



Quality Non-Fiction from Holland

Nederlands
letterenfonds
dutch foundation
for literature

Spring 2018

Dutch Foundation for Literature

The Dutch Foundation for Literature has the task of supporting writers and translators, and of promoting Dutch literature abroad. It is an independent organization, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

The Foundation's advisors on literary fiction, quality non-fiction, poetry and children's and youth literature are present each year at prominent book fairs, including Frankfurt, London, Beijing and Bologna. *Books from Holland*, *Quality Non-Fiction from Holland* and *Children's Books from Holland* recommend highlights from each category's selection.

Translation Grants

Foreign publishers wishing to publish a translation of Dutch or Frisian literature may apply for a subsidy towards the translation costs. Having acquired the rights, the publisher's application must be accompanied by a copy of the contract with the rights owner and a copy of the contract with the translator. Application forms are available from the Foundation's website.

Subsidies are paid after receipt of complimentary copies, with printed acknowledgement of the Foundation's support. A sample translation may be required and evaluated by our external advisors. Applications for translations that have already been published cannot be taken into consideration. Publishers looking for a qualified translator can request a list of endorsed translators for their language area.

Illustrated Books

In the case of illustrated children's books and/or graphic novels, foreign publishers can apply for assistance to cover a portion of the production costs.

Promotional Travel

The Foundation is able to support a publisher wishing to invite an author for interviews or public appearances. Literary festivals are likewise eligible for support. Additionally, the Foundation organizes international literary events in co-operation with local publishers, festivals and book fairs.

Writers-in-Residence

The Foundation coordinates writer-in-residence programmes together with foreign universities and institutions. International authors are invited to spend time working in Amsterdam. They may stay one or two months at the writers' lodgings above the Athenaeum Bookshop on the Spui (in co-operation with the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts).

International Visitors Programme

The visitors programme and the annual Amsterdam Fellowships offer publishers and editors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the publishing business and the literary infrastructure of the Netherlands.

Translators' House

The Translators' House offers translators the opportunity to live and work in Amsterdam for a period of time. It is involved with numerous activities assisting and advancing translators' skills. Each year the Literary Translation Days are held for those translating into and from Dutch.

Schwob: Discovering International Classic Works of Fiction

Schwob draws attention to and supports as-yet undiscovered, untranslated classics of world literature. Each month the editors select new titles on www.schwob.nl.

Dutch Foundation for Literature

Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
NL – 1018 VR Amsterdam
t +31 20 520 73 00
post@letterenfonds.nl
www.letterenfonds.nl

Non-Fiction



Mireille Berman
m.berman@letterenfonds.nl

Fiction

Barbara den Ouden
Eastern and Middle Europe,
Mediterranean Countries, Russia
b.den.ouden@letterenfonds.nl

Victor Schiferli
Scandinavia, Germany,
English-language countries
and poetry
v.schiferli@letterenfonds.nl

Tiziano Perez
Brazil, China
t.perez@letterenfonds.nl

Alexandra Koch
Schwob
a.koch@letterenfonds.nl

Children's Books

Agnes Vogt
a.vogt@letterenfonds.nl

See also

www.letterenfonds.nl

Koos van Zomeren

All the Birds

A combination of poetry and precision makes Koos van Zomeren's nature writing unique

Koos van Zomeren is one of Holland's best-loved columnists and nature writers. One of his favourite topics is our feathered friends. Everything he has ever written about birds has now been collected in *All the Birds*, his magnum opus, an award-winning special edition, beautifully illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by Erik van Ommen.

Many birds have featured in Koos van Zomeren's forty-year output as a nature writer, from everyday pigeons and sparrows, to kingfishers, pelicans and 'bloody geese'. As he says himself, 'birds go by, just as birds often go by: in passing, but not unnoticed.' No other writer describes birds with such care, such insight and such humour.

Koos van Zomeren spots birds wherever he goes in the world – whether it's the Dutch dunes, the Caucasus mountains or just driving along the motorway. He allows each bird to tell us something about mankind and the world we live in. For Van

Zomeren, writing and observing are closely linked; his descriptions are light-footed and never didactic. Here he is, talking about owls: 'The owl, I would say, is a work of art. Owls look least like chance, most like intention. When it came to owls, someone did his very best.' And here he is on the golden eagle: 'Well aware that a golden eagle might be too heavy for the treetop in which it had landed, it decided to move down a few branches. As it clambered earthwards, it deftly used its beak for support and balance, just like a parrot. To think there are people who say golden eagles have no sense of humour.'

The writing is strongly observational, sensory and powerful, always managing to dip below the surface and reveal something more. Comparable to the work of British nature writers John Lewis-Stempel and Jim Crumley, and featuring a combination of vignettes and longer pieces, *All the Birds* is the ultimate bird book not just for bird lovers but for all lovers of literary non-fiction.



A shy, modest man, eager to share his passion for nature, **Koos van Zomeren** (b. 1946) has finally received the recognition he deserves in the form of the first Jan Wolkers oeuvre prize for the best Dutch nature writing. He has written sixty books, including novels, thrillers and poetry, and authored many well-loved columns, including a long series on the front page of the *NRC Handelsblad*.

Publishing details

Alle vogels (2017)

884 pp.

