

Biography Institute

Annual Report Biography Institute 2017

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Annual Report 2017



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Annual Report Biography Institute
University of Groningen, The Netherlands
2017

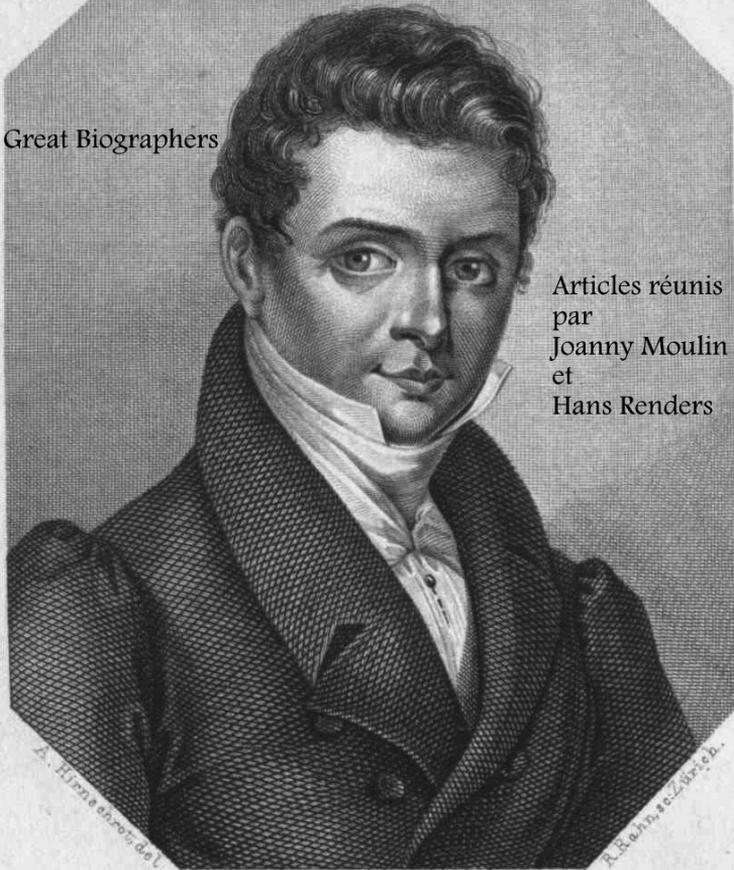
GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY PRESS



Les Grandes Figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts
N°6 2017
ISSN 2261-0871

Great Biographers

Articles réunis
par
Joanny Moulin
et
Hans Renders



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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 2016.

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 organizing 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 PhDs, 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. J.W. Renders, director, manages the institute.
- I.L. Hengeveld, coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of the institute.
- B.B.J. de Haan PhD, researcher/staff member, was appointed 16 april 2017 to conduct research on *Untimely individuals*.
- 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.
- D. Veltman MA, PhD researcher (1 fte), appointed in September 2016 to write the biography of Felix De Boeck.

1.2 PhD Researchers

In 2017 the Biography Institute guided twelve PhDs in total. Three of these PhD's were employees of the institute, nine were external PhD researchers.

- 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. G. Voerman and Prof. P. van de Laar.
- David Veltman writes the biography of Felix De Boeck; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, Prof. J. Tollebeek, drs. S.A.J. van Faassen and S. Servellón, MA.

External PhD Researchers

- Richard Hoving is writing the biography of Joseph Kotälla; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders, dr. H. Piersma and em. prof.dr. J.C.H. Blom.
- 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.
- Co Strootman is writing the biography of P.J. Bouman; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. K. van Berkel and Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Nigel Hamilton wrote a partial biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. D.F.J. Bosscher.
- Chris Gevers is writing the biography of Petrus Tammens; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. D.F.J. Bosscher.
- Coen Brummer is writing the biography of Samuel van Houten; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders and Prof. G. Voerman.
- Jacqueline van Paaschen writes the biography of Marie Tak van Poortvliet; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders.
- Nick Weber writes the biography of Piet Mondrian; Doctoral Guidance Committee: Prof. J.W. Renders en Prof. E. Chaney (Southampton Solent University).

1.3 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 was supported by the Democracy & Media Foundation and by the Research Institute for the Study of Culture (ICOG).

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

1.4 Funding

The funding bodies mentioned below financially supported projects within the Biography Society in 2015:

De Nederlandsche Bank (The Dutch Bank)

Dr. Abraham Kuyperfonds

Municipality of Rotterdam

NOS
NPO
VARA
Graduate School for the Humanities, RUG
Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM)
SNS Reaal
Stichting Felix De Boeck
NWO

The funding was allocated to the biography projects Felix De Boeck, André van der Louw and Jelle Zijlstra.

