



# Biography Institute



Annual Report Biography Institute 2014

## Annual Report 2014

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university of  
 groningen



Suetonius



Aubrey



Boswell



Plutarchus



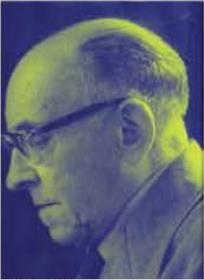
Stephen



Brantome



Vasari



J.C. Bloem



Jan Campert



F. Domela Nieuwenhuis



Vincent Willem van Gogh



F. Hirschmann



G.J. van Heuven Goedhart



Loe de Jong



Henk Feldmeijer



A. van der Louw



Joseph Kotalla



Anton Krölller



H. Krölller-Müller



Alice Nahon



W. Schermerhorn



Theo van Doesburg



Jelle Zijlstra



Annual Report Biography Institute  
University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
2014

GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY PRESS



Wolfgang Amad. Mozart.

Eine  
begründete und ausführliche

# Biographie

desselben

Herausgegeben von  
Joh. Aloys Schlosser



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## **Preface**

On 1 September 2004 the University of Groningen established the Biography Institute. This annual report provides an overview of the principal activities, developments and activities of the Biography Institute in the calendar year 2014. Previously our annual reports provided an overview of the academic 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.

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 and on 1 March 2012 the Department of History and Theory of Biography was established.

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

Over the next few years, researchers of the institute will study the theme of 'journalism, publishing, and social democracy' on various levels, focusing on sources, narrative forms, and social-cultural contexts. They will also

explore related domains such as art, entrepreneurship, education, politics, religion and technology.

### **1.1 Employees**

- Prof.dr. J.W. Renders, director, manages the institute.
- I.L. Hengeveld, coordinator,  
is responsible for the coordination of the institute.
- A. Dekker MA, PhD researcher,  
in September 2010 appointed to write the biography of Anton Kröller.
- B.B.J. de Haan MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte),  
appointed in September 2009 to conduct theoretical research on biographical traditions in international perspective.
- J.S. Harmsma MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte),  
appointed in April 2013 to write the biography of Jelle Zijlstra.
- Chris Hietland MA, PhD researcher (0,9 fte),  
appointed in April 2014 to write the biography of André van der Louw.
- PhD H.J. Langeveld, associate professor (1 fte),  
appointed in December 2005 to write the biography of Willem Schermerhorn, until February 1, 2014.
- PhD E.M. Rovers, senior researcher (1 fte),  
appointed in September 2011 to write the biography of Boudewijn Büch.

### **1.2 PhD Researchers**

In 2014 the Biography Institute guided eight PhD's in total, apart from two senior researchers. Four of these PhD's are employees of the institute, the other three 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).
- Binne de Haan is conducting research on the theory of the biography;  
Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Jonne Harmsma writes the biography of Jelle Zijlstra; Doctoral

Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. J.M. Berk.

- Chris Hietland writes the biography of André van der Louw; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. P. van de Laar and Prof. G. Voerman.

### **External PhD Researchers**

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

- Boudewijn Smits wrote the biography of Loe de Jong (until April 24, 2014); Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. J.C.H. Blom (em. UvA) and Prof. P. Romijn (NIOD/UvA).

- Roelie Zwikker is writing the biography of Vincent Willem van Gogh; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.

- Gerben Wynia is writing the biography of C.O. Jellema; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. G.J. Dorleijn and Prof. J.W. Renders.

### **1.3 Advisory committee**

The Biography Institute is assisted in its development by an advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee are: Prof. J.C.H. Blom (chairman), Prof. E. Etty, T.P.M. Strengers, Prof. G.C. Wakker en Prof. C.J.W. Zwart.

### **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 costs of conferences, symposia and edited volumes. The existence of the institute itself is supported by the Democracy & Media Foundation.

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

## **1.5 Funding**

Kröller-Müller Museum (biography Anton Kröller)

Foundation Het Nationale Park De Hoge Veluwe (biography Anton Kröller)

De Nederlandsche Bank (biography Zijlstra)

Dr. Abraham Kuyperfonds (biography Zijlstra)

Municipality of Rotterdam (biography Van der Louw)

NOS (biography Van der Louw)

NPO (biography Van der Louw)

VARA (biography Van der Louw)

Graduate School RUG (biography Zijlstra en biography Van der Louw)

Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM) (Biografie Instituut en biography Van der Louw)

SNS Reaal (biography Van der Louw)

## **1.6 Website and Newsletter**

The Biography Institute has a bilingual website (Dutch and English): [www.rug.nl/BiografieInstituut](http://www.rug.nl/BiografieInstituut), also accessible via [www.BiografieInstituut.nl](http://www.BiografieInstituut.nl).

On this website, visitors can access information concerning the objectives and the topics of research of the institute, as well as information on ongoing projects and conferences. The site features a news section which is updated continuously.

The website also includes files made accessible by the institute through digitalization. Additionally, the Biography Institute has published online a database with pseudonyms, the National Archives of Pseudonyms. Furthermore the website contains an extensive list of related website links on biography, and it is possible to contact the institute and its members via the website.

The website of the Biography Institute has been the most visited website of all the research websites of the Faculty of Arts since it was established. The annual number of visitors this year is more than 26.000.

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. During this year, two newsletters have been distributed.

## Projects

### 2.1 Biography projects

One of the main goals of the Biography Institute, giving guidance to biographers, was accomplished this year by guiding, among others, the following biographers: Ariëtte Dekker (Anton Krölller), Binne de Haan (Considering Biography), Jonne Harmsma (Jelle Zijlstra), Chris Hietland (André van der Louw) and Richard Hoving (Joseph Kotälla).

