Voor het eerst op de Kermis alhier!
Nieuw.
Nieuw.
Levende Fotographiën.
ENORM SUCCES.
Gedurende de Kermis is alhier geraadpleegd
De Electrische Kinematograaf
en BIOGRAAF,
Standplaats Vischmarkt.

Hiermede hebben wij de eer het geschap publiek deze gemeente en
omstreken kennis te geven, dat wij zijn geraadpleegd met de ontroffende
ELECTRISCHE KINEMATOGRAAF, zijnde een verbeterd systeem, waardoor het
trillen voorkomen wordt.

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

De nieuwste en praetigste Tableaux zullen worden vertoond, als:
Het opwekken der Transvaalsche Boeren naar het oorlogstrein. Het transporteren
van Engelsche krijgsgevangenen door 's Boeren naar Pretoria. De aflocht der
Engelsche Lanciers na den slag bij Modderoever. Aankomst van den spoortrein
to Pretoria. Een stierengevecht in Madrid (zeer interessant) Gesignierde dieren,
een. enz. Meer dan 1000 verschillende tableaux!

Elk uur een voorstelling met afwisselend programma.
's-Middags Extra KINDERVOORSTELLING.
DE DIRECTIE, N. H. SCHINKEL.

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Preface

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

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

The Biography Institute has the following objectives:
- to offer an infrastructure and specific support to graduate students doing biographical research,
- to stimulate the development of theoretical perspectives on biography as an academic genre.

The Biography Institute supervises graduate students preparing PhD’s, as well as undergraduate students writing master theses or taking part in research classes within the domain of biography. In the academic year 2010-2011 a new course of lectures has been designed titled Historical Approach to Biography, intended for master students of the Faculty of Arts.

With regard to the development of theoretical perspectives on biography the Biography Institute aims at organising scientific conferences and symposia and at publishing biographies, conference proceedings and academic articles. In order to achieve these aims, a chair in biography was founded on 1 March 2007. 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, technology, religion and education.
Biography Institute

1.1 Employees

- Prof. J.W. Renders, director (0,4 fte), manages the institute.
- I.L. Hengeveld, coordinator (0,2 fte), is responsible for the coordination of the institute.
- B.B.J. de Haan MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte) in September 2009 appointed to conduct theoretical research on biographical traditions in international perspective.
- Dr H.J. Langeveld, associate professor (1 fte), in December 2005 appointed to write the biography of Willem Schermerhorn.
- E.M. Rovers MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte), in September 2006 appointed to write the biography of Helene Kröller-Müller.
- Ariëtte Dekker, PhD researcher, in September 2010 appointed to write the biography of Anton Kröller.
- Dr. J.W. Stutje, post-doc (1 fte), conducts research on the life of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, since September 2006.

1.2 PhD Researchers

In the academic year 2010-2011 the Biography Institute guided nine PhD’s in total, apart from a senior researcher and a post-doc. Three of these PhD’s are employees of the institute, the other six are external PhD researchers.

- Ariëtte Dekker writes the biography of Anton Kröller;
  Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. P. Kooij (em. RUG).
- In September 2006 Eva Rovers was appointed to write the biography of Helene Kröller-Müller;
  Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. W.E. Krul, Prof. E.J. Etty (VU) and S.A.J. van Faassen MA (NLMD).
- Binne de Haan is conducting research on the theory of the biography;
  Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.
1.3 Advisory committee

The Biography Institute is assisted in its development by an internal (University of Groningen) and an external advisory committee. These two advisory committees are chaired by Prof. J.C.H. Blom.

Members of the internal advisory committee are: Prof. K. van Berkel, Prof. D.F.J. Bosscher, Prof. G.J. Dorleijn and Prof. G.T. Jensma.