1.5 Website and Newsletter

The Biography Institute has a bilingual website (Dutch and English): www.rug.nl/BiografieInstituut, also accessible via 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 31.000.

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, five newsletters have been distributed.

1.6 The Biography Society/ *Société de Biographie*

On Saturday November 7, 2015 The Biography Society has been founded at Aix-Marseille Université. The aim of The Biography Society is to foster international research and practice in the field of biography studies.

President of the Society is Prof. Joanny Moulin (Aix-Marseille Université). Vice President is Prof. Hans Renders (Biography Institute/University of Groningen). Nigel Hamilton (University of Massachusetts Boston) has been appointed as

Honorary President. Other members of the Board are prof. Patrick Di Mascio (Aix-Marseille Université), prof. Yannick Gouchan (idem), Maryam Thirriard MA (idem), Alexandre Tremblay, PhD (idem) en Jean-Charles Perquin, PhD (Université Lumière-Lyon 2).



1.7 Biography Studies (Brill)

Arthur Eaton, MA will publish his PhD research in the series Biography Studies, edited by Brill. The dissertation, written by Eaton at the University College London, will discuss the role of psychoanalysis in biographical research.

1.8 ABC of Modern Biography

Nigel Hamilton and Hans Renders are writing a book with the title *Life, Love, Deeds and Death. The ABC of Modern Biography*. This book will be published in 2018 in an English and a Dutch edition, edited by Amsterdam University Press.

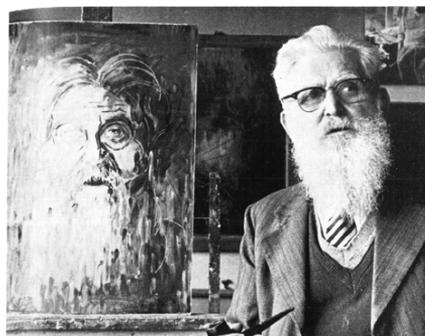
Projects

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: Coen Brummer (Samuel van Houten), Jonne Harmsma (Jelle Zijlstra), Chris Gevers (Petrus Tammens), Chris Hietland (André van der Louw), Richard Hoving (Joseph Kotälla), Co Strootman (P.J. Bouman), David Veltman (Felix De Boeck) en Gerben Wynia (C.O. Jellema).

Felix De Boeck

The artist Felix De Boeck (1898-1995) lived and worked all of his life on his farm at Drogenbos, near Brussels. He wanted to be seen as the artist who had to earn his living as a farmer, and dismissed the Romantic image of a painting farmer. Therefore, he could only work on his paintings on Sundays. In egodocuments, contributions to periodicals and interviews he used to present himself as the loner, who did not belong to an artist's group or movement, and wanted to present his work preferably in solo-exhibitions.



During his life, De Boeck's work developed in the direction of greater abstraction. At the beginning of his artistic career, he was greatly influenced by movements such as fauvism, cubism and futurism. But in this early work also a religious factor and an interest in nature's treasures was already an essential feature. He did not only choose a physical distance between the metropolitan art centres – Paris, Antwerp – of his time. He also tried to give a new interpretation to modernism itself, with its rejection of the 'natural' or the use of religious themes in art.

In this biography attention will be given to the tensions arising in culture and society after De Boeck's decision to live his life as a farmer. How did he join the artist's debate on modernism and the Flemish activism? How was his opinion on this art influenced by World War I and II? How could he be influenced by Van Gogh? Which position did he have in the group

surrounding the art periodicals *7 Arts* and *Het Overzicht*? And how did he live during his self-chosen retreat from public life after the death of his parents, brother and children? How did this life as a hermit contribute to the mythologization of De Boeck's person?

The research is of importance for the knowledge of the history of modernistic art in Belgium. Did this art develop only in the metropolitan cities, in which many of the avant-garde groups searched for renewal of the arts, or is there something like an 'arcadian modernism' in Belgian 20th century art?

P.J. Bouman

At the age of thirty Pieter Jan Bouman (1902-1977) took a task upon himself: 'to be a spiritual leader in a dislocated time'. To this end he wrote several books, which made him the most famous and widely read historian in the 1950's. In Bouman's books the point of focus are his fellow creatures with their personal fortunes and perception of history. His *Revolution of the lonely* (1953) became a best-seller with thirty-four print and translated into eight languages.



Bouman, from 1946 professor of sociology in Groningen, was often asked as a speaker and had an extensive network: journalists, university colleagues at home and abroad, entrepreneurs, ministers and members of the Royal family.

