

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League
Volume 35, No. 1, November 2013

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Coming Soon – The Sound of Music – Chamber that is

We hope you have already saved the date, Sunday February 17, 2013, to join your NAUL friends at the home of Erik and Lineke Zuiderweg, 3705 Larchmont Drive, Ann Arbor, beginning at 4 PM, for this Annual Winter Concert and Cultural Event. This year, Erik and his band of merry music makers will entertain us with Dvorak's Piano Quartet, and Bach's Concerto for oboe, violin and chamber orchestra, with Sipkje Pesnichak featured on the oboe. Lineke will tell us about "Dutch Children in Art from the 15th to 21st centuries. Ton and Janet Broos will read some poetry in Dutch and in English. Refreshments will be served at the interval and after the program. We ask that you bring a dish of finger food to share with the group. Drinks will be provided by the NAUL.

The Zuiderwegs would appreciate an RSVP. Contact Lineke at famzuid@yahoo.com or phone 734-741-1757. If you have any questions about the afternoon feel free to ask Lineke. Hope to see you all on Feb. 17.

Dutch Cooking

If you haven't seen David Segal's article in the January 17 issue of the New York Times, you may want to check out the blog "Dutchgrub" written by Mark Schiefelbein whom Segal writes about. The article itself is quite amusing and a slam on Dutch cuisine. Segal says that the Netherlands is "woefully behind its European neighbors". About Amsterdam, he says "a city of beguiling streetscapes, gorgeous canals and really lousy restaurants". I think Segal is a bit unfair when he calls stamppot ubiquitous – well perhaps not, but one can also find unusual stamppot dishes. Next time I will include an Italian take on stamppot. Just take a look at the Dutch and Flemish paintings of the golden age, where a great variety of foods were depicted – wonderfully sensuous paintings of seafood, meat and poultry, a plethora of vegetables

and cornucopias of exotic fruits. However, it is fair to say, and I quote my own cookbook that "all the fun was taken out of Dutch cooking when the unimaginative didactic do-gooders of the early 20th century came out with cookbooks that were rather manuals for clean, good, and especially cheap housekeeping than challenges for a varied and curious palate". All the dutchies know which ones I mean. We know that things have changed a lot, and in recent years, we have enjoyed many memorable meals in the Netherlands in the homes of relatives and friends and especially in many restaurants.

Back to Dutchgrub. Mark Schiefelbein, a German who moved to Amsterdam via Strasbourg apparently got tired of writing e-mails to visiting friends with his recommendations for good, affordable restaurants, so started his blog. If you check out his best restaurants, you will find *Marius*, *Madelief*, *Blauw aan de Wal* and *Wilde Zwijnen* as best choices. If you Google dutchgrub you will see listings for the blog, for facebook and twitter and www.dutchgrub.com. Happy Eating – in Holland, and, better yet, go to Belgium.

Trivia

US Cities that owe their names to Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Amsterdam, Indiana – given by Dutch colonists in 1909.

Amsterdam, Montana – also owes its name to Dutch colonists,

Amsterdam, New York – older, got its name in 1804. People were aware of the Dutch tradition in New York.

Amsterdam, Missouri – so called because the firm of the most important financier of the local railway company had its seat in Dutch Amsterdam. The financier was Jan de Grijen, a coffee trader and banker.

Inaugurations revisited

Prior to the Twentieth Amendment, the date of the inaugural was March 4, the day of the year on which the Constitution of the United States first took effect in 1789. The last inauguration to take place on the older date was Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inaugural on March 4, 1933. Roosevelt's second inauguration and all subsequent presidential inaugurations take place on January 20.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933 his hand was on a precious book that had been in his family for years. It was a Dutch bible from 1686. It probably was an edition of the so called Statenbijbel, the Dutch equivalent of the King James Bible, named after the Staten Generaal, the Dutch parliament of the time. They decided in 1619 to form a committee, which started its work in 1625 and completed its charge in 1637. They not only produced a definitive edition of this important book, but also formalized the Dutch language, as the committee was formed of representatives from different parts of the Low Countries which included present-day Belgium. From now on, every (protestant) family had a bible to read from every day, and also inscribe family events like births and deaths. Roosevelt's bible was probably an edition published by Hendrick and Jacob Keur in Dordrecht and Marcus Doornick in Amsterdam. It remains the oldest Bible ever used in an inaugural as well as the only one not in English. It was also used by Roosevelt for his inauguration as Governor of New York (1929-1932) as well as for all his presidential inaugurations. The swearing-in ceremony of the first inauguration took place on the East Portico of the United States Capitol, with Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes administering the oath of office. Roosevelt wore a morning coat and striped trousers for the event. At this inauguration the bible was open on *1 Corinthians 13*, the famous Song about Love: 'Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal' and ending: 'And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love'. That 1686 edition of the bible is still available from antiquarian sellers for about \$2000 and recently was on e-bay with bids starting at \$200.