English sample available

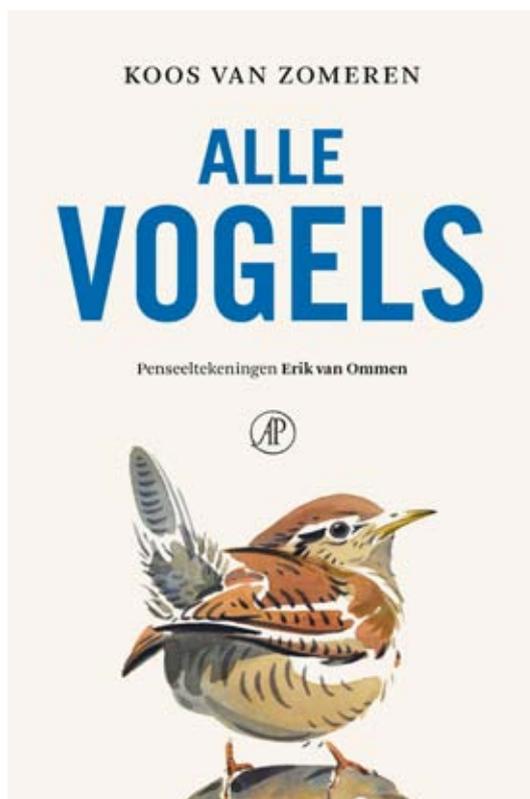
Rights

De Arbeiderspers

Jolijn Spooren

j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

Photo: Symen Deuzeman



'Whether he turns his attention to cows, his dog Rekel, trees, or – the *leitmotiv* in his nature writing – birds, there is always that impressive style, the incessant searching for words for the indescribable. Van Zomeren finds them – the hallmark of great literature from the pen of a gifted writer.'

– jury report Jan Wolkers Oeuvre Prize

'Van Zomeren looks, wonders, admires but also questions. Introspection is constantly in the background in his work, perhaps this is due to the powerful feeling of insignificance that nature imposes upon mankind.'

– *De Volkskrant*

Hella Rottenberg & Sandra Rottenberg

Isay Rottenberg's Cigar Factory

A man who refused to give in to the Nazi regime and a small town that needed a factory

In mid-1932, Isay Rottenberg, a Jewish paper merchant, bought a cigar factory in Germany: *Deutsche Zigarren-Werke*. When his competitors, supported by Nazi authorities, tried to shut it down, the headstrong entrepreneur refused to give up the fight. Told from the perspective of his two granddaughters who carefully reconstructed their grandfather's story and set against the backdrop of the Nazi takeover of a small German town, the narrative takes the form of the unravelling of a hidden family history and a quest.

Isay Rottenberg was born into a large Jewish family in Russian Poland in 1889 and grew up in Lodz. He moved to Berlin at the age of eighteen to escape military service. In 1917, after a successful period in trade, he married his cousin Lena, who lived in Amsterdam. A few months after the wedding, he joined her there. While his Amsterdam business ran into difficulties after the Wall Street crash of 1929, Isay looked for new opportunities. In 1932, he left his wife and children behind in Amsterdam and moved to Döbeln (near Dresden) to take over a bankrupt cigar factory. With newfangled American technology, it was the most modern in Germany at the time. The energetic and ambitious Rottenberg was certain he could bring it back to life and, having spent ten years in Germany already, he knew the ropes. Once he'd hired a staff of

670 workers, the cigar factory was back on a roll.

Six months later, Hitler came to power and the Nazi government forbade the use of machines in the cigar industry so that traditional hand-rollers could be re-employed. That was when the real struggle began. Isay employed more than six hundred qualified machine workers and engineers. They would lose their jobs if the factory had to close down. Supported by the local authorities he managed to keep the factory going, but in 1935 he was imprisoned following accusations of fraud, and the factory was expropriated by the Deutsche Bank. When he was released six months later thanks to the efforts of the Dutch consul, he brought a lawsuit of his own. His fight for rehabilitation and restitution of his property would continue until Kristallnacht in 1938.

Written in an accessible and personal manner, the book shows how an ordinary German town responded to the early years of national socialism and the Nazi takeover, and how keeping a Jewish business alive involved a complicated sparring match with unions, competitors, local, provincial and national authorities, Deutsche Bank and NSDAP bigwigs. The authors have a keen eye for the context in which the drama took place: not just the economic and political circumstances but also the background and motive of the various players.



Hella Rottenberg, a writer and a journalist, and her cousin **Sandra Rottenberg**, a producer, started investigating their grandfather's life when a Jewish-Dutch newspaper advertised a €50 million compensation fund for Jews robbed of their property in the former GDR. Isay Rottenberg's name was on a list of former property owners potentially qualifying for compensation. Hella and Sandra were curious what he did in Germany and why he had stayed after Hitler came to power. Eleven thick dossiers stuffed with letters, accounts, photos and newspaper clippings together with documents from archives in Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, Chemnitz and The Hague provided the answers.

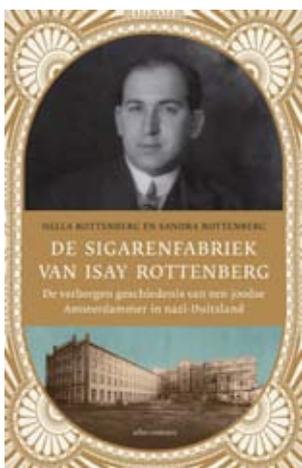
Publishing details

De sigarenfabriek van Isay Rottenberg. De verborgen geschiedenis van een joodse Amsterdammer in nazi-Duitsland (2017)
272 pp.
English sample available

Rights

Atlas Contact
Hayo Deinum
hdeinum@atlascontact.nl

Photo: Jelmer de Haas



'The characters are people of flesh and blood. But the most original aspect of this family history is the way the authors include their own perspectives. They make it quite clear that their relationships with their grandfather were very different: Hella adored her grandfather [...] but Sandra never felt truly at ease with him.'
- *NRC Handelsblad*

Bennie Mols & Nieske Vergunst

Hello Robot

The Machine as Fellow Human

There are 10 to 15 million robots on earth – what are they up to?

Robots build our cars, operate on patients and perform search and rescue operations after natural disasters; soon they will be driving us around and keeping us company. As their capabilities skyrocket, so do their numbers. This timely book helps us to get to know them better. *Hello Robot* gives a thorough picture of the current state of affairs in robotics – and a hopeful one.

Robots have been quietly working away in factories for more than fifty years now. They are already central to our lives: they vacuum our living rooms, water the lawns and keep the elderly company. They rescue people, allow paraplegics to walk again and even provide education. Smartphones and washing machines are assembled by robots, cows are milked by robots. Spectacular recent developments in artificial intelligence have increased robot brainpower dramatically. Will robots help us lead lives of leisure by relieving us of the need to work? Can they solve the problems of energy, climate, healthcare and mobility? Or will they put us all out of a job, dehumanize health care, start wars and turn us into slaves?