Historians were unhappy with the work of Bouman. His so-called 'free books' were firmly criticized and vilified. The publications were said to be unscientific and shoddy works. Bouman was convinced, however, that his 'free books' should not be assessed scientific but still could meet the highest standards.

Within the sociological world Bouman with his socio-cultural attitudes found himself in an equally awkward position. When starting in Groningen he brought his own manual of sociology. Many generations of sociology students were trained this way. But when in the early 1950's the so-called

‘modern’ sociology became dominant, attitudes such as Bouman’s classic socio-cultural concept were seen as irrelevant.

Bouman harboured a distrust of science and preferred not to use the title of professor. At his retirement in 1968 he refused to be portrayed in cap and gown. Twenty years later the university restored this omission. It symbolizes the struggle with science Bouman engaged in virtually all his life. In the domain of science he didn’t want to feel at home, it was the perfect place for him to be out of place..

Never before have Bouman’s fight with science and cause of his popularity been examined in a full biographical approach. The biography reveals an almost unknown Bouman: the obsessive labour on his project of life and his underlying motives, his simultaneous fight against and service to science. The biography shows Bouman as a self-appointed culture carrier who sometimes took a wrong turn, but above all gained success and fame.

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) studied theology and German language and literature and taught German literature at Groningen University. He was a well-respected poet: his work has been translated into English, German and



French. Jellema participated in Poetry International, was a member of literary juries and committees and reviewed literature for several newspapers for many years. He was also an essayist and a translator. In this research project there are two main angles: the struggle to maintain literary autonomy and the role of homosexuality in the construction of Jellema's personal and poetic identity.

The autonomy issue will be explored using a set of cohering questions. For example, how did Jellema achieve his hard-won literary recognition? Jellema's work and poetic principles showed little, if any, resemblance to the views of the then-dominant poets and critics. That is why it is interesting to explore the development of his literary work and his views on literature. His interest in the work of the German mystics, which he also translated, is of special importance in this matter. As early as in his 1961 debut a religious theme can be observed in Jellema's work. What did this

thematic interest signify during a time in which it was unusual to address religious and metaphysical issues?

In the second half of the Twentieth century homosexuality underwent an important transformation, from a taboo subject to being socially accepted. Important questions are: how did Jellema's acceptance of his own homosexuality develop? In what way did his encounter with a German soldier as a six-year-old, an early initiation into homo-eroticism, influence his life and work? To what extent is the eroticism in his work homo-erotic? How do these things all relate to the characteristics of the lives and works of other authors from this period, during which homosexuality and homosexual emancipation received a lot of attention.

For Jellema writing was a quest for identity, an affirmation of self-worth. Key factors in this are the one-and-a-half-year period during which he underwent tuberculosis treatment as a young boy, his struggle with his homosexuality, being raised with a strong class-consciousness, and his aborted theology studies. The chosen research method makes it possible to explore these and other factors and expand their implications beyond the particular, creating insight into the literary and socio-cultural climate in which Jellema worked.

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

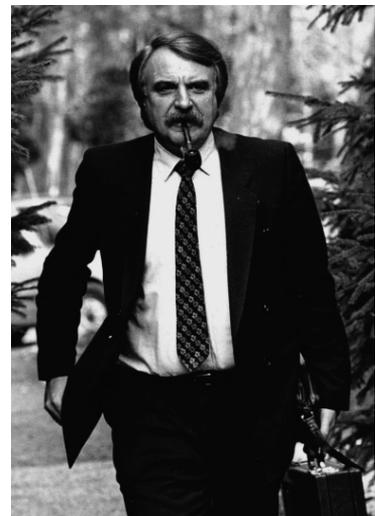


transferred to the Netherlands. His work in concentration camp Amersfoort is an important part of this research. It answers the question whether Kotälla with his cruel actions was an exception compared to the other guards in the camp. Studying the deputy commander gives the perspective of a participant (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.

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 in general.

Piet Mondrian's early years (1872-1919)

Mondrian grew up in a religious family in Amersfoort and Winterswijk; his arch-Calvinist father, a schoolmaster, espoused views that eventually became seminal to America's Religious Right. He moved to Amsterdam to study at the Rijksacademie and, although purportedly a traditional academic painter, showed his independence and intensity from the start. He soon became a pioneering modernist, breaking the boundaries of color and composition. In 1912, he moved to Paris, where he painted his own version of Cubism. During the First World War, back in the Netherlands, he began to paint more abstractly, became friendly with the artists who developed De Stijl, and became a serious ballroom dancer. In 1919, Mondrian returned to Paris, never again to go back to the Netherlands.



