

NAUL NEWSLETTER

Netherlands America University League

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FALL OF EXPECTATIONS

A Cool Cupboard

Recently we were discussing how many types of the Dutch word 'kast' we use. There is one for 'boeken', 'kieren', 'rommel', 'keuken', 'gang', 'meter', 'laden', 'vries', 'ijs' and 'koel', to name a few words that can precede the word 'kast'. In English we have to vary from 'cupboard' to 'closet' to 'locker' to 'cabinet' etc. I presume that there are still many Dutch people who use the word 'ijskast' although that does not mean that their fridge is being loaded with large ice cubes as they used to do in this country in ice boxes (with ice picks).

Fridges came over to the Low Countries in the fifties/sixties of last century and were filled with the now illegal cooling fluid Freon. To the surprise of many Americans, it took some time before Dutch families had a 'koelkast'. In 1962 that was 19 percent, although this number increased rapidly in ten years to 88 percent in 1972. Like many families, we (the Broos bunch) got our first refrigerator from Albert Heijn, and their Premie van de Maand Club. This was a system for customers of the supermarket, whereby you bought special saving stamps, stuck them on a card and received a substantial bonus when you redeemed them. Because of this system you did not have to go to a store for electric appliances that would charge 500 to 750 guilders. That was a lot of money in those days: more than a month's salary. Albert Heijn charged between 250 and 400 guilders. Apparently there were some difficulties initially for Albert Heijn to persuade producers to deliver,

because customers would see how much profit was made.

Eventually, German Liebherr agreed to produce them, but only under the PMC-logo. As a result, some 5,000 fridges found their way to the Dutch kitchens. My mother also became the proud owner of a 'koelkast', although I do not remember that it improved the quality of her culinary expertise. The only real effect was that we had to say goodbye to Driek. And who was Driek? The melkboer [milkman] who delivered our daily milk and yoghurt.

Ton Broos

Did you know

There is a Nederland, Colorado? During the Colorado gold rush, a group of Dutch investors who saw a lucrative investment opportunity, purchased the Caribou Mill on a creek in the town of Brown's Crossing and renamed the town Nederland. There is not much remaining of the original town, mostly remnants of the mining company and equipment left behind by the miners. However, there seems to be many visitors from the Netherlands, no doubt because of the name of the town. The hiking and mountain biking trails are popular with visitors. As a token of their visit, travelers from all over the world leave coins in a local café. Most of the coins are from the Netherlands. No more frugality?

QUOTES

In 1506, Charles V inherited the title Count of Holland. He was raised by his grandmother and for 50 years reigned over large parts of Europe.

A famous quote attributed to him is "I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and Dutch to my horse."

2016: Year of the Book

Going towards the end of 2016, we almost forgot that this year is indeed the year of the book, and there were as usual several competitions and events that make people excited about books. Organizers invite writers on radio and television to talk a lot, make top-ten-competitions, and everyone shows enthusiasm, as long as they don't have to read all those pages without pictures. First there was the fight for the Most Important Book [see: belangrijksteboek.nl] and number one was (drumroll): *The Bible*. Number two turned out to be Anne Frank's *Het Achterhuis [Diary]*. Then there was the Best History Book of all times: Els Kloek, *1001 Vrouwen uit de Nederlandse Geschiedenis*, an encyclopedia with the most important women in Dutch history, was number one.

Second prize went to Suzanne Jansen. *Het Pauperparadijs: Een familiegeschiedenis*, which tells the story of families who were sent to Veenhuizen in Drenthe province to be re-educated according to certain societal norms of earlier times. Number three was Geert Mak. *De Eeuw van mijn Vader*, a well known biography of The Netherlands in the 20th century.

The big event of this year is The Frankfurt Book Fair from 19-23 October, and this year our two countries Netherlands and Belgium (actually Flanders) are together the guests of honor. Their slogan "Dit is wat we delen" [This is what we share]" aims to present Dutch novels, non-fiction, poetry and other related works to the whole world of publishers and everyone who has a warm heart for books and reading. Our own Mars Deritis will be one of the visitors as Dutch Book acquisition expert on behalf of our library, and perhaps she can tell us about it in a later edition.

More about Books

One does not have to travel to Frankfurt for new books. A new translation of the 16th century book *Mariken van Nieumeghen (Mary of Nemmegen)*,

by Ton Broos, et al., has been recently published by the Medieval Institute Publications, Early Drama, Art, and Music Monograph Series, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. *Mariken*, a prose condensation in English of the famous Middle Dutch play is an important example of the literature imported from the Low Countries in the early part of the 16th Century.

Of Kings and Things

The popularity of the Dutch monarchy may be the envy of many of the world leaders. During the reigns of Queens Juliana and Beatrix this was measured at around 80%. With King Willem-Alexander, it hovers around 65%, still relatively high. This waning may be because of the relative inexperience of the present king and the seeming improprieties of Willem-Alexander and other members of the royal family during the period of economic crisis. The monarch is burdened with enormous demands – he must be visible and accessible, close to his subjects, but never common, nor ostentatious. The monarch walks a fine line between the public figure and the private individual. The monarch is expected to have a substantial measure of wealth, but ostentation is frowned upon.

One tradition that continues to endure in the Netherlands is *Prinsjesdag* (Prince's Day), celebrated on the third Tuesday of September. It is the day that the monarch reads the Speech from the Throne (*Troonrede*) which follows a royal procession that moves from the palace to the *Ridderzaal* (Hall of Knights). The speech outlines government policies for the year ahead and is attended by members of chambers of parliament, the cabinet, and other leading political figures. On completing the Prince's Day rituals, the monarch returns to the palace. This year, however, he had to travel in the "Glazen Koets" (Glass Coach), because the "Gouden Koets" (Golden Coach) was being restored.