We shouldn't worry, Mols and Vergunst assure us. Robots will help us and prove useful. Yet the authors are also honest about their shortcomings. Robots are usually good at one specific thing, but they

have great difficulty combining different skills. Some can run just like a human being, but cannot converse; others can speak in a convincingly human manner, but cannot move. In particular, teaching robots to judge what is socially desirable behaviour is proving extremely difficult. So how do they work? What are they capable of? What can't they do? What do we want them to do? How far have we come and what does this mean for the future? All these questions are answered in this book. Vergunst and Mols also address burning issues such as privacy, safety and the interaction between man and machine. They consider real robots, science fiction robots and the people behind them – their makers and designers, both hobbyists and professionals. The book recounts the stories behind robot science and technology, providing a nuanced picture of the rise of the robot over the past half century. Robots in popular culture are also explored, and there's even a science fiction robot timeline, and a robot hall of fame.

'Since robots resemble animals and humans in their behaviour, they raise fundamental questions: what is life? What is consciousness? How does creativity work? What does it mean to act independently? More than just products of science and technology, robots also hold up a philosophical mirror to human beings.'



Nieske Vergunst studied Cognitive Artificial Intelligence, obtained a PhD in Computer Science and works as Science Information Officer at Utrecht University. She collects robots and writes a blog about science and technology at www.LadyGeek.nl.

Bennie Mols is a science journalist specialized in robots, artificial intelligence and the human brain. He studied Physics and Philosophy. He previously authored *Turing's Tango*, on artificial intelligence.

Publishing details

Hallo Robot. De machine als medemens (2017)
288 pp., integrated colour illustrations
Complete English translation available

Rights

Nieuw Amsterdam
Marije Braat
mbraat@nieuwamsterdam.nl
Rights sold: Canbury Press (UK)

Photo: Harold van de Kamp



'The best book of the year on the uses and limitations of robots.'
– *De Telegraaf*

'Mols and Vergunst write enthusiastically on what robots are capable of, without becoming unrealistic. A must for anyone eager to be surprised about what robots can and cannot do yet.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

Mathijs Deen

Down Old Roads

A Journey through Europe's History

A lyrical road trip across the continent and through the ages

Travellers have roamed Europe for the past million years, from the mysterious *homo antecessor* whose footprints have been found on the coast of England to the driver on today's motorways. Under every mark lies an older one, under every paved road a donkey trail or wagon rut, under every footpath the tracks of ancient hunters or their prey.

While highways like Route 66 have helped to shape America's identity, Europeans seem ambivalent about their own trans-continental roads. Do their imaginations stop at the national borders? Or are international roads still seen as potential threats: open invitations to bloodthirsty armies and other unwelcome foreigners?

Mathijs Deen has long been fascinated with the roads that connect us, ever since he was a child and his father told him that the E8 motorway leading to his grandparents' house ran all the way from London to Moscow. So he decided to follow the bandits, pilgrims, fortune-seekers, conquerors and road racers who have left their trails throughout Europe. Deen went in

search of the romantic tales behind the old European thoroughfares, whose history often goes back centuries, and whose path is still followed today by the official European E-roads.

Deen's gripping tales of European journeys range from the first European some 800,000 years before the Julian calendar to a North African migrant returning home from the Netherlands in 2016. Along the way, he introduces us to the bandit leader who terrorized the Via Appia around 200 AD; the first Icelandic woman to live in the Americas, who made a pilgrimage to Rome in 1025; the Sephardic Jew who brought the best of the Spanish theatre to Amsterdam in 1640; the conscript who marched to Russia with Napoleon's army in 1812 and returned with his spirit broken; and the son of a London blacksmith who drove in some of Europe's first city-to-city road races around 1900.

Deen weaves in his own personal story of criss-crossing Europe as he retraces the routes of these journeys. The result is a fantastic book that places Europe's prosaic road network in a lyrical new light.



Mathijs Deen (b. 1962) is a radio journalist and a writer of non-fiction, short stories and novels. In 2013 he published *The Frisian Islands*, a widely praised poetic history of which more than 20,000 copies have been sold.

Publishing details

Over oude wegen. Een reis door de geschiedenis van Europa (2018)
312 pp.

English sample available

Rights

De Bezige Bij
Marijke Nagtegaal
m.nagtegaal@debezigebij.nl

Photo: Merlijn Doomernik



'Down Old Roads is a terrific book, packed with creative imagination and full of wise reflections.'
– *De Morgen*

'Mathijs Deen is an exceptional prose stylist.'
– *Het Parool*

'Deen's impressive fund of historical knowledge allows him to travel effortlessly through the centuries.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

Angela Dekker & Jessica Voeten

Fearless and Reckless

The Life and Times of Mata-Hari

A myth-busting portrait of Mata-Hari

Famous actresses have portrayed her and to this day the name Mata-Hari (1876–1917) is synonymous with seduction and female spies. She has become a legend, the archetype of the *femme fatale*—so much so that the glamorous myths sometimes obscure the historical truth. Who was she really?

Margaretha Geertruida Zelle was born in a provincial town in the north of the Netherlands and spent several years in the Dutch East Indies as the wife of a Dutch military officer. Only a few months after turning her back on her unhappy marriage, she created a new life for herself in Paris as the mysterious Mata-Hari. In the decade that followed, her sensual Oriental dances made her the embodiment of the Belle Époque. The Great War brought an end to her dazzling career and eventually led to her death. In the early morning of 15 October 1917, she was executed by a French firing squad after being convicted of spying for the Germans.

