

## I. REFERENCE WORKS

As compared with the first twenty-seven volumes, the supplements of the "Biographie Nationale" have the advantage that each volume covers the entire alphabet. Also the sphere of interest of the compilers was thoroughly changed : about ninety per cent of the total number of biographies was devoted to the contemporary history. Now they mostly deal with persons who followed a scientific career, along with artists and politicians. The number of lawyers, industrialists, financiers and military men discussed, is much smaller (1). (L.F.)

Remy Leenaerts provides us with a bibliographical survey of works which may contain genealogical data in Belgium and in the North of France. Along with general books of reference we find biographies, genealogies and works of an epigraphic, numismatic, sigillographic and palaeographic nature. Finally, there is a series of titles of periodicals having a genealogical nature, and a survey — per town or region — of local historical periodicals. The work contains over two hundred titles (2). (L.F.)

(1) *Biographie Nationale publiée par l'Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique*, XXXVIII, supplément tome X, fasc. 1 (Abrasart-Langhe), fasc. 2 (Langhe-Zone), Bruxelles, Emile Bruylant, 1973-1974, col. 1-848.

(2) Remy LEENAERTS, "Literaturverzeichnis für genealogische Forschungen in den südlichen Niederlande (Belgien und Nordfrankreich)", *Genealogisches Jahrbuch*, (herausgegeben von der Zentralstelle für Personen- und Familiengeschichte), Neustadt-an-der-Aisch, 1972, XII, pp. 17-36.

## II. INTERNAL POLITICAL TENSIONS

### 1. ELECTIONS AND PEOPLE ELECTED

Election-research in Belgium has long been a domain in which historians, sociologists and politicologists are active. Unfortunately, however, any co-ordination or conveyance of the results and methods from political science to history is virtually non-existent. Recently UCL-politicologist A.P. Frogner rightly argued in favour of closing this wide methodological gap (1). It is, indeed, obvious that the historical electoral research which was mainly focused on the 19th century, could thus be better related to the research-results covering the post-war elections which until now were studied almost exclusively by electoral sociology and politicology. From a survey of the special literature produced in the last five years, however, it appears again that this intention still belongs to the realm of wishful thinking. (E.W.)

On the part of the historians it is necessary in the first place to point to the publication, in the series of the C.I.H.C., of "Résultats des élections législatives en Wallonie de 1848 à 1893" (2) by the Liège historian Mrs. M. Simon-Rorive. It is probably remembered how, a few years ago, the existing gap with regard to the parliamentary election-results during the restricted-suffrage regime and the GPS (General Plural Suffrage) was filled by M. Moiné in a rather incomplete and haphazard way, so that the work must be consulted with the greatest caution (3).

It is to the merit of Mrs. Simon that she has, with great accuracy and in an attempt at being as exhaustive as possible in

(1) A.P. FROGNER, "Sociologie électorale et histoire", *Revue belge d'histoire contemporaine — Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, VI, 1975, pp. 391-402.

(2) M. SIMON-RORIVE, *Résultats des élections législatives (Chambre des Représentants et Sénat) en Wallonie de 1848-1893*, Louvain-Paris, 1977, 229 p. (Centre interuniversitaire d'Histoire contemporaine, Cahiers 83).

(3) *Bulletin critique d'histoire de Belgique et du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. 1972-1973*, Ghent, 1974, p. 93.

stating the partial election-results, definitely rendered Moiné's survey superfluous — at least for Wallonia. We can only regret that for the Flemish, the Flemish-Brabantine and the Brussels districts we must still have recourse to the above poor survey of results. Mrs. Simon on the other hand carefully consulted all sources available — including the regional press — and on this basis provides, per election and per electoral district, data with regard to the number of electors, people entitled to vote, the votes, absenteeism and the lists of candidates. The numbers of votes obtained per list were calculated with regard to the different totals. Even though we are now in possession of an effective and reliable insight into the exact electoral results of each election, it is to be regretted that the author should not have taken the pains afterwards to place the data in a diachronic perspective, per political tendency. Also the elaborate cartographic part of her work shows the same fault. After each election two series of maps are given : the first situates the majority-party geographically per district; the second indicates the proportions between the parties in a circular diagram. This constitutes an effort which we believe is not at all proportional to its usefulness : the maps are too far apart to be able to give a clear picture of a total evolution. Moreover, the cartographic presentation is a weak point in the work for another reason. After the excellent tradition built up by R. De Smet and R. Evalenko in this field as early as 1956 — an example followed by politicologist W. De Wachter — it is disappointing to see how historians still publish the most unsophisticated election-maps twenty years later. (E.W.)

Next to data-investigation spread over a rather long period and covering large geographic areas, a few regional studies were again published in the subsequent period. As was nearly always the case with similar research so far, the two studies considered here, do not go beyond a compilation of the 19th-century electoral facts, which are but very concisely placed against the background and as a part of a larger, coherent interplay of powers. The article devoted to the parliamentary elections at Hasselt (1830-1857) by P. Vandebroeck (1) restricts itself to the chronological account of the

(1) P. VANDEBROECK, "Parlementaire verkiezingen in het arrondissement Hasselt (1830-1857)", *Het oude Land van Loon*, XXIX, 1974, pp. 5-50.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

electoral events (composition of the lists, propaganda and vote), compiled on the basis of the local press to which he rightly attributes an important role. The newspapers, however, in no way possess the monopoly of the influencing work. Consequently, the role of the complex machinery built up by the personal influencing, must not be lost sight of in such an analysis. In another short article the author shows himself willing to take this factor into account (1), but it is not quite clear why, in his leading article, he should look for causal relations when considering solely the press as an influencing channel. W. Maervoet made roughly the same mental error. To an even larger extent he restricted his survey of the electoral evolution in the district of Ostend (1830-1914) (2) to an enumeration and a chronological concatenation of the electoral facts gathered, in which the local press likewise acts as the sole source. So, in both cases, we are confronted merely with introductions only which do not go very deeply into the electoral struggle for power, but the results of which must not be minimized too much either : at any rate they indicate useful trends for further research and broad syntheses. (E.W.)

The above-mentioned surveys only sporadically give biographical data about the people elected, but S. Minnaert on the other hand directs his entire attention to the 19th-century mandataries of Oudenaarde (2) and contributes to the research into the so-called political dynasties which, as we know, consists in grouping the families of which at least one member and spread over a minimum of two generations, belongs to the local or national political authorities. Then this group is analysed according to the social status and wealth of the members, their participation in social life, their involvement in the party-system, their geographic origin, etc. After an accurate definition of the concept in which the foreign literature is unfortunately left out, S. Minnaert gives a clear and quite a complete image of the local dynasties. Next to Alost, Courtray and Verviers we have now also an insight into the power concentrations in Oudenaarde families. Yet, one can wonder if it does

(1) P. VANDEBROECK, "Het optreden van kiesagenten en liberale verdeeldheid te Hasselt (1851)", *Limburg*, LV, 1976, 4, pp. 163-171.

(2) W. MAERVOET, "De politieke evolutie in het arrondissement Oostende (1830-1914)", *Ostendiana*, 1972, pp. 63-89.

(3) S. MINNAERT, "Politieke dynastieën te Oudenaarde van 1815 tot 1914", *Handelingen van de geschied- en oudheidkundige Kring van Oudenaarde*, XVIII, 1975, pp. 159-204.

make sense to continue the series within the framework of the elite-investigation. Is the family-relation indeed a sufficient criterion to grasp the phenomenon of the political elite ? In our opinion this question must be answered in the negative as long as the role of the family-relation in the political decision-making process cannot be weighed against the impact of other relations (social, financial, emotional, etc.). (E.W.)

So much for the principal contribution of the historians. The departments of electoral sociology of the U.L.B., U.C.L. and K.U.L. proved extremely active. This is illustrated by the different articles published by the "Institut belge de science politique" and the C.R.I.S.P. or which appeared in their respective publications "Res Publica" and "Courrier Hebdomadaire". In recent years both periodicals have pursued the same course as was adopted in the early sixties. For each national municipal — and for some time past — also for the provincial elections a group of specialists systematically compile the numerical data of the election-results, voting-renunciation, party-choice, and comment on the broad lines of argument. Problems such as list-composition, electoral platforms, political issues and propaganda-campaigns are dealt with in more and more detail. With regard to the latter subject attention should certainly be drawn to an original research-object started by the K.U.L. study-team directed by W. Dewachter. The elections of 1974 were indeed used as the starting-point for an investigation into the financial evaluation of the propaganda-campaigns (1). The amount invested which was calculated in a responsible way, proves extremely high (218 million Belgian francs !). Consequently, the authors pass a fundamental criticism on it and suggest alternatives for curbing this financial selection-criterion which is a flat mockery of the democratic rules.

For some time Belgian election-research has, moreover, clearly been influenced by the trend which is popular in Anglo-Saxon science nowadays. In line with the social-psychological and individualized way of explaining electoral behaviour, people more

(1) W. DEWACHTER, E. CLIJSTERS, E. DE GRAEVE-LISMONT, M. DE-WEERDT, *L'ampleur et le coût des campagnes électorales en Belgique*, Courrier hebdomadaire du C.R.I.S.P., no. 688, 20 June, 1975, 19 p.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

and more take the psychological direction and try also to trace the irrational aspect in electoral behaviour. In other words, they try to find explanatory factors which the persons concerned do not see themselves. In this the interest in the perception and the evaluation of the political parties by the voter, and in the relation between these opinions and the ideologies is very considerable. Consequently, this kind of election-research focuses on the dimensions in the party-system as they are experienced by the voters, and on the influence this has on electoral behaviour. So people subscribe to the so-called cleavage-investigation and try to explain electoral behaviour by taking the traditional party-preferences as the starting-point. They take the line that the way in which the parties came into existence and acquired their supporters on the basis of the conflict-zones of the time, has a determining influence on electoral behaviour. It is obvious that this kind of investigation pays a great deal of attention to historic evolution. In looking for the underlying dimensions in historic material, as well as in reducing the number of dimensions factor-analysis is introduced, whereas the spatial representation of these dimensions is done through multi-dimensional scale-methods. It is especially the U.C.L.team which in Belgium ventured into this methodological field. By means of an attitude-investigation of the Walloon electorate after the 1968 elections, D. Seiler and J. Raes went in search of the perception of the three conflict-zones in Belgian politics : the social-economic, the clerical-anticlerical and the communal conflicts (1). It appeared that the first conflict has the strongest influence on electoral behaviour, the second has less influence and the perception of the third conflict is rather weak. These results induced D. Seiler to investigate into the impact of the philosophical controversy at great length in "Le Déclin du Cléricisme" (2) using the same method, and to come to the confirmation of earlier research-results which point at a declericalization of Walloon politics. His work also is preceded by a diachronic analysis of the "ecological" data, so that it offers an elaborate survey of the electoral behaviour of the Walloon voters since 1945. (E.W.)

Meanwhile A.P. Frogner published a part of his doctoral thesis, "Le vote et les clivages. Distances entre partis, clivages sociopoliti-

(1) D. SEILER, J. RAES, *Idéologies et citoyens*, Brussels, 1970.

(2) Brussels, Institut belge de science politique, 1975.

ques et transferts des voix" (1), in which he also studies electoral behaviour in the three regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) through the evaluation of the party-system by the voter. Like Seiler he also works with the three traditional planes of conflict and tries to find the cohesion between the parties and the underlying conflict-dimensions. At the same time he tries to determine the impact of the mutual distance between the parties on vote-shifting. (E.W.)

Also in the framework of his "cleavage election-investigation" V.E. McHale and D. Paranzino examine how the unequal social-economic development of the Belgian regions has had a direct influence on the rise and evolution of the communal parties (2). For this purpose they accurately expose the factors at the root of this evolution, first for the period from 1930 to 1945 and subsequently for the postwar period. Among the most important indices are : the emigration-immigration proportion, employment, population-density, demographic growth, commuting workforce and degree of urbanization. For each canton these data are compared with the electoral results. The factor-analysis which is subsequently applied, indeed shows that interesting correlations exist between the rise of the "opposition ethnico-politique" and the different socio-economic development of the two regions. (E.W.)

Finally, also the study by M. Quevit and M. Aiken is closely associated with this "cleavage-investigation" (3). Indeed, it is their intention to consider, likewise in a diachronic perspective, the relation between the electoral behaviour on the one hand, and the party-system on the other hand, and possibly to recognize a certain dynamic in it. To this end they introduce the fractionalization-index : the larger the number of parties during a certain election and the more votes are equally divided among the different parties, the

(1) In A.P. FROGNIER, V.E. McHALE, D. PARANZINO, *Vote, clivages socio-politiques et développement régional en Belgique*, Louvain, 1974.

(2) V.E. McHALE, D. PARANZINO, *L'impact du développement régional. L'Evolution du développement régional et la transformation de l'opposition ethnico-politique en Belgique*, Louvain, 1974.

(3) M. QUEVIT & M. AIKEN, *La compétition politique au sein du système politique belge (1919-1974)*, *Courrier hebdomadaire du C.R.I.S.P.*, no. 669-670, 24 January, 1975, 51 p.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

higher this score is. The authors calculated it for the 17 elections held in Belgium between 1919 and 1974. The results clearly indicate that periods with a low fractionalization-index (1919-1932 and 1946-1958) alternate with periods characterized by keen party-competition (1936-1939; 1961-1974), whereas also regional differences can be noticed between Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders. The catholic and socialist parties are very sensitive to the changing attitudes of the electorate; the competition with the newly rising parties always proves disadvantageous for them. The liberal party acts as a shock-absorber, always parrying the results of the shiftings in the party-system. If the supporters of the catholics and socialists are to be considered very party-faithful, the liberal electorate on the other hand is subject to strong fluctuations. (E.W.)

## 2. THE BRABANT REVOLUTION

The bicentenary of the United States didn't occasion a large interest in the relations between Belgium and the new state nor in the connections between their revolutions. However Prof. J. Ver-cruijsse — a specialist of the eighteenth century press in the Austrian Netherlands — consecrated a study to the American revolution and independance in the mainly Brussels press at the time of the so-called Brabant Revolution, a study defined by the author as an essay about the physionomy of journalism in this period. An annex of the article comprises a provisional list of the Brussels newspapers classified according to their political lines. The article shows how the American example, its ideology, its leaders were appreciated in political commentaries and how they were used in the political argument in some leading papers. (1) (L.D.)

