

Association for Low Countries Studies, Britain and Ireland

8th Biennial Conference UCD Dublin 2010 *

***Communicating, Remembering, Reconstructing –
an Interdisciplinary Conference for Low Countries Studies***

Abstracts, 6 January 2010:

Theme 1 : Constructing memory : remembering and reconstructing the past in different guises:

1. J. Fenoulhet (UCL) : *From Personal to Public Memory*

This paper looks at the relationship between the personal and the public in the work of two Dutch writers both concerned with representing the past. Both E. du Perron and Hella S. Haasse explore the interplay between personal pasts and the more public past of political and social events. Reflection on their own personal experience has led them to recreate colonial childhoods in the novels *Het land van herkomst* and *Sleuteloog* - an aspect of their work that has been warmly received. But neither writer is satisfied with the purely personal because they see it as connected to larger political events. Both counterpose the politics of world events to the experiences of the unknowing child.

Furthermore, both Du Perron and Haasse have experimented in their historical writings with the way in which egodocuments mediate personal experience. I shall be discussing *Schandaal in Holland* (Du Perron, 1939) and *Mevrouw Bentinck* (Haasse, 1990) as examples of this experimentation. As reconstructions of aristocratic family life in the eighteenth century inspired by public scandals, the two texts offer a compelling combination of the personal and the public.

*** (The Association of Low Countries Studies in Britain and Ireland (ALCS) would like to acknowledge the generous support and assistance of *Nederlandse Taalunie (NTU)*, The Hague for the hosting of this UCD-Dublin Conference).**

2. T. Jackson (TCD) :

Dutch interest in Irish affairs in the 17th and 18th centuries, as evidenced by the Fagel Collection in the Library of T.C.D.

My paper is based primarily on the thousands of political and religious pamphlets in the Fagel Collection. While those with an exclusively or primarily Irish (as opposed to generally British) interest are comparatively few, they are nevertheless sufficiently numerous to indicate a substantial interest in Irish affairs in the 17th and 18th centuries in the Netherlands.

My first impression when surveying the content of more than two hundred volumes of the Collection, each with twenty or thirty pamphlets bound together, was that an extraordinarily large number of foreign-language pamphlets of all kinds and with many provenances was being translated for a Dutch readership at this time. Hundreds of these relate to events in the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland.

The greatest concentration of Irish material relates to the rebellion of 1641 and the immediately following years. Another, smaller, cluster of pamphlets treats the Williamite revolution. The evidence of the pamphlets generally is that there was, understandably, a strong Dutch interest in the development of Reformist churches throughout Europe: Huguenot, Waldensian, Hussite and, not least, the Reformed Church in Britain and Ireland. But more than mere interest was involved: there was clearly two-way communication between, for example, Dutch and Irish Protestants, indeed something of a network of support.

The atrocities allegedly perpetrated by Catholics on Protestants in the course of the 1641 rebellion were presented in English-language pamphlets and their Dutch translations as an attempt at what today might be termed ethnic and confessional cleansing. Apart from the lurid content, however, what I have found particularly striking is the 'density' of production. Thus, of the translation of one

English-language pamphlet (*Yrlands Bloedende Request aen de Gereformeerde Kercken der Vereenigde Nederlandsche Provintien*) there are three printings (all 1643), possibly by different printers (all show differences of format and linguistic morphology), with two containing extra material (which, however, also appears as a separate publication).

As regards the thematic threads of the Conference: in the context of the Protestant Reformation the pamphlet can be seen as one of the preferred modes for the communication of the modern. On the other hand, and more negatively, some of the pamphlets that were made available to a Dutch readership in the mid-seventeenth century were involved in the manufacture of memories which appear to differ significantly from the reality to which they relate. It is my intention to explore these issues further.

3. E. Schillern (UCD - School of History and Archives)

[Government of Ireland Scholar - IRCHSS 2008]

The Dutch involvement in the War of the Three Kings in Ireland, 1689-91.

The involvement of the Dutch 'King Billy', or William of Orange, remains a focal point of the popular perception of the War of the Three Kings in Ireland (1689-91). In this conflict, the Catholic Irish, loyal to the disposed English king James II, fought with French support against the forces of the new king, William of Orange, who had come into power after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. But while William of Orange and his victory at the Battle of the Boyne are famous, there is much less awareness of the much wider Dutch participation in this Irish war. This paper aims to briefly explore this significant Dutch involvement in the War of the Three Kings, which has greatly been neglected in professional historical research to date.