This biography draws on previously unknown letters, photographs and documents from private collections, newly accessible documents from the French

state archives and other sources. Readers will gain new insights into the seductive persona of Mata-Hari and the stark contrast with the vulnerable woman behind the veil, as revealed by a letter written by Mata-Hari to the investigating judge from her cell in Saint-Lazare on 5 June 1917: ‘There is something else I would like to bring to your attention, namely that Mata-Hari and Mme Zelle MacLeod are two completely different women. [...] What Mata-Hari experiences does not happen to Madame Zelle. Those who speak to one of the two are not addressing the other. In their modes of conduct and ways of life, Mata-Hari and Madame Zelle cannot be one and the same.’

The authors approach the figure of Mata-Hari from a 21st-century perspective. They re-examine her life in the light of women’s status in early twentieth-century Europe as second-class citizens, lacking basic rights. And they unearth shocking new facts: papers from French state archives show that no one was convinced of her guilt. Her execution could easily have been prevented, but not one of the powerful men stood up in her defence.



Angela Dekker and Jessica Voeten are journalists for major Dutch newspapers and magazines. Angela Dekker (b. 1959) published *The Unknown Soldier* (2003), about missing soldiers of the Great War, and *Lost Past* (2007), about Russian émigrés in Paris. Jessica Voeten (b. 1956) published *Het Witsenhuis* (2003) and was the co-author of *Isaac Israëls in Amsterdam*, about the Amsterdam Impressionists.

Publishing details

Moed en overmoed. Leven en tijd van Mata-Hari (2018)
488 pp.

Rights

Atlas Contact
Hayo Deinum
hdeinum@atlascontact.nl

Photo: Jelmer de Haas



‘Fearless and Reckless is a fascinating portrait of Mata-Hari and the people who crossed her path in the turbulent period that would shape the twentieth century.’
– *Athenaeum.nl*

Guido van Hengel

The Prophets of Europe

Visions of the Future from a Lost Continent

Three radical twentieth-century thinkers and their utopian plans for a new order

Once upon a time, Europe was not despised as a bureaucratic monstrosity, but praised as a noble ideal. In this book the author narrates how, in the early decades of the twentieth century, a number of intellectuals from across Europe united in a 'blood bond of European geniuses'. Together they spun fantasies of a world order that would transcend the reigning ideologies of liberalism, socialism, fascism and nationalism. Meanwhile, darkness was descending on the continent.

On the eve of the First World War, three of those unconventional Europeans crossed paths. The celebrated writer and psychiatrist Frederik van Eeden (1860–1932) had by that time already founded a utopian commune, but he aimed higher. He wanted to save humanity from the horrors of modernity. In his pursuit of this objective he received moral support from the German philosopher Erich Gutkind (1877–1965), an anti-scientific mystic, and the Bosnian guru Dimitrije Mitrinović (1887–1953), who spoke an oracular language of his own invention intended to reach an underlying reality.

They quickly recognized each other as kindred spirits, and in the years that followed, they corresponded, learned from each other and contributed to each other's

magazines and manifestoes, forming a transnational intellectual network. In Potsdam, Munich and London, they shared their vague but passionate ideas about the unification of Europe, the importance of world peace and the leading role of individual geniuses. Their associates across the continent included the anarchist Gustav Landauer and the philosopher Martin Buber.

The Prophets of Europe is not just a history of ideas, but the story of the idealists themselves who sought to cross the borders between politics, music and religion. Even after the Second World War, Gutkind and Mitrinović remained active in New York and London, but to the people of the post-Holocaust age, their ideas seemed hopelessly old-fashioned.

Historian Guido van Hengel offers an alternative history of the early twentieth century, when mystical philosophies and grand schemes for humanity did not seem as naive, or as suspect, as they do today. He builds a powerful case that the stories of these political dreamers hold vital lessons for our own time, as the sleeping giant of political utopianism reawakens all around us – from Putin's resurgent nationalism and Erdoğan's neo-Ottoman dream to Trump's campaign promise to make America great again.



Guido van Hengel is a writer and historian. He studied in Groningen, Jena and Belgrade, and in 2014 he published *The Days of Gavrilo Princip*, a cultural history of a generation of young revolutionaries on the eve of the Great War. He obtained his doctorate cum laude from the University of Groningen with a thesis on Mlada Bosna (Young Bosnia).

Publishing details

De zieners. Toekomstvisioenen uit een verloren Europa (2018)
312 pp.
English sample available

Rights

Ambo|Anthos
Christel Meijer
christel@sharedstories.nl

Photo: Merlijn Doomernik



'Van Hengel shows that there were many more gloomy intellectuals who criticised European culture and came up with great visions of the future. The way in which Van Hengel describes their activities and ambitions is very compelling and enlightening.'
– *Historisch Nieuwsblad*

Ivo van Vulpen

Nature's Melody

The Search for the Building Blocks of the Universe

An engaging guide to the latest developments in fundamental physics

Ivo van Vulpen, a particle physicist who was involved in the discovery of the Higgs boson, takes readers on a journey of discovery to the Lilliputian world that underlies everything. Science has managed to penetrate deeper than ever into a mysterious world invisible to the naked eye. Now its secrets and their practical applications are revealed in a refreshingly down-to-earth book.

'We all know that children can make the most fantastic constructions out of Lego blocks, from simple towers or and small castles to big rocket ships and entire dream worlds. Yet they are all built from just a handful of unique, small building blocks. In nature, it's exactly the same thing. Each part of the miraculous variety of extremely complex elements we see in the world around us, from stars to human beings, and from water to viruses, is basically built from just a handful of blocks.'

2012. A hundred years after Einstein's theory of relativity, the Higgs particle, a new building block, was discovered at the CERN laboratories. Why was it so important? It fundamentally changed the way we look at the universe and helped us understand its fabric. This book follows the quest of the many scientists who, over the centuries, have tirelessly searched for the ultimate building blocks of space and the

universe. No matter how complex natural phenomena may seem, they can generally be reduced to a small number of deceptively simple underlying principles. Simple doesn't always mean reasonable – some natural laws seem completely absurd, Van Vulpen explains. Scientists strive to recognize these patterns and discover nature's melody.