Who was this unique individual who seemed to live only to paint and write in order to promulgate pure abstraction as the salvation for humankind? What was the impact of his childhood as the eldest son of Johanna Christina de Kok, from a mercantile family, and Pieter Cornelis Mondriaan Sr.? Mondriaan, Sr. was a dour theologian, unwavering in his conservatism and believed that church and state should be one, but Weber

believes that his reputation as an irascible tyrant in all the literature to date leaves out the extent of the support he offered his namesake. Weber also considers the impact of Mondrian's Uncle Frits, a successful painter in the style of the widely accepted Hague School who forced his nephew to drop the second 'a' of their shared last name so that the public who lined up to buy Frits's work would not confuse him with the younger Mondriaan who painted wild yellow skies and pink windmills.

This detailed overview of the years from Mondrian's birth until the artist's return to Paris after the first world war will explore the human relationships, including a broken engagement to marry, and shed new light on his everyday life. It also pays a new level of attention to Mondrian's writing, most especially a play he wrote for three characters, to increase our understanding of the rare homogeneity and cohesiveness of the artist's deliberate solitude, his artwork, and the personal philosophy he developed and then applied to an exceptional extent to every aspect of his existence. Many books about Piet Mondrian have been published since the artist's death in 1944. Yet there is still a lacuna. Weber's dissertation, thoroughly researched through letters, interviews, and the archives about Mondrian in various countries, deliberately avoids a single doctrine or opinion but, rather, provides copious new insights at the same time that it acknowledges the mysteries Mondrian carefully guarded.

Petrus Tammens

Petrus Tammens was 'by far the least popular mayor of Groningen', wrote town historian Beno Hofman in his book about the men who have headed the municipal offices of the city Groningen until today. Tammens was probably also the one who had least hoped that he once would fulfill the office, which he did from 1943 to 1945. After the German occupiers removed prewar mayor P.W.J.H. Cort van der Linden from office, the Dutch collaborationist National Socialist Movement (NSB) searched for a suitable successor for a long time. Several candidates dropped out, mostly because they accepted another post. Finally, the choice was made for the farmer Tammens from the Groningen agrarian village Ruizezand. Until then, he held various



managerial positions in agricultural organizations and assisted as administrative council member the commissioner of the province, his party colleague C.F. Staargaard. In first instance, Tammens refused to accept the position. However, there were not many suitable candidates for the NSB, and Tammens yielded to the pressure exerted on him personally by the national NSB -leader Anton Mussert. In the beginning of 1943, the inauguration took place, with much national-socialist display of power.

Peter Romijn made a distinction between two types of NSB-mayors in his study *Burgemeesters in oorlogstijd* [Mayors in wartime]. The first group of mayors aimed to prove that nazis could be good mayors. Some of them even managed to gain a certain popularity in their community. The other group of mayors consisted of convinced national-socialists who seized the public office to achieve a political goal. This group mostly consisted of hawks. This biography will demonstrate that Tammens belonged to the second category. Furthermore, Tammens also is a type of individual that has not been studied in a Dutch biography before: a combination of governor, farmer and NSB-politician.

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

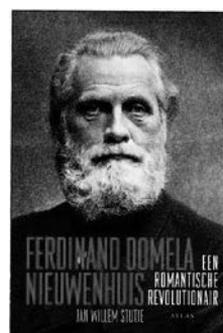
J.C. Bloem

Bart Slijper wrote the biography of Bloem entitled *Van alle dingen los. Het leven van J.C. Bloem*, which was published by Uitgeverij De Arbeiderspers in May 2007. A reprint appeared in the same year. Bart Slijper obtained his doctorate on 10 May 2007.



Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis

The project Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (1846–1919) is made possible by a so-called Vidi-subsidy from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). *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 the '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*, and from 1930 he was editor-in-chief of the paper. 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 he was named Minister of Justice in the government in exile.

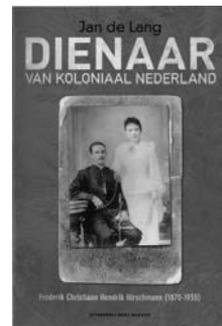


After its liberation, he became editor-in-chief of *Het Parool*, on 1 January 1951 he was named High Commissioner for Refugees of the UNHCR. He continued to occupy this position until his death on 8 July 1956. Jeroen Corduwener obtained his doctorate on 28 February 2011.

Frederik Christiaan Hendrik Hirschmann

Hirschmann was a Dutch officer 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

Every 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. The commercial edition of *De eeuwigheid verzameld. Helene Kröller-Müller 1869-1939* was published by 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

When he was aged 31, Willem Schermerhorn had 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 hat 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 renewal. *De man die de put in sprong. Willem Schermerhorn 1894-1977* was published in 2014 by Boom Publishers.