#### *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 *From crown to bastard. Biography and the individual perspective in history*. 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



Michelangelo, Moses

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



Boudewijn Büch  
© Klaas Koppe

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 professor in order to love history or poetry. He was a cultural omnivore, who started his career as a poet and wound up to be a television personality. In the period between he worked as passionately on columns for *Playboy* and *Nieuwe Revue* as he did on articles on Rimbaud for a quality newspaper as *NRC Handelsblad*. The one day he would write about major authors in literary journal *Maatstaf*, the next he would throw new publications he disliked around the studio of his television program Büch's books. At least as poignant was the contrast between the introspection of his own novels and the philosophical thoroughness of Goethe's work, whom he greatly admired.

### *Vincent Willem van Gogh*

The leading emphasis of the extensive research that takes place at the Van Gogh Museum is on the artist Vincent van Gogh and his contemporaries. Until now, a more specific focus on his nephew, the founder of the Van Gogh Museum who died in 1978, has remained in the background. The planned biography will establish a picture of the life and career of this man, who was determined to preserve the collection of Vincent and Theo van Gogh and to open it up to the public.

Vincent Willem Van Gogh was born in Paris on 31 January 1890, the son of Theo Van Gogh (1857-1891) and Jo Bonger (1862-1925). They named their only child after Theo's brother, the artist Vincent Willem Van Gogh (1853-1890). After Theo's untimely death in 1891, Van Gogh's collection of drawings, paintings and letters, as well as Vincent and Theo's collection of the works of contemporaries, went to Jo. When she died in 1925, her son inherited the collection.

Van Gogh was a versatile and enterprising person. From 1907-1914 he studied mechanical engineering at the University of Delft. After marrying Josina Wibaut in January 1915, he lived and worked as an engineer in France, the United States and Japan. In the early 1920s, the couple returned to the Netherlands.

Together with a fellow student from his university days, Ernst Hijmans, Van Gogh founded an organisation consultancy firm in Amsterdam, one of the first in The Netherlands.

After 1945, he turned more and more to studying and publicizing the work of his famous uncle. He thought it was important for the collection to remain intact after his death and so, in 1962, at the



suggestion of the national government, he placed it with the Vincent van Gogh Foundation, which was established specifically for the purpose. On 3 June 1973, the Vincent van Gogh Museum opened its doors to the public. Van Gogh was in the museum virtually every day until shortly before his death on 28 January 1978 and he devoted his energies to everything related to Vincent, Theo and the museum.

*C.O. Jellema*

C.O. Jellema (1936-2003)

studeerde theologie en Duits, en doceerde Duitse literatuur aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. Hij was een gerespecteerd dichter: zijn werk is vertaald in het Engels, Duits en Frans. Hij nam deel aan Poetry International, zat in



literaire jury's en besturen, en recenseerde jarenlang literatuur voor verschillende dagbladen. Daarnaast was hij actief als essayist en vertaler. Bij dit onderzoek staan twee invalshoeken centraal: het spanningsveld rond de autonomie van de literatuur en de rol van de homoseksualiteit in de constructie van Jellema's persoonlijke en poëtische identiteit.

Op het punt van de autonomie zal een aantal samenhangende vragen het onderzoek sturen. Bijvoorbeeld: hoe verliep het moeizaam verkrijgen van literaire erkenning? Jellema's werk en poëtische opvattingen sloten niet of slechts ten dele aan bij werk en opvattingen van dan beeldbepalende dichters en leidende critici. Daarom is het interessant om na te gaan welke ontwikkeling zijn literaire werk en literatuuropvatting hebben doorgemaakt. Hierbij is aandacht voor het werk van door hem vertaalde Duitse mystici van belang. Vanaf zijn debuut in 1961 is in zijn werk namelijk een religieuze thematiek aanwezig. Wat betekende die aandacht voor deze thematiek in een tijd waarin het ongebruikelijk was religieus-metafysische kwesties aan de orde te stellen?

Homoseksualiteit maakte in de tweede helft van de twintigste eeuw een belangrijke ontwikkeling door van taboe naar maatschappelijke acceptatie. Vragen hierbij zijn: hoe verliep Jellema's aanvaarding van zijn homoseksualiteit? Welke betekenis had de ontmoeting op zesjarige leeftijd met een Duitse soldaat – een vroege inwijding in de homo-erotiek – voor zijn leven en werk? In hoeverre is de erotiek in zijn poëzie homo-erotisch? Hoe verhoudt zich een en ander tot de kenmerken van leven en werk van

andere auteurs uit dezelfde periode, waarin homoseksualiteit en homo-emancipatie volop in de belangstelling stonden?

Schrijven was voor Jellema een zoeken naar een identiteit, een bevestiging van eigenwaarde. Tot de factoren die hierbij bepalend zijn geweest behoren onder meer de anderhalf jaar dat hij als jonge jongen moest kuren in verband met tuberculose, de worsteling met zijn homoseksualiteit, de standbewuste opvoeding en zijn afgebroken theologiestudie – de gekozen methodiek maakt het mogelijk deze en andere factoren nader te onderzoeken en boven het particuliere uit te tillen, zodat uitspraken gedaan kunnen worden over het literaire en cultuur-maatschappelijke klimaat waarin Jellema werkte.

### *Joseph Kotälla*

A ‘human devil’, he was called by the former resistance newspaper *Het Parool* shortly after the war. The paper reported on excavating the victims of Joseph Kotälla in the vicinity of the German concentration camp Amersfoort in November 1945. As a deputy camp commander, the small SS member was extremely cruel and led several firing squads during the war years. The newspaper stated that Kotälla ‘found his greatest pleasure in looking at tormented bodies and watching the pain and agony in the eyes of the dying’.