Van Vulpen makes concepts like quantum mechanics, the theory of relativity and particle accelerators vivid and easy to grasp. He also shows how these ideas form the basis of our society. For example, GPS relies on relativity theory and computer chips on quantum mechanics. PET scans, which localize tumours, rely on anti-matter, and we radiate those tumours with particle accelerators. Along the way, *Nature's Melody* also provides an overview of the field of elementary particles: what do we know now, and what do we yet have to figure out?

According to the author, science is not only a success story; it is also a story about unanswered questions, frustrations, incomprehension, and entering unknown territory. Drawing on common experiences and using analogies like the off-side rule in football, spotting animals on safari or the work of paleontologists imagining what dinosaurs looked like, he brings abstract concepts to life.



Ivo van Vulpen works as a particle physicist at the University of Amsterdam and the National Institute for Subatomic Physics (Nikhef). In addition to his research on the particle accelerator at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, he also gives talks on fundamental physics for a broader audience. On the subject of *Nature's Melody*, he says: 'This book is for anyone who is not a scientist but wants to know more about physics. I'd like to share the beauty of this world. The point of the book is also to dispel peoples' fear of scientific equations. You should think of equations as poetry in a foreign language. You can see the beauty in them but you need a translator.'

Publishing details

De melodie van de natuur.

De zoektocht naar de bouwstenen van het heelal (2018)

320 pp.

English sample available

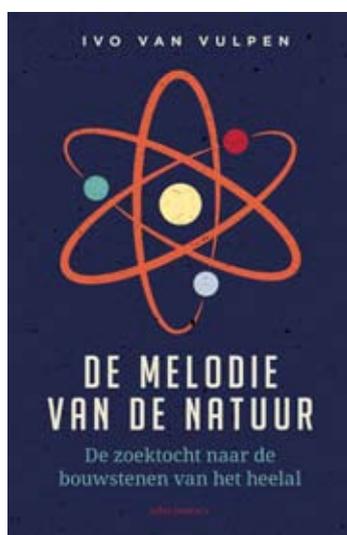
Rights

Atlas Contact

Hayo Deinum

hdeinum@atlascontact.nl

Photo: Fjodor Buis



'Why the discovery of the Higgs particle was the salvation of contemporary physics forms the core of this book, which is easy where possible and difficult where necessary. Van Vulpen is a masterful interpreter, always aware that his story must remain concrete so as not to lose the lay reader along the way.'

– *De Volkskrant*

Els van Diggele

We Hate Each Other More than the Jews *Discord within Palestinian Society*

A disillusioning portrait of the fratricidal struggle between Palestinians

It's a question asked around the world: after decades of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, why do we seem further than ever from a resolution? Historian Els van Diggele reaches an unsparing conclusion: the main reason for the failure to achieve a Palestinian state is dissension among Palestinians. *We Hate Each Other More than the Jews* exposes the internal conflicts and corruption within Palestinian society.

Much more than a historical study, *We Hate Each Other More than the Jews* offers first-rate investigative journalism and a colourful, intimate look at life in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Van Diggele spent a year living in the heart of Ramallah, interviewing dissident intellectuals about politics, history and their lives. She learned of their dissatisfaction with their own regime ('Our leaders are traitors'), their clashes with Palestinian institutions and their experiences with social exclusion and, in some cases, even imprisonment by the Palestinian Authority. Her even-handed perspective on the region is a breath of fresh air: without denying or rationalizing Israel's disastrous role, she

uncovers the violent realities of Palestinian life. As one Gazan puts it, 'This stench, the chaos and lawlessness, the murders and age-old family feuds... what does any of this have to do with the occupation?'

Clear and engaging expositions of the historical background alternate with lively first-person stories and interviews that shed light on the personal consequences of a mutually destructive strife. The book spans a century of Palestinian history, including the nationalism of the 1920s, the birth of the Jewish state, the conflicts between Palestinians and their Arab allies that made it possible for Israel to survive and the rise of the PLO in the 1960s. The dissidents she interviews reveal the complicity of the Palestinian news media in hiding internal power struggles, and they have the courage to reflect openly on their culture and its flaws. Most of all, the book lays out the causes and consequences of the corruption and repression that characterize Palestinian society today. Apart from a thorough bibliography and notes, the book includes a timeline, a glossary clarifying historical and political terms, and capsule biographies of major historical figures.



Historian **Els van Diggele** (b. 1967) has studied Palestinian society for many years. In *We Hate Each Other More than the Jews* she describes how much the Palestinians suffer under their own leaders. This is the last book in her trilogy about conflicts within religious groups in the region. Previous works include *A People Who Live Apart*, about struggles over Jewish identity in Israel.

Publishing details

We haten elkaar meer dan de Joden. Tweedracht in de Palestijnse maatschappij (2017)
328 pp.
English sample available

Rights

Athenaeum—Polak & Van Genneep
Jolijn Spooren
j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

Photo: Koos Breukel



'Rarely has any outsider so ruthlessly exposed the deep internal divisions among Palestinians. An alarming book.'
- *NRC Handelsblad*

'If you really want to know why the peace process between Israel and Palestine seems to lead nowhere, this book is a must. Revealing and exceptionally timely.'
- *Nederlands Dagblad*

'Few people know more about the fault lines in Israel and Palestine than Dutch historian and journalist Els van Diggele.'
- *Dagblad van het Noorden*

Jeroen Koch

The House of Orange in War & Revolution A European History, 1772–1890

An epic narrative of joy and tragedy, progress and catastrophe, disappointment and glory

Three kings from the House of Orange-Nassau ruled over the Kingdom of the Netherlands from 1813 to 1890, but their sovereignty was subject to constant challenge. Their life stories stretch from the latter days of the Dutch Republic to the origins of the modern Netherlands. Historian Jeroen Koch places the nineteenth-century Orange dynasty and their struggles within the broad panorama of European history.