Jeanne-Marie Josèphe van Beughem was the eldest daughter of a lawyer with the Sovereign Council of Brabant. Her brother was the secretary of Cardinal von Franckenberg and her sister was married to an official of the chancellery of War and secretary in the War Depart-

(1) J. VERCRUIJSSE, "L'indépendance américaine et la révolution brabantonne", *Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire*, LIV, 1976, 4, pp. 1098-1108.

ment during the Brabant Revolution. She obviously sympathized with the Statistic party and was in an excellent position to follow political life in which, however, being a woman, she did not play a part herself. In her diary in which she sided against Austria and against the vonckists, she draws a fine picture of daily life in Brussels between 1789 and 1795. Boijen's accounts of the different stages of this period are always preceded by a concise but excellent situation-description. (1) (L.F.)

### 3. UNDER FRENCH AND DUTCH GOVERNMENT

As a survey of the history of the Walloon regions between 1792 and 1830 André Tihon's article (2) is quite remarkable. In an excellent synthesis between a chronological and a thematic approach we are acquainted with the period of the French Revolution, the Directory, the Napoleonic regime, the allied transition-government and the reign of William I. For those different stages attention is paid to the action, the composition and the powers of the central and local authorities and the judicial and financial apparatus. For the period of the Directory the author, moreover, goes into further details with regard to the assimilation-policy, the secularization of society, the relation with the church and compulsory military service. For the period between 1799 and 1814 also the church-state relation and the conscription-problem are dealt with. The principal items of the Dutch period are the policy with regard to the church, education and linguistic management. Apart from a brief bibliographical survey, this article — which has a vulgarizing purpose — does not contain any source-references. (L.F.)

The "Peasants War", the "Vendée belge" was undoubtedly the most spectacular political manifestation of the French period. Until

(1) R. BOIJEN, "Brussel op het einde van het Ancien Régime. Het dagboek van Jeanne-Marie-Josèphe van Beughem (21 november 1789 - 17 maart 1795)", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Militaire Geschiedenis*, 1976, XXI, 8, pp. 805-827; XXII, 1, pp. 38-62.

(2) A. TIHON, "Des provinces dans un état centralisé", *La Wallonie, le pays et les hommes*, I, pp. 245-267.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

some years ago, its history was that of its ideological sympathisers. After the revival of its study by the works of J. Grauwels, two recent studies came to complete our knowledge in this subject for the Scheldt department and the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg. Both the authors founded their study on the use of neglected series of documents produced by the French administration. They succeeded in making remarkable accounts on the events in these parts of the former Austrian Netherlands. However one could like to see the other possible sources used. M. Roosen relates the events in the cantons of the Scheldt department (1). His account shows a striking differentiated portrait of the attitude of the local population. Quite a lot of villages and towns refused to get involved in the insurrection, which seems to have been limited to definite cantons and to a few bands of at most 500-700 rebels. Facing an interesting account one can regret the omission of a conclusion and researches into the context of the events.

F. Decker studies the Luxemburg pendant, the "Klöppelkrieg", as caused by the political and the institutional reforms of the French republic and especially the conscription laws. (2) His principal sources consisted in the French records about the latter. This exhaustive study of riots and insurrections, their context and course can be considered as a remarkable contribution to the knowledge of popular revolts. This author too insists upon the very different attitudes of the population towards the republican reforms and upon the connection between the religious factor and the conscription. Following M. Decker the characteristics of revolt and non-revolt are determined by "the spirit of regionalism" and the revolt itself by a popular aversion for the military — untill then composed of nobles and people without faith nor law. This phenomena and other interesting data — the distinction made by the rural people between a respected parish clergy and the regulars whose suppression didn't provoke any significant negative reaction, the way of rallying rebelling bands, the obvious influence of rumors about the next victory of the Imperial armies on the decision to revolt — indicate the broader context in which the "Klöppelkrieg" took

(1) M. ROOSEN, "De Boerenkrijg in het Schelddedepartement", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Militaire Geschiedenis*, XXI, 1975, pp. 85-104.

(2) François DECKER, "Le soulèvement de l'an VII appelé Klöppelkrieg", *Hémecht, Zeitschrift für Luxemburger Geschichte*, XXVI, 1974, 4, pp. 439-472; XXVII, 1975, 1, pp. 33-48.

place. However a more fundamental study will have to include those of the Josephian period (a revolution in law and order, which was very appreciated by the Luxemburg peasants), of the social, economic and mental backgrounds in the short and in the long run. (L.D.)

Mr. Beterams, conservator of the General State Archives, published several lists of names of the periode 1814-1815, which were drawn up by order of William I, Sovereign Ruler and later King of the Low Countries. Indeed, he wanted to be informed on the mentality of his new subjects and wished to know whom he could trust. Consequently, the intendants very discreetly made inquiries about the socially prominent people as to their age, civil status, assets, functions, physical, economic and political characteristics. These lists were useful for the composition of the Chambers and for the choice of notables who were to give their opinion upon the draft constitution.

Though that mass of material will facilitate identification, Beterams's work presents some deficiencies that are rather serious. The author does state that he copied the definitive lists of notables for the constitution in The Hague, but does not say that similar documents are also in Brussels. Moreover, in The Hague there are lists stating the votes cast by all notables (Staatssecretarie, nr. 6545). The insertion of these data would have considerably enhanced the value of Beterams's work and could also have done away with the fact that the spelling of personal names is often poor and not uniform. Neither does Beterams state the currency in terms of which the income is mentioned.

The complete indices contain both personal names, place-names and occupations, and form a very useful instrument. The alternately unilingual and bilingual character makes a strange effect. With a relatively small additional effort this work could have become much more useful. (1) (L.F.)

The introduction of the catalogue "Ghent and King William I" consists of a historical survey of the principal facets of public life

(1) F.G.C. BETERAMS, *The High Society belgo-luxembourgeoise (avec celle des arrondissements de Bréda, Maestricht et de Ruremonde) au début du gouvernement de Guillaume Ier, roi des Pays-Bas 1814-1815*, Wetteren, Cultura, 1973, XVI-614 pp.

in the town of Ghent during that reign. In a concise and clear way we are familiarized with the opposition of the clergy to the new constitution, the education-policy of the king, the situation of the press, the evolution in economic life, the history around the origin of the Ghent-Terneuzen canal, the alterations in the town-image and the different societies concerned with artistic and spiritual life. The exhibition itself contained 217 displays of objects, portraits and documents from several Ghent collections. Of each of them a technical description is given (author, measurements, material), followed by a brief historical situation-description. Thus that catalogue has become an almost indispensable guide to captivating iconographical and historical material. (1) (L.F.)

In December, 1826 King William I organized a competition in which the participants were required to give their opinion on the possibility of writing a general history of the Low Countries and to give a survey of the necessary sources. This project fitted into the spirit of the time, but also into the king's desire to amalgamate the two parts of his country. Also the foreign example inspired the king : the German "Gesellschaft für ältere Deutsche Geschichtskunde" dated from 1819 and the French "Ecole des Chartes" was established in 1821.

Among the seventeen answers sent in from the Southern Netherlands especially those of Gachard, de Reiffenberg and Moke deserve our attention. The former pointed out that it was impossible to start writing a history at that moment and argued for the establishment of a "Commission historiographique", which would be engaged in the publication of sources. That idea was realized as early as July, 1827. Not until March, 1830 was it announced that five participants from the Northern Netherlands were rewarded.

The idea of appointing the winner royal historiographer had already been given up by that time. (2) (L.F.)

(1) *Tentoonstelling. Gent en Willem I (1814-1830). Herinneringen.* Compiled by J. DECAVELE and R. DE HERDT, Ghent, Cultural Affairs Office, 1974, 78 pp.

(2) F. VERCAUTEREN, "Le concours historique de 1826 organisé dans le royaume des Pays-Bas", *Bulletin de la classe des Lettres et Sciences morales et politiques*, LXII, 1976, 10-11, pp. 303-319 (Académie royale de Belgique).

J. Bartier's article on the prehistory of the Union between liberals and catholics of 1827 does excel by its originality. (1) As usual this author again combines in this article his very broad erudition and his sense of descriptive detail with insight into the biography of the characters he puts upon the stage. This time it is the editor of the liberal "Observateur belge", P. Van Meenen, and the one of the catholic "Spectateur", L. de Foere. In view of their attitude and their relations he demonstrates how, on the ideological plane, they were the pioneers of unionism and how considerable their influence was on the generation which brought the Union about. Thus the U.L.B.-professor weatens the thesis that Lammenais should have played a dominant role in bringing about the "monstrous alliance". (E.W.)

#### 4. ON THE REVOLUTION OF 1830

In spite of the countless articles devoted to the Belgian revolution over the years, 1830 still remains a subject about which the final word has not yet been spoken. There remain obscure points in this complex revolutionary process. We can only hope that, on the occasion of Belgium's 150th anniversary, several historians will add new knowledge to what we know so far. In the subsequent period this topic was also dealt with and a few interesting details were given further definitions to which we shall revert later. First, however, we want to point to a few syntheses, in which the known information was gathered in a meritorious way.

For a fragment in the collective work on "La Wallonie" the Liège conservator, A. Cordewiener, converted the existing recent literature into a concise and well-balanced synthesis (2). Thanks to his own investigation into the political events in the Liège region,

(1) J. BARTIER, "Aux sources de l'Unionisme et du Libéralisme : 'L'Observateur belge' 1815-1820", *Eglise et Etat. Mélanges A. Simon*, Brussels, 1975, pp. 37-68.

(2) A. CORDEWIENER, "1830 en Wallonie", *La Wallonie. Le Pays et les Hommes. Histoire, économies, sociétés, II. De 1830 à nos jours*, Brussels, 1976, pp. 11-22.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

this survey undeniably contains a number of new elements, especially with regard to orangism and reunionism. However, the author had too few pages at his disposal to be able to prove really original, and to define the Walloon contribution to 1830 accurately, comparing it with that of the other regions. (E.W.)

Without many strictly scientific pretensions, but rather addressed to the public at large, the Dutch historian van der Hoeven provided us with a fluent, vulgarizing but yet historically justified booklet on the Ten-day Campaign of August, 1831 (1). The classical literature about 1830, along with the published sources and a considerable number of original ego-documents of soldiers from that time, constitute the basic material for his gripping story. The purpose of this military operation is well-known : it was undertaken by William I to reinforce the diplomatic negotiations in London, which corresponded with the view that war was the continuation of the policy with other means. The outcome — the defeat of the Belgian army and the French intervention — in effect strengthened the Dutch position in London and formed the basis of the XXIV-Article Treaty which was more disadvantageous to Belgium.

Van der Hoeven approaches this episode from the aftermath of the revolution mainly from the Dutch position in the conflict. Much attention is paid to the way in which the Dutch army was recruited, the prevailing atmosphere, the military preparations and the strength of the effectives. A lively description of the execution of the strategy developed results in following, step by step, all the movements made by the army during this campaign. From the point of view of the Dutch offensive we witness the battles which were sometimes fierce and protracted and which caused considerable losses on both sides. Though the analysis of the military operation is the gist of the work, the author rightly deemed it necessary to preface it briefly with the well-known facts of the union between North and South, the revolution of 1830 and the diplomatic tournament in London. Neither does he leave out the summary of the developments which are in a direct line with the Campaign and consequently span the period 1831-1839. Without wishing to reproach the author with

(1) H. VAN DER HOEVEN, *De Belgische beroerte : de tiendaagse veldtocht en de scheuring der Nederlanden, 1830-1839*, Amsterdam, 1973, 206 pp.

characteristics which are inherent in the vulgarizing conception of his work, we must point out that his knowledge of the special literature on the Belgian and especially the French-speaking side, is very restricted. This creates an "old-fashioned" impression, made in some parts of the pre- and post-history of the Campaign. Indeed, also the spelling of Belgian place-names strikes us as extremely out-of-date. As is the case with some French-speaking Belgians, he obviously prefers the 19th-century spelling, so that he repeatedly mentions Gheel, Moll, Quaad Mechelen, Calloo, etc. (E.W.)

It is necessary to point out to the reader that, in the series of studies on partial aspects with regard to 1830, he can easily ignore the concise article by E. Panneels on the Treaty of London (1) if he looks for new data about this subject. Yet, whoever wants a survey of quotations of the well-known and repeatedly used data from the minutes of the National Congress and Parliament, will find a handy introduction in Panneel's exposition, though the special literature is hardly worked into it. (E.W.)

A more original contribution to the 1830-problem was made by S. Minnaert. By means of a few unknown documents of the time, supplemented with a rather thorough knowledge of the local political staff, he describes the power-shifting of 1830 at Oudenaarde (2). However, we do not at all get a complete image of the local revolutionary process, although this is indeed suggested in the title. This is made impossible by a lack of study in the national archives as well as a lack of investigation of newspapers and data from the published sources. (E.W.)

We notice, on the contrary, a great sense of erudition in the Ghent philologist W. Couvreur. His devoted interest in Antwerp city-history and particularly in the former half of the 19th century has made a real expert of him for a number of partial fields. This is certainly so for the Antwerp orangism, as it appears from a recent article on the pillages in the home of the orangist burgomaster

(1) E. PANNEELS, *Het Verdrag van Londen : 19 april 1839*, Brussels, V.E.H., 1974, 63 pp.

(2) S. MINNAERT, "Oudenaarde tijdens de revolutie van 1830", *Handelingen van de geschied- en oudheidkundige Kring van Oudenaarde*, XVIII, 1975, pp. 97-108.

Caters (1). This event dating from March, 1831 is for the author the occasion not only to give a detailed description of the house, of the Caters family, of the main character's career, but also to elucidate the events themselves circumstantially. From his statement of sources it appears that he is very familiar with the principal Belgian and Dutch archives with regard to orangism. Therefore it is to be regretted that the author keeps his field of investigation so local and takes so few pains to implicate the results of the recent special literature on 1830 in his analyses. (E.W.)

Finally, L. Trénard publishes, in the framework of the colloquy on "Les relations franco-belges de 1830 à 1934", the account of his reading in "L'Echo du Nord" with regard to the revolution of 1830 in Belgium (2). This liberal paper which was addressed to the Lille lower middle-class and upper middle-class, drew its information mainly from the pro-revolutionary Brussels newspaper "Le Belge" so that it reflects merely the version of the patriots. This is obvious from the chronological survey given by the author starting on August 25, 1830 and going as far as 1846. Consequently, we also get to know the opinion of this North-French paper during the post-revolutionary period and its principal moments of crisis. In this "L'Echo" paid, of course, special attention to the French interests which might have been involved. (E.W.)