The first part of the paper will examine both the political and military nature of the Dutch involvement in the War of the Three Kings. Dutch infantry, cavalry, dragoons and artillery all played key roles in the conflict. After William of Orange's departure from Ireland the command of the

Williamite forces was given into the hands of a Dutch general, Godard de Ginckel, who eventually negotiated the end of the war with the Treaty of Limerick. Furthermore, from 1690, the organisation and supplying of the forces was largely in Dutch hands, while the Dutch navy played a major role in patrolling the Irish coasts.

The second part of the paper aims to show how the examination of the Dutch involvement in Ireland can shed new light on the understanding of this key period in Irish history. Accessing new sources that have not been examined in connection to the War of the Three Kings, such as the journal of Constantijn Huygens, secretary of William of Orange, and the correspondence of Dutch diplomat Jacob Hop, offers new insights into the conflict. Furthermore, examining the War of the Three Kings from the Dutch point of view offers a different perspective on the conflict; most modern historians have focussed their research on the English and Irish context of the war. The Dutch, however, viewed the War of the Three Kings in the context of the War of the Grand Alliance, the larger European conflict in which the Dutch Republic and her allies fought against the French forces of Louis XIV. Placing the Irish conflict in its European context can help to increase understanding of motivations and actions of some of its key participants. Similarly, the study of the Dutch involvement in Ireland during the War of the Three Kings covers an aspect of Dutch history that has received very little attention in historical research. While some research has been done on the Dutch involvement in the Glorious Revolution, Dutch historians of the period have focussed largely on the War of the Grand Alliance as it was fought on the continent. A study of the Dutch participation in the Irish war highlights that the conflict extended far beyond the main battlefields of the Spanish Netherlands.

4. S. De Schepper (Warwick – Centre for the Study of the Renaissance)

[English / Engels]

"This Dutch Pilot I haue onely taught to speake English":

Dutch influence on English navigation through the medium

of printed translations, 1584-1640.

This paper explores an aspect of Anglo-Dutch relations in the Renaissance, namely the influence of Dutch knowledge on English navigation through the medium of printed translations. That the rising success of the English navy and the country's pursuits in trade and exploration are in large part due to their fastidious gathering of up-to-date intelligence is no secret. But what role did the Low

Countries play in this? What kind of information did the English look for in the Low Countries? When was it most useful to them? And how did they communicate their findings to an English-speaking audience?

My aim is thus to track Dutch influence on English navigation by looking at the English translations that appeared in print between 1500 and 1640. In doing so, I hope to answer the questions outlined above.

For this reason, I have established a corpus of texts concerning navigation and closely related topics on the grounds of the following parameters: 1) the text appeared in print, 2) the text was published between 1500 and 1640, and 3) the text is a translation into English. In a second phase, I explore the agents concerned in this process of gathering and distributing said texts. These range from the authors, to the translators, dedicatees/patrons, printers, publishers, booksellers, intended audience/readers, and occasionally also merchant companies/communities and universities. Identifying meaningful clusters and relationships will then lead me to wider overarching social networks.

Statistical analysis of the corpus shows that twenty percent of said texts were translated from Dutch. These include translations from the works of Lucas Jansz Waghenaer, Cornelis de Houtman, Jan Huygen van Linschoten, Gerrit de Veer, Jacob Corneliszoon van Neck, Simon Stevin, Willem Corneliszoon Schouten, and Willem Janszoon Blaeu. The first translation from Dutch in this corpus appeared in 1584. The most intensive period of translating from this language was around the turn of the century. A close Anglo-Dutch working relationship was that between Edward Wright and Simon Stevin, who commented on each other's work and helped distributing it in their respective home countries, as well as jointly tried to further Prince Maurice's project of achieving worldwide accurate "position finding".

Renaissance England seems to have looked to the Low Countries to complement their own knowledge of navigation and add to it through the means of translating from Dutch. This took place on a technical-scientific (e.g. Stevin's position finding), practical (e.g. Waghenaer's coastal profiles), political (e.g. East India Company vs. Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) and commercial (e.g. Linschoten's trade routes to the Indies) level. The whole process, as evident from the list of dedicatees for example, was supported by the English aristocracy and members of the court, and through them the merchant companies, in this case specifically the East India Company.