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

After a brief period at the Eastern Front, he was transferred to the Netherlands. His work in concentration camp Amersfoort is an important part of this research. It answers the question whether Kotälla with his cruel actions was an exception



compared to the other guards in the camp. Studying the deputy commander gives the perspective of a participant (or agency perspective) on the notorious camp Amersfoort that has never been used before, namely that of ‘perpetrators’. On the basis of unique sources and eyewitnesses accounts it becomes clear what Kotälla thought of himself.

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

### *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.



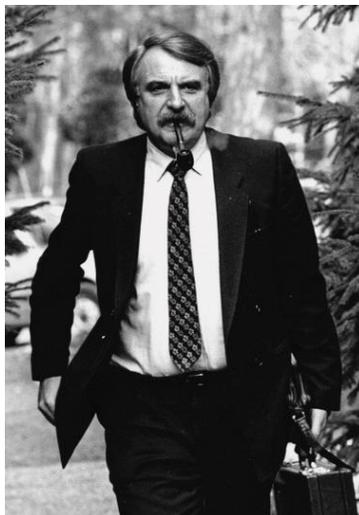
This earned him the nickname ‘the uncrowned king of the Netherlands’.

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 Bankvereniging (Robaver), a bank of which Kröller was a commissioner, almost led to the collapse of both Robaver and Müller & Co.

### *André van der Louw*

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



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

This biographical research aims to show the connection between Van der Louw's personal background and his public activities, and it will put it into a historical context. This will probably shed light on how Van der

Louw's various activities related to one another and it will give insight in the development of his political views. Four research subjects are of central importance: Van der Louw's journalistic and cultural activities, his position within the PvdA, his political style and his (self)representation. This research will contribute to the historiography of postwar Dutch social democracy and political culture.

### *Jelle Zijlstra*

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



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

Trained as an economist, Zijlstra distanced himself from political routines and preferred a professional, businesslike style, favoring consensus and the long term above devout phrases and idealism. On the level of both national and party politics Zijlstra represented pragmatism, earning him popularity as well as fierce criticism. Zijlstra held a prominent role within the modernization of the ARP and the rapidly changing

landscape of Dutch politics in general; where the importance of national reconstruction and governing on a broad basis began to fade.

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

## 2.2 Completed projects

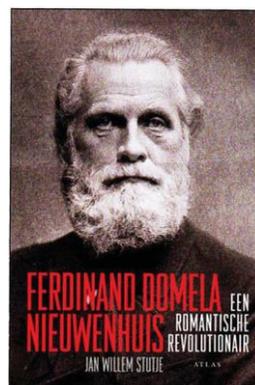


### *J.C. Bloem*

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

### *Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis*

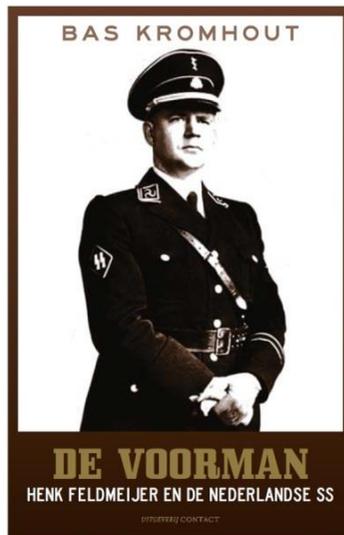
Few figures in the labour movement have captured the imagination like Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (1846–1919). This project is made possible by a so-called Vidi-subsidy from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The biography is a contribution to the history of ideas and to the historical sociology of social movements and political culture. The biography *Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis. Een romantische revolutionair* was first published May 2012 by publisher Atlas. In 2012 the biography was short-listed for the Libris History Prize and in 2013 for the Gouden Boekenuil.



### *Henk Feldmeijer*

Johannes Hendrik (Henk) Feldmeijer was 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.



Bas Kromhout obtained his doctorate on his thesis on 6 June 2012. The commercial edition, entitled *De Voorman. Henk Feldmeijer en de Nederlandse SS*, is published by Contact.

### *Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart*

After studying law at Leiden, Van Heuven Goedhart was employed by the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf. Within a few years he became a member of its editorial board and from 1930 he was editor-in-chief. In 1933 he became editor of the Utrechtsch Nieuwsblad. He became involved with the resistance and through it with the illegal newspaper Het Parool. Van Heuven Goedhart edited Het Parool from 1942 until mid-1944, when he had to flee to London, where, 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

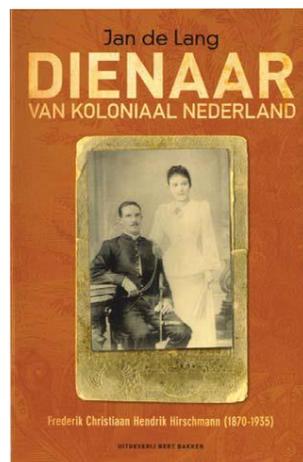
position until his death on 8 July 1956. Jeroen Corduener obtained his doctorate on 28 February 2011.

### *Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann*

This project consists of a biographical study with a colonial military historical perspective.

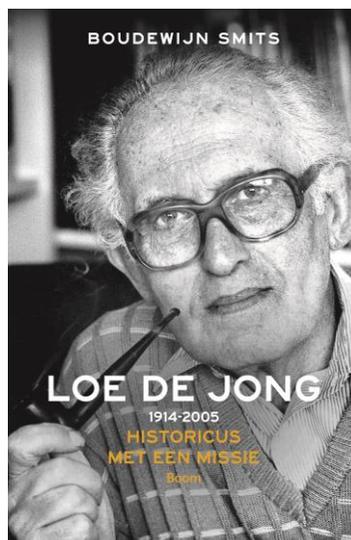
The central question was to what extent Hirschmann was exemplary for the Dutch officers of the KNIL trained at the Royal Military Academy in Breda in three decades around 1900.