## 5. THE LIBERAL PARTY

The fact that as yet no thorough synthesis exists of the history of the liberal party was repeatedly regretted in this "Bulletin Critique". All hopes of this gap finally being filled by J. Declercq's "Histoire du parti libéral belge" (3) are, however, disappointed. The contents fall obviously short of the promise of the title. Though no trace of a bibliography is to be found, it appears from the text that the reading of the director of the P. Hymans-centre did not go

(1) W. COUVREUR, "De plundering op 31 maart 1831 van het huis van burgemeester Jhr. W.A. Caters", *Antwerpen*, XX, 1974, 4, pp. 148-165.

(2) L. TRENARD, "La révolution belge vue par la presse lilloise", *Les relations franco-belges de 1830 à 1934*, Metz, 1975, pp. 1-20.

(3) Brussels, 1974, 88 pp.

beyond Pirenne and Van Kalken. Bartier, Simon, Aubert are unknown to the author and the most recent works escape his notice altogether. Consequently, it goes without saying that this is not a survey of what is known about the liberal party at the moment, but rather a superficial outline situating that party in Belgian political life of the 19th and 20th centuries. This shallowness is given an extra dimension by the fact that the author does not mention any sore subject of our political history. Orangism, ultramontanism, school-struggle, royalist issue; all these tendencies and movements either go completely unmentioned or are just touched on without referring to their importance. Anything more than an account of political situations, facts and names concatenated without many causal relations and riddled with irrelevant anecdotes, cannot be found in this work. (E.W.)

For lack of a study which offers an overall vision of the liberal party-phenomenon we can still be quite satisfied when the number of monographs and studies of partial aspects keeps increasing. Very interesting material is contained in the work of M. Dechesne, "Le parti libéral à Liège, 1848-1899" (1). This author seized the unique opportunity to work on the rich archive-material with regard to the Liège section. He had at his disposal among other things the minutes of the different meetings, from the ward-sections to the general committee, over a period of more than fifty years. For the analysis he used M. Duverger as his guide and treated his abundant sources in accordance with this pattern. This implies that he has mainly investigated the formal aspects of the party-action for the different subsections. We are provided with new insights into the functioning of the committee, the election-meetings and pools, into the ties with the master and sister-organizations, into the role of the parliamentarians and the financial situation of the local party, which material is conveniently arranged.

In particular the paragraph about the members has been very thoroughly elaborated. By means of the necessary graphics the author circumstantially describes the socio-professional composition of this membership. Yet, it would have been recommendable to compare this group with the overall electorate and with the liberal

(1) M. DECHESNE, *Le parti libéral à Liège, 1848-1899*, Louvain-Paris, 1974, 125 pp. (Centre interuniversitaire d'histoire contemporaine, Cahiers, 76).

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

electorate, and the author should also have given some more information about the financial situation of the electors. Owing to the useful inside-information contained in it, this detailed survey is an essential working-instrument for anyone studying the action of the liberal party in the 19th century. In all probability we are confronted here with a prototype and most functions described by the author, will also exist in the other local sections. It is to be regretted that the author should not have posited this problem. Data mentioned in other local monographs could have been useful for this purpose. But as this work is a licentiate-thesis, this shortcoming must not be overemphasised. For the same reason we can hardly blame the author for restricting himself to a description of the juridical and merely formal aspects of the action. So, there is still room for a much more comprehensive study of the Liège liberal party covering the concrete functioning of the party, placing this action into a broad reference-frame and doing justice to the dynamic of the political evolution. However, it is the merit of M. Dechesne that he has contributed the necessary fundamental information for such a study. (E.W.)

A similar explorative study, be it on a much smaller scale, was also made by J. Gaillard who drew attention to the congress of the progressive liberals of 1887 (1). After a short history of the Brussels progressivism, he supplies some information about the different items which were dealt with during this congress. Even though this work is a concise indication of the principal items, it shows sufficiently the great influence the progressists had in bringing about the constitutional review of 1893. Neither do the close ties between these progressists and the Belgian Labour Party which were obvious in that period, escape the author's notice. (E.W.)

(1) J. GAILLARD, "Un événement politique méconnu : le congrès libéral progressiste des 29 et 30 mai 1887", *Res Publica*, XVI, 1974, 5, pp. 589-600.

## 6. FREEMASONRY

Of late the Belgian Freemasonry has aroused a great deal of historic interest.

The study of certain lodges in a given period has again found followers, as appears from M. Arnould's article which deals with the lodge of Boussu during the French period (1). By means of the dossier from the FM-publications of the Paris Bibliothèque Nationale the author paints a lively picture of the rather short existence of this lodge, of its relations with the neighbouring lodges and of its principal members. M. Arnould's thorough knowledge of the Hainaut personalities guaranteed that the biographical notes are as complete as possible. (E.W.)

A first start to writing a monograph was made by J. Vanroelen, who published sources with regard to the establishment of the mixed freemasonry "Le Droit Humain" (2) which came into being in France by the end of the previous century and soon found followers in Belgium. Quotations from the constitution and from speeches made by the founders of this masonic order, are published, as well as data about the foundation of the first mixed lodge and of the Belgian federation. (E.W.)

Another type of investigation deals with the analysis of the attitude of one or more lodges with regard to a certain social problem. In this field R. Desmed recently proved of great merit. Using mainly the well-preserved archives of the Brussels lodge "Les Amis Philanthropes" he investigated into the opinions of the 19th-century freemason on religion and ritual (3), the laicization of

(1) M. A. ARNOULD, "Une loge maçonnique sous l'Empire : 'Les Vrais Philanthropes de Boussu (Hainaut) 1808-1814'", *Valenciennes et les anciens Pays-Bas*, Valenciennes, 1976.

(2) J. VANROELEN, "De Belgische federatie 'Le Droit Humain' (opgericht in 1911)", *Vrijmetselarij*, Brussels, V.U.B., 1974, pp. 47-70.

(3) R. DESMED, "L'évolution du sentiment religieux chez les Francs-Maçons belges entre 1830 et 1914. L'exemple des loges bruxelloises", *Problèmes d'histoire du christianisme*, 7, 1976-1977, Bruxelles, 1978, pp. 57-86.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

education (1) and feminism (2), three problems which did not at all leave the Brussels lodges unperturbed.

Thanks to the numerous quotations which the author reports, introduces and comments with great erudition and which he places in a broader context, we can, on the one hand, follow the breakthrough of the laicization-process in freemasonry and, on the other hand, we are shown the attitude of a few feminist freemasons. We need not be surprised that the latter acted almost exclusively in the framework of an anti-clerical policy which was to withdraw woman, who was subject to the church, from the priest's influence. It is, however, remarkable that this plea for the emancipation of woman comes as early as the 1860's. At that time "Les Amis Philanthropes" obviously started a tradition, for the above-mentioned history of "Le Droit Humain" indicates that this lodge provided several male members at the foundation of the first mixed lodge. (E.W.)

## 7. FLEMISH MOVEMENT

With regard to the historiography of the Flemish Movement in the 19th century a few original initiatives are to be mentioned.

In this field the U.L.B.-assistant Eliane Gubin proved a valuable acquisition. This author has set out to provide Elias's excellent synthesis with the supplements and shades which were long looked for. Moreover, the historiography of the Flemish Movement is thus enriched with a French-speaking author who makes the Flemish points of view in the past known to readers who do not speak Dutch.

(1) R. DESMED, "A propos du mémoire de la Loge des Amis Philanthropes sur l'enseignement primaire obligatoire et laïque (1859-1860)", *Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire*, LIII, 1975, pp. 357-401; R. DESMED, "La Franc-Maçonnerie belge et la laicisation de l'enseignement (1830-1914). Un exemple : la loge des "Amis Philanthropes" de Bruxelles", *Eglise et enseignement. Actes du Colloque du Xe anniversaire de l'Institut d'Histoire du Christianisme de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles*, pp. 197-222.

(2) R. DESMED, "Examen du problème de l'émancipation de la femme par la loge 'Les Amis Philanthropes' vers 1860", *Revue de l'Université de Bruxelles*, 1977, pp. 386-413.

She does so in a very accurate and clear way, paying attention to both detail and synthesis and founds her observations, which especially emphasize the ideological aspects, on a broad erudition which she acquired from the reading of the extensive private correspondence and writings of the Flamingants with which she proves very familiar. Her main study (and doctorate) deals with the Flemish Movement in Brussels during the period 1830-1880. Pending the appearance of this work she also published two preliminary studies which both deal with the years 1850-1860 and consequently focus on a crucial transition period in the Flemish Movement in which the literary stage ended and the political stage started.

In "Revendications flamandes et réactions wallonnes" (1) she explains how the Flemish claims for equal linguistic rights addressed to the Belgian State and the Walloons, entirely fitted into a Belgian patriotic ideology but were met by a wall of Walloon misunderstanding. Indeed, according to the French-speaking people there was no Flemish linguistic problem, since the Constitution guaranteed freedom of language. That French was to prevail, owing to the cultural supremacy of this language, was a settled thing. The recognition of Flemish as the second official language was unacceptable, 1<sup>o</sup> because it was not a language but a dialect and 2<sup>o</sup> because this recognition would cause a separation between North and South Belgium. So the author uncovers the origin of the unwillingness of the French-speaking Belgians with regard to the Flemish claims which were to lie at the root of the later anti-Belgian evolution of part of the Flemish Movement. (E.W.)

In a second, very extensive article she throws light upon the figure of the Hessian publicist Oetker and particularly his role in the politicization of the Flemish Movement (2). He was, indeed, the author of writings in which he drives the Movement into the electoral direction. In order to do full justice to this figure she first examines closely the ideological positions and the platform planks of the Flemish Movement as they were expressed in the petition of 1840

(1) E. GUBIN, "Revendications flamandes et réactions wallonnes vers 1855-1860", *Revue belge d'Histoire contemporaine*, VI, 1975, 3-4, pp. 239-262.

(2) E. GUBIN-GROSJEAN, "Une étape dans l'évolution du Flamingantisme : l'influence de Oetker sur l'orientation politique du mouvement (1857-1861)", *Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire*, LII, 1974, 2, pp. 348-385, 858-892.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

and the Grievance Commission. Then she follows Oetker's train of thought in great detail with regard to the politicization, which results in a critical analysis of his arguments, which she always confronts with the ideas of the other flamingants and with their reactions to Oetker's exposition. She concludes this clear argument with an analysis of the immediate realization of his proposals. (E.W.)

A second important fact in the historiography of the Movement is the elimination of a number of myths which had come into existence with regard to the role of the traditional parties from 1890 to 1914. As we know, there are a number of stereotyped outlooks. With catholic oriented historians, and especially with K.U.L.-professor L. Wils, a certain ideological annexionism can be noticed, as well as an exaggeration of the role played by the catholic party in vindicating the Flemish claims, while there is also an obvious denial of the contribution made by the left wing, emphasizing the un-Flemish nature of the Belgian Labour Party. True, these theses were somewhat moderated by A. Willemsen who did attribute to the progressive liberalism a pro-Flemish attitude in this period, but the vision with regard to the Belgian Labour Party remained unchanged.

In two articles (2), which both bear witness to a remarkable insight into the political relations and into the overall political system, Harry Van Velthoven breaks definitively with these simplistic opinions about the attitude of the Belgian Labour Party. Adequate sources clearly point to the following picture. He does not view the Flemish members of the Belgian Labour Party of the time as committed flamingants either, and to the Walloon socialists he does not attribute reactions different from those of the liberals or catholics in the same area : they also refused to curtail the job-opportunities of the exclusively French speakers. But that the Flemish socialists should have deserved to be labelled "un-Flemish" is contested by the author with convincing arguments. On the contrary they viewed the Flemish issue as an entirely justified but

(1) H. VAN VELTHOVEN, "Onenigheid in de Belgische Werkliedenpartij : de Vlaamse Kwestie wordt een Vrije Kwestie (1894-1914)", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, V, 1974, 1-2, pp. 123-166; H. VAN VELTHOVEN, "De Belgische Werkliedenpartij en de Vlaamse Kwestie (1894-1914). Einde van een mythe", *Handelingen van het XXXe Vlaamse Filologencongres*, Ghent, 1-3 April, 1975, pp. 270-278.

subordinate objective which would be given a solution after the achievement of general suffrage. Though they did not have their own socialist analysis of the problem and the objective was not integrated into a total strategy either, the Flemish issue, under the direction of people such as Huysmans and others, in Antwerp developed into an emancipating struggle on the socio-economic and cultural planes. In Ghent this happened to a much lesser extent. The fact that the Ghent flamingants turned away from the struggle against social injustice and in favour of general suffrage is viewed by H. Van Velthoven as one of the causes accounting for their attitude. That we are confronted with new and fundamental changes in emphasis in this article is, consequently, a merit for which we ought to be grateful to the author.

Meanwhile the interpretation of this author was entirely agreed to by V.U.B.-professor Jan Craeybeckx who, in a brilliant and detailed analysis, approaches this controversial problem in its totality (1). Following in Van Velthoven's footsteps he demonstrates in an excellent way that the socialist leaders indeed did not want to use the Flemish issue as a means to pave the way for socialism in Flanders. The conservatism which dominated the Flemish Movement of that time and the anti-socialist attitude of the catholic party and especially the Volksbond (Popular League) account for the fact that this was difficult indeed. How someone like Cooremans for example was the model for reactionary middle-class mentality, is demonstrated by J. Craeybeckx in an excellent way. So L. Wils's thesis that the pro-Flemish should have supported the social legislation, is entirely undermined. The author also pays much attention to the enthusiastic Antwerp socialist flamingantism. In this connection he premises the interesting hypothesis that the difference in attitude between Ghent and Antwerp could be caused by the divergent socio-professional composition of the Antwerp labour movement which included more lower middle-class elements and had stronger ties with progressive liberalism which in Antwerp, as opposed to Ghent, did have a pro-Flemish tradition. (E.W.)

(1) J. CRAEYBECKX, "Arbeidersbeweging en Vlaamsgezindheid vóór de Eerste Wereldoorlog", *Mededelingen van de Koninklijke Academie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België, Klasse der Letteren*, XL, 1978, 3, 57 pp.

