

Editorial

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The time this issue goes to print will witness the round jubilee of a 'Dutch Crossing' of the special kind, the 350th anniversary of the Raid on the River Medway (19–24 June 1667), when during the Second Anglo-Dutch war the British fleet was destroyed in harbour by a daring Dutch excursion under Michiel de Ruyter. While this 'early modern Pearl Harbour', which is going to be re-enacted this Summer, may be an example for an Anglo-Dutch encounter of the less than friendly kind, this issue focusses on more peaceful exchanges between the Low Countries and their neighbours through the centuries.

The first is Raymond Fagel's (Leiden) close reading of George Gascoigne's *The Spoyle of Antwerpe* (1576) as an Anglo-Dutch text. Widely considered an archetypal example of English Renaissance autobiographical writing, the *Spoyle* is also a major source on the 1576 Sack of Antwerp by the Spaniards. Fagel's analysis questions both interpretations and reads the text from a transcultural perspective, as an example of cultural translation between England and the Low Countries, showing how an anonymous Dutch pamphlet could be adapted to become an autobiographical English text.

Ben Parsons's (Leicester) and Bas Jongenelen's (Nijmegen) turn their attention to Anthonis de Roovere, one the most important *rederijkers* of the late fifteenth century. Rather than on de Roovere's role in the development of Dutch-language poetry, their analysis focuses on his position as city laureate of Bruges (*stadsdichter*) and how this role impacted on his oeuvre, especially on his intensely public voice. Parsons and Jongenelen conclude that de Roovere's work not only memorialised key events within the city community but aimed to publicise and reinforce its shared values.

Dick Venemans (The Hague) examines two series of Bible prints by the famous Dutch printmaker Romeijn de Hooghe (1645–1708), each preceded by title prints that reveal a great deal about the use of prints in studying the Bible in the early modern Netherlands.

Jeong-Gu Kang and Jihie Moon (Seoul) analyse a 17th century East-Western encounter between the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and Korea. By contrasting Hendrik Hamel's *Description of the Kingdom of Korea, 1653--1666* (1668) with contemporary writings from the Korean Joseon dynasty, both of whom assumed their own superiority over the other, they demonstrate the mutual incompatibilities in seventeenth-century East-Western discourses.

An East-Western cultural exchange of a different kind is analysed by Michał Wenderski (Poznań), the transnational exchange between Dutch and Polish vanguard formations such as *De Stijl* or *Blok* in the interwar period that significantly contributed to the development of modern European literary, artistic and architectural thought.

Leonoor Kuijk (Ghent) continues by analysing 19th century panoramic anthologies from the Low Countries that depicted national types and characters. She describes how editors and writers of this genre deployed different tools and types to make their publications 'national' and argues that the difference can be accounted for by a number of political and historical factors. The study also considers the relation of the Belgian and Dutch series to their British and French models.

The volume concludes with George Harinck's translation of Herman Bavinck's travelogue to America. Written in 1892, the account by the then professor of systematic theology at the Theological School in Kampen, offers fascinating insight into Dutch views of the lives, and in particular religious lives, of late nineteenth century Americans.

As always with best wishes for good reading.