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



### *Loe de Jong*

Never before was such an extensive study, covering such a short time span, written by a single author who was able to devote decades of uninterrupted labour to it. Nevertheless, 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 that has lost its topicality. Although no researcher will be able to afford to ignore this scholarly benchmark for many years to come, the work has been refuted partly and is dated.



After the author had withdrawn from public life for more than a decade, he passed away in 2005. This presents a unique opportunity to examine a

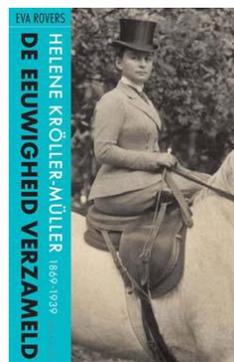
particular aspect of his life's work: the extent to which public discussion of the Second World War was, since 1945, tied to Loe de Jong in one way or another. When the last, that being the thirteenth, volume of the series was published in 1988, the author had spent nearly half a century in the centre of the collective processing of the war record. De Jong's scientific practice was inextricable bound to his interpretation of democratic citizenship. He therefore tried to direct the undigested past according to his will. As a historian and public persona, who was well known in the newspapers, on radio, film and television and as the director of the Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (National Institute of War documentation, RIOD), he knew how to leave a prominent mark on the collective conceptualization of the Second World War.

This study, defended as PhD thesis by Smits on April 24, 2014, will make a meaningful contribution to the history of public opinion and the social repercussions of journalism in the Netherlands during the second half of the twentieth century. This biography, published by Boom, has been nominated for the Boerhave Biography Prize 2015 of the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities.

### *Helene Kröller-Müller*

Between 1907 and 1938 Helene Kröller-Müller assembled a collection of modern art which was unrivalled in Western Europe. At first she collected out of personal interest, guided and inspired by art teacher H.P. Bremmer. But soon, in 1911, she decided to build a museum for her collection in order to establish a 'monument of culture'. Who was this woman, who seemed hardly interested in art until the age of thirty five, and who then suddenly dedicated her life and a considerable part of her family's fortune to establishing a collection of modern art?

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



In 2012 the thesis was awarded with the Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize and in 2011 with the Jan van Gelderprijs.

### *Alice Nahon*

Apart from Guido Gezelle, no other Flemish poet has sold more copies than Alice Nahon (1896-1933). Her poetry was received with enthusiasm by literary critics in Flanders and the Netherlands. Yet, her work was also dismissed as sentimental, doggerel verse, or ‘Gartenlaube poetry’, as Paul van Ostaijen coined it.

Manu van der Aa wrote her biography. He has paid close attention to her role within literary circles, her relation to Flemish nationalism and her unconventional attitude to sexuality and relationships, which was ahead of her time. His research resulted in doctorate on 27 October 2008 and was published entitled: *‘Ik heb de liefde liefgehad’*. *Het leven van Alice Nahon* (‘I loved love itself’. The life of Alice Nahon), Lannoo, Tiel 2008.



### *Radio Orange*

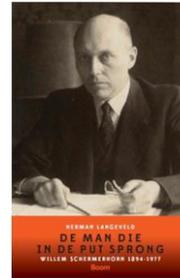
At the outbreak of the Second World War, radio was considered the fourth fighting arm, as important as the army, the navy and the air force. Many celebrities, including the German writer Thomas Mann and the French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, supported the allied war effort and broadcasted to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



Onno Sinke obtained his doctorate on 20 April 2009 and his thesis entitled *Verzet vanuit de verte. De behoedzame koers van Radio Oranje* was published by publisher Augustus. He was nominated by the University of Groningen for the Praemium Erasmianum 2008/2009.

### *Willem Schermerhorn*

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 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.



### *Jan Wier*

The physician Jan Wier is known as the first serious opponent of the witch persecution. In his view, the witch trials were unlawful because they dealt with non-existing offences and because suspects were tortured, humiliated, confined in degrading circumstances and subjected to the water ordeal. 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*. Critics believe that he inadvertently stirred up the witch persecution, that he is wrongly regarded as a figure-head of psychiatry.



Vera Hoorens obtained her doctorate on 6 June 2011. The commercial edition of her thesis *Een ketterse arts voor de heksen. Jan Wier (1515-1588)* was published by Bert Bakker. Meanwhile, a second edition appeared.

## 2.3 Conferences and Edited Volumes

### **Edited volume *Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel***

Biography, microhistory and the picaresque novel share the interest for the problematic relation between the individual participant's perspective (agency) and the generalizations of historiography. In different ways they pose the same question:

How can the perspective of an individual be used to problematize the understanding of the larger context?

In 2014 the volume *Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel: A First Exploration into Commensurable*



*Perspectives on Agency* edited by Binne de Haan (Biography Institute) and Konstantin Mierau (Historical Romance Literature and Culture) was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. The first copy of the volume was presented to Ed Taverne, Emeritus Professor of History of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Groningen, in Groningen on December 3. The volume is the result of an encounter of scholars from the field of microhistory, biography, and the picaresque novel, who met at a conference organized by the Biography Institute, the department of Romance Languages and Cultures (University of Groningen), in collaboration with the Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG).

The volume includes contributions from prof. Giovanni Levi, prof. Matti Peltonen, prof. Robert Folger, prof. Hans Renders, and the editors.

### **Edited volume conference *Biography & Pedagogy***

Work has been done on this edited volume by Jacques Dane and Hans Renders. This volume will be published next year.



Edited volumes that have been published so far.

## 2.4 Digitization projects

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

This includes the project 'Book Production 1940-1945'. The total [Dutch] book production between May 1940 and May 1945 has been mapped out and made digitally searchable for online research. Brinkman's catalogus van boeken en tijdschriften forms the basis of this project.