[Nederlands]

"This Dutch Pilot I haue onely taught to speake English":

**Nederlandse invloed op Engelse navigatie door het medium van
gedrukte vertalingen, 1584-1640**

De lezing behandelt een minder bekend aspect van Engels-Nederlandse relaties in de Renaissance, namelijk de invloed van Nederlandse kennis op Engelse navigatie door het medium van gedrukte vertalingen. Dat het rijzende succes van de marine en de Engelse handels- en ontdekkingsijver grotendeels te danken zijn aan het vlijtig bijeenprokkelen van up-to-date informatie is geen geheim. Maar welke rol speelden de Lage Landen daarin? Welk soort informatie zochten de Engelsen in de Lage Landen? Wanneer was het voor hen het meest nuttig? And hoe deelden ze hun bevindingen mee aan een Engelstalig publiek?

Mijn doel is dus om de Nederlandse invloed op Engelse navigatie na te gaan door te kijken naar de Engelse vertalingen die in druk verschenen tussen 1500 en 1640. Op die manier hoop ik bovenstaande vragen te beantwoorden.

Om die reden heb ik een corpus teksten over navigatie en nauw daarbij aansluitende onderwerpen samengesteld op basis van de volgende parameters: 1) de tekst verscheen in druk, 2) de tekst werd uitgegeven tussen 1500 en 1640, en 3) de tekst is een vertaling naar het Engels. In een tweede fase onderzoek ik de verschillende agenten betrokken bij het verzamelen en verspreiden van deze teksten. Dat zijn zowel auteurs als vertalers, opdrachtgevers en gedicaceerden, drukkers, uitgevers, boekverkopers, verwacht publiek en lezers, en soms ook gilden, verenigingen en universiteiten. Identificatie van betekenisvolle clusters en relaties zal me dan leiden tot bredere overkoepelende sociale netwerken.

Statistische analyse van het corpus toont aan dat twintig procent van deze teksten vertaald werden uit het Nederlands. Hiertussen vindt men ondermeer vertalingen van de werken van Lucas Jansz Waghenaer, Cornelis de Houtman, Jan Huygen van Linschoten, Gerrit de Veer, Jacob Corneliszoon Schouten, en Willem Janszoon Blaeu. De eerste vertaling uit het Nederlands in dit corpus verscheen in 1584. De meest intensieve periode voor vertalingen uit deze taal was rond de eeuwwisseling. Een hechte Engels-Nederlandse werkrelatie was die tussen Edward Wright en Simon Stevin, die mekaars werk becommentarieerden en hielpen te verspreiden in hun respectieve

thuisland, alsook gezamenlijk het project van Prins Maurits ondersteunden om wereldwijde accurate “plaatsbepaling” te bereiken.

Renaissance Engeland lijkt naar de Lage Landen te hebben gekeken om zijn eigen kennis van navigatie aan te vullen en verder uit te breiden door middel van vertaling uit het Nederlands. Dit vond plaats op zowel technisch-wetenschappelijk (vb. Stevins plaatsbepaling), praktisch (vb. Waghenaers kustprofielen), politiek (vb. East India Company vs. Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) en commercieel (vb. Linschotens handelsroutes naar de Indies) vlak. Dit hele proces, zoals duidelijk blijkt uit o.a. de lijst van gedicaceerden, werd ondersteund door de Engelse aristocratie en hovelingen, en via hen de handelsverenigingen, in dit geval specifiek de East India Company.

5. S. McDonald (UCD – School of Information and Library Studies)

“Freshest advices ? ” Researching the arrival of

English and Low Countries News at Dublin, pre-1802.

Among those actively researching Ireland’s transition to an ‘Information Society’, a modern ‘knowledge economy’, there is repeated encounter, confrontation even, with firms and companies from both the Netherlands and Belgium. Examples would be Swets, since 1901, Elsevier (Reed Elsevier) since 1880 / 1580, and now, more recently Brepols (since 1949) , the new providers of the online *Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH)* from January 2010. Ireland’s recognition of a distinctive Low Countries link, an enabler of access to News, Abstracting Services/ Current affairs reporting, however, dates back far beyond these modern providers. The Elzevier dynasty alone furnished many editions, in the key languages of Europe, to stock the Library of Trinity College Dublin, and other secular collections throughout the country. In literary and political domains, particularly for the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the impact of French-language, but *Dutch-published*, literary and cultural journals is well-known, such as the *Nouvelles de la république des lettres*, one of the most ‘modern’ European scholarly journals, with its extensive Reviewing and Abstracting services. Then, as now, the Low Countries were a significant hub, a gateway to wider cultural and intellectual horizons, albeit mediated so frequently through

acquired second languages, French, English, Latin, and through other European capital cities, above all through London.