Members of the external advisory board are: S.A.J. van Faassen MA (Dutch Literary Museum and Documentation Center), Dr K. Hilberdink (Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW), biographer of Paul Rodenko and Hans Lodeizen), Dr J.F.M.M. Perry (University of Maastricht, biographer of W.H. Vliegen and Victor de Stuers) and Prof. H. te Velde (University of Leiden).

1.4 Finance

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

A Vidi grant was acquired from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) for the project of the biography of Domela Nieuwenhuis (five years). For the projects of the biographies of Anton Kröller and Helene Kröller-Müller, a grant was awarded by the Foundation for the National Park De Hoge Veluwe and the Kröller-Müller Museum, in addition to the contribution of the Faculty of the University (Graduate School OGWG). The Democracy & Media Foundation contributed financially the biographies of Schermerhorn and Van Heuven Goedhart.

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

1.5 Website and Newsletter

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

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

The website of the Biography Institute has been the most visited website of all the research websites of the Faculty of Arts since it was established. The annual number of visitors is more than 28,000.

Those who are interested, can be kept informed about activities of the institute through a newsletter which is distributed by email. Currently, more than 800 people are receiving the newsletter. Four newsletters have been distributed during the academic year 2010-2011.
Projects

2.1 Biography projects

One of the main goals of the Biography Institute, giving guidance to biographers, was accomplished in the year 2010-2011 guided, among others, the following biographers: Jeroen Corduwener (G.J. van Heuven Goedhart), Ariëtte Dekker (Anton Krölle), Binne de Haan (Considering Biography), Vera Hoorens (Jan Wier), Bas Kromhout (Henk Feldmeijer), Jan de Lang (F.C.H. Hirschmann), Eva Rovers (Helene Kröller-Müller) and Boudewijn Smits (Loe de Jong).

Considering Biography

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

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

Several objections have been raised against biography as a method being part of historiography. Because biography focuses on one individual only, we may not call it ‘full’ historiography. Furthermore, biographers would have put biography outside the fences of academic historiography by using too liberally ‘literary’ narrative techniques, and by not being transparent about their research criteria, as a result of which biographers fail to use new insights that have emerged in academic research.
These and other questions that are raised by a reflection on biography, have been the subject of study for small groups of social scientists around the world, who worked in the previous decades on the margins of the academia to assess the merits of biography. Some referred to each other’s work, but more often that wasn’t the case. Partly due to the lack of this academic framework, a coherent interpretation and analysis of the different directions of academic research concerning biography in the twentieth century is missing.

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

Boudewijn Büch

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

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

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

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

Through the use of a number of new approaches, Stutje seeks to supplement and correct the prevailing image. Central to this is Domela’s charisma, his romantic revolutionary commitment, the oral culture and international contacts. His leadership is compared to that of contemporaries within his own country, among them Abraham Kuyper and Pieter Jelles Troelstra, as well as foreign kindred spirits such as César de Paepe and Ferdinand Lasalle. This biography of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis sheds new light on three separate, but interrelated components: Domela’s work in the socialist movement, his theoretical and published work and his personal life.

The biography is a contribution to the history of ideas and to the historical sociology of social movements and political culture. Stutje has written the biographies of the Dutch communist Paul de Groot and the Flemish Marxist economist and historian, Ernest Mandel. This project has a duration of five years.

Henk Feldmeijer

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

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

Feldmeijer’s ‘Great-German’ politics put him into a five-year conflict with Mussert. Meanwhile, due to the course of the war, Feldmeijer had to put his political SS-organization more and more into service for the German warfare. He himself went to serve at the front as a soldier twice, respectively in Greece and the Soviet-Union. Feldmeijer established a Sonderkommando-Feldmeijer’, that would be responsible for the so-called ‘Silbertanne Aktion’: innocent citizens where murdered as reprisals for attacks by resistance groups. Feldmeijer genuinely and unconditionally believed in the ideals of the SS. Nonetheless, he frequently put the patience of Reichsführer-SS Himmler to the test by giving in to financial, alcoholic and sexual temptations. Even his once devoted adherents became more and more disappointed by Feldmeijer’s personal conduct and private life.