## *CRITICAL CHRONICLE*

Moreover, J. Craeybeckx also queries other preconceived theses. Thus he deals in detail with L. Wils's accusation that the indifference of the Belgian Labour Party to the Flemish issue should have been a departure from the socialist policy which, elsewhere in Europe, was apparently not opposed to nationalist aspirations. With the help of socialist writings from the period concerned, he comes, on the contrary, to the conclusion that the international class-struggle aspect, as it was interpreted by the Belgian Labour Party, came closest to the opinions of the majority of the 2nd International. The author also calls into question whether flamingantism has been the stimulus of the christian-democratic movement and not the other way round, and whether the Flemish contribution to that movement was really as considerable as L. Wils always contended. At any rate, he is already able to prove that it was outside the purpose of the Volksbond (Popular League) to leave its mark upon the Flemish Movement.

Finally, it should be remembered from this broad exposition, the successful unity of which is wronged by analysing the component parts, that the author also introduces new elements which confirm the pro-Flemish attitude of progressive liberalism. (E.W.)

## 8. JURIDICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE LAW

The Belgian penal code and the code of criminal procedure are about a hundred years old. J. D'Haenens takes this opportunity to meditate on the changes which the penal code has undergone in the meantime, and, above all, how the penal code should be developed in the future. As a legal practitioner, he emphasizes the evolution of the law and the policy adopted as regards penal law in Belgium during the last few decenniads. On the other hand, he pays less attention to the criminological and sociological theories put forward to account for the phenomenon of crime in the past. His summing-up of the amendments to the penal law, which embraces the complementary laws, makes interesting reading. He also gives an excellent survey of international law, centred on the most recent problems inherent in international legislation on crime. The author provides the reader with a good insight into the loss of effectiveness in the penal code

currently in force and the resulting problems on the practical level. The whole work is, however, of more value as a contemporary diagnosis than as a historical outline (1). (C.C.)

On April 4, 1900 an attempt was made on the life of the then Prince of Wales — later King Edward VII — in the Noordstation (North Station) of Brussels. The offender was an under-age (15 years old) socialist, Sipido. This event created a number of legal and political problems. It is the authors' intention to show the sort of framework in which law and authority were able to act and also the lines along which they proceeded in order to solve these difficulties. After a clear exposition, which is necessary if the reader is to understand this passage, of criminal offences and the law as set out in the penal code of 1867, the authors focus on Sipido and his accomplices and give a brief sketch of the course of events. The attempt failed because of the youthful clumsiness of the perpetrator. Following a brief investigation Sipido was brought before the Cour d'Assises in Brussels, where he was acquitted of the crime. It is very interesting to note how during the trial some politicians turned up and asked questions in Parliament and how the whole matter was finally solved politically, notably through the efforts of King Leopold II. The King, backed by the public opinion, tried to turn this incident to his advantage in order to counteract the severe criticism he had to suffer in the international press.

The authors have made a laudable effort to analyse the decision-making process in a criminal trial and its consequences. They were thus obliged to explain the criminal procedure stage by stage. In my opinion, however, they overaccentuate some obvious points, and hesitate to put the questions which demonstrated the exceptional character of certain facts. Reference of the case to the Cour d'Assises, for instance, was perfectly normal because the crime was of a political nature. Procedural matters, such as the opening and closing of the debates, seem to me to be superfluous. On the other hand, some important questions relating to certain protagonists in the case are omitted. For example : 1) What were the grounds for

(1) J. D'HAENENS, "Honderd jaar strafrecht. Een blik in het verleden en in de toekomst", *Tijdschrift voor sociale wetenschappen*, XIX, 1974, 3, pp. 243-270.

CRITICAL CHRONICLE

acquittal ? 2) What were the exact contents of the order for detention by the Government ? 3) How could one account for the (thoroughly) passive attitude of the French police towards Sipido after he had escaped ? 4) Is it not unprecedented — in a constitutional separation of powers — for a question to be discussed in Parliament when a trial is *sub judice* ? The most important issue, viz., what were the motives behind Leopold II's independent and irresponsible intervention, was insufficiently discussed. Perhaps limited space has forced the authors to curtail their text. At any rate, there is enough material left to enable a student of law to make a more searching study of the incident, as well as of its legal and political outcome (1). (C.C.)

(1) J. NOTEBAERT & J. MAES, 'Gerechtelijke beslissingen in strafzaken, 19e-20e eeuw : Proces inzake de aanslag op de Prins van Wales, 1900', *De Besluitvorming vroeger en nu*, Brussels, 1975, pp. 237-282.

## III. WORLD WAR I

## 1. KING ALBERT FACING WAR AND PEACE

During the Colloquy which was held in Brussels from the 26th till the 19th May, 1975 on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of King Albert's birth, next to less relevant expositions, a few papers were read which present new material for the study of the period from 1914 to 1934 in our national history.

Pro memoria we cite the two excellent articles on financial aspects, by Herman Van der Wee and Fernand Collin (1), restricting ourselves to the articles having reference to the role of the king during and after World War I. In an exposition which is more in the style of an essay, J. Willequet pictures the mentality and the views of King Albert with regard to the war and the belligerents. L. Schepens investigates the attempts which King Albert made from November, 1915 on, via his confidential agent professor E. Waxweiler, at getting to know semi-officially the German plans with regard to the future

(1) See : J. WILLEQUET, "Guerre et neutralité", *Actes du Colloque roi Albert. Handelingen van het Colloquium Koning Albert*, édités par Carlos Wyffels, Brussels, 1976, pp. 69-82.

L. SCHEPENS, "Koning Albert en de Vrede (1915-1918)", *ibid.*, pp. 83-100.  
H. BALTHAZAR, "Koning Albert en de Conferentie van Stockholm", *ibid.*, pp. 101-119.

A. MASSART, "Le roi Albert et les opérations militaires en 1914-1918", *ibid.*, pp. 121-143.

A. DUCHESNE, "Le roi Albert et le Haut Commandement de l'armée française (1914-1918)", *ibid.*, pp. 145-167.

H. HAAG, "Le choix du roi Albert à Loppem", *ibid.*, pp. 169-191.

R. DE SCHRIJVER, "Koning Albert en de Vlaamse Beweging", *ibid.*, pp. 209-243.

M.R. THIELEMANS, "Le roi Albert et Georges Theunis, premier ministre", *ibid.*, pp. 317-329.

R. DEVLEESHOUWER, "Le roi Albert et les partis", *ibid.*, pp. 331-351.

E. DEFOORT, "Van 'royalisme de coeur' naar 'monarchisme de raison' onder het bewind van koning Albert", *ibid.*, pp. 353-370.

Th. LUYKX, "Koning Albert en de Belgische buitenlandse politiek na de eerste Wereldoorlog (1918-1934)", *ibid.*, pp. 295-316.

destiny (and the possible division) of Belgium and at investigating the possibilities of a separate peace. These attempts fail, partly because of the German obstinacy, partly because of the differences of opinion between the king and his government, and they affect the political relations between Belgium and her powerful allies adversely.

M. Balthazar investigates the different versions about King Albert's attitude with regard to the participation of C. Huysmans in the Stockholm conference and comes to the conclusion that the greater part of the information at our disposal comes from C. Huysmans himself and dates from long after the events, and that here a "perspective-narrowing or distortion" has occurred.

Colonel Staff College Certificate Holder A. Massart demonstrates how King Albert, as the commander-in-chief of the army in 1914-1918 followed a strategy safeguarding the survival of the army as a guarantee for the survival of the Belgian state. In a more detailed way A. Duchesne deals with the relation of the king as commander-in-chief of the Belgian army with the French supreme command. Especially important are the data gathered by the author about the consequences of the Ostend conference of October 10th, 1914 where the king, at the instance of French and British generals, decided — and gave instructions in that sense — that the Belgian army should be withdrawn on French territory. The next day, however, he changed this decision and from then on he was to follow the hard line which is known, with regard to the presence and the relative autonomy of the Belgian army on the Belgian territory.

A methodological masterpiece is the exposition by H. Haag on the Loppem conference. Starting from the existing evidence the author investigates what hypotheses may present themselves to the king in a first stage during this conference with the political leaders of the occupied area, and subsequently investigates which of these hypotheses the king eventually followed. He comes to the conclusion that the king's decision fits entirely into a previously followed political pattern and places the events of Loppem in the whole of the royal policy.

Worth mentioning is also the exposition by R. De Schrijver on the attitude of the king with regard to the Flemish Movement, in which the author rightly views the Flemish Movement as a partial aspect of the overall Belgian political society with which the king was confronted, and the main points of which did not comprise the

Flemish Movement, but the relations between the traditional parties. In this situation the Flemish Movement acted as an interference with the existing relative power and was approached and manipulated as such by the king. Also M.R. Thielemans touches on the same problem in her article about King Albert and the G. Theunis-governments. However, she mainly emphasizes the determining influence which the king had on the policy of his government. Also the role of the king's adviser, Max-Léo Gérard is dealt with incidentally.

In the same line is the study by R. Devleeshouwer on the role of the king with regard to the political parties. In a brilliant synthesis the author investigates what were the theoretical ideas of the king on the constitutional framework within which he acts, and what were his practical actions, especially in the domains of defence and the maintenance of the national unity. From his exposition it appears that King Albert held a number of personal views on his constitutional role. Though these views were generally accepted, they bear witness to the very broad interpretation of the legal provisions which define the constitutional state, and this for the benefit of the political stability of the country.

In his article E. Defoort investigates how and why the prewar Belgian French-speaking and middle-class royalists evolved during the war — partly under the influence of Ch. Maurras and the Action française, partly for fear of the threatening and increasing democratization — into nationalist “monarchistes de raison” who pin their faith to the royal institution for safeguarding their position of power, and how, after the war their hopes were disappointed by the king's policy.

Finally we must state that the exposition about King Albert and the Belgian foreign policy after World War I by Th. Luykx (†) was mainly drawn on the doctoral thesis of his assistant Dr. G. Provoost about the Franco-Belgian military agreement of 1920. Consequently, this article is rendered out of date by the publication of G. Provoost's study. (L.S.)

In 1975 Henri Haag published another article on the “coup de Lophem” which may be considered the final exposition (for the time being) of the conference held there on November 11th, 1918 between King Albert and a few representatives of the occupied territory and at which some sweeping political decisions were made. The author first examines all the later evidence which is known

about this meeting and the reactions it caused, and subsequently goes into more details about three of these reactions : three letters — one of which was neither sent nor published — which King Albert himself wrote about the events at Loppem.

In his own typically bright way H. Haag analyses which elements are common to all three of the letters and comes to the conclusion that the letter dated February 9th, 1930, addressed to Fernand Neuray but not sent, is the most complete. The article contains the text of these three letters (1). (L.S.)

## 2. OCCUPATION AND REACTIONS

In 1974 a book by Lode Wils was published on “Flamenpolitik en Aktivismen”, which right from the start raised a good deal of dust and was much criticized.

With the first sentence of his preface the author clearly shows his intentions : he wants to unmask the myth that was created around activism. In the footsteps of F. Van Cauwelaert he wants to demonstrate that activism “(is) a foreign growth grafted upon the Flemish Movement by the German policy of conquest”, and provoked by the Belgian nationalists.

After a survey of the anti-flemish atmosphere among the Belgian emigrants abroad, the author pictures the German Flamenpolitik (and the propaganda in the service of this Flamenpolitik) as the cultivation-soil for the subsequent activism, and then investigates the origin and the initial development of activism in several centres : Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp and Holland. Also the penetration of the activist ideas into the Front Movement are investigated, along with the specific causes of the latter, as well as the evolution of the Flemish Movement on either side of the front and the reactions it called forth. The author’s conclusion : “Except for one small group in Ghent, the initiative to activism everywhere emanated from the Germans.” Even behind the anti-flemish campaign of some Belgian-

(1) H. HAAG, “Le témoignage du roi Albert sur Loppem (Février 1930)”, *Annales de la Commission royale d’histoire*, CXLI, 1975, pp. 312-347.

nationalist circles he smells German money. German money also among the activists in the occupied territory, German money among the Dutch sympathizers or sponsors of activism there and in the occupied area. Originally activism was the work of "a few unknown youngsters... of persons who were either no Belgians or no native Belgians", and the few real Flemings who co-operated in it (Young Flemings in Ghent) were influenced by pan-Germanism. The Dutchification of the Ghent university is a German present as well as the administrative separation. In a word activism was a "puppet-movement" both in its origin and in its further evolution", a German product grafted upon the Flemish trunk with the compulsory aid of the Belgian establishment.

Small wonder that such a radical thesis on all sides met with refutation, or at least with nuances. And now it appears, after several years, that this vexed book indeed had a number of merits : it shook up people and incited them to a renewed and more thorough investigation mainly into the German policy in Belgium, whereas this book also proves at the basis of a new vision of the person and the (opportunist) policy of King Albert with regard to the Flemings.

Finally, Wils's one-sided if not narrow view of the Flemish Movement also made some people realize that the study of this movement cannot be detached from the study of the overall political history of Belgium of which it is an integral part (1). (L.S.)

On November 15th and 16th, 1974 the section for History of the 19th and 20th centuries of the Catholic University in Louvain organized a colloquy on the Flemish Movement during World War I.

Apart from two lectures, to which we shall revert, only the "communications" of a number of participants were published previously. Several of these contributions relate to the activist press in its partial aspects. R. Boudens prepared two good expositions about Cardinal Mercier which were meanwhile elaborated in his book on "Kardinaal Mercier en de Vlaamse Beweging" (Louvain, 1975). Important is the study by J. Brauns on "De oorsprong van de Flamenpolitik van Bethmann Hollweg" in which he views the "Flamenpolitik" as a part of the "Belgiënpolitik", and draws the attention to the role of some advisers of the chancellor who are not often

(1) L. WILS, *Flamenpolitik en aktivisme : Vlaanderen tegenover België in de eerste Wereldoorlog*, Louvain, Davidsfonds, 1974, 272 pp.

mentioned or altogether unknown : Karl Trimborn, Karl Helfferich, Gustav Noske and even Karl Lamprecht !

An important contribution is certainly the personal testimony of one of the last surviving activists : H.D. Mommaerts, "Van vooroorlogse Vlaamse Beweging naar Aktivisme", which contains mainly a number of corrections to the existing literature. On his part F. Verriest deals with "De Houding van minister Joris Helleputte tegenover de Vlaamse problematiek tijdens de eerste wereldoorlog"; from November, 1912 to November, 1918 Joris Helleputte was a member of the Broqueville Cabinet and of the "political government" or cabinet-committee which was in charge of the warfare on the Belgian side from August 4th, 1917. A vehement opponent of activism, he was rather sympathetic with the Front Movement and even accorded an interview to chaplain P. Van der Meulen after he had been punished. He repeatedly patronized a group of moderate flamingants, such as F. Van Cauwelaert and others.