What remains much less clear, however, is just how Irish readership access to everyday, mainstream *current* affairs and News reporting, particularly with regard to the Continent, was influenced by this long term structural dynamic. How was a reading community's *current* awareness of events elsewhere affected, and impeded even, by the country's *physical* geographic position, in effect an island beyond an island off the Continental mainland? Prior to mid-nineteenth century steamship comfort this meant that importing into Dublin the commodity of News, was – like any other commodity – subject to the very significant constraints of regional weather, wind and tidal conditions. Negotiating the often treacherous conditions in Dublin Bay, or at Waterford Harbour, or at the Port of Donaghadee, near Belfast, a town of a mere 20,000 inhabitants prior to 1802, was a continual physical barrier to the arrival of the latest Newspapers mailed from London. For readers located elsewhere in the country, especially in the West, with its rugged Atlantic coastline, the situation of access was even less optimal.

To what extent therefore did the English language papers, published in London, and imported through Dublin, or Waterford, enable reliable, i.e. *timely* access to information about what was happening in the Low Countries, and beyond in Europe? Leaving aside issues of potential censorship for the moment, what was the Dublin citizen's perception of 'timely' i.e. current News? Especially during very significant events, military campaigns, blockades, political overthrow/*coups d'état*, how long, on average, did the Dublin reader have to wait, before purchasing his copy from the nearest street vendor or hawker? To begin the answer to these questions, it was decided to undertake a reconstruction procedure— not available to previous literary or political commentators, like Wiles, Munter, Pollard, or Kennedy — namely the modelling of those *physical* environmental conditions which can be shown to have prevailed at particular seasons and dates for the arrival of mail and packet ships trying to enter Dublin Bay, for the start of the hazardous journey to the city's Custom House, on the estuary of the River Liffey, constructed 1791. Using the resources of recently digitised London and Dublin newspaper series, including the London *Observer*, the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*, specific events were identified, tracked and correlated with the tidal conditions known — thanks to the work of the UK Hydrographic Office — to have prevailed during the Calendar days of their importation, and reprinting /editing in Dublin's city centre. The focus was on the particularly turbulent years of the 1790s, with the start of the French Revolutionary wars, and the invasion of many Continental countries including the Low Countries. Initial results of this reconstruction from digital sources demonstrate clearly that the *physical*

transmission time for 'News' into Dublin editorial offices, was on average, just under a week, 5.3-5.7 days. Very rarely was 'News' in transit for less than four working days. What was 'News' for a Dublin reader therefore were the European concerns of a week ago in a London reader's milieu, and several examples clearly illustrate this time lag.

Indicators from the above pilot research also demonstrate as to what would be required for the full modelling for the *physical* arrival of Foreign Intelligence, in particular from the Low Countries. Thus far, however, from this reconstruction work, new intriguing dimensions have emerged for exploring the urban, especially *harbour city or port-town*, reception and awareness of 'Current affairs'. Ireland's harbour cities, as benchmarks for what was "current" and what was obsolete information, appear to have diverged markedly from their inland counterparts, with their readers sharing many more of the horizons and concerns of port communities elsewhere, rather than those of the inland counties.

6. J. P. McCarthy (UCC*)

Dutch Influence in the Urban Landscape of Cork city pre-1800 :

fact or myth ?

In the early years of the eighteenth century the Irish port town, Cork, saw an expansion of its city limits, an era of reconstruction both within and beyond the walls of its Medieval townscape and a reclamation of its marshlands to the east and west. New people, new ideas and the beginnings of new wealth infused the post Elizabethan character of the recently siege-battered city. It also brought a desire for something different, something new, an opportunity to redefine the ambience and visual perception of the urban landscape and thereby make a statement about its intended cultural and social orientations. It brought an opportunity to re-imagine and model a new, continental style of place and surrounding environment.