After Stalingrad and D-Day, Feldmeijer was increasingly obsessed by the approaching end game. Unlike most Dutch national-socialists, he didn’t speak idly when he stated that he wanted to triumph together with the Germans or die. February 1945, while rushing to the front at the Meuse, his car was attacked by an American fighter pilot. Feldmeijer was killed and became what he wanted to be: a martyr.
Loe de Jong

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

After the author had withdrawn from public life for more than a decade, he passed away in 2005. This presents a unique opportunity to examine a particular aspect of his life’s work: the extent to which public discussion of the Second World War was, since 1945, tied to Loe de Jong in one way or another. When the last, that being the thirteenth, volume of the series was published in 1988, the author had spent nearly half a century in the centre of the collective processing of the war record. De Jong’s scientific practice was 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. His socialist convictions, his prewar journalistic career as the foreign editor of the newsmagazine *De Groene Amsterdammer* and his personal experience of the war as an (assimilated) Jew, contributed to his unyielding conviction that he had a moral duty to let Good triumph over the Evil of National Socialism in the post war Netherlands.

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

Anton Kröller

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

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

**Han Lammers**

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

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

**Willem Schermerhorn**

For a long time, it seemed that the son of a farmer Willem Schermerhorn would acquire fame through a scientific career rather than from his political work. When he was aged 31, he had already been appointed as professor at Delft University of Technology. As a pioneer of air cartography he became internationally recognized. However, at the end of the thirties he became politically involved when he became the president of Unity through Democracy, a movement that tried to end the emergence of the Dutch Fascist Party (NSB). Because of his leadership of this movement, Schermerhorn was imprisoned during the Second World War, together with a number of other prominent Dutch political leaders, in the internment camp in Sint Michielsgestel. Here, Schermerhorn became a leader among the prisoners: he was seen as a suitable person who should become Prime Minister after the war, to guide the Netherlands into an era of political and social renewal.

In the early summer of 1945, Queen Wilhelmina appointed Schermerhorn and Willem Drees as architects of a cabinet of ‘Convalescence and Renewal’; Schermerhorn became Prime Minister. In the same year, the Dutch Labour Party was established, as an embodiment of the renewal in Dutch politics. Yet, at the elections of 1946, it appeared that this renewal was only supported by a
minority of the Dutch population; also in the political area the pre-war, religious- and ideologically-based frameworks returned. Schermerhorn could not return as Prime Minister, and there was no place for him in the new cabinet.

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

2.2 Completed projects

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

Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart
After studying law at Leiden, Van Heuven Goedhart was employed by the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf. Within a few years he became a member of its editorial board and from 1930 he was editor-in-chief. In 1933 he was fired by the owner H.C.M. Holdert for, among other reasons, resisting the newspaper’s pro-German slant. A month later, he became editor of the Utrechtsch Nieuwsblad. He turned this newspaper into a leading daily with a national tone. As editor-in-chief, he took a stand against Nazism. He became involved with the resistance and through it with the illegal newspaper Het Parool. Van Heuven Goedhart edited Het Parool from 1942 until mid-1944, when he had to flee to London, where, within one month, he was named Minister of Justice in the government in exile.

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


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

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

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

**Helene Kröller-Müller**

Between 1907 and 1938 Helene Kröller-Müller assembled a collection of modern art which was unrivalled in Western Europe, consisting of works by Picasso, Signac, Seurat, Mondriaan and nearly 300 works by Vincent van Gogh. At first she collected out of personal interest, guided and inspired by art teacher H.P. Bremmer. But soon, in 1911, she decided to build a museum for her collection in order to establish a ‘monument of culture’. This goal had a major impact on Kröller-Müller’s manner of expanding her collection: according to herself she was no longer led by personal taste, but by the question whether a work of art would stand the test of time.