William I (1772–1843) had been destined at birth to become the stadholder of the Republic of the Seven United Provinces. But a French-backed revolution forced his family, the House of Orange, into exile. For almost two decades, they roamed a European continent plunged into chaos by the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. It seemed that William would never reign again, but at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, he managed to become King of the new United Kingdom of the Netherlands and embarked on a programme of national modernization. His authoritarian policies made many enemies and formed a major factor in the Belgian secession.

In contrast, his son William II (1792–1849) was an adventurer, known for his military exploits, his far-flung travels and his amorous intrigues. In 1848, the European year of revolution, it was he who accepted the country's first liberal

constitution. William III (1817–1890) has gone down in history as King Gorilla, an aggressive man constantly struggling against the constraints imposed by his ministers and the new constitution. Yet his reign also saw the rapid modernization of the Netherlands.

This story of the House of Orange takes a novel approach, placing the nineteenth-century Dutch kings firmly in the context of their families and of European history. The Orange dynasty was and is an international family: William I, William II and William III were related to the royal houses of England, Prussia, Russia and Württemberg. The book thus offers a panoramic survey of Dutch history against a European backdrop. It also incorporates the latest scholarly approaches and insights, with a detailed examination of the kings' many roles: dynastic, political, military, ceremonial, representative, and international.

Jeroen Koch has written a gripping narrative for both general readers and the scholarly community, combining probing research with a knack for eye-opening anecdotes and colourful details. His biography of King William I (2013) was part of a landmark trilogy on the three nineteenth-century Dutch kings. Based on this trilogy, *The House of Orange in War & Revolution: A European History, 1772–1890* offers a synthesis of those earlier biographies combined with exciting new insights.



Jeroen Koch (b. 1962) is a historian at Utrecht University, specializing in intellectual history from the Enlightenment onwards. His earlier books include a biography of the influential neo-Calvinist theologian Abraham Kuyper (1837–1920), which attracted considerable attention. He wrote *The House of Orange in War & Revolution* with editorial assistance of historians Dik van de Meulen and Jeroen van Zanten.

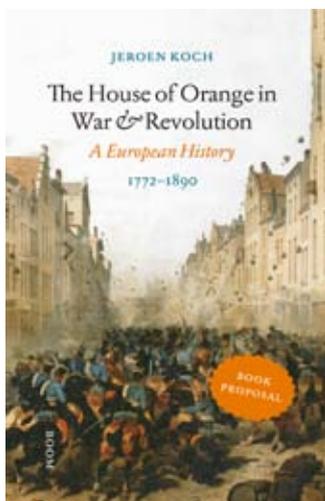
Publishing details

Oranje in revolutie en oorlog. Een Europese geschiedenis, 1772–1890 (2018)
320 pp.
English sample available

Rights

Boom Uitgevers
Eva Weijenbergh
e.weijenbergh@bua.nl

Photo: Suzanne Koch



The press on Koch's biography of William I:

'A magnificent, fluidly written biography.'
– *NRC Handelsblad*

'A brilliant, revelatory biography.'
– *Het Parool*

Maaïke Hartjes

Burnout Diary

A raw and honest graphic novel about a workaholic's process of recovery

One of Holland's new wave of autobiographical cartoonists explores what it means to have work-related burnout. She sets out to understand how things got to that point and how it might be possible to lead a more balanced life in the future. *Burnout Diary* is an appealing and instructive personal study of a difficult period, similar to the works of Roz Chast and David Small. In this graphic novel, Hartjes seems to have found the ideal form to explore a heavy subject with a light touch.

For more than ten years, Maaïke Hartjes has been writing diary cartoons about her own life, produced in a spontaneous yet intricate style she modestly describes as 'fiddly'. Her trademark style involves deceptively naïve-looking stick figures and tiny drawings with speech bubbles, packaged as recognizable, personal reflections. These often depict familiar everyday situations like waiting at the bus stop, growing older, taking the wrong train or getting a passport photo taken.

The protagonist's personal life is central to *Burnout Diary*, but the author goes further in this book than in her previous works, exploring her deeper psychology.



After a long, complicated and frustrating assignment for a large company, illustrator Maaïke Hartjes finds herself totally listless, unable to do anything anymore. Even the thought of work is too much for her. When a month of rest and a holiday abroad bring little improvement, she tries to motivate herself by keeping her own unique diary: attractive collages on a brown paper background with different character styles and lots of cute tape.

We read about her panic attacks, fatigue and depressive feelings, but also about her search for solutions. What led to her burnout? Why is she such a perfectionist? Why does she work so hard? And crucially, why can't she ever turn work down? Why is nothing ever enough for her? Her personality is at the root of the problem, it seems. She also examines the bigger picture. Why do some people suffer from burnout, while others don't? After talking to friends and colleagues about how they deal with stress and honestly analyzing her own thoughts and feelings, Hartjes comes up with some positive steps towards a better, healthier work-life balance.

In our culture of overwork, this book will strike a chord with many readers.



Maaïke Hartjes (b. 1972) studied Illustration at the HKU (School of Arts, Utrecht) and broke through to a larger audience with her weekly diary strips for a Dutch women's magazine. She lives and works in Amsterdam and is a comics artist, cartoonist and illustrator. Ten collections of her work have been published. In 2016, she won the *Stripschapprijs*, the leading oeuvre prize for Dutch graphic art and cartoons. She is considered one of the main representatives of a new generation of Dutch cartoonists: the autobiographical cartoonists. Earlier works include *Hartjes* (2005) and *You're Not That Sweet* (2007).

