

NAUL NEWSLETTER

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NAUL Fall Reception coming up

Summer is waning and fall seems to be in the air. So, it's about time for NAUL members to get reacquainted with one another. What better time for a party than on a Sunday afternoon while summer's warmth is not yet a distant memory. Join your old friends and meet new ones at the NAUL's Annual Fall Reception. The date is Sunday, September 8, 2013 and the party begins at 4 PM in the home of Janet and Ton Broos, 1405 Harbrooke Avenue, Ann Arbor. As usual the reception is a pot-luck affair. We hope you will bring your favorite finger food or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided by the NAUL. If you have any questions, contact Ton & Janet Broos at 734-994-9276 or janetbroos@comcast.net.

On Dutch Language

Oxford University Press recently released a study by Roland Willemyns "Dutch: Biography of a Language". It describes the history of Dutch in English and should be of interest to scholars, students and just ordinary folks wishing to learn more about Dutch. The first part concentrates on the historical development of standard Dutch. The second part focuses on contemporary Dutch and a large amount of geographical, social and other variations of the language. Colonial Dutch, (Surinam, the Antilles,

Indonesia, etc.) as well as South Africa, is represented. The relationship between

Northern and Southern Dutch is discussed and they are treated simultaneously. The final chapter sheds some light on the future of Dutch language. Belgian native Prof. Willemyns participated in one of the Dutch conferences in Ann Arbor. The original Dutch version of his book received rave reviews.

Academic Partnerships

As the Netherlands and the UM drastically diminished their collaboration – no more writers-in-residence, no more visiting professors, the Belgians and the University of Illinois have expanded an already significant partnership. The history of the association can be traced back to the end of the First World War. The library of the Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven was destroyed by the Germans. After the war, allied countries and others were rallied to get books, materials and funds to rebuild the library. A new library was completed in 1928. The University of Illinois generously supported this effort and is recognized with a commemorative plaque close to the entrance to the main library in Leuven. In 1997, a partnership between the two universities was established. It provided a short-term faculty exchange program with funding coming from both institutions. The KU-Leuven-Illinois Faculty Exchange Program has provided

opportunities for more than 50 scientists and scholars, representing a variety of disciplines.

In 2010 it was opened to include PhD candidates. This year, in recognition of the depth and history of the collaboration, both institutions plan to double their support for faculty and PhD exchange with the establishment of an Illinois faculty liaison who will spend six months each year living in Leuven and teaching students from both institutions.

Exhibitions of Interest

From October 22, 2013 to January 19, 2014 at the Frick. Fifteen world class Dutch paintings on loan from the Mauritshuis, including Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" will be on display. Viewers will be surprised to see a contemporary still life of flowers come to life. "Transforming Still Life Painting: After Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, 'Vase with Flowers in a Window' is the digitally engineered creation by contemporary British artists Rob and Nick Carter after the 1618 painting. Both are in the Mauritshuis collection. Over a period of three hours, the composition of the painting changes. Every few minutes, a caterpillar snacks on a leaf, a sail crawls out of its shell or water in a vase looks like it needs refilling. Although the Frick rarely includes contemporary art, the director Ian Wardropper said "In this case, I thought it was a great way to illuminate how we look at things over time." Be sure to see the exhibition if you travel to New York in the fall.

Dutch-American Newspapers on-line

The Roosevelt Study Center and the Royal Library in The Hague added six weekly newspapers published in the US to its Dutch newspaper data base. These 85,000 pages are a rich and representative source

for Dutch immigrant life between 1849 and 1959. Mass immigration from the Netherlands to the US occurred after 1845. Dutch immigrant groups published their own newspapers for more than a century. These weekly Dutch publications served the commercial, political and religious interests of their communities. Six of these publications are digitally accessible. You can go to the website <http://kranten.kb.nl/search> and select the title of the newspaper you wish to see. The six are:

Sheboygen Nieuwsbode – 1849-1861
Het Oosten – 1917-1920, 1934-36
De Grondwet – 1871 – 1938
De Volksstem – 1890 – 1919
De Volksvriend – 1874 – 1950
Onze Toekomst – 1920 – 1953

Tastes of Belgium

Beer:

The American website 'RateBeer.com' has named the West Flemish beer "Westvleteren 12" as the world's best beer. The top 50 beers include 10 from Belgium. Westvleteren is brewed by Trappist monks living in an abbey in the municipality of Vleteren which is close to Ieper. However, don't expect to find the beer in your local beer-depot – not even in Belgium. It is only available from the monks, only at certain times of the year, and only after making a reservation, assuming that the stocks haven't run out. If you're lucky you may be able to order it in a pub.

Food:

We learn that the restaurant *Bastone* and the newly opened *Monk Beer Abbey* share a kitchen on Main Street in Royal Oak, as well as Belgian inspirations for their separate menus. Both places offer a half-dozen varieties of mayonnaise to go with their frites. Aioli and artichoke are stars along with curried ketchup. Potatoes are

double-fried in the Belgian way and come with two sauces and are served in a paper cone. Try both places 419 S. Main and 109 E Fifth, Royal Oak. Check out their web-sites www.basone.net and www.monkbeerbar.com.