Who was this woman, who seemed hardly interested in art until the age of thirty-five, and who then suddenly dedicated her life and a considerable part of her family’s fortune to establishing a collection of modern art? And what was the influence on both the course of her life and on Kröller-Müller’s notions of art, exercised respectively by her husband Anton Kröller, her mentor Henk Bremmer and her confidant Sam Van Deventer?

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

**Alice Nahon**

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

**Radio Oranje**

At the outbreak of the Second World War, radio was considered the fourth fighting arm, as important as the army, the navy and the air force. Many celebrities, including the German writer Thomas Mann and the French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, supported the allied war effort and broadcasted to their compatriots in the occupied territories. The Dutch language radio stations saw many well-known writers like A. den Doolaard and Herman de Man, and journalists like Henk van den Broek and Loe de Jong, taking up the cause and fighting the Germans through their spirited talks. As a government broadcaster Radio Oranje 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.

**Jan Wier**

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

Because Jan Wier described some witches as mentally ill, he can be regarded as a founder of modern psychiatry. He furthermore advocated the necessity of a humane treatment of (some) suspects, the result being that he has been presented as a champion of human rights *avant la lettre*. Not surprisingly, therefore, he has known numerous admirers including Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud. Critics believe that he inadvertently stirred up the witch persecution, that he is wrongly regarded as a figure-head of psychiatry. In the second half of the twentieth century, for instance, the antipsychiatrist Thomas Szasz viewed him as the founder of a health care system that confined and silenced troublesome individuals.

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.

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2.3 Family archive

*Connoisseurs and trendsetters. Bourgeois culture in Groningen between nationalism and cosmopolitanism (1870-1970).*

The envisioned research is based on the archives of the Van Calker-Clemens Schröner family, that has been made accessible by the Biography Institute in Groningen. The rich archive offers a wonderful glimpse into the lives of four successive generations of the same family in Groningen in the period from about 1830-1970. The prosperity of this family coincided with the success of the bourgeois environment to which they belonged. The Groninger Archieven [Groningen Archives] will digitize and archive the entire collection. A part of this archive has already been digitized and is freely accessible through our website (www.biografieinstituut.nl/familiearchief).

2.4 Candidate biographers

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

**Selection**

The selection of all candidate biographers took place on the basis of a research plan. The workload associated with the selection process is a matter of concern because the selection activities pose a major burden on the capacity of the institute. Nevertheless, in order to realize its own policy the Biography Institute has devoted much of its time to initiatives leading towards the creation of PhD positions. The PhD positions with regard to the biographies of Henk Feldmeijer, Anton Kröller and Binne de Haan’s research project on biography in international perspective are successful cases in point.
2.5 Congresses and Edited Volumes

Biography & Pedagogy

The contemporary debate about the status of the teacher dates back to the nineteenth century. The conventional image of the (head) teacher – it always concerned men – as one of the village notables turns out to be wrong: from the beginning, when renowned schooling for teachers was created and the profession highly professionalized, teachers experienced that they didn’t receive sufficient appreciation in terms of status and salary. Was the end-of-the-line of a career a teaching job in a city or village, the person in question often considered this as a failure. The student teacher academy (‘kwelkingenopleiding’) therefore for many was a stepping stone toward another, more socially valued profession, like journalist, writer, teacher in secondary education, high official or even politician.

The influence of teachers and educators on social life in the nineteenth and twentieth century was not small. Former teacher Theo Thijssen (1879-1943) for example, became a man of letters, union member and later also an SDAP-politician in the Amsterdam city council and national politics. Given his background, he was born into a poor cobbler’s family in the ‘Jordaan’ (district of Amsterdam), it is not obvious that Thijssen became teacher and a nationally known politician. Theo Thijssen, socialist teachers, but also Protestant Christian, Roman Catholic and liberal teachers and educators who followed the same path, wanted to achieve social ideals. What has been the influence of their social origins on their careers later on? What role did ideology and religion play in this careers?