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.

Because Jan Wier described some witches as mentally ill, he can be regarded as a founder of modern 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.



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 *Van kroon tot bastaard: Biografie en het individuele perspectief in de geschiedschrijving* [From prince to pauper. Biography and the individual perspective in history].



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. 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. Binne de Haan obtained his doctorate on May 28, 2015.

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.

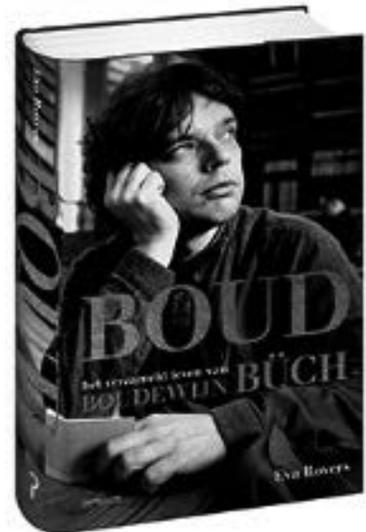
On June 2, 2015, Ariëtte Dekker obtained her doctorate for the biography *Leven op krediet. Anton Kröller (1862-1941)* [Indebted Life. Anton Kröller 1862-1941]. The commercial edition has been published by Prometheus/Bert Bakker.

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.

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.

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. *BOUD* was published on 13 november 2016 by Prometheus Publishers.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Although many biographies have been written about Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), they have largely ignored or dismissed his

command of all U.S. Armed Forces throughout the global conflict we call the Second World War.

Since the role of Commander in Chief in peace and war is one of the essential tasks of a U.S. President – mandated by its Constitution – and since that role has been exercised with both



success and failure over the past seventy years of American global hegemony since his death, this dearth is a surprising gap in our biographical understanding and knowledge. Was America's military victory in World War II only attributable to its generals and admirals – men like Marshall, MacArthur, Leahy, Arnold, King, Nimitz, Eisenhower, Patton and Bradley? Was Churchill really the architect and strategic mastermind behind the Allied winning of the war – as Churchill painted his own performance in his great six-volume memoir, *The Second World War*, which helped win him the Nobel Prize for Literature after the war?

Clearly, the death of Franklin Roosevelt from a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1945, several weeks before the fall of Adolf Hitler, was a calamity for his biography as the dominant military leader of the western Allies, for the President had fully intended to write his war memoirs, and had already begun assembling the materials. He had, after all, rallied his country after defeat at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and had been the ultimate figure responsible for turning that misfortune into military victory – victory that then permitted the United States to become the world's foremost postwar superpower, for good and ill.

This biography seeks to re-examine and more deeply research the character, *modus operandi*, decisions, relationships and true role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt – who often called himself an 'obstinate old Dutchman' – as U.S. Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States in World War II.

On 28 April 2016, Hamilton defended his thesis *Commander in Chief. FDR's battle with Churchill, 1943*. The trade edition was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



Edited volumes published under auspices of the Biography Institute.

2.3 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 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 Calker-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). 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.



2.4 Publications

Scientific publications

- Brummer, Coen, 'Burke als politicus', in: A. Kinneging, P. de Hert, M. Colette, *Burke*, Academic and Scientific Publishers, Brussel 2017.
- Gevers, Christiaan, 'Van graanboer tot oorlogsmisdadiger', in: *Stad en Lande, cultuur-historisch tijdschrift voor Groningen*, 26(2017)1, p. 32-37.
- Haan, Binne de, and Hans Renders, 'Richard Holmes : A biographer-historian par excellence. Uncovering the roots and methodology of the modern field work of a romantic and humanistic biographer', in: *Les Grandes figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts* [online] 6(2017)1bis, p. 38-53.
- Renders, Hans and Sjoerd van Faassen, 'Theo van Doesburg en de oprichting van *De Stijl*', in: Hans Janssen, *De uitvinding van een nieuwe kunst. Piet Mondriaan & Bart van der Leck. Laren 1916-1918*, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag/WBooks, Den Haag/Zwolle 2017, p. 115-147, 164-166.
- Renders, Hans, 'Biography in the Public Sphere. The Year in the Netherlands', in: *Biography; an interdisciplinary quarterly* 39(2016)4, Fall, p. 641-647 [=2017].
- Renders, Hans and Joanny Moulin, 'Great Biographers', in: Joanny Moulin en Hans Renders *Les Grandes figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts* [online], 6(2017)1, p. 1-8.
- Renders, 'Biography as a correction to history', in: *Les Grandes figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts* [online] 6(2017)1bis, p. 31-37.
- Renders, Hans and Binne de Haan, 'Richard Holmes : A biographer-historian par excellence. Uncovering the roots and methodology of the modern field work of a romantic and humanistic biographer', in: *Les Grandes figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts* [online] 6(2017)1bis, p. 38-53.