A NAUL Thank You

Thanks to Little Caesar's Pizza, 1944 W. Stadium Blvd. for their continued support of the Sinterklaas raffle which extends over many years now, at least since 2002 and probably long before that, as Bert Haas used to visit them to ask for donated coupons.

We Remember

Ali Riddering (Drijver). Ali was a member of the original Netherlands America University League, an informal group of Dutch and Americans who met in Ann Arbor from 1953 to 1958. In 1976, Ali and her husband Don, together with Jan de Vries and others from the Dutch-lunch group at the time, were instrumental in establishing the NAUL as we know it today. She and Don remained active in the NAUL for many years. In recent years, both were in frail health. Don died before Ali and she spent her later years in an assisted living facility. She died peacefully on December 4, 2012 at the venerable age of 90. Ali was born in Velsen and spent her girlhood in Santpoort and Texel in the Netherlands. She met Don, an American, while studying at the University of Amsterdam and they were married in 1950. She and Don returned to Michigan in 1952 and were the loving parents of three daughters. For many years she operated a shop in Salem, Michigan, which was a treasure-trove of pewter, delftware and other fine things Dutch. Remembrances in Ali's name may be sent to Ionia Area Hospice, 601 E. Washington St., Ionia, MI. 48175. You can see Ali's obituary by accessing the obituaries section of annarbor.com. Execute a search by entering Ali's name and date of death.

Dutch Composer Wins Grawemeyer Award

The University of Louisville's 2013 Grawemeyer Award was given to Dutch composer Michel van der Aa for his work "Up-close". According to Marc Satterwhite, the award director, the 30 minute piece is a "virtuoso cello concerto but also a fascinating multimedia experience that defies simple classification. In 2011, the piece was first performed in Stockholm having been written for the cellist Sol Gabetta and the Amsterdam Sinfonietta. It is one of the world's most lucrative music awards with a prize of \$100,000. Louis Andriessen, who won the prize in 2011, was one of Mr. van der Aa's teachers.

Utrecht String Quartet on its first American tour was a big hit in NYC. They performed in the beautiful Music Room of The Frick Collection. In its New York concert, the group performed the Quartet in D minor by the little known 19th Century composer Johannes Verhulst. They also captivated the audience with pieces by Mendelssohn and Sibelius. The Utrecht Quartet is notable for championing 20th century Dutch composers, including Lex van Delden and Robert de Roos.

What retirees do!

Your editor asked our NAUL president who, as many know, retired last year after 30 years of taking care of Dutch Studies at the University of Michigan to write a piece for the newsletter about his retirement. He says –

“I have not yet calmed down and my hammock is still in the garage gathering dust. I am finishing an article on the question whether Daniel Defoe could read Dutch and actually stole the idea for Robinson Crusoe from a Dutch book. Since retiring, a new enterprise for me is a new translation into English of *Mariken van Nieumeghen*, a famous Dutch Medieval play. My colleague Martin Walsh, a theater specialist from the Residential College, asked me to cooperate on this project. We did *Elckerlyc* before, which was published in 2008 and we hope to finish this summer. Our Mariken is a fascinating part of Medieval literature because it not only describes historical facts, like Count Arnold of Gelre’s imprisonment in 1465, but also the inner struggle of a desperate person who chooses to live with the devil for seven years. A unique part of the story is a play within this play, performed on the marketplace of Nijmegen in which the devil’s advocate pleads and argues with God. This makes Mariken realize the errors of her ways and, although being thrown in the air by her devil Moenen, she repents. After a long period of contrition, the story ends well and we all have learned our lesson and may receive the glory of heaven.