The conference Biography & Pedagogy took place on 18 & 19 November 2010 in the National Museum of Education in Rotterdam and was organized in cooperation with the National Museum of Education and the Archive and Documentation centre for Dutch Behavioural Sciences (ADNG).
Quaerendo - publishing in the Netherlands during WW II

A special issue of the journal Quaerendo (Brill Publishers) about the book business in the Netherlands during World War II has been published and is full text available (only within university networks) via a link on our website or can be ordered at the same website. Our Brinkman digitization project (2009-2010) was being used during the research for this issue. Furthermore, on 24 May 2011 the volume Boeken onder druk. Censuur en pers-onvrijheid in Nederland sinds de boekdrukkunst [Books under pressure. Censorship and lack of freedom for the press in the Netherlands since the printing press] appeared at Amsterdam University Press, edited by Marita Mathijsen.

Edited volume conference Biography and Religion

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

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

Following the conference ‘The religious factor in biography’ an edited volume will be published in October 2011, with contributions by Erik Borgman, Doeko Bosscher, Han van Bree, Fia Dieteren, Jan Fontijn, Gert van Klinken, Jeroen Koch, Y’mi Kuiper, Herman de Liagre Böhl, Elsbeth Locher-Scholten, Paul Luykx, Marit Monteiro, Hans Renders and Jan Willem Stutje.

2.6 Digitization projects

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

Dutch Biography Portal

By now the site of the Dutch Biography Portal is operational and accessible: www.biografischportaal.nl. The Biography Institute has contributed scientifically and contributed digitized content to this project.

Dutch National Pseudonym Archive

During this academic year, the National Pseudonyms Archives has been established by the Biography Institute. This is an online searchable database of pseudonyms and corresponding civilian name, which can be searched at pseudonym, civilian name, or both. This database includes the following sources:

- Additions to Ps(n)euboek by Willem Bierman & Hans Renders and others.

Users can send additions and corrections to us by e-mail. These will be checked before being added to the database. The pseudonym archive can be found via a link on our website or directly at www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa.
2.7 Publications

Scientific publications

Professional publications

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‘We denken er nu anders over’

Jan de Lang (1942), gepensioneerd gemeentesecretaris van Assen en Heerlen.

Ik stuitte op Hirschmann tijdens genealogisch onderzoek, dat is een hobby van me. Hij is de overgrootvader van mijn vrouw. Mijn schoonvader had na enig aandringen wel iets over die kerel verteld. Daarvan had ik twee dingen onthouden. In Suriname, toen hij daar begin vorige eeuw als commandant diende, had hij het voetbal geïntroduceerd. Daarnaast herinnerde ik me dat hij korte tijd burgemeester van Terschelling was geweest.

Hirschmann kwam weer in beeld toen ik me in de familie van mijn vrouw ging verdiepen. Ik wilde wat meer weten van de individuele familieleden. Dan kom je bij het Nationaal Archief in Den Haag terecht. Daar ligt alles over het Koninklijk Nederlandsch-Indisch Leger (KNIL) waarin hij diende. Ik las dat hij in 1896 deel uitmaakte van het derde bataljon. Punt. Dan weet je nog niet heel veel. Dan ga je uitzoeken waar dat derde bataljon lag en wat hij daarin deed. Het ene antwoord lokte de volgende vraag uit. Voor ik het wist was ik bezig met een biografie, want die man had zoveel gedaan en had op zoveel plaatsen gediend. Ik ben er vorig jaar gepasseerd in Groningen, bij het Biografie Instituut.

Ik geef toe, Hirschmann was geen nationale bekendheid. Voor al dat hand om te denken: wat heb ik aan een biografie van hem? En toch is de man een biografie waard. Voor al omdat je aan de hand van zijn carrière een beeld krijgt van het zogeteheden moderne imperiaalisme, de periode eind negentiende eeuw dat Europese landen hun vleugels uitstrooegen op zoek naar nieuw land en naar grondstoffen.