- Renders, Hans and Sjoerd van Faassen, 'Agnita Feis (1881-1944), the wife of Theo van Doesburg. Agnita Feis (1881-1944), echtgenote van Theo van Doesburg', in: *RKD Bulletin* (2017)1, p. 15-25.
- Wynia, Gerben, 'C.O. Jellema op weg naar *Tijdverblijf*', in: *Zacht lawijd*, 16(2017)2, p. 27-46.

Professional publications

- Brummer, Coen, 'De trots van Edmund Burke', in: *Filosofie Magazine*, 25(2017)1.
- Brummer, Coen, 'De uitdagers van Thorbecke en de strijd om het nieuwe liberalisme', in: *Idee. Tijdschrift van het wetenschappelijk bureau van D66*, 38(2017)2, p. 45-49.
- Hoving, Richard, 'De biografie van een beul, deel 1', in: *InBeeld. Stichting Nationaal Monument Kamp Amersfoort*, 4(2017)46, p. 15.
- Hoving, Richard, 'De biografie van een beul, deel 2', in: *InBeeld. Stichting Nationaal Monument Kamp Amersfoort*, 10(2017)47, p. 6-7.
- Renders, Hans, review Pim Reinders, '*Steeds voor alle arbeiders aanspreekbaar*' *Sam van den Bergh (1864-1941), grootindustrieel*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)1, januari, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Helen Rappaport, *Midden in de revolutie*, in: *Het Parool* 14-1-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Volker Ullrich, *Hitler 1889-1939* and Peter Longerich, *Hitler. Biographie*, in: *Washington Independent Review of Books* 23-1-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Simon Schama, *Het gezicht van een wereldrijk. Groot-Brittannië in portretten*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)2, february, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Richard J. Evans, *De eeuw van de macht. Europa 1815-1914*, in: *Het Parool* 28-1-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Twan Geurts, *De Nederlandse Paus. Adrianus van Utrecht 1459-1523*, in: *Het Parool* 11-2-2017.

- Renders, Hans, review Carla du Pree, *Johan Huizinga en de bezeten wereld*, in: *Het Parool* 25-2-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Graa Boomsma, *Leven op de rand. Biografie van A. Alberts*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)3, maart, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Hubert van den Berg, *Dada. Een geschiedenis*, in: *Het Parool* 11-3-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Rainer Erich Scheichelbauer, *Willem Frederik Hermans als filosoof*, in: *Het Parool* 25-3-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Louis Hoeks, 'In geouwehoer kun je niet wonen'. *Het leven van Jan Schaefer*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)4, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Gareth Stedman Jones, *Karl Marx. Grootheid in illusie*, in: *Het Parool* 8-4-2017.
- Renders, Hans (i.s.m. Sjoerd van Faassen), 'Biografie Theo van Doesburg', in: *Origine* 25(2017)1, p. 50-51.
- Renders, Hans, review Ewout Kieft, *Het verboden boek. Mein Kampf*, in: *Het Parool* 22-4-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Willem Huberts, *In de ban van een beter verleden. Het Nederlandse fascisme 1923-1945*, *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)5, mei, p. 91.
- Renders, Hans, review Jeroen Brouwers, *De laatste deur. Zelfmoord in de Nederlandstalige letteren* en Jeroen Brouwers, *Supplement: De zwarte zon, De versierde dood, Verspreide opstellen*, in: *Het Parool* 10-5-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Laurie Langenbach, *Brieven, Dagboeken en een geheime liefde*, samenstelling en inleiding Rutger Vahl, in: *Het Parool* 20-5-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Julia Baird, *Victoria, koningin. Een intieme biografie*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)6, juni, p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Koen Hilberdink, *J.B.W.P. Het leven van Johan Polak*, in: *Het Parool* 27-5-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Victor Sebestyen, *Lenin*, in: *Het Parool* 10-6-2017.