It had been translated before but a new edition was called for, and, I believe, we are staying closer to the original. The manuscript of the original text, dated 1515 in Antwerp, can be found in Munich, and has several editorial headaches, like misprints, prose fragments in a poetical drama text, and mysterious words. For instance the word ‘*melcflessen*’ has stumped scholars, who are not thinking of dairy products but a corruption of ‘*melefiessen*’ or ‘*malefices*’, an angry outburst of the devil. The word ‘*ontbeyt*’ does not mean ‘breakfast’ but ‘wait’. When the devil encounters Mariken’s priest-uncle he calls him a ‘*plackaert*’, a hypocrite, derived from someone who whitewashes walls and roofs. One has to make decisions about footnotes: not too many, but do you explain ‘a pint of hypocras’ in a footnote as ‘spiced wine’ or in the text as ‘a pint of Hypocras spiced wine’? The devil wants to change Mariken’s name, but she refuses and they settle on ‘Emmeken’ in Dutch (just the letter M, from Maria). The older English version translates ‘Emily’, we thought ‘Emmy’ was better. As they say: to be continued.”

Ton Broos

Exhibitions

At the DIA – *Vincent van Gogh’s Bedroom in Arles*. This rarely loaned painting from the Musée d’Orsay in Paris will go on view February 19 in the Dutch galleries on the third floor of the DIA. Three of the museum’s works by Van Gogh will also be on display – *The Diggers*, *Portrait of the Postman Roulin*, and his *Self-Portrait*. The *Bedroom in Arles* remains in Detroit until May 28.

For Sale by Els Nieuwenhuijsen

Els wants to sell her beautiful antique Dutch, dark oak, dining room table: 44 inches in diameter, and 30 inches high. It has three legs and the top can ‘tip’ to the side for easy storage. Els has used it with great pleasure for more than 40 years, but now the table is too big for her new condo. If you are interested, please contact her at elsni@comcast.net or at 734-994-1817. The price is negotiable. The table would be a real treasure in any dining room or kitchen.

Recently published books on Dutch-American Achievers

Received from the New Netherlands Institute information on the following two books.

Volume I: Dutch American Achievers: Arts, Sciences and Sports

Volume II: Dutch American Achievers: Government, Military, History, And Philosophy

Author: C. Carl Pegels, Professor Emeritus, University of Buffalo, Suny

Both books are available from Amazon E-Books for \$2.99 each at any time.

With this Newsletter, we begin a new section – Recommendations. This time it is Editor’s Choice. We hope that in the future, we will hear from members with their choice in Books, Music or Film (Remember – not necessarily Dutch)

Editor’s Choice - Books

Wolf Hall and *Bring up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel. Both won the Booker Prize; for the first in 2009 and again for the second book in 2012.

In the Garden of the Beasts by Eric Larson – about the US Ambassador in Berlin before the WWII. A fascinating book on the politics of the diplomatic service, German intrigue and personal relationships.

For WWII buffs and whodunits – Any of the novels of John Lawton featuring Scotland Yard detective Frederick Troy. The series begins with **First Violin**

The Black Lake. A new and excellent English translation by Ina Rilke of Hella Haasse's masterpiece of colonial literature, **Oeroeg** first published in 1948. Long time NAUL members will remember Hella Haasse's visits to Ann Arbor when she spoke about her novels and how she researched her historical novels. **Oeroeg** was made into a film, in Dutch with English subtitles. It is available on DVD.

Rijksmuseum reopens April 13, 2013

At long last, after almost 10 years of restoration and alterations, the completely renovated Rijksmuseum will reopen on April 13. The only thing that has not changed is the location of the most celebrated painting, **The Night Watch**. Everything else will be different – the buildings, the common areas and the gardens. There will be a brand new Asian Pavilion. Eight thousand works of art and historical objects will be moved back into the main building. The last to be moved will be **The Night Watch**. The new Rijksmuseum will be open every day of the year, a first in the world of national museums. (FYI: Ton and Janet Broos will be in Amsterdam in May 2013 and are sure to visit the museum. They will report back to members in the summer Newsletter.)

NAUL Dues

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2013. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (13), your dues are late. Categories are:

Couple or family with young children	\$30.
Individual or Senior Couple	\$20.
Individual Senior or Student	\$10.
Sustaining	\$50.
Sponsor	\$100.

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