Het mooiste van een biografie is dat je zowel de unietheid als de represenatativiteit van de hoofdrolspeler kunt behandelen. Dat laatste valt nooit mee omdat je hem moet vergelijken met anderen. Hirschmann was het voorbeeld van het gewone soldaatje dat het leger vanaf tweede luitenant tot aan luitenant-kolonel. En net als anderen is hij heel vaak in zijn leven overgeplaatst. Soms wel een paar keer per jaar.

Het meest in het oog springt zijn deelname aan het veldbataljon dat regelmatig betrokken raakte bij oorlogshandelingen. De elanden konden voorstonden, die zich zo nu en dan niets aan trokken op het Nederlandse gezag. Dan werd het leger erop afgestuurd en dan was het al tijd gauw gedaan met de opstandigheid. Het leger was beter bewapend dan de inlandsen opstapelden. Maar bovendien werkten de protesterende vorstendommen zelden samen, ze konden geen coalities sluiten. Dat is de reden dat Nederland met een leger van ongeveer 42.000 soldaten zo’n enorme archipel kon besturen en onder de duim kon houden.

Hirschmann heeft gevochten in Atjeh, een oorlog die begon in 1873 en duurde tot in de volgende eeuw. In die tijd was hij trouwens ook oorlogsfunctionaris. Aan het einde van zijn militaire carrière was hij commandant van het leger in Suriname. Hij had slechts 300 soldaten onder zich. Dat leger was niet bedoeld om buitenlandse vijanden buiten de duim te houden, want niemand was geïnteresseerd in Suriname. Toch was het een opwindende tijd. Hij maakte mee dat een gevluchte Hongaar, een zekere Killinger, een staatsgreep pleegde. Hij probeerde de gouverneur te overmezen en het commando op Fort Zeelandia over te nemen. Hirschmann hielp dat te voorkomen.

Deel over het koloniaal bestuur en handelingen van militairen die daaruit voortvloeiden. Over het bezit van koloniën bestond in het Nederland van honderd jaar geleden grote consensus. Het werk in Indië werd beschouwd als normaal en zelfs heroïsch. In 1894 werd het manuscript afgerond. Het enige wat daarover valt te zeggen is: we denken er nu anders over.”


- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Jeroen Vullings), samenstelling H.J.A. Hofland, Bemande essays, De Bezige Bij, Amsterdam 2011, 396 blz.
- Renders, Hans, recensie De wolken – Uit de geheime laden van Hugo Claus, Samengesteld door Mark Schaevers, in: Het Parool 1-6-2011.

Lectures and scientific activities

- Haan, Binne de, 4 February 2011, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.


- Renders, Hans, 26 September 2010, Alleman, Gemert. Lezing voor Literair Festival.


- Rovers, Eva, 11 January 2011, Sociëteit De Hereeniging, Deventer. ‘De mannen van Helene’.


- Rovers, Eva, 6 February 2011, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.

- Rovers, Eva, 12 March 2011, Vrienden van de Hoge Veluwe. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 17 March 2011, Boekhandel Jansen & De Feijter, Filmhuis Oosterbeek. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 19 March 2011, Boekhandel Selexyz Arnhem. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 24 March 2011, Boekhandel het Boekeneiland, Purmerend. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 31 March 2011, Herensociëtiet Eendragt maakt Magt, Rotterdam. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 10 April 2011, Museum de Buitenplaats, Eelde. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 13 April 2011, Debatcentrum Spui25, Amsterdam. ‘De grootste mecenas’.
- Rovers, Eva, 21 April 2011, Apeldoorns Centrum voor Eigentijdse Cultuur. ‘De eeuwigheid verzameld: Helene Kröller-Müller (1869-1939)’.
- Rovers, Eva, 13 May 2011, Debatcentrum Happy Chaos Amsterdam. ‘Helene Kröller-Müller als inspiratie voor de moderne mecenas’.
- Rovers, Eva, 9 July 2011, Institute for Historical Research / Collecting and Display Group, Londen. ‘Into the light, out of the obscure: a new approach to collecting and its relevance to art history’.