One of the most important contributions to this colloquy was later published separately and was written by Frank Wende "Enkele opmerkingen over het karakter van de Duitse Flamenpolitik 1914-1918 en over Lode Wils' boek 'Flamenpolitik en Aktivisme'." in which the author refutes the theory of F. Van Cauwelaert and L. Wils that activism should be a "foreign growth" imported by the Germans and cultivated on Flemish soil.

He points out that under the influence of the "Aldeutsche" inspiration, which aims at an integration of the cognate Flemish people by the German people, the "German Flamenpolitik as it was conceived by the German authorities at the end of 1914, was directed to the entire Flemish people and originally did not intend to split a radical group off the Flemish Movement as was later formed by the activists".

The turning-point is the transfer of the Flamenpolitik in February, 1915 from the "Zivilverwaltung" to the "Politische Abteilung" in Brussels. "By means of the Flamenpolitik they try to unhinge the Belgian form of government", and they exceed the framework of the Belgian legislation — as it was prescribed by the Convention of the Hague — in order to introduce their own German policy in Belgium with the help of Belgian accomplices who were to act as a disguise. In this process the "Politische Abteilung" had to settle with the opposition of the "Zivilverwaltung" and the indifference of a vast majority of the Flemish population.

The new German Policy exactly answered to the problem raised by a number of Flemings on the eve of the war : whether or not to continue the unitarian Belgian state, and the establishment of the Germans recruited the "puppets" for the realization of their policy, though these Flemings were "painfully aware" of the contrast between the German war-aims and their own aspirations, but were powerless to push their own opinions.

The author points at the "fundamental contradiction which existed between the high objective for which the Flamenpolitik had acted at first and its practical execution" and concludes that the German Flamenpolitik proves to have been a "Realpolitik", "which had no eye for reality and brought forth exactly the opposite result to the one intended."

Though this article contributes to a better understanding of the Flamenpolitik, it does not present a convincing refutation of Wils's thesis that this Flamenpolitik was a "foreign growth" and the statement that "the German policy was indeed capable of provoking and stirring up the rise of activist currents, but could not call them forth out of nothing" seems little relevant to us... (1) (L.S.)

Finally we mention R. De Schrijver's contribution about passive flamingantism, which later was likewise published separately.

It is the merit of this study that it has demonstrated that "passivism" (as opposed to "activism") does not mean that the Flemish Movement was not active during the war, but that some "passivists" such as Frans Van Cauwelaert and Camille Huysmans were rather "Belgian-loyal flamingants". They "would not associate their flamingantism with an appeal to or aid from the German occupier, and here lies the fundamental separation, with on either side a full range of activists on the one hand and active loyalists on the other hand". (p. 207)

In the second part of his exposition the author deals with the action during the war of the "three crowing cocks", Louis Franck who was a member of the interior resistance against the Germans,

(1) *De Vlaamse Beweging tijdens de eerste wereldoorlog. Mededelingen van het colloquium ingericht te Leuven op 15 en 16 november 1974...*, Louvain, K.U.L., 1974, 204 stencilled pp.

F. WENDE, "Enkele opmerkingen over het karakter van de Duitse Flamenpolitik 1914-1918 en over Lode Wils' boek "Flamenpolitik en Aktivisme", *ibid.*, col. 213-224.

CRITICAL CHRONICLE

but after the war was lost to the Flemish Movement, Camille Huysmans and Frans Van Cauwelaert who lived abroad but who, each in his own way, promoted the Flemish feelings among the Flemings in the diaspora without, however, questioning their loyalty to Belgium. It is a convincing and important article which definitively does away with the dichotomy "Activism versus Passivism" (1). (L.S.)

The article by George F. Spaulding on "The Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Château de Mariemont" is worth mentioning as one of the very rare articles — if not the only one — about the beginnings of the activity of the "Commission" in Belgium. In the form of well-written memoirs a few relevant facts are pointed out on the start of this charity, and even more on the relation of some patricians (here Raoul Warocqué) to the German occupying force in the interests of the Belgian population. The author stayed in Belgium from December 5th, 1914 till the end of January, 1915 when the "National Aid and Food Committee" was sufficiently well-organized to ensure the food-supply (2). (L.S.)

The "Prisma van de Geschiedenis van Ieper" contains three articles about World War I and the reconstruction of the town, one of which requires more than a passing mention (3). A very enlightening exposition about the origin of the "Ypres Salient" in 1914 is given by Dr. A. Caenepeel. The author deals successively with the original Schlieffen-plan, the alterations made by von Moltke and what general von Falkenhayn eventually made of it. He shows very clearly how the circumstances forced the military leaders, after the battles of the Marne and the Aisne, to return to tactics dating from

(1) R. DE SCHRIJVER, "Over het aktief Belgisch-loyaal of zgn. passief flamingantisme tijdens de eerste wereldoorlog", *Wetenschappelijke Tijdingen*, 34, 1975, col. 119-214.

(2) George F. SPAULDING, "The Commission for Relief in Belgium and the Château de Mariemont", *Les Cahiers de Mariemont*, IV, 1973, pp. 5-22.

(3) A. CAENEPEEL, "Ieper 1914. Een inleiding tot de vier rampzaligste jaren van zijn geschiedenis", *Prisma van de geschiedenis van Ieper*, Ypres, 1974, pp. 75-103, maps and bibliography.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

the days before the French Revolution. Five very readable maps illustrate the exposition which ranks among the best things we read about the German advance of 1914. (L.S.)

In the series of war-diaries published by the historical society "Société d'Emulation" at Bruges, two new volumes appeared, edited by Jozef Geldhof, both relating to diaries kept by inhabitants of Ypres.

By far the most important document is the war-diary of priest Kamiel Delaere. The first part is written in French and covers the period from October 7th, 1914 to May 9th, 1915; the second part is written in Dutch and deals with the period between May 9th, 1915 and February 2nd, 1919. It is a diary of a first-rate figure who assumed responsibilities not only for attending the stricken population, but also for safeguarding countless art-objects. Moreover, the diary also bears witness to the bravery and the personal qualities of the author. Consequently, it is both a "document humain" and a first-class historical source.

Special mention must also be made of the "Rapports des séances du Comité provisoire qui administra la Ville d'Ypres pendant la période de bombardement de cette cité" (from November 9th to December 31st, 1914), followed by the "Procès-verbaux des séances du Comité définitif de la ville d'Ypres" (December 31st, 1914 to May 1st, 1915) which are published in the second volume of this series. They give a general idea of the problems with which a town in the line of fire is confronted, the red-tape which predominates even then, and the pent-up political tensions that remain in existence (1). (L.S.)

It lasted until 1972 before we could get a thorough insight into the liberation-offensive of the Belgian army in September-November, 1918. The author, colonel Staff College Certificate Holder M. Weemaes undertook research-work for many years and succeeded in

(1) *Oorlogsdagboeken over Ieper (1914-1915)*, edited by Jozef Geldhof, Bruges, Historical Society, volume 1, 1974, 367 pp., volume 2, 1977, 472 pp., ill.

describing in a brilliant way, day by day, unit by unit, the evolution of the three stages (28.9 - 4.10; 14 -30.10 and 31.10 - 10.11) and the preparation of the fourth stage of the liberation-offensive on a fixed plan : the orders, the events and the results. The book presents a strictly military history, written by someone who is capable of critically and objectively judging the orders given and their execution. Yet the book contains a chapter (the 41st) in which important data are given for the political history of Belgium : two reports (one of which in two versions) of the French Chief of Staff of the Army Group Flanders, General Degoutte, in which he describes the views and the anxieties of King Albert at the end of the offensive. These reports are indispensable for a good understanding of the Loppem Conference ! Important in this chapter are also the notes with regard to the mentality of the Belgian population in the liberated areas towards the Dutch, the French and the British soldiers and the judgments on the fighting-value and the behaviour of the Belgian soldiers. This book gives a very sober vision of the "glorious" final offensive of the Belgian army and reveals the hidden political motives of the allied supreme command (Foch) and the many mistakes made on all levels. The text is illustrated with 34 maps (1).  
(L.S.)

(1) Marcel WEEMAES, Kol.S.B.H., *Van de IJzer tot Brussel. Het bevrijdings-offensief van het Belgisch leger — 28 september 1918*, Dutch adaptation Lt. Col. M.J.M. Lerckx, Marcinelle, Maison d'édition S.C., s.d. (1972?), 411 pp. + 12 supplements and 34 maps.

#### IV. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

##### 1. THE BELGIAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ACTIVITY ABROAD

###### In France

On November 15th and 16th, 1974 a colloquy was held at Metz, devoted to the relation between France and Belgium in the period between 1830 and 1934. Political, diplomatic, military and economic aspects of the relations between the two countries were extensively dealt with. At the colloquy a few principal themes were discussed, one of which is the Belgian economic presence in France in the latter half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century. Indeed, in that period Belgian industrialists and financiers proved very active.

In her article, G. Kurgan-Van Hentenryk gives a survey of the activities of the Tournay financier Simon Philippart in the period from 1868 to 1877. Philippart, originally a textile-manufacturer, around 1865 directed his attention to the promising sector of the rural tramways. In this he was successful, for a few years later he controlled the local railway-networks in Hainault and Flanders. Later he wanted to extend his field of action to a few adjacent areas and to the North of France in the first place. There, however, he soon fell out with the established railway-companies, such as the Compagnie du Chemin de fer du Nord, controlled by the Rothschilds. After a very fierce struggle with the "haute banque" and the above-mentioned railway-companies, Philippart was worsted (1).  
(M.d.W.)

(1) G. KURGAN-VAN HENTENRYK, "Les entreprises du groupe Philippart en France", *Les relations franco-belges de 1830 à 1934*, Metz, 1975, pp. 141-159.

CRITICAL CHRONICLE

Much more important on a long term was the activity of Belgian firms in Lorraine in the period from 1870 to 1914, discussed in François Roth's article (1).

Lorraine, rich in iron-ore, was quickly industrialized in the last quarter of the 19th century. The Belgian iron and steel firms which were in search of raw materials, proved very active in that process. They focused their activities both on the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle which had remained French, and on the part of Lorraine which had been annexed to Germany. Thus they controlled or participated in a few of the most important steel-concerns there (Rumelange-Differdange, Chiers, Aubrives-Villerupt). In the chemical sector Solvay was present in Lorraine as early as 1871.

From 1890 on the situation changed : the Belgian concerns gradually lost their leading positions to the financially better equipped Rhenisch Westphalian concerns. A similar evolution occurred in Luxemburg. Yet, this regression was only temporary : after the German defeat in 1918 Lorraine was again completely annexed to France and the German concerns were taken over by French, Belgian and Luxemburg groups on extremely advantageous terms. This created an intricate system of interests among the banks and the heavy industry of the three countries.

This interweaving of interests had an extremely great influence on the subsequent evolution of the relations between France, Belgium and Luxemburg. Roth's article describes the first "embryonic" stage of this development. (M.d.W.)

M.T. Borrelly inquires into the consequences of the Belgian-German commercial treaty of 1904 for the Franco-Belgian relations (2). France, alarmed by the fast-growing German

(1) F. ROTH, "La participation des intérêts belges à l'industrialisation de la Lorraine (1860-1914)", *Ibid.*, pp. 161-172.

The article by Roth is a summary of a part of his doctoral thesis which was published in 1976. (F. ROTH, *La Lorraine annexée — Etude sur la Présidence de Lorraine dans l'Empire allemand, 1870-1918*, Lille, 1976, 765 pp.).

(2) M.T. BORRELLY, "Aspects des relations économiques franco-belges en 1905 : les conséquences de la convention germano-belge sur les relations entre la France et la Belgique", *Ibid.*, pp. 125-140.

commercial influence in Belgium, decided to counter-attack. Thus the world-fair at Liège in 1905 was an excellent opportunity to step up the French commercial propaganda. The campaign was not so successful as had been expected. So the author shows the starting-stage of a policy which was doggedly continued during and after World War I.

M. Gillet, on his part, discusses the means by which the North French coal-producers tried to defend themselves against their Belgian and German competitors (1). The formation of a price-cartel, in 1901 was meant especially to combat this competition. Moreover, Belgian coal — at the end of the 19th century still representing 39% of the French imports — lost ground to the advantage of English and German coal. (M.d.W.)

The title of J. Vidalenc's article, "Les rapports de la Belgique et de la Normandie, 1830-1940" (2) is somewhat misleading. The author restricts himself mainly to a study of the Belgian immigration in Normandy, especially in the area of Le Havre and Rouen, which was strongly stimulated by World War I. The end of the hostilities in 1919 did not mean the end of the Belgian presence. As a result of the heavy Norman losses during the war, numerous jobs were vacant which were filled by Belgian immigrants. Only after the crisis of 1929 did the number of Belgians employed in French industry, decrease. This immigration must not be over-estimated : in the municipalities with the densest Belgian presence, it amounted to less than 10% of the local population. (M.d.W.)

(1) M. GILLET, "Les charbonnages du Nord de la France face à la coalition germano-belge des producteurs de houille au début du XXe siècle", *ibid.*, pp. 195-212.

(2) J. VIDALENC, "Les rapports de la Belgique et de la Normandie, 1830-1940", *ibid.*, pp. 183-194.

### In the Ottoman Empire

In his article J. Thobie draws a picture of the Belgian interests in the Ottoman Empire in the periode from 1880 to 1914 (1). Belgian concerns often played the part of intermediaries or links between rivalling French, German and English concerns (such as in the Constantinople combine). The Belgian initiatives proper were less successful. Though Belgium already supplied railway-material at an early date, its role was rather modest. The attempts, especially on the part of Cockerill, at acquiring railway-concessions, failed. This concern could not, among other things for lack of sound financial support, make head against the French and German competition. The Belgian concerns were more successful in the sector of public utility services (water, gas and electricity) in the large cities. The Josse Allard group and especially the Empain group were active in this field, mostly in co-operation with French companies. Yet, their importance remained secondary. After 1890 the attention of the Belgian concerns was directed mainly to China and Russia. (M.d.W.)

## 2. THE VERSAILLES CONFERENCE

The most important topic at the colloquy was the Franco-Belgian relations during and after World War I. This is a grateful subject : in that period the relations between the two countries were a complex matter, about which few thorough studies have been published (2).