The family archive of Van Calcker-Clemens Schöner is being digitized by the Groningen Archives for the intended research project 'Connoisseurs and trendsetters. Bourgeois culture in Groningen between nationalism and cosmopolitanism (1870-1970)'. This rich archive is freely accessible through [Groningen Archives](#).

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

## Dutch National Pseudonym Archives (NPA)

Last year, corrections, additions and technical improvements have been made to the National Pseudonyms Archives, which was established by the Biography Institute in 2010. The National Pseudonyms Archives is an online searchable database of pseudonyms and corresponding civilian name, which can be searched at pseudonym, civilian name, or both. Users can send additions and corrections to us by e-mail. These will be checked before being added to the database. The National Pseudonyms Archives is accessible via [www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa](http://www.biografieinstituut.nl/npa).

## 2.5 Publications

### Scientific publications

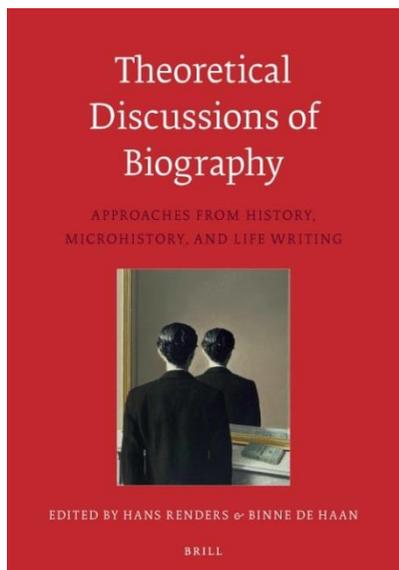
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- Haan, Binne de, 'Capturing City Life: How Urban History, Microhistory and Biography Meet in the Street', in: Binne de Haan & Konstantin Mierau ed., *Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel: A First Exploration into Commensurable Perspectives*, Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, p. 83-106.
- Haan, Binne de (together with Hans Renders), redactie *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014.
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- Langeveld, Herman, *De man die in de put sprong. Willem Schermerhorn 1894-1977*, Boom, Amsterdam 2014.
- Renders, Hans (together with Binne de Haan), 'Introduction. The Challenges of Biography Studies', in: Hans Renders & Binne de Haan ed., *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014, p. 1-8.

## Second edition **Theoretical Discussions of Biography**

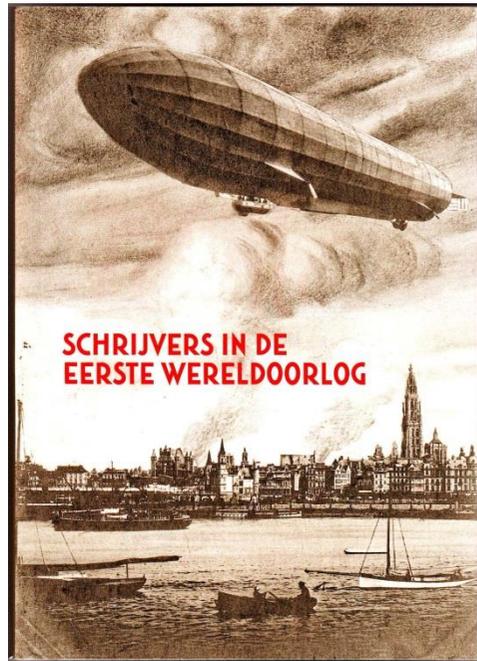
On May 13, 2014, the first copy of the second edition of *Theoretical Discussions of Biography: Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, published by Brill Publishers, has been presented to Carlo Ginzburg, one of the contributors to the volume. The volume can be ordered via the website of Brill (<http://www.brill.com/products/book/theoretical-discussions-biography>).



Hans Renders en Binne de Haan ed.,  
*Theoretical Discussion of Biography.  
Approches from History, Microhistory, and  
Life Writing*, With a Foreword by Nigel  
Hamilton, Brill, Boston-Leiden, 273 p.



Hans Renders, together with Manu van der Aa, Sjoerd van Faassen and Jan Stuyck, *Schrijvers in de Eerste Wereldoorlog* [Writers in the First World War], Manu van der Aa, Sjoerd van Faassen, Hans Renders and Jan Stuyck ed., Garant Uitgevers, Antwerpen 2014. Also published in *Zacht Lawijd; literair-historisch tijdschrift* 13(2014)3 [September], 311 p.



Hans Renders, together with Sjoerd van Faassen, 'Ik zocht den dood en vond het leven: een keerpunt in Tilburg. Theo van Doesburg in de jaren 1914-1915', in: *Schrijvers in de Eerste Wereldoorlog*, p. 124-159.

- Renders, Hans (together with Binne de Haan), 'Towards Traditions and Nations', in: Hans Renders & Binne de Haan ed., *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014, p. 9-23.
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- Renders, Hans, 'Biography in Academia and the Critical Frontier in Life Writing: Where Biography Shifts into Life Writing', in: Hans Renders & Binne de Haan ed., *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014, p. 167-176.
- Renders, Hans, 'The personal in the Political Biography' in: Hans Renders & Binne de Haan ed., *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014, p. 216-221.
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- Renders, Hans, 'Why Genealogy and Biography Are Not Kin' in: Hans Renders & Binne de Haan ed., *Theoretical Discussions of Biography. Approaches from History, Microhistory, and Life Writing*, Brill, Leiden/Boston 2014, p. 227-231.
- Renders, Hans, 'Nicht zu übersehen? Religion in den Biographien niederländischer Politiker', in: Peter van Dam & Frieso Wielenga ed., *Religion als Zündstoff. Gesellschaftliches und politisches Engagement in den Niederlanden seit 1945*, Waxmann, Münster/New York 2014, p. 157-169.
- Renders, Hans (together with Sjoerd van Faassen), 'Theo van Doesburg en *The Little Review*. Een mislukt avontuur in Amerika', in: *Eigenbouwer. Tijdschrift voor de goede smaak* 1(2014)2, May, p. 48-69.
- Renders, Hans (together with Sjoerd van Faassen), 'Ik zocht den dood en vond het leven: een keerpunt in Tilburg. Theo van Doesburg in de jaren 1914-1915', in: *Schrijvers in de Eerste Wereldoorlog [Writers in the First World War]*, Manu van der Aa, Sjoerd van Faassen, Hans Renders en Jan Stuyck ed., Garant Uitgevers, Antwerpen 2014, p. 124-159. Also published in *Zacht Lawijd; literair-historisch tijdschrift* 13(2014)3 [September].