**Boeiende verhalen over bezeten vrouwen**

Elsbeth Etty neemt de stapel binnengekomen boeken door, signaleert en geeft een eerste oordeel. Deze week onder meer Het Blauwe Boekje en een vroegmoderne heksenpsychiater.

De arts Jan Wier (1515-1588) behoort tot de erflaters van onze beschaving. Hij vergaarde vermaardheid als bestrijder van de heksenprocessen. Hij geldt als een vroege grondlegger van de mensenrechten met zijn pleidooien tegen marteling van verdachten en het recht op een eerlijk proces. En hij wordt gezien als een voorloper van de psychiatrie omdat hij de beze- tenheid van de ‘heksen’ als geestesziekte diagnosiseerde. Vera Hoornens hoogleraar sociale psychologie nuanceert het beeld van de eeuwenlange verweerde en verguisde Wier in een evenwichtige biografie, die alles heeft: goed geschreven, ge- baseerd op gedegen onderzoek en ook nog eens vol boeiende verhalen over ‘vazen-
2.8 Editorships and advisory committees

Hans Renders was editor of the Flemish-Dutch scientific journal *ZL. Literair-historisch tijdschrift* (Antwerp) and a member of the editorial board of the scholarly magazine *Quaerendo. A Quarterly Journal from the Low Countries Devoted to Manuscripts and Printed Books* (Leiden) and of the scholarly magazine *Le Temps des Médias. Revue d’histoire* (Paris).

For the project on the history of newspapers in the 20th century in 24 European countries, ‘*Dictionaire de la presse (écrit) en Europe XXè siècle*’, or ‘*Encyclopaedia of the European Press*’, hosted by the research institute ADNG in Paris, Hans Renders is coordinator for The Netherlands.

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

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

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

Renders (co-)edited the following titles:

- Mirjam de Baar, Yme Kuiper & Hans Renders (red.), *Biografie & Religie*, Boom, Amsterdam 2011, 196 pagina’s.

Eva Rovers served as a representative of PhD students on the Advisory Board of The Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG). She was member of the board of the PhD Council Humanities and is editor of *Biografie Bulletin*.

### Education and partnerships

#### 3.1 Partnerships

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

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

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

With the Documentation Centre Dutch Political Parties (DNPP) and the Montesquieu Institut has been collaborated with regard to the conference *Political Biography: a Retrospective of Future Leadership?* on 15 December 2010 in The Hague.

#### 3.2 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 about the inhabitants of the Netherlands, from the earliest times to the present, digitally accessible via the internet.
Publicity (selection)

- Barneveldse krant, 6 November 2010, 19 November 2010.
- Ede Stad, 24 November 2010.
- Dagblad van het Noorden, 20 November 2010.
- Opzij, 1 December 2010.
- De Telegraaf, 4 January 2011.
- De Groene Amsterdammer, 13 January 2011.
- UK (Universiteitskrant Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), 31 March 2011.
- Art and Antiques, April 2011.
- het Parool, 30 July 2011.
- De Nieuwe Pers, January 2011.

Radio

- OVT, 14 November 2010.
- Radio OBA Live, 24 November 2010.
- Radio Ede FM, 24 November 2010.
- Radio Klara (België), 20 January 2011.
- Radio Arnhem Centraal, 16 March 2011.
- Tijd voor twee (KRO), radio 2, 30 June 2011.
- De avonden (VPRO), radio 6, 4 July 2011.

TV

- RTV Arnhem, 29 November 2010.
- Tijd voor Max (omroep Max), 10 February 2011.