \$22 (including p&p). *Payment can be made in US\$ to AANS as part of the annual membership fee.*

Crossways is a book series appearing in parallel with *Dutch Crossing*. The following titles are available:

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