(1) J. THOBIE, "Intérêts belges et intérêts français dans l'empire Ottoman (1880-1914)", *ibid.*, pp. 213-244.

This article is a summary of Thobie's doctoral thesis published in 1973, *Les intérêts économiques, financiers et politiques français dans la partie asiatique de l'empire ottoman de 1895 à 1914*, Lille, 1973, 3 volumes.

(2) An exception should be made for the doctoral thesis of G. PROVOOST, *Vlaanderen en het militair-politiek beleid in België tussen de twee wereldoorlogen — Het Frans-Belgisch militair akkoord van 1920*, Louvain, Davidsfonds, 1976-77, 2 volumes, 573 and 524 pp.

Belgium which, after the German invasion of 1914, was in search of military security and a new international statute, from sheer necessity though not whole-heartedly relied more on France. Moreover, the country was in urgent need of French support to realize some of her claims at the Versailles Conference (reparations, revision of the Scheldt-statute, possible frontier modifications in Zeeland Flanders and Dutch Limburg). France proved indeed willing to support these items of the Belgian claims, but demanded compensations. By all possible means France tried to increase her influence in Belgium in all fields, with a view to her security-policy in respect of Germany. France thought not only of a military agreement, but also of an economic union or at least a considerable economic co-operation. Belgium was less in favour of such a situation and was certainly against too great a French influence in her domestic affairs.

In that period the Franco-Belgian relations were hampered by the Luxemburg-issue : both France and Belgium strove for a dominating position in the grand duchy, if not for its annexation. Some partial aspects of this comprehensive problem were dealt with in a few contributions to the colloquy. (M.d.W.)

### The Franco-Belgian relations

The two most interesting articles in this connection took a closer look at the Franco-Belgian economic negotiations (1). G.H. Soutou gave an excellent survey of the different stages of these protracted talks. Soutou, who consulted archive-material on the Quay d'Orsay and in the Archives Nationales, succeeded in demonstrating the ambiguity of the Belgian policy with regard to her southern neighbour. J. Willequet, on his part, restricted himself mainly to the years 1919 and 1920.

The negotiations, which began officially in September, 1916, were difficult and stiff from the start. France obviously aimed at an

(1) G.H. SOUTOU, "La politique économique de la France à l'égard de la Belgique, 1914-1924", *Les relations franco-belges de 1830 à 1934*, Metz, 1975, pp. 125-140.

J. WILLEQUET, "Problèmes économiques franco-belges en 1919 et 1920", *ibid.*, pp. 303-314.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

economic union, but for Belgium this was going much too far. Belgium feared that the French interference in her domestic problems would become too great and there were other obstacles as well. Belgium was more intent upon a free-trade system and was not keen about submitting to France which was traditionally strongly protectionist. The talks reached a first deadlock in April, 1917 on the Belgian reluctance to give up too much of her economic independence. The negotiations between France and Belgium were not resumed until June, 1919. The old controversial issues remained and the negotiations were hampered even more by the Luxemburg-issue.

France was willing to fiat the Belgian-Luxemburg rapprochement only after the economic negotiations had been resumed, but in September, 1919 these ended again in a deadlock. In the summer of 1921 a few hesitating attempts were made at getting the talks going again, but in vain. It was to last until June, 1922 before the negotiations were resumed.

The Luxemburg-issue still cast a shadow over the negotiations, while the other matters in dispute also remained. France kept aiming at a disguised customs-union and Belgium obstinately refused to restrict her economic freedom of action too much. These talks ultimately did result in an agreement in June, 1923, which was, however, rejected by the Belgian Parliament in February, 1924.  
(M.d.W.)

In his article M. Baumont gives a brief survey of the principal stages of the Luxemburg issue and the military negotiations between the two countries (1). He avails himself of the Memoirs of Minister for Foreign Affairs Paul Hymans and of the Documents diplomatiques belges, two sources which are indeed quite incomplete. Consequently, the article does not present one single new element : the author does not go beyond a sketchy enumeration of the different events and meetings.  
(M.d.W.)

The title of P. Miquel's article, "L'opinion française et la Bel-

(1) M. BAUMONT, "Les relations franco-belges après 1917", *ibid.*, pp. 295-302.

gique pendant la conférence de paix, janvier-juin 1919" (1) does not quite refer to the contents. In the first place Miquel gives a very concise survey of the different interventions of the Belgian representatives in Versailles. Special attention is paid to the period March-April, 1919, when the Belgian claims with regard to Luxemburg and the reparations seemed seriously endangered. The reactions of the French press to the entire problem are mentioned incidentally. In fact, the French press took, just like the Peace Conference itself, but a very moderate interest in the entire Belgian claim-program.

One of the secondary aspects of the Franco-Belgian relations in that period, namely Clémenceau's attitude towards Belgium, is discussed in the article by J.B. Duroselle (2). The author says that he consulted extensive archive-material at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but yet his conclusions are rather tame and questionable.

Clémenceau proved a lot greedier than it appears from Duroselle's article. The French military authorities and the French government under Clémenceau wanted to surround Germany with a "cordon sanitaire" of states and areas in which the French influence in the military, but also in the economic and political domains, was predominant. To this influence-area belonged not only the Rhine, Ruhr and Saar districts, but also the grand duchy of Luxemburg and Belgium. Duroselle rightly claims that for Clémenceau the French military security was of prime importance. But in ensuring this security both strategic, political and economic considerations were tightly interwoven.

In this connection it seems hardly probable that Clémenceau should be satisfied with only a Franco-Belgian military agreement. The premier wanted to bring Belgium into the French influence-sphere in yet another way, namely by concluding a series of sweeping economic agreements and by increasing the French industrial and financial influence in Belgium.

It is doubtful if "Clémenceau n'a jamais songé un instant à l'annexion du Luxembourg par la France". In many cases he avoided

(1) P. MIQUEL, "L'opinion française et la Belgique pendant la conférence de paix : janvier-juin 1919", *ibid.*, pp. 251-256.

(2) J.B. DUROSELLE, "Clémenceau et la Belgique", *ibid.*, pp. 245-250.

the word annexation out of tactical considerations, such as not to displease Belgium even more, but he wanted to tie the grand duchy in the military, economic and political fields as closely as possible to France. (M.d.W.)

### The Luxemburg-issue

The Luxemburg-issue, one of the great controversial matters between Belgium and France in the period from 1914 to 1920, was discussed in a systematic way by G. Trausch (1). He begins his account with the start of the Belgian annexationist campaign in 1915 and concludes with the ratification of the BLEU (Belgian-Luxemburg Economic Union) in the spring of 1922. This agreement which did not, however, put an end to the differences and the distrust between the new partners, only came about after several years of political bickerings between France, Belgium and Luxemburg. Trausch gives an excellent survey of the means — which were not always fair — used by each of the three parties to achieve their objects. In doing so he emphasized mainly the political and diplomatic activities. Thus the dislocation of the industrial area which comprised the Rhine, Ruhr and Saar districts, Lorraine and Luxemburg, caused by the Versailles treaty, was for the greater part left out of consideration. This dislocation weighed heavily on the development and the outcome of the Luxemburg-issue. Neither does the author pay much attention to the agitations in this connection with the French, Belgian and Luxemburg steel-producers who were not at all inactive in this period. (M.d.W.)

The Belgian plans to annex Luxemburg are also extensively dealt with in the book by C. Calmès, "Le Luxembourg au centre

(1) G. TRAUSCH, "Les relations franco-belges à propos de la question luxembourgeoise", *ibid.*, pp. 275-294.

This article was also published in *Hémecht, Zeitschrift für Luxemburger Geschichte*, XXVII, 1975, 1, pp. 7-32 under the slightly altered title "Le Luxembourg entre la France et la Belgique (1914-1922)".

de l'annexionisme belge, 1914-1919" (1). He finishes his account on the eve of the Versailles conference (18th January, 1919) when the issue is far from being decided.

With this work Calmès brings a sequel to his previously published series of articles on the Luxemburg-issue in 1867-1871 : at that time also France and Belgium tried to lay hands on their little neighbour-country. The author, who consulted archive-material in Brussels and Bonn, concentrates all his attention merely on the diplomatic activity. The Belgian interventions with the allied governments in Paris, London and Washington, the numerous reports of the ambassadors dealing with the Luxemburg-issue, the propaganda-measures, everything is scrupulously and extensively mentioned. But that is also where it ends. The broader background of the Luxemburg-issue which is indeed quite complex, is practically left out of consideration. To give but two examples : both the Franco-Belgian relations and everything attendant on them, and the dislocation of the industrial district on the left bank of the Rhine which was very important for Luxemburg, are hardly mentioned. Neither does Calmès query the rather ambiguous attitude of Arbed during and immediately after the war. This concern followed a clever pendulum-policy, first between the allied nations and the central powers, and later between France and Belgium. The few pages which the author devotes to the vexed question whether Arbed worked for the German war-production or not, confirm the fact that sometimes his views are somewhat naive. Using documents from Arbed itself he concludes that the concern did not supply Germany with war-material "in a direct way". The reality, however, is quite different : without being disturbed the concern supplied Germany with the totality of its output and made a considerable war-profit (2).

(M.d.W.)

On September 11th, 1916 a colloquy was held at Habaye-la-Neuve, devoted to the role of Pierre Nothomb in the Belgian political life in the period between 1914 and 1930. Nothomb was one of the

(1) C. CALMÈS, 1914-1919 — *Le Luxembourg au centre de l'annexionisme belge*, Luxemburg, impr. de Saint-Paul, 1976, 540 pp.

(2) See a.o. : C. WAGNER, *La sidérurgie luxembourgeoise sous le régime du Zollverein et de l'UEBL*, pp. 26-27.

The French Intelligence Services for example were well aware of this.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

protagonists of the Luxemburg-issue. Gilbert Trausch's article was already published under the title "Pierre Nothomb et la question du Luxembourg à l'époque de la première guerre mondiale." (1) The author deals mainly with the role of Nothomb as a propagandist for the annexation of the grand duchy between 1916 and 1918. He did consult Nothomb's private papers and his unpublished memoirs but, according to us, he didn't keep sufficiently aloof from them.

It is of course quite tempting to represent Nothomb as "l'homme-clef de la question luxembourgeoise".

Nothomb himself, through his many writings about his activities in this period, contributed much to the rise of this opinion. But it is not entirely correct. Nothomb was used in the first place by Foreign Affairs, as a kind of figure-head who was easy to disqualify if necessary. For that reason Nothomb's function at Foreign Affairs was deliberately kept rather obscure.

Yet Trausch is right in concluding that Nothomb's conspicuous and obstinate actions in the long run proved disadvantageous for the annexationist plans. The Belgian popularity in the grand duchy reached an absolute nadir in 1919 and it would take several years before the Luxemburg distrust of her ambitious neighbour would somewhat diminish.

(M.d.W.)

### The Belgian claims with regard to Holland

Edited by J. Woltring the first two volumes appeared of the Documents covering the Dutch foreign policy in the period between the wars (2). This publication is of great importance also for Belgian

(1) G. TRAUSCH, "Pierre Nothomb et la question du Luxembourg à l'époque de la première guerre mondiale", *Hémécht, Zeitschrift für Luxemburger Geschichte*, XXIX, 1977, 1, pp. 19-37.

(2) J. WOLTRING, *Documenten betreffende de buitenlandse politiek van Nederland, 1919-1945, Periode A, 1919-1930, volume 1, 1 juli 1919-1 juli 1920*, The Hague, Nijhoff, 1976, 726 pp. (Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatiën, grote serie, no. 156); ID., *Documenten betreffende de buitenlandse politiek van Nederland, 1919-1945, Periode A, 1919-1930; volume 2, 1 juli 1920-31 augustus 1921*, The Hague, Nijhoff, 1977, 649 pp. (Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatiën, grote serie, no. 162).

history. In the period discussed, 1st July, 1919 to 31st August, 1920, the relation with Belgium was strongly to the fore.

In Versailles Belgium claimed the complete revision of the 1839-treaties including the territorial provisions with regard to Dutch Limburg and Zealand Flanders and the modification of the Scheldt-statute. Holland, which was thoroughly scared by the annexationist campaign during the war, immediately after the armistice of November 11th, 1918, unfolded a great diplomatic activity in Paris and London in order to give the relations with the allied powers a brush up. In the course of March, 1919 Holland was officially invited to participate in the discussions in Paris. Yet these negotiations were not exactly to be rushed on. On the 4th June, 1919 it was decided that a committee, composed of representatives of Belgium, Holland, France, Great-Britain, the U.S.A., Italy and Japan, was to examine more closely the revision of the 1839-treaties. The resolution of 4th June excluded territorial modifications, but this did not mean that Holland was quite confident in the outcome.

Next to the official talks the Dutch diplomatic representatives conducted an intensive propaganda-campaign in the allied capitals with a view to obtaining as much support as possible for their point of view. The above-mentioned committee met irregularly in the period between August, 1919 and March, 1920. The negotiations, which were to drag along for years, reached a first deadlock in May, 1920 on the issue of the Wielingen narrows. In the course of 1920 and 1921 a few vain attempts were made at resuming the talks.

The Belgian-Dutch negotiations may be considered the principal part of the two volumes published. The author tried to supplement the traditional diplomatic documents (reports and notes) with diary-fragments of the ministers and negotiators concerned, etc. Thus this well got-up publication forms an indispensable, be it not the only source for the Belgian-Dutch relations in the troubled years 1919-1921. Even though the negotiations between the two countries at first sight may seem a very dull juridical matter, this impression is misleading. Behind the hermetic, concealing formulations a merciless conflict of interests was hidden (the Dutch ports versus Antwerp, for example), which in a collection of mainly diplomatic sources comes less clearly to the fore. (M.d.W.)

The Belgian territorial claims with regard to Holland are also

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

dealt with in two articles by ex-activist H.D. Mommaerts (1). He wants to make known all the ins and outs of the publication of the sensational note of 3rd July, 1919 which contained instructions for the Belgian agents in Dutch Limburg. Mommaerts, former director of the Flemish Press Office which was responsible for the publication, seems the obvious man for doing so. His articles, however, bring few new facts to light. The publication of the note on 20th August, 1919 in the midst of the negotiations about the revision of the 1839-treaties led to a thorough row between Belgium and Holland. In vain Minister for Foreign Affairs Paul Hymans tried to tranquillize people by claiming that the note had originally been drawn up on 20th May, 1919 and consequently prior to the resolution of 4th June in which territorial modifications to the detriment of Holland were excluded. Through this whole matter the Dutch distrust of Belgium, as far as that was possible, grew even greater.