Publishing details

Burnout dagboek (April 2018)
288 pp.
Complete English translation available

Rights

Nijgh & Van Ditmar
Jolijn Spooren
j.spooren@singeluitgeverijen.nl

Photo: Merlijn Doomernik

'Hartjes's style often moves the reader, and she infuses her simply-drawn characters with a wonderful depth of emotion, perhaps thanks to the familiar situations.'
- *8Weekly.com*

'Her completely individual style and the way she is building a consistent and self-contained oeuvre makes Maaïke Hartjes a unique comic artist. Her trademark is a style that can best be described as expressive minimalism. In a period when the comic world was still a thoroughly male stronghold, she stole all the laughs.'
- Jury report, *Stripschapprijs* 2016

New & Noteworthy

Published in the Netherlands

An insightful guide to the jungle of Brussels

Luuk van Middelaar
Europe From the Summit.
The Prospects After Ten Years of Crisis

De nieuwe politiek van Europa (2017)
20,000 copies sold
English sample translation available

Rights: Historische Uitgeverij,
Patrick Everard,
international@historischeuitgeverij.nl
Rights sold: Brazilian (É realizações),
French (Gallimard)

'Europe From the Summit enables readers to grasp and interpret Europe's Fraught power struggle. Luuk van Middelaar shows how politicians in Brussels, Berlin, Paris, London and The Hague are reshaping the Union for the future in fits and starts.'

– *Athenaeum.nl*



'While many books about Europe are boring and stodgy, this one contains countless pacy passages, a coherent vision and original perspectives.'

– *Liberales*

Italy as political trendsetter

Pepijn Corduwener & Arthur Weststeyn
Italy as a Place of Experiment:
How Europe's Most Beautiful Country Invented Modern Politics

Proeftuin Italië. Hoe het mooiste land van Europa de moderne politiek uitvond (2018)

Rights: Prometheus,
Ronit Palache, r.palache@pbo.nl

Italy is often seen as lagging behind politically. The writers of this book turn this image upside down with the radical claim that whatever happens in Italian politics is prescient for the whole of Europe.

'In Italy as a Place of Experiment, historians and Italy experts Pepijn Corduwener and Arthur Weststeyn lay out the history of the country, from Garibaldi in the nineteenth century to Grillo. Referencing key



political figures, but also novels, films and music, they explain how the most beautiful country in Europe has grown into a testing ground for the modern world.'

– *Hebban.nl*

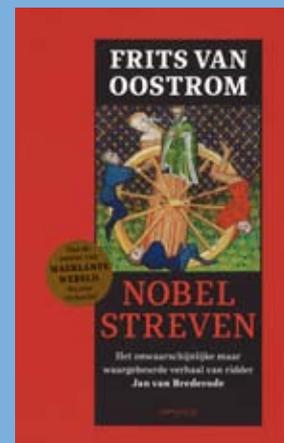
A tantalizing glimpse into the Middle Ages, in the vein of DUBY, Le Goff and Le Roy Ladurie

Frits van Oostrom
Noble Endeavour: The
Improbable but True Story of
the Knight Jan van Brederode

Nobel streven. Het onwaarschijnlijk maar waar gebeurde verhaal van ridder Jan van Brederode (2017)
10,500 copies sold
English sample available

Rights: Prometheus,
Ronit Palache, r.palache@pbo.nl

Jan van Brederode was born into most fortuitous circumstances around 1372. He died ingloriously not quite forty years later in the famous Battle of Agincourt, a soldier of fortune. Taking the form of a historical detective story, Noble Endeavour reconstructs the course of his unusual life.



'The life story of Jan van Brederode, as described in such detail by Van Oostrom, seems almost to be a historical novel, so fantastic are some of its events.'

– *Athenaeum.nl*

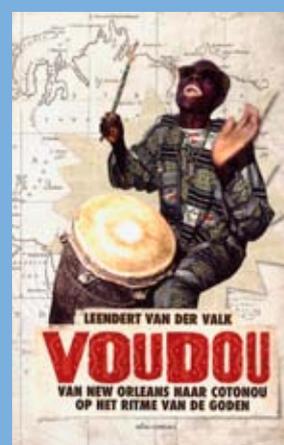
A bible for black music lovers

Leendert van der Valk
Voodoo: From New Orleans
to Cotonou on the Rhythm
of the Gods

Voodoo. Van New Orleans naar Cotonou op het ritme van de goden (2017)
Complete English translation available

Rights: Atlas Contact,
Hayo Deinum,
hdeinum@atlascontact.nl

A journey through the music of New Orleans, Haiti, Suriname, Togo and Benin; ancient West African trance rituals and their influence on black music.



'As a participatory journalist, the author is fully involved, without relinquishing the level-headed perspective of a non-believer. An exciting combination.'

– *NRC Handelsblad*

Recent Translations

This is a selection of recently published translations from the Dutch. For more information please go to our online database of translations www.vertalingendatabase.nl.



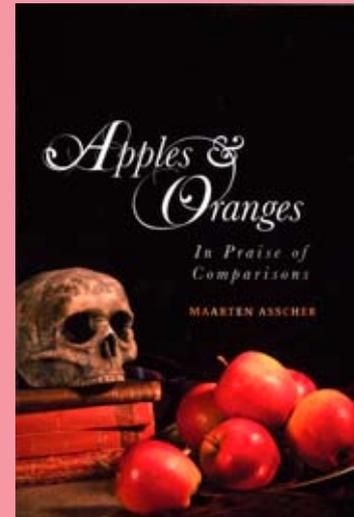
Midas Dekkers
The Story of Shit

De kleine verlossing of de lust van ontlasten
Published in English by Text Publishing in 2018. Translated by Nancy Forest-Flier.



Vincent van Gogh
Selected Letters

Brieven
Published in Arabic by Al Kotob Khan (2017). Translated by Yasser Abdel Latif. Also in Chinese (Shanghai Fine Arts Publishing), German (C.H. Beck), English (Yale UP), French (Actes Sud), Italian (Donzelli), Norwegian (Aschehoug) and Turkish (Yapi Kredi).



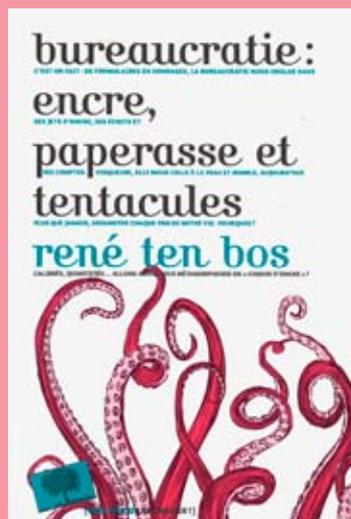
Maarten Asscher
Apples and Oranges

Appels en peren
Published in English by Four Winds Press. Translated by Brian Doyle.