- Renders, Hans, review Hans Blom, David Wertheim, Hetty Berg en Bart Wallet, *Geschiedenis van de Joden in Nederland*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)7/8, juli/augustus. p. 87.
- Renders, Hans, review Laurence Bergreen, *Casanova*, in: *Het Parool* 24-6-2017.
- Renders, Hans, 'Oote (oote oote boe) onder het vergrootglas', in: *Argus* 27-6-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Rineke van Houten, *Dichter van de droge naald. Frank Lodeizen 1931-2013*, in: *Het Parool* 8-7-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Thore D. Hanssen, *Brunhilde Pomsel. Een Duits leven*, in: *Het Parool* 22-7-2017.
- Hans Renders, review Dirk Wolthekker, *Alleen omdat ik een Van Hall ben. Gijs van Hall 1904-1977*, in: *Historisch Nieuwsblad* 26(2017)9, september, p. 91.
- Renders, Hans, review Laura Thompson, *De zes freules. De geschiedenis van de zussen Mitford*, in: *Het Parool* 9-9-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Jan van der Vegt, *Vierspan. Over biografieën en het schrijven ervan*, in: *Het Parool* 23-9-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Bart Slijper, *Hemelbestormers. De revolutie van de Tachtigers*, in: *Het Parool* 7-10-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Sally Bedell Smith, *Prins Charles. Een uitzonderlijk leven in de schaduw van de troon*, in: *Het Parool* 21-10-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Walter Isaacson, *Leonardo da Vinci*, in: *Het Parool* 4-11-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Roald Dahl, *Liefs van Boy. Brieven aan mijn moeder*, in: *Het Parool* 18-11-2017.
- Renders, Hans, review Katjuscha Otte en Ingelies Vermeulen, *Vrouwen in het leven van Piet Mondriaan en Doris Wintgens, Peggy Nelly*, in: *Het Parool* 2-12-2017.
- Renders, Hans and Sjoerd van Faassen, 'Roger Avermaete. Belgische strohalm voor I.K. Bonset', in: *Zuurvrij*, december 2017, p. 80-90.
- Renders, Hans, review Bruno Cheyns, *Léon Degrelle. De Führer uit Bouillon. Biografie*, in: *Het Parool* 16-12-2017.

- Renders, Hans, review Daniel Schönflug, *1918 Het jaar van de dageraad*, in: *Het Parool* 30-12-2017.
- Veltman, David, 'Een boer met gesteven boord en gecoiffeerde snor', in: *Kunsttijdschrift Vlaanderen* 66(2017)365, p. 46-49.
- Wynia, Gerben (red.), C.O. Jellema, *Er leeft een droom in je. Brieven aan Theo van Woerkom*, Flanor, Nijmegen 2017. Bezorgd en van een nawoord voorzien door Gerben Wynia.
- Wynia, Gerben (red.), C.O. Jellema, *Herinnering verschoont. Notities*, Statenhofpers, Den Haag 2017. Bezorgd en van een voor- en nawoord voorzien door Gerben Wynia.
- Wynia, Gerben (red.), Johannes Bobrowski, *Stroom en woud*, (vert. C.O. Jellema), Hinderickx & Winderickx, Utrecht 2017. Bezorgd en van een verantwoording voorzien door Gerben Wynia.

Lectures and scientific activities

- Brummer, Coen, 7 oktober, Philharmonie Haarlem, Geschiedenis Festival. 'Biografenpanel: Over maatschappelijke pioniers', introduction project 'Oneigentijdse individuen'.
- Haan, Binne de, 7 oktober, Philharmonie Haarlem, Geschiedenis Festival. 'Biografenpanel: Over maatschappelijke pioniers', introduction project 'Oneigentijdse individuen'.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 5 mei, 'Jelle Zijlstra and Economic Expertise in Dutch Politics', jaarvergadering Rethinking Economics, Utrecht.
- Harmsma, Jonne, 8 februari, 'Preaching the True Gospel: Jelle Zijlstra's Search for Stability in the post-Bretton Woods Era', LSE International History Research Seminar 'Managing the economy in an age of change', London School of Economics, UK.
- Hietland, Chris, 21 juni, organizing annual expert-meeting Biografie Instituut, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, discussing texts and workplans with colleagues.

- Hietland, Chris, 11 december, Het-Wel-en-Wee-Café, Historisch Genootschap Roterodamum: ‘André van der Louw, burgemeester van Rotterdam 1974-1981’.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing application National Science South Africa Project Lindie Koorts.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing application CLARIAH, Common Lab research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities. Campus Ufo – Vakgroep Geschiedenis Gent.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing submission for *Quaerendo. A Quarterly Journal from the Low Countries devoted to manuscripts and printed books*.
- Renders, Hans, opposition thesis W.S. Huberts, *In de ban van een beter verleden. Het Nederlandse fascisme 1923-1945*, RUG, 9 maart 2017.
- Renders, Hans, every third Sunday of the month ‘Leven in Letters, biografierubriek Hans Renders’, in: *Met het Oog op Morgen*, NPO Radio 1.
- Renders, Hans, Gastcollege ‘Biografie en Literatuur’, Master Literatuurgeschiedenis VU, 3 april 2017.
- Renders, Hans, Opposition thesis biography Clare Lennart van P. Teunissen, 15 juni, Universiteit Leiden.
- Member of the committee, evaluating 14 applications and participate to the general discussions for ranking 99 applicants for ‘supporting the very best university professors’ with a research grant and extra-time for research, Ministère de l’Education Nationale de la Recherche et de l’Enseignement Supérieur Institut Universitaire de France (IUF). Interviews on 30 and 31 March in Paris.
- Renders, Hans, Member of the jury Plutarch Award for best American Biography.
- Renders, Hans, Brill Series Biography Studies, editor-in-chief.
- Renders, Hans and Joanny Moulin, editors of *Les Grandes figures historiques dans les lettres et les arts*, 6(2017)1, Volume I, 79 blz. en 6(2017)1bis, Volume II, 68 blz.