The instruction-note was sent to Mommaerts by his partner R. Standaert about mid-August, but he was in the dark as to the real origin of the document. In his first article Mommaerts has recourse to the very unlikely and unconvincing hypothesis that the note should have been handed to Standaert with the tacit knowledge of the British secret service. Mommaerts is forced to recant this statement in a following issue of "Wetenschappelijke Tijdingen" after revelations by H. Borginon in "De Standaard" of February 14th, 1977. The famous note was transferred by a fronter who worked with the headquarters of the occupational forces in Germany, to the fronters' paper "Ons Vaderland", and thus passed on to Standaert. From the two articles it appears that Mommaerts knew next to nothing about the elaborate campaign which was set up by Belgium in Dutch Limburg immediately after the war. (M.d.W.)

(1) H.D. MOMMAERTS, "Het Belgisch expansionisme bij de herziening van de verdragen van 1839 in de vredesbesprekingen te Parijs in 1919", *Wetenschappelijke Tijdingen*, XXXVI, 1977, 4, col. 193-204.  
ID., "Naschrift op het Belgisch expansionisme", *Wetenschappelijke Tijdingen*, XXXVII, 1978, 2, col. 101-104.

### The annexation of Eupen-Malmédy

Before 1795 the Eupen-Malmédy area belonged to German Limburg, situated between the Meuse and the Rhine. However, it was obviously oriented to the West. The annexation to France confirmed this tendency, but in 1814-1815 the anti-French feeling was strong enough to make the annexation to Prussia rather easily acceptable. So, until 1920 Eupen-Malmédy was part of the German empire and consequently the inhabitants witnessed many events from a point of view which differed from the Belgian one : the revolutionary waves of 1830 and 1848, the struggle for universal suffrage, the introduction of the general compulsory military service and compulsory attendance at school, the struggle between church and state, the Franco-German war, but especially World War I. The Belgian territorial claims to Holland and Luxemburg were rejected internationally, so that an expansion could be considered only at the expense of Germany. Though Belgium did not meet all agreements with regard to Eupen, the League of Nations did sanction the annexation in 1920.

The German influence of the previous century had been so great and the anti-Belgian feeling was so strong that the Belgian authorities did not risk a plebiscite on the destiny of the region.

This chronological survey is completed with biographical notes on members of the Eupen "Rat" and on the Eupen burgomasters. Little attention is also devoted to the press, especially for the period around 1840 and for the years 1870-1920 (1). (L.F.)

(1) Viktor GIELEN, *Der Kreis Eupen unter Preussischer Herrschaft, 1815-1920*, Eupen, Markus-Verlag, 1972, 175 p.

V. THE ECONOMY

The article of Vermaut (1) is in fact an extensive review of E. Sabbe's work in two volumes about the Belgian flax-industry (2). With the help of a few topics discussed in this work Vermaut demonstrates that Sabbe has often treated his sources in a one-sided and not very critical way. The examples of a one-sided or even faulty interpretation of the sources enumerated by Vermaut are a sufficient indication that this history of the Belgian flax-industry must be used with the necessary cautiousness. Moreover, the entire conception of the work is out of date. Sabbe loses himself, according to Vermaut, in an almost inextricable discussion of facts which have but a limited relevance — such as, for example, the situation of the Bruges bleaching-fields, the numerous projects in the domain of customs-legislation which were never put into practice, etc. — whereas he has hardly an eye for the economic context in which the flax-industry operates.

Vermaut restricts his review mainly to that part of the study which covers the periode before 1800. (J.D.V.)

Lieven Bauwens is one of the early-19th century industrialists who still enjoys a certain national and even international reputation. The numerous 19th-century publications on Bauwens created a strongly idealized image of this figure; an image which, according to Suetens (3), also influenced the later works on Bauwens (4) to a considerable extent.

(1) J. VERMAUT, "Vijf variaties op het thema : 'De Belgische Vlasnijverheid' ", *Handelingen van de Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis 'Société d'Emulation' te Brugge*, CXIII, 1976, pp. 183-227.

(2) E. SABBE, *De Belgische vlasnijverheid. I. : De Zuidnederlandse vlasnijverheid tot het verdrag van Utrecht (1713). II : Van het verdrag van Utrecht (1713) tot het midden van de XIXde eeuw*, Courtray, 1975, 2 volumes.

(3) Anna Magdalena SUETENS, "Lieven Bauwens — Mythe en werkelijkheid", *Handelingen van de Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde te Gent*, nieuwe reeks, XXVIII, 1974, pp. 77-114.

(4) A. DESPRECHINS, *Liévin Bauwens et sa famille*, Bruges 1954; F. LELEUX, *A l'aube du capitalisme et de la révolution industrielle. Liévin Bauwens, industriel gantois*, Paris, 1969.

With this article A.M. Suetens aims at doing away with the myth which was created around Bauwens and at reducing him to his real proportions.

To this end she studies the attitude of Bauwens towards the labourers in his factories. She does so mainly on the basis of the rather extensive correspondence left by Bauwens and kept in the town-archives in Ghent. From her investigation it appears that Bauwens was not at all the unselfish benefactor. He was guided in the first place by pursuit of gain and often treated his nearest co-operators in an ungrateful way, while he cared little for the lot of his labourers.

Suetens, however, emphasizes the particular character of Bauwens too much, through which she is inclined always to identify the cause of numerous abuses which no doubt existed in the 19th-century factory, with his figure. (J.D.V.)

The article by P. Scholliers-Vanden Eeckhout does not give a complete biography of Basse neither an enumeration of all projects which emanated from the Société Générale and in which Basse was involved (1). She focuses her attention on the one hand on the period when Basse was one of the leading Brussels calico-printers and on the other hand on the role which Basse played in the projects of the Société Générale to bring about a connection between the Belgian coal-basins and the French market. In choosing to deal with the latter aspect she is motivated, among other things, by the fact that, in this project, Basse not merely had the interests of the Société Générale at heart, but was also personally interested in this matter.

Basse became the owner of a calico-printing works in 1810 and succeeded in extending his enterprise to one of the most important in Belgium. His firm was not to survive the difficulties after 1830. In 1836 he was forced to wind up his calico-printing works. Meanwhile Basse had become a member of the board of directors of the Société Générale. After the winding-up of his calico-printing works he devoted himself entirely to this task. As was the case with many industrial pioneers, Basse's speculations would not in the end make

(1) Patricia SCHOLLIERS-VANDEN EECKHOUT, "Een vertegenwoordiger van het opkomend industriekapitalisme : Frederic Basse, van katoendrukker tot beheerder van N.V.'s", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, VII, 1976, 3-4, pp. 473-491.

CRITICAL CHRONICLE

him rich. In 1848 Basse committed suicide : he left to his family the considerable debt-burden of 3,160,646 frs. (J.D.V.)

Painter-revolutionary Léonard Defrance was notorious mainly for his responsibility in the destruction of St. Lambert's Cathedral in Liège at the time of the French Revolution. Recently more data have become available on his social descent, his training as a painter and his recognition in the prince-bishopric. From 1789 to 1802 he played a political part on the local plane. As a painter he was mainly interested in the daily life of the popular mass and in the rising industries. Thus his works became valuable contributions to industrial archaeology : they provide us with a good knowledge of techniques and machines (1). (L.F.)

In an important article O. Vanneste gives a brief survey of the situation before 1947 at Ypres and throws light especially on the improvements which occurred, mainly since the 1959 act on the regional expansion and even more since the decision of March, 1962 to draw up a special plan for the economic development of the West Corner. Whereas before 1947 employment at Ypres was due mainly to one large enterprise (Picañol), in later years the authorities encouraged the implantation of more diversified enterprises — mainly ready-made clothing and food-plants. It is, however, surprising and alarming to read how many of these plants are in foreign hands and how quickly they disappear again. And the study stops in 1973, which is before the crisis-years ! Yet the article shows the favourable impact of this economic policy on the population-mouvement, among other things the fact that the long-distance labour-shuttle has practically disappeared.

This article is a good concrete illustration of the consequences of government interference in the Belgian economic life since the sixties, with its merits and its weaknesses (2). (L.S.)

(1) J.J. HEIRWEGH, "Léonard Defrance (1735-1805)", *Etudes sur le XVIIIe siècle*, 1976, III, pp. 153-170.

(2) O. VANNESTE, "De ekonomische evolutie te Ieper na de tweede wereldoorlog", *Prisma van de geschiedenis van Ieper*, Ypres, 1974, pp. 441-464, tables.

## VI. CHURCH, RELIGION AND SOCIETY

## 1. TRENDS IN SOCIOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Religion-historians concerning themselves with the "histoire immédiate" of the religious evolution in post-council Belgium are strongly aided in their task by the publications of the thriving Belgian religion-sociological school. With their "Godsdienst in Vlaanderen" J. Billiet and K. Dobbelaere give a handy survey of the religious groups and an expert analysis of the trends that have appeared in recent years (1). Along with J. Kerkhof's essay "Morgen is er al" (2) it may be considered a sequel to "Kerk in Vlaanderen" (3) which was published in 1962. The historical retrospects are very concise but thorough and they are based on a systematic reading of the historical studies published. The same thing may be said of Billiet's "Secularizing in het onderwijs" (4) in which, among other things, a survey is given of the school-problem in Belgium from 1830 to the present day.

Seiler's book (5) may in some respects be considered the Walloon counterpart of "Godsdienst in Vlaanderen" on the under-

(1) J. BILLIET and K. DOBBELAERE, *Godsdienst in Vlaanderen: van kerks katholicisme naar sociaal-kulturele kristenheid*, Louvain, Davidsfonds, 1976, 100 pp. (Horizonreeks 33). For the recent evolution on the church-institutional plane, see also Hilde DE WACHTER, "De pastorale raden in de Vlaamse bisdommen. Een overzicht (1968-1976)", *Collationes*, 1977, 4, pp. 461-477 and IDEM, "Tien jaar werking van pastorale raden in de Vlaamse bisdommen", *Politica*, XXVII, 1977, 4, pp. 331-363.

(2) J. KERKHOF, *Morgen is er al. Blauwdruk voor de kerk in Vlaanderen*, Tielt, Lannoo, 1975.

(3) *De Kerk in Vlaanderen. Pastoraal-sociologische studie van het leven en de structuur der Kerk*, collective work under the direction of J. KERKHOF and J. VAN HOUTTE, Tielt, 1962.

(4) J. BILLIET, *Secularizing en verzuijing in het onderwijs. Een sociologisch onderzoek naar de vrije schoolkeuze als legitimatieschema en als sociaal proces*, Louvain, Univ. pers., 1977 (Sociologisch Onderzoeksinstituut KUL. Sociologische verkenningen, 9).

(5) Daniel SEILER, *Le déclin du 'cléricalisme': structure du comportement politique du monde catholique wallon*, Brussels, Instit. belge de sc. politique, 1975. With regard to the changes in the pastoral strategy in Wallonia we must

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

standing that here a politicologist is speaking whose accents are different from the religion-sociologists' views. Here also we find a useful survey of the "monde catholique" in French-speaking Belgium with brief historical references.

The evolution in the attitude of the Belgian French-speaking catholics towards birth-control and abortion since the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* is dealt with by H. Hasquin (1) in a detailed and documented way.

All above-mentioned works in their own way give a central place in their study to the secularization, the mutations, the shiftings and especially the growing pluralism within the existing religious groups, laying more stress on endogenous than on exogenous factors. The smartest word to indicate what holds the attention especially, is probably used by Seiler: the declericalization and its attendant growing plurality in today's Belgian religious world.

That interest is also clearly reflected in the historiographical production in Belgium and elsewhere in recent years (2).

More attention is paid nowadays not so much to official catholicism, but rather to the more marginal forms of religious experience, which are found within or out of the church, but always to some extent independent of the higher clergy. (J.A.)

mention the article by J.M. LACROSSE, and others, "Le travail aux marges", *Recherches de science religieuse*, LXV, 1977, 3, pp. 443-471. In this article an attempt is made — using the conceptions of Bourdieu — at placing four religious priest-labourers working in Brussels and in three Walloon towns, in the religious field, at their work, in the trade-union and on the social ladder.

(1) Hervé HASQUIN, "L'Eglise, la contraception et l'avortement. Données historiques et positions des milieux catholiques belges", *Problèmes d'histoire du Christianisme*, IV, 1973-4, pp. 57-117.

(2) Bernard PLONGERON, *Religion et sociétés en Occident (XVIe-XXe siècles)*. *Recherches françaises et tendances internationales 1973-1977*, Paris, Ed. du CNRS, 1979. The study of the "religion populaire" has rather a central place. For Flanders, see a.o. F. HAARSMA, "Volkskatholicisme en pastorale strategie in Nederland en Vlaanderen", *Ts. voor Theologie*, XVII, 1977, 4, pp. 381-408; for Wallonia: "Catholicisme populaire", *La Foi et le Temps*, VIII, 1978, 4, pp. 313-394.

## 2. THE CLERGY

### a. The bishops

Of the works devoted to the Belgian archbishops the one by Boudens is the most valid. At any rate much more valuable than the 'impressions' E. Hamilton had of Léon Suenens (1). That story may be added to the dossier of "image-building of the prelates". For his sketch of Ernest Van Roey W.S. Plavsic (2) was allowed to consult a few volumes of the Van Roey-documents kept at the archbishopric, notably the sections 'Royal family', 'capitulation', 'Baldwin's accession to the throne' and 'nunciature'. The bibliographical orientation at the end of this work gives a good survey of the literature on this subject.

Pending a better accessibility of other archive-sources, such works remain valuable because they offer the first foundations for more thorough study. (J.A.)

For his study on the reactions of Cardinal Mercier with regard to the Flemish Movement R. Boudens (3) had the disposal of more archive-material. Here again it is not known to what extent the sections 'Réunion des Evêques', 'Activisme', '1914-1918', 'Enseignement', 'Louvain', 'Question flamande', 'Correspondance générale', 'Evêques', 'Nonciature', 'Rome' and 'Voyage d'Amérique' of the hardly accessible Mercier-documents, span the problem. However, the author makes ample use of other public and private archives to which he did have access, and thus succeeds in writing the first valuable synthesis about an important aspect of the history of the Flemish Movement. The book contains a wealth of data because it wants in the first place to bring a classical, factual account. The fact that Mercier's attitude was hostile does not sound new, but that this insight, based on extensive archive-research undertaken by a clergy-

(1) E. HAMILTON, *Cardinal Suenens*, London, 1975, 254 pp.