Carry Ulreich
Nachts träum ich vom Frieden. Tagebuch 1941-1945

's Nachts droom ik van vrede
Published in German by Aufbau Verlag (2018). Translated by Simone Schroth. Also in Spanish (La Esfera de los Libros), Italian (Longanesi) and Portuguese (Porto Editore).



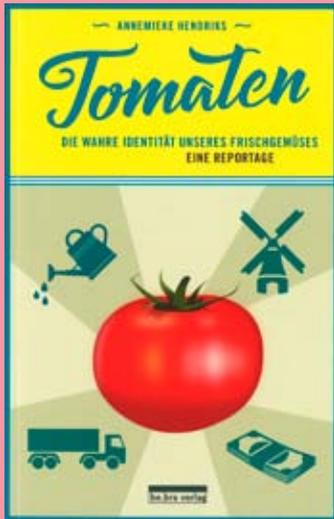
René ten Bos
Bureaucratie: encre, paperasse et tentacules

Bureaucratie is een inktvis
Published in French by Le Pommier (2017). Translated by Francine Melka.



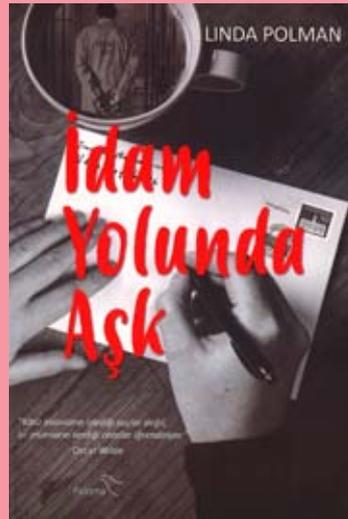
Pauline de Bok
Beute. Mein Jahr auf der Jagd

Buit. Een jachtjaar
Published in German by C.H. Beck (2018). Translated by Gregor Seferens. Also in Danish (Rosinante, 2017).



Annemiek Hendriks
Tomaten

De tomaat en de bizarre wereld van vers voedsel
Published in German by be.bra Verlag (2017). Translated by the author.



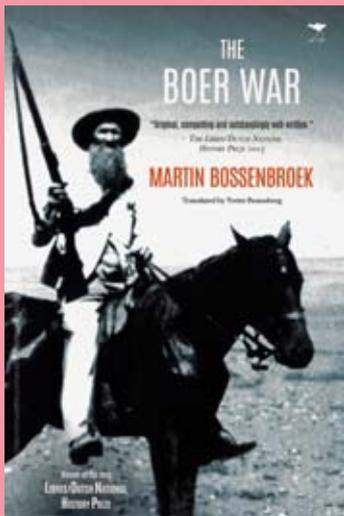
Linda Polman
İdam Yolunda Aşk

Death Row Dollies
Published in Turkish by Paloma (2017).
Translated by Erhan Gürer. Also in Polish (Czarne).



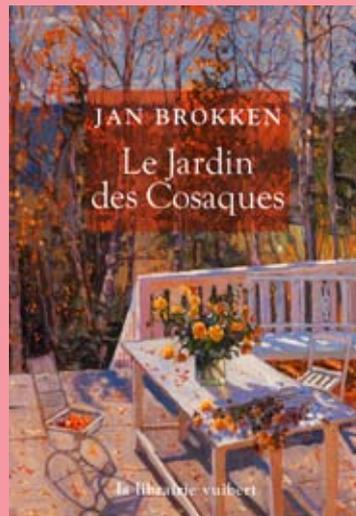
Francine Oomen
Francine se desarregla. Una memoria gráfica, sin complejos, sobre un tema tabú: la menopausia

Published in Spanish by Ediciones B (2018).
Translated by Marta Arguilé Bernal. Also in German (Droemer Knaur), Swedish (Wahlström & Widstrand).



Martin Bossenbroek
The Boer War

De Boerenoorlog
Published in English by Seven Stories Press (2018). Translated by Yvette Rosenberg. Also in South African (Jacana), German (C.H. Beck) and French (Seuil).



Jan Brokken
Le Jardin des Cosaques

De Kozakkentuin
Published in French by Vuibert (2018).
Translated by Mireille Cohendy. Also in Italian (Iperborea).



Alexander Münninghoff
L'héritier du nom. Chronique familiale

De stamhouder. Een familiechroniek
Published in French by Payot & Rivages (2018). Translated by Philippe Noble. Also in Czech (Mladá Fronta).

Koos van Zomeren
All the Birds

Hella Rottenberg &
Sandra Rottenberg
Isay Rottenberg's Cigar Factory

Bennie Mols &
Nieske Vergunst
Hello Robot

Mathijs Deen
Down Old Roads

Angela Dekker & Jessica Voeten
Fearless and Reckless

Guido van Hengel
The Prophets of Europe

Ivo van Vulpen
Nature's Melody

Els van Diggele
We Hate Each Other
More than the Jews

Jeroen Koch
The House of Orange
in War & Revolution

Maaïke Hartjes
Burnout Diary

Nederlands
letterenfonds
dutch foundation
for literature

Postbus/PO Box 16588
NL – 1001 RB Amsterdam
t +31 (0)20 520 73 00
post@letterenfonds.nl
www.letterenfonds.nl

visiting address
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

Quality Non-Fiction from Holland
is published by the Dutch
Foundation for Literature. The
bulletin is distributed to foreign
publishers and editors.
If you would like to receive *Quality
Non-Fiction from Holland*, please
contact post@letterenfonds.nl.

Editors

Mireille Berman, Dick Broer,
Michele Hutchison, David McKay

Printing

Platform P

Design

Kummer & Herrman, Utrecht