- Renders, Hans: Nigel Hamilton and Jordi van Gestel were awarded on July 7 the Wierenga-Rengerink PhD Prize for the best thesis of 2016 written at the University of Groningen. Promotores: Hans Renders and Doeko Bosscher.
- Renders, Hans, member of the Scientific committee conference *La Vérité d'une Vie*, Aix-en-Provence 19-21 oktober .
- Renders, Hans, lecture Jan Cremer, first copy *Sirenen*, Reynders, Amsterdam, 16 november.
- Renders, Hans, 11 december, contribution to documentary 'De waarheid van een koe. Theo van Doesburg en De Stijl', *Close Up*, AVROTROS, 19.15-20.15.
- Renders, Hans, reviewing thesis G.M.W. Acda, *Op de deining van de wetenschap. Leven en werken van Gustaaf Frederik Tydeman (1858-1939)*, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, verdediging 15 december.
- Renders, Hans, Organization (Boardmember) Biography International Organization, Boston, 19-21 mei.
- Renders, Hans, Organization conference in Reims (Biography Society), 1-3 juni. Also speaker and convener.
- Renders, Hans, Lecture 'Drie vrouwen van Theo van Doesburg', at opening of exhibition in RKD – Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis in Den Haag, 22 juni.
- Renders, Hans, NPO Radio 1, *Dit is de Nacht*, interview on Dolle Dinsdag, 5 september.
- Renders, Hans, Guest lecture UVA 'Feiten zoals het gedrukt staat', 18 september.
- Renders, Hans, Geschiedenis Festival. Convener, representing the Biography Institute at the Philharmonie, Haarlem: Hans Renders interviews Binne de Haan, Guido van Hengel, Coen Brummer and Jeroen Vullings on Untimely individuals, societal pioneers, S. van Houten en H.J.A. Hofland, 7 oktober.
- Renders, Hans, Bijrat Boltzman Institut, visitatie 9 oktober, Wenen.
- Renders, Hans, Reviewing thesis Emilie Haspels, Allard Pierson Museum.
- Renders, Hans, Organization conference Biography Society, Aix-en-Provence, 27-29 oktober 2017. Also speaker and convener.

- Renders, Hans, Reviewer manuscript Palgrave Publishers: *Women and Civil Rights Leaders in Auto/Biographical Literature and Cinema: Edited by Delphine Letort and Benaouda Lebdaï.*



Colleagues of the Biography Institute in a meeting on June, 21

2.5 Editorships and advisory committees

Nigel Hamilton is Honorary President of The Biography Society/Société de Biographie.

Hans Renders is editor of the Flemish-Dutch scientific journal *ZL. Literair-historisch tijdschrift* (Antwerp) and the Brill series ‘Biography Studies’, and is 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 *Quaerendo*, *Spiegel der Letteren. Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Literatuurgeschiedenis en voor Literatuurwetenschap* and *Zacht Lawijd*. He is member of the editorial board of the scholarly series ‘Microhistories’ (Routledge).

Renders has been requested to be advisor by NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), Democracy & Media Foundation (SDM), was member of the board of the Biographers International Organization (BIO) and Member of the Board of Governors of Stichting Media Ombudsman Nederland. He is vice-president of The Biography Society/Société de Biographie.

Renders is member of the jury of the international Plutarch Award 2017.

Renders is chairman of the board of Stichting Innovatie Media, is a member of the board of editors of the Dutch Biography Portal and is chairman of the Foundation Biography Portal. On a monthly basis, he is invited to talk about biography in the radio programme *Met het oog op morgen*.

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.

De *Biography Society* is a cooperation between the Biography Institute and the Université Aix-Marseille. Contacts between both institutes became more intensive in 2017, for example during the preparation of the conference *Different Lives Global Perspectives on Biography in Public Cultures and Societies*, which will take place in September 2018.

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) 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.