Tradition speaks of Dutch bricks being brought to Cork as ballast on returning merchant ships — thereby gradually introducing brick construction as a replacement for timber and stone masonry facades along its streets and laneways. Its marshland location provided the potential for development to the east and west along natural canals and their islands rather than than the north-

south, ridge and shoreline, ribbon development already in place. Perhaps the advantage of small vessel water transport to the city, the *lightering*, of imported goods — from the deeper draft holds of ships anchored further down river and within the tidal reaches of the inner harbour, was seen by city merchants as an important commercial consideration in deciding on a new urban design. The time and cost elements involved in overland transport from harbour hamlets such as Passage West could be reduced. A canal city emerged with merchant houses having a ‘canal side’ location; wharf- facing doorways at ground level facilitated easy handling of offloaded trade goods, above them external stairways rising to the front doors of the residences. Several of these buildings survive today.

On the western side of the city a ‘mayorality’ house was built with a bowling green adjacent to it. A terrace of nearby houses facing westwards to the setting sun was known as Prospect Row and indeed, at the far end of such a ‘prospect’ was a Teahouse situated at the end of a tree-lined promenade; a ditch sided embankment symbolising the emergence on the west side of the city of a fashionable quarter for polite and leisurely living complete with pleasure grounds. This was in contrast to the eastern side where communications and commercial aspirations opened to the outer harbour and the enticements of an emergent New World trade — often the last port of call ‘*en route*’, and a continuance of longstanding associations with Britain and the European continent. This promenade which is still a part of today’s Cork was called the ‘Meer Dyke’ or more commonly in later years, the Mardyke. It is perhaps at this place, this location, that a questioning of Dutch influence in the imagining and modelling of aspirations to create a water city at Cork might begin; the then ‘town clerk’ of the city was of Dutch ancestry. The paper will seek to identify indicative sources and a rationale for a more in-depth investigation.

Dr Jaap A. Jacobs (*Independent Scholar & Research Advisor, NY 400*)

[English / Engels]

**History and Heritage: The Complexities of New Netherland's
Colonial Afterlife, 1609-2009**

In September 1609, Henry Hudson entered New York Harbor and sailed up the river that now bears his name. His reports sparked the first direct contacts between the Netherlands and North America, as private merchants engaged in the lucrative fur trade with Native Americans in the area. In retrospect, Hudson's 1609 voyage came to be regarded as a seminal event, commemorated in the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration and, more recently, in the NY400 Quadricentennial Celebration. In 2009, scholarship, popular and public history, politics and diplomacy, as well as commercial interests intersected in producing a rare case study in which historical memory and legacy, the re-creation of historical images, and the making of modern mythology are combined. Drawing upon my historical research and my own involvement in 2009, my plenary paper will entail a critical assessment the Quadricentennial celebration, exploring the tensions between history and heritage, and highlighting some of the vexing questions that it presented.

[Nederlands]

Geschiedenis en Erfgoed: Het Complexe *Nachleben* van de kolonie

Nieuw-Nederland, 1609-2009

In september 1609 voer Henry Hudson de baai van New York binnen en zeilde de rivier op die nu nog zijn naam draagt. Berichten over zijn reis bereikten al snel de Republiek der Zeven Verenigde Nederland en aangezien private kooplieden geïnteresseerd waren in de potentieel lucratieve bonthandel en schepen uitstuurden werd de relatie met Noord-Amerika bestendig. Achteraf gezien werd Hudsons reis gebombardeerd tot een gebeurtenis van historische betekenis om vervolgens herdacht te worden bij de Hudson-Fulton Celebration van 1909 en, recentelijker, tijdens de NY400 Quadricentennial Celebration. In 2009 vormden historische wetenschap, populaire en publieke geschiedenis, politiek en diplomatie, samen met economische belangen een interessante mix waarin historische herinnering, erfgoed, de reconstructie van historische beeldvorming en moderne mythologie over elkaar buitelden. Gebaseerd op mijn historische onderzoek en mijn betrokkenheid bij de evenementen van 2009, zal ik in mijn plenaire voordracht een kritische analyse geven van de New York Quadricentennial herdenkingen, waarbij de vragen die de spanning tussen geschiedenis en erfgoed oproept, centraal staan.

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* <http://taalunieversum.org/en/>

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