Dutch Snacks

After eleven years and 33 attempts, a guy in Ohio, Rob Dirne believes he successfully produced a recipe that replicates the Dutch snack ‘frikandel’. He named the result ‘freak’ and after testing on family and friends was able to begin a small production line in Amherst, Ohio. The company uses a combination of three meats, beef, chicken, and pork and fourteen spices (a secret). There is no horse-meat in the US version, although one producer in the Netherlands is said to include a small amount of the noble animals’ flesh in the sausage. US ‘freaks’ are available from VanderVeen’s in Grand Rapids. They are expensive because according to the producer they “make a gourmet version”. If you are on a low-sodium diet you may be disappointed. One of the ‘spices’ is a generous helping of salt. VanderVeen also sells quite good bitterballen and the low-sodium folks should find them OK.

Freebies in Amsterdam

The Canals – Amsterdam canals are at least 400 years old. Stroll along them and take in the lovely 17th century mansions. Start at the Singel, and then visit the Herengracht, the Keizersgracht and the Prinsengracht. Check out the Red Light District built around the Oudezijds Voorburgwal and the Oudezijds Achterburgwal. Top it all off with a drink at one of city city’s many ‘brown cafes’.

The Begijnhof – It is always a pleasure to escape the hustle of the city and enter that quiet and serene enclave of mostly 17th and

18th century houses built for pious Catholic single women. The Begijnhof is right around the corner from the Civil Guard Gallery of the Amsterdam Museum. It is a short covered gallery and is free.

I have a girl in Kalamazoo

“A girl, Mariam, was born in the land Jaldariyya in the town Numaja” The names in this sentence mean, Maria, Gelre (Gelderland), Nijmegen, and are taken from a manuscript in Arabic-Syrian. Lately, the word Syria can only be associated with misery and war. What a surprise to find something different i.e. a translation of *Mariken van Nieumegen* in Syrian! Ton Broos found the reference to a manuscript in the University of Nijmegen, with this transcription from 1821 done by a priest in East Turkey-Syria. The 16th century Dutch story was first translated into Latin and Italian and in 1821 in Arabic to help Dutch and Flemish missionaries with their work in the Middle East. The Syrian script was recently deciphered by Professor Herman Teule in Nijmegen. The new edition of *Mariken van Nieumegen* with contemporary and modern English translation by Ton Broos and others is in press and will be published by Medieval Institute Publications of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Get your copy in the Fall.

Dutchgrub Update

Some time ago we wrote about the website “Dutchgrub” (www.dutchgrub.com) which, among other bits of trivia, lists the best restaurants in Holland. Here are some of the trendiest restaurants that also serve good food.

Bistrot Neuf Amsterdam – Opened in 2010 and very popular. It is located at Haarlemmerstraat 9. The cuisine is classic French and the wine list is affordable.

De Kas Amsterdam – Located in a former greenhouse on the outskirts of the city (Kamerlingh Onneslaan 3). It is a large

restaurant and nursery. It serves only food that is produced on the farms around Amsterdam. An herb garden, located in an annex, may be visited between courses. De Kas combines urban chic with artisanal tradition. Definitely one to try.

Hotel De Goudfazant (Aambeeldstraat 10H) – Not a hotel at all but an old industrial shed converted into a place serving great food. The exterior is rugged and inside one can still see heavy duty lifts and industrial heaters. The walls and the steel beams remain uncovered. There are long tables and plastic chairs and a huge chandelier hangs from the ceiling. It is across the IJ and not at all easy to find your way through a rather decrepit industrial area. But the food is really really good. (Editor's note: Ton and I have eaten there a couple of times and can tell you it is certainly worthwhile the effort to get there).

Other NAUL Events

Coming up soon – Thursday, **September 26, 2013**. **Arthur Verhoogt** will present a lecture entitled *From Karanis, with Love: Personal Letters from Roman Egypt*. The place is Gretchen's House, 1580 Dhu Varren Road, Ann Arbor; Time is 7:30 PM. Arthur is Associate Professor of Papyrology and Greek at the UM in the Department of Classical Studies. Most NAUL members know Arthur and his lovely family, wife Henrike and his pretty blond haired children, Lidewij, Oda and Ludger. Event is open to all.

On Saturday, November 30, at 5:30 PM Sinterklaas will arrive in Ann Arbor. He will come to Gretchen's House to meet all the NAUL kids – big and small. **Mark your calendars.** More in the next Newsletter. Event is members only.

Louis Couperus celebration

Louis Couperus was born 150 years ago and died 90 years ago. Ton Broos invites anyone interested to a showing at his home of *De Stille Kracht* (The Hidden Force) and/or *Van Oude Mensen de Dingen die Voorbij Gaan* (Old People the Things that Pass). These are drama series from Dutch television broadcast in 1974-75. They are in Dutch (no sub-titles) lasting 4 or 5 hours. A 'Haags kopje thee met koekje' will be served. Contact Ton.

NAUL Dues

Dues payments were due on January 1, 2013. Look on mailing label of this Newsletter to see if your dues are up to date. If it does not show (13), your dues are late. Categories are:

Couple or family with young children	\$30.
Individual or Senior Couple	\$20.
Individual Senior or Student	\$10.
Sustaining	\$50.
Sponsor	\$100.

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