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- Renders, Hans, ‘Privézaak of publiek goed? De plaats van religie in biografieën van politici’, in: Peter van Dam, James Kennedy en Friso Wielenga ed., *Achter de zuilen. Op zoek naar religie in naoorlogs Nederland*, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam 2014, p. 281-299 and 437-439.
- Renders, Hans, ‘Exceptions that Prove the Rule: Biography, Microhistory, and Marginals in Dutch Cities’, in: Binne de Haan & Konstantin Mierau ed., *Microhistory and the Picaresque Novel. A first Exploration into Commensurable Perspectives*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne 2014, p. 69-81.
  
- Smits, Boudewijn, ‘Een atheïstische lijdensweg naar een vruchtbare hoogvlakte. Het keerpunt in het leven van Loe de Jong’, *Tijdschrift voor Biografie* 3(Spring 2014)1, p. 29-38 (special issue ‘Keerpunten’).
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**Loe de Jong**

Hij schreef het titanenwerk over WO II en tallozen zagen zijn serie De Bezetting. Maar wie was de 'echte' Loe? In een voortreffelijk boek leren we de fanatieke, rusteloze en afstandelijke historicus grondig kennen.



**Boudewijn Smits: Loe de Jong 1914-2008.**  
Historicus met een missie. Boom, 960 blz. € 39,90

Een voortreffelijk geschreven proefschrift van de Groningse historicus Boudewijn Smits (1960) laat alle aspecten van leven en werk van oorlogshistoricus dr. L. de Jong zien.

Door Michel Krielaars

**M**ischien zag essayist Earel van het Reve het nog het best, toen hij schreef dat Loe de Jong *Het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de Tweede Wereldoorlog* zowel in opzet als in uitvoering ergerdie zich 'aan de grondigheid en gewijsheden waarmee De Jong te werk gaat, de deftigheid en uitvoering waarmee hij ons precies vertelt hoe het allemaal was en ook wat wij ervan deden moesten, als we hem tenminste willen volgen, want hij wil ons geenszins verbieden met hem van mening te verschillen'. Het zijn typerende woorden, die De Jonge biografist Boudewijn Smits terecht aanhaalt in zijn als proefschrift opgezette biografie *Loe de Jong 1914-2008. Historicus met een missie*.

Je kunt veel kritiek op De Jong hebben. Op zijn zwart-witdenken als het over goed en fout gaat bijvoorbeeld. Velen hebben zich bovendien mateloos geïrriteerd aan zijn moralistische toon in het 16.600 bladzijden dikke *Koninkrijk*. In dat titanenwerk liet De Jong zijn politieke en morele opvattingen ruisachtig voortgeven als dat volgens hem in het taakbelang was. Daarom spaarde hij defensiestijgers als secretaris-generaal Lams van de NAVO en prins Bernhard en kielhaalde hij de linkse CIA-frontrunner Keesies, toen hun oorlogsverleden boven kwam drijven. Zijn bijnaam 'Oranje Loe' dankte hij aan zijn onvoorwaardelijke trouw aan het koninkhuis, voor wie hij blind band- en spanbedienster verrichtte. De waarheid had er soms onder te lijden.

Smits heeft de deftigste biografie van De Jong geschreven, waarin hij alle voors en tegens heeft op diens gesammatiseerde persoonlijkheid. Hij roept daar bij een tijdperk tot leven van het vooooroorlogse, geassimileerde Joodse proletariaat in Amsterdam dat zijn kinderen laat doolterren en door de nazis' vrijwel geheel wordt uitgerooid, tot en met de moderne verzorgingsstaat van begin 21ste eeuw, waarin de oorlog niet meer als de belangrijkste morele maatstaf geldt.

De Jonge persoonlijke leven is deels bekend uit zijn onvoltooid autobiografie uit de jaren negentig, die gedeels door de psychoanalyse die hij kort daarvoor had ondergaan. Maar De Jong gaat daarin veel essentiële dingen uit de weg, zoals de ware reden voor zijn buitensidde jische verhouding 1950, die Smits nu heeft achterhaald. Zijn vrouw dreigde toen met echtscheikings als hij niet in psychoanalyse ging en over zijn geveedens ging praten. De Jong reageerde met was vluchtgedrag.