(2) W.S. PLAVSIC, *Le Cardinal Van Roey*, Brussels, Labor, 1974 (Coll. Humanisme 6).

(3) R. BOUDENS, *Kardinaal Mercier en de Vlaamse Beweging*, Louvain, Davidsfonds, 1975.

man-historian, can be published in a catholic series, is symptomatic of the shiftings which are taking place within the Belgian catholic church. Boudens's book forms an important start for writing another history, in which the "Question flamande" is part of the growing resistance of the layman (and sometimes the lower clergy) — whether he was a labourer, a shopkeeper, an intellectual or an unschooled man — to what Kerkhofs calls 'the wicked paternalistic clerical caste' which governed the Belgian ecclesiastical structure for decenniads. In that way Boudens's book constitutes a fundamental contribution to a more general 'religious history' in which the Flemish Movement, Daensism, some aspects of the labour-movement, free-thinking, education-history, etc... will be dealt with as different facets of the same evolution towards the situation of today and tomorrow. (J.A.)

#### b. Priests, nuns and brothers

Parallel with the attention devoted in most recent articles to the declericalization-process, there is an increased interest in the development and size of the group of released people within the ecclesiastical structures of the last century. This is attendant on a striking decrease of the number of nuns and priests in Belgium.

Those retrospects aim at measuring the extent of professionalization of the church-institution — by determining the number of male and female staff — and they present the first explanation-hypotheses.

Tihon (1) tries to work the available numerical data on nuns, as far as they were printed (1780-1970), into a first survey. Thus he writes the second part of an investigation started in the report by Dingemans (2) — which was unfortunately disseminated only on a limited scale — giving a survey of the development of the number of monks in Belgium on the basis of the official counts.

(1) A. TIHON, "Les religieuses en Belgique du 18e au 20e siècle. Approche statistique", *Revue belge d'histoire contemporaine*, VII, 1976, 1-2, pp. 1-54.

(2) L. DINGEMANS, *Un siècle de développement des instituts religieux masculins en Belgique*, Brussels, Centre de Recherches socio-religieuses, 1957.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

It was the aim of Tihon's article to present a survey comparable to, for example, the French findings which are based on similar material. He also takes a first step in the direction of a 'continental' approach of the phenomenon. So, the plan is praiseworthy, but, according to us, it is not to be realized with the means used. The data of the official counts are so poor — Tihon himself illustrates this clearly — and so fragmentary (every ten years only one statement of the number of members per municipality and per congregation) that they can at best be used as a first approximative outline of the national evolution. It appears to us that the French sources with regard to the religious communities may bear the same name, but do present a higher degree of reliability, owing to the strong state-supervision to which the French religious orders were long subjected. Therefore, a comparison between the two countries must be made with the greatest caution. Consequently, the explanation-hypotheses in the article can only be vague and merely incitations to a further and more thorough investigation. Meanwhile, it is a first rough outline of the quantitative expansion of an important part of the Belgian ecclesiastical institution. (J.A.)

A more thorough investigation, based on other sources, is presented by Mrs. Jacobus in her study about the female religious callings from West-Flanders (1). This author uses the entry-registers of the orders or congregations themselves and thus succeeds in showing the fluctuations of the numbers of entries per year, and in drawing up a map with the geographical origins of the novices. Thus the author establishes concordances on the geographical and chronological planes with East-Flanders and with the maps made by Rombauts of the West-Flemish neglect of easter-duty. (J.A.)

With regard to the considerable internal diversification within the group of nuns and priests we are thrown on micro-research. A good example of this is given by Fassbender with his study on

(1) Anne JACOBUS, "De vrouwelijke religieuze roepingen in het bisdom Brugge (1802-1914). Evolutie en herkomst", *Handelingen van het Genootschap voor Geschiedenis "Société d'Emulation" te Brugge*, CXVI, 1979, 1-2, pp. 27-86.

the Van Moortsel-case (1). What could originally have been restricted to a quarrel between priest and bishop became a sensational scandal in Liège. In spite of the episcopal order the rebelling priest refused to leave his parish. He could rely on liberal sympathies and thus reached the public opinion. Other contacts of Van Moortsel with autonomous priests in the bishopric of Liège are not further discussed here. It would be worth-while investigating to what extent Van Moortsel's behaviour corresponded with previous cases and how he was thus part of a Liège rebelling tradition. (J.A.)

The extremely well-documented study by J. Vercruysse is an article in the same sense (2). It deals with what has been called "Stevensonism" so far, but should actually be called ultramontane anti-etatism. With the help of the extensive literature on Stevens and especially through a new approach of the scattered sources, the author succeeds in pointing out the continuous thread running from the Franckenberg declaration of 1789 to the denunciation of the imperial catechism after 1806. So the Stevens-phenomenon is no longer studied on itself, but is given a place in the long "Belgian" ultramontane tradition with its long previous history and its protracted aftermath.

Vercruysse's article expressly points at the existence of the continuity of clerical traditions. Thus his article presents a wealth of information on the historiography of and about Stevens; at the same time it is an incitation to study all expressions of the clerical ultramontane anti-etatism of the Belgian clergy in its continuity (3).

(1) Henri FASSBENDER, "L'affaire Van Moortsel (1844-1848)", *L'Eglise et l'Etat à l'époque contemporaine. Mélanges A. Simon*, Brussels, Fac. univ. St. Louis, 1975, pp. 201-243.

(2) J. VERCRUYSSSE, "Entre Dieu et César. Corneille Stevens (1747-1828). Aux origines de l'anticoncordatisme belge", *Ts. voor de studie van de Verlichting*, 1975, 3-4, pp. 257-306.

(3) In this connection it must be mentioned that there is a continuous flow of studies on the reactions of the clergy to the French measures. Yet, nobody seems to think of starting a synthesis. The most recent comprehensive study is still the one by L. PRENEEL, "Priesters in het Concordatair bisdom Gent 1802-1813", *De Leiegouw*, IV, 1962, pp. 73-101, 205-230; V, 1963, pp. 5-30. Among the latest micro-studies on the subject is : R. CAUWE, "Harelbeekse geestelijkheid tijdens de Beloken Tijd", *De Leiegouw*, XXVII, 1975, 1-2, pp. 185-193.

Such traditions were often borne and conveyed by professors of seminaries and universities. As far as we know a systematic study of the 19th-century Belgian seminary-education does not yet exist. The anniversary of the Louvain University did give rise to a series of remarkable studies on the theological education there. In his article R. Aubert gives a first explanation of the fact that modernism had such a small impact in Belgian circles (1) : the originally strongly traditionalist education in Louvain, under the impulse of a few professors, developed into a moderate progressiveness which, relatively speaking, implied a considerable progress as compared with the previous situation. The article shows the importance of a study of the training-circles of the clergy in order to find out the shiftings and fractions there; this does require a theological erudition on the part of the researcher. We can only hope that, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Belgian seminaries, the Louvain example will find ample and equally thorough imitation. (J.A.)

A first impression of the wealth which the archives of (elementary) seminaries may contain, is given in the book of C. De Clercq on the elementary seminary at Rolduc (2). By means of the correspondence between Bishop Van Bommel and the principal, De Clercq succeeds in evoking the enthusiastic atmosphere in which the clerical training was started after the independence. The priest-teachers worked under the direct authority of the bishop and lived in a quasi-monastic community. One of them was Gérard-Casimir Ubaghs, the later traditionalist professor at Louvain. (J.A.)

A genre which has fallen into oblivion, but may become an important image of the time, is the biography. This is demonstrated by A. Deboutte with his biographical sketch of C.L. Costenoble

(1) R. AUBERT, "The turn of the century. A turning point for the Faculty of Theology", *Louvain Studies*, V, 1974-1975, pp. 264-279.

(2) Charles DE CLERCQ, *Rolduc. Son abbaye. Ses religieux. Son séminaire 1661-1860. Deux siècles d'histoire du temps*, Kerkrade, Centre Internat. de Rolduc, 1975, 312 and 160 pp. Also the pages dealing with the Austrian, French and Dutch periods are a fine piece of history of the reactions of an abbey to the events of the time.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

(1826-1886) (1). The biography is extremely well-documented. Deboutte uses an autobiographical lecture as his guide and compares the pronouncements with documents kept in all kinds of archives. Young Costenoble landed in the recently established Picpus Congregation which sent him to Chile after a short training. The story of the crossing is a document of itself (the sailing-ship was becalmed for five weeks and was frozen in at the antarctic pole). After being a secondary-schoolteacher for a few years Costenoble left his congregation and became an independent priest-tutor in leading Chilean families. In that function he travelled all over the continent (travel-stories !) and earned a good deal of money, which allowed him to come back home. He became priest of the hamlet of Woumen, a backward parish near the "Vrijbos" and in a few years succeeded in 'civilizing' it. Costenoble's decline of life is sufficient to make his biography an interesting document. How many priest were there who converted 'backward' parishes with their own capital ? And how must we visualize the 19th-century missionaries ? (J.A.)

However, it is not possible to know so much about all priests' lives. Many of them led an existence 'sans histoires'. The publication of the hand-book by priest J. Vandendorpe (1730-1806) (2) teaches us how a modal priest reacted to the reforms of Joseph II, the Brabantine Revolution, the French occupation, the persecution, the Concordat. What did he think of in peace-time ? Geldhof's publication helps in answering these and other questions. Let us hope that this hand-book will be one in a long series the volumes of which will be presented in an equally handy and yet critically justified way. (J.A.)

Next to the varied world of the seculars there is the wide range of the religieuses. A first step towards a diversifying approach of that

(1) Alfred DEBOUTTE, *Leven van Charles-Louis Costenoble. Apostolisch missionaris in Chili. Eerste pastoor van Jonkershove 1826-1886*, Louvain, Sintal, 1973.

(2) Jozef GELDHOF, *Het handboek van P.J. Vandendorpe, pastoor van Nieuwkerke 1730-1806*, Bruges, 1974 (Bijdr. tot de Gesch. van West-Vl. uitgegeven door het Genootschap 'Société d'Emulation' te Brugge, 6).

group is found in the 'memorial publications', published on the occasion of some anniversary of the existence of an order or congregation (1).

As far as the contents are concerned the articles are on the same level : unpretentious, sometimes a little hagiographic, but yet thorough. It may be said that thanks to such chronicles, illustrated with extensive source-extracts and provided with the complete list of entries of religieuses, it is getting possible to write a comprehensive history of the foundation and revival movements which were characteristic of our country in the former half of last century. Behind those numerous beginnings of new forms of religious communities — or revival of old ones — there are clearly common motives and properties. Thus the latent functions of those 19th-century "basis-communities" come to the fore.

In some cases the founders are discussed in a separate publication. The list of studies already published in this connection is

(1) R. RUYS, *Honderd jaar Zusters van St.-Vincentius à Paulo te Wichelen*, Wichelen, Heem- en Oudheidkundige Kr., 1975.

M. RYCKAERT, "Het voormalig klooster van de Zusters van St.-Vincentius a Paulo te Zomergem", *Appeltjes van het Meetjesland*, XXV, 1974, pp. 74-201.

K. BAERT and J. DAUWE, *Zwarte Zusters van St. Augustinus te Aalst*, Aalst, 1975, 265 pp.

In this connection we should also mention the well-documented and minute study of J. LAUWERS, "Het Begijnhof van Hoogstraten", *HOK, Jb. van Kon. Hoogstratens Oudheidk. Kr.*, XLII, 1974, pp. 5-172 and XLIII, 1975, pp. 5-223, following the beguines as far as the 20th century (in appendix a.o. the list of entries).

Also J. GELDHOF's *Pelgrims, Dulle Liederen en Vondelingen te Brugge 1275-1975. Zeven eeuwen geschiedenis van het Sint-Juliaansgasthuis en van de Psychiatrische Kliniek O.-L.-Vrouw te Brugge-St.-Michiels*, Bruges, 1975, 355 pp. is of importance for the late modern history of the nuns in Belgium. The third part (pp. 221-297) deals with "the new St. Julian" between 1798 and 1975 and contains among other things the list of names of all Sisters of the Congregation of Jesus' Mercy, the list of the foundations, etc.

J.B. VAN DAMME, *De Trappistenabdij te Westmalle*, Antwerp, De Nederlandse Boekhandel, 1977. See the brochure by the same author, *Cisterciënzers of Trappisten te Westmalle*, Westmalle, 1974, with the list of entries.

Jaak BREBELS, *Verleden van huize St.-Jan de Deo Gent*, (Ghent, 1974), 180 pp. in his story about the inmates of the old Carthusian convent gives interesting details on Lieven Bauwens, the Pacification of Ghent, canons Triest and De Decker, the Brothers of St. John de Deo, the Brothers of Maria (Alost) and the Brothers Hieronymites, based on the State and Town Archives in Ghent (De Pauw-documents) and the congregation-archives. No foot-notes.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

already long and a synthesis of them presents sufficient material for the elaboration of a typology of the (female) 19th-century founder. Devadder en Cnockaert did not undertake this yet, although the figure of P.J. Triest would have been very suitable for such a typology (1). Mrs. Cnockaert has restricted herself to a technically flawless and very complete biography. As such her work can very well serve as the model for the biographies which are still on the stocks. It is to be hoped that an author will ever pluck the different founders out of their isolation in which they were often placed by their revering biographers, and that they will one day be discussed as a group, and no longer as individuals. (J.A.)

The fact that the above-mentioned monographs may form useful starting-points for further investigation, is proved by the original article of Mrs. Mertens (2). She investigates the social context in which the 19th-century nuns' congregations recruited and thrived; in doing so she starts from the monograph of Ryckaert about the Sisters of St. Vincent a Paulo at Zomergem. Mertens has succeeded in reconstructing — by means of parish-registers and legacy-returns — the family-situations and the financial means of over one hundred calling-families, not only for the members of the local Zomergem nuns' congregation, but for all female religious callings of Zomergem origin, and consequently also for those entering a 'strange' congregation. The shiftings in the social origin, throughout time and depending on the congregation, which appear from this study, are revealing and form the first scientific confirmation of what was known from the oral tradition : there are considerable social differences in the recruitment of the several

(1) J. DEVADDER, "De invloed van Pastoor Karel Nerinckx