Alternative Elder Care

De Hogeweyk is a quaint village close to Amsterdam, in Weesp. Situated on four-acres of land, it is a gated, self-contained community, with shops, a town square, restaurants, a pub, a theatre, and of course homes. It is an exclusive village

with one requirement for residents, which is: they must have a severe case of dementia. The needs of residents are addressed in a number of ways. The homes that are provided cater to specific lifestyles (upper class, homey, Christian, artisan, urban, cultural and Indonesian).

On the lighter side

To this great land of jive and juleps
The Dutch once came to plant their tulips
They grit their teeth
Pulled in their belts
Produced New York and the Roosevelts...
Enriched this best of melting pots
With their traditional towns and tots
Behold!

In Michigan today
There's still a Holland-USA
A town that flaunts its windmill touch
To prove you just can't beat the Dutch
(from the introduction to the film "Seven Sweethearts", 1942)

Congratulations

Go to Nanna Fecteau on the occasion of her son Vincent Fecteau having been named a 2016 McArthur Fellow. 'Genius' Vincent is a sculptor of abstract pieces who uses ordinary materials, such as papier-mâché and cardboard. The following from the Foundation's publicity release: "He takes a slow and contemplative approach to his craft, giving careful consideration to how sculptural elements fuse to establish configurations that compel the viewer to deepen and prolong one's engagement with the object".

Food Bits

We all know that coleslaw originated in the Netherlands. This year we searched. It is unavailable in Albert Heijn, Jumbo, Sligro, etc. You will just have to do with making your own.

Dutch wine?

You may be surprised to find out that today, there are approximately two hundred professional vineyards in Holland producing roughly 1.3 million bottles of wine a year. They are said to be quite good. If you want to know more about Dutch winemaking, have a look at the Tasty Tale website

(tastytales.tv) where you will see films that show you some of the country's most beautiful vineyards and introduce you to the passionate winemakers behind them.

If you are interested in sampling Dutch wines, you will have to take a trip to the Netherlands, as the country does not export any wine yet. The village of Groesbeek holds an annual wine festival in September. One can visit vineyards, and take part in workshops. Each year, the festival is attracting more and more visitors since it started in 2007. If you plan to visit the Netherlands next year, visit Groesbeek in September and be sure to take the Dutch wines. Some KLM flights are said to serve wine from the region to its business class passengers, so you might get a taste before you land in the country.

Where to Eat In Amsterdam!

Recently opened in the center of Amsterdam is 'Restaurant Lieutenant Cornelis. It offers an authentic taste of the Netherlands (if there is really such a thing) on the plate and the surroundings. Prepared with a modern twist, and only sustainably Dutch produce, the Dutch influence is present in both food and drink. The blue-gray tone of the wall is reminiscent of the color used at the Rijksmuseum. A reproduction of Frans Hals 'The Meagre Company' is the centerpiece of the restaurant. Some of the original features are an antique wooden staircase in the middle of the restaurant and a fully restored 17th century ceiling. Let us hope the food is as good as the décor. Voetboogstraat 13, Amsterdam, www.restaurant-cornelis.amsterdam.

Dutch Cities

Tiel. All Dutch people know Flipje Tiel, the little fruity boy cartoon character made from berries. Located in the eastern province of Gelderland, it is one of the oldest cities in the country. It was already inhabited in Roman times and city records date back to 855. Built around a wooden church, it had its origins as a farming community. During the middle ages it became an important trading center and today it is the largest city in the fruit-growing region of the Betuwe. It was first called "Dioli".

The Hague has played an important role in Dutch history. In 1280, Count Floris V ordered the construction of the *Grote Zaal*, (Great Hall) to host parties and banquets for the nobility. The roof made from Irish oak reaches 26 meters (85 feet) in height. The hall measures 40 x 20 meters (130 x 60 feet) and has beautiful stained glass windows. The building resembles Gothic monuments like Westminster Hall in London and Salisbury Cathedral. In the 19th century the name was changed from *Grote Zaal* to *Ridderzaal*.

Sneek

This city is known as the 'watersportstad' (city of watersports) because of its close proximity to the Frisian lakes. It is also known for its 'drabbelkoeken', a cookie of thin buckwheat dough which is poured through a funnel into browned sizzling butter. Its preparation, though quite different in taste and texture, is similar to American funnel cake. These thick crunchy cookies were once only available for the wealthy, but today, everyone can enjoy them. They are for sale at the factory in Sneek where they are made but also one can nowadays enjoy baking them at home.

TRIVIA

Try a bottle of Amsterdam perfume. No joke! Eau d'Amsterdam – the scent of the Elm trees captured in a bottle. It is said to be an enticing fragrance with fresh green notes and earthy hints of wood. It is the product of the Olfactive Design Studio at International Flowers and Fragrances. Also available is a candle with the same aroma. Just what we want for Christmas!

HEADS UP: SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER 3, 2016

On that date Sinterklaas will arrive in Ann Arbor to greet all the good little girls and boys and also those merry NAUL people. Keep an eye for an e-mail from Nanna Fecteau for the notice to register your kids and yourselves and all the other details for this traditional celebration.

NAUL DUES

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2015. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (16), your dues are late.

Categories are:

Couple or family with young children	\$40.
Individual or Senior Couple	\$30.
Individual Senior or Student	\$20.
Sustaining	\$50.
Sponsor	\$100.

Send your payment to;

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Mary of Nimmegen

The ca. 1518 Translation and the Middle Dutch
Analogue, *Mariken van Nieumeghen*

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