Smits laat de 'echte' Loe zien zonder afbreuk te doen aan zijn verdiensten als medeoprichter van het Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (RiO), historicus van een inmiddels gedoteerd standdaardwerk, en regeringsrapporteur in heikle kwesties zoals de Wemreb-affaire en het oorlogsverleden van prins Claus. Uitroegte behalve bij De Jonge werkwijze, die werkschappelijk vrij professioneel was, en flerbet hij diens onderzoek naar Amijns en de onstreden Francis van 't Sant, een verzuweling van koning Wilhel-



**Dr. L. de Jong** kortst op 6 mei 1950 zijn documentatie-materiaal op het Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie in Amsterdam. SPAARNESTAD PHOTO

mina. Over de laatste he De Jong zich van alles wijsmaken en schakelde hij zijn kritisch vernuft uit, omdat hij Wilhelmina wilde belagen, die hij sinds zijn ballingschap in Londen versafuodde. De Jong is volgens de oogenoemde Smits opvoert autoriteitsgevoel, bescheiden en jdeltegelijk, zelfverzekerd en onzeker, rusteloos en gedisciplineerd, afstandelijk in het persoonlijke

**Bescheiden en jdel, zelfverzekerd en onzeker, humorloos en ambitieus**

contact, humorloos, en mateloos ambitieus. Veel van de ambitie heeft te maken met de jloosie op zijn tweelingsbroer Sally, een briljant medicus, die de oeclog niet zal overleven. Sally is op het gymnasium zijn grote concurrent. De humorloze streber Loe moet hard werken voor hoge cijfers, de intelligentere grasgrappe Sally neemt

genomen met lagere scores, maar heeft zich er nauwelijks voor in te spannen. Na zijn afstuderen als historicus wordt Loe, de overtuigde marxist, redacteur bij weekblad *De Groene Amsterdammer*. Daar klimt hij op tot buitenland commentaar, die er eind jaren dertig regelmatig naast zijn voorspellingen over een oorlogsdreiging. Aan die baan dankt hij dat hij er in de meidagen van 1940 als enige van zijn familie te slaagt naar Londen te ontkomen, omdat hij al bluffend een aan hem gerichte brief van de Britse politicus Harold Macmillan kan overleggen. Zijn familie komt gronddeels om in de concentratiekampen.

Smits laat overtuigend zien hoe die gebeurtenis en het daarmee gepaard gaande schuldgevoel de drijever verrat voor zijn grote werkdracht en fanatieke beslogenheid om het RiO op te zetten. De Jong toont zich een gewiecht bestuurder, die de voortdurende pogingen van de overheid om zijn instituut op te heffen weet af te weren. De KVP-politicus Jo Gals, tussen 1952 en 1963 minister van Onderwijs en in die positie mede-verantwoordelijk voor het RiO, werd in die tijd zijn belangrijkste bondgenoot.

In zijn voortreffelijke boek, dat hoogstens ontstond wordt door de meening dat Thomas Mann een foonde schrijver was, belicht Smits uitvoeg de interne omringheid op het RiO tussen de bestuur en de eigenwijze directeur/oprichter. Ook laat hij uitvoeg zien hoe handig De Jong de opdracht binnenroepste om de bezettinggeschiedenis in zijn eerste te mogen schrijven, waarbij het onoprompebbelijke plan om dit door een groep historici te laten doen werd afgeschoten. Gezegd moet worden dat het *Koninkrijk* er in het laatste geval waarschijnlijk nooit was gekomen. Dat alleenboer De Jong tegelijkertijd een briljant marktoerver van zijn instituut en zijn boeken was en ook een vernieuwend te-journalist zou blijken zijn, wist toen nog niemand.

De reden voor De Jonge blinde fanatiek begrip je als Smits vaststelt dat hij pas toen het werk was voltooid kon toegeven dat de tijd niet al zijn wonderen had geseheid. Het *Koninkrijk* bleek aldus een postuum erbeetoon aan zijn familie, geschreven vanuit een diep schuldgevoel. Zonder dat trauma was het waarschijnlijk nooit geschreven.

### **Professional publications**

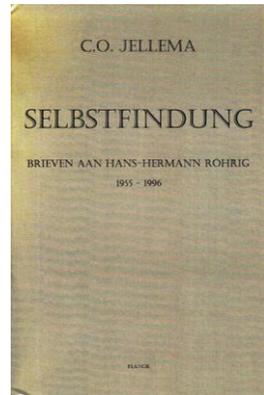
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Biography of Jacob Israël de Haan’], in: *De Boekenwereld*, 30(2014)4, p. 86-91.

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### *Lectures and scientific activities*

- Haan, Binne de, 19 June 2014, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Groningen, interview Boudewijn J. Smits, Ubbo Emmius-lecture RUG students on biography Loe de Jong.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 20 November, Hannemahuis, municipal museum Harlingen. 'Kind van de crisis? Jeugd als perspectief op de carrière van Jelle Zijlstra'.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 12 December, SEO economic research Amsterdam. 'Biografie Jelle Zijlstra'. Symposium Dutch economic thought.
- Renders, Hans, Visitation Vienna 20-21 March, Ludwig Boltzmann Biographie Institut.
- Renders, Hans, 14 April Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Lecture Amsterdam: 'Een biografie is geen selfie. Autorisatie als keurmerk van rommel', see for published version <http://www.rug.nl/research/biografie-instituut/hazelhofflezingvrijnederland10-5-2014.pdf>
- Renders, Hans, 15 April Assessment NWO, reviewer Veniproject.
- Renders, Hans, 24 April Supervisor doctorate Boudewijn Smits.
- Renders, Hans, Jury Member Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize (Best Biography in Dutch 2013).
- Renders, Hans, Jury Member Plutarch Award (Best Biography in English 2013).
- Renders, Hans, Reviewer and Member of the Committee NWO Leraren Promotieplaatsen [PhD positions for Teachers]. Read Reports PhD proposals and two days of interviews with candidates for final assessment.
- Renders, Hans, Panel Biography Theory on the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Society for the study of English, 1 September 2014, Košice.
- Renders, Hans, Member Scientific Committee *Over professoren. Een halve eeuw psychologie, pedagogiek en sociologie aan de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen*, Koninklijke Van Gorkum, Assen 2014.
- Renders, Hans, Flemish FBO Postdoctoral Research Assessments, three projects.
- Renders, Hans, Opening Festival Month of History 2014. Huize Doorn: presentation *Kranten in Nederland tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog* [Newspapers in the Netherlands during World War I], 1 October.
- Renders, Hans, Member reading committee PhD dissertation A.P. van Langevelde, biography C. Veenhof. Theological University Kampen, August 2014.
- Renders, Hans, Chairman Biography Portal, ING Den Haag.
- Renders, Hans, 16 November Torpedo Theater Amsterdam, on biography.
- Renders, Hans, lecture 26 November Fryske Akademy together with Tresoar Leeuwarden.

- Rovers, Eva, 9 January 2014, press presentation CPNB Public Library Amsterdam. 'Boudewijn Büch's Bicycle Ride to Easter Island'.
- Rovers, Eva, 12 January 2014, Museum Gouda. 'Helene Kröller-Müller and Henri Fantin-Latour'.
- Rovers, Eva, 14 January 2014, Laren, 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the Breakthrough of Modern Art'.
- Rovers, Eva, 23 January 2014, Wassenaar, 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the Breakthrough of Modern Art'.
- Rovers, Eva, 28 February 2014, Bilderdijk Museum, VU Amsterdam. 'From Bilderdijk to Büch: Biography as a View on History'.
- Rovers, Eva, 7 March 2014, Opening presentation Book Week, Amsterdam. 'Message in a Bottle to Boudewijn Büch'.
- Rovers, Eva, 14 March 2014, Night of the Book, Bijzondere Collecties UvA, Amsterdam. 'Book Case Traveller Boudewijn Büch'.
- Rovers, Eva, 16 March 2014, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo. 'The Museum as Biography of Helene Kröller-Müller'.
- Rovers, Eva, 13 April 2014, CODA Museum Apeldoorn. 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the Breakthrough of Modern Art'.
- Rovers, Eva, 16 April 2014, Witte Kerk, Baarn. 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the Breakthrough of Modern Art'.
- Rovers, Eva, 12 May 2014, Damessociëteit, Baarn. 'Helene Kröller-Müller and the Breakthrough of Modern Art'.
- Rovers, Eva, 21 May 2014, ABN-Amro, Laren. 'The Guilded Bookers: Helene Kröller-Müller as cultural entrepreneur'.
- Rovers, Eva, 24 May 2014, Logos Festival, De Balie Amsterdam. 'Boudewijn Büch as Letter Writer'.
- Rovers, Eva, 3 June 2014, Bussum, 'Around the World in 160 Islands.'
- Rovers, Eva, 21 November 2014, symposium on Children's Books, Jan Campert Stichting / Letterkundig Museum. 'The Astronaut and the *De kleine kapitein*'.
  
- Smits, Boudewijn, Friday 7 March 2014, Free University Amsterdam. 'Atheist anguish leads to fertile plains. The turning point in the life of Loe de Jong'. Lecture at the Symposium on 'Turning points in the lives of people: from religious conversion stories to great artistic breakthroughs'.
- Smits, Boudewijn, 19 June 2014, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Groningen. Ubbo Emmius-lecture for RUG students in History on the biography of Loe de Jong, afterwards interviewed by Binne de Haan.
- Smits, Boudewijn, 28 November 2014, ING Den Haag, 'De Jong's merits and his *Kingdom*', workshop presentation 'Remuneration and financial rivalry' at the annual meeting of the Royal Netherlands Historical Society on the theme of 'Good conscience. Professional ethics and the persona of the historian'.

## 2.6 Editorships and advisory committees

Binne de Haan was in 2014 editor of *Tijdschrift voor Biografie* [Journal of Biography].

Hans Renders is 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). He was asked as peer reviewer for the NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), the Royal Academy of Science in Flanders, Gent (Belgium), the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development, and for academic publisher Routledge.

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

Renders is member of the jury of the international Plutarch Award 2014 of BIO and of the Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema Biography Prize 2014.

Renders is chairman of the board of Stichting Innovatie Media, founded last year, and is a member of the board of editors of the Dutch Biography Portal and is chairman of the Foundation Biography Portal as of October 20. As in previous years he was a book critic for the Dutch radio programme on history on Sunday OVT (VPRO Broadcasting Corporation).

Eva Rovers was Board Member of the *Werkgroep Biografie/Tijdschrift voor Biografie* [Journal of Biography] and Member of the Supervisory Board Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam. She was also Guest Editor in chief for *Tijdschrift voor Biografie* [Journal of Biography], special issue on Turning Points, 3(2014)1.

## Education and partnerships

### 3.1 Education

The Biography Institute supervises graduate students preparing PhD's, as well as undergraduate students writing master theses or taking part in research classes within the domain of biography. The chair History and Theory of Biography provides courses for both Bachelor and Master students. In the previous academic year the course 'Historical approach to Biography' was developed and lectured for Master students of the Faculty of Arts.

### 3.2 Partnerships

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

With the Archive and Documentation centre for Dutch Behavioral Sciences (ADNG) and the National Museum of Education has been collaborated with regard to the edited volume *Biografie & Pedagogie* (Biography and Pedagogy).

### 3.3 Dutch Biography Portal

The Biography Institute collaborates with a number of other institutions, led by the Institute of Netherlands History (ING), on the project Dutch Biography Portal. This portal ([www.biografischportaal.nl](http://www.biografischportaal.nl)) is designed to promote scientific research by making biographical reference books with biographical information on inhabitants of the Netherlands, from the earliest times to the present, digitally accessible via the internet..

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De leveranciers van informatie zijn onder meer:  
Biografie Instituut, Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie,  
Digitale Bibliotheek voor de Nederlandse Letteren,  
Huygens ING, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale  
Geschiedenis, Joods Historisch Museum, Koninklijke  
Bibliotheek, Nationaal Archief, Museum Catharijne-  
convent, Onderzoekscentrum voor Geschiedenis en  
Cultuur (IUI), Parlementair Documentatie Centrum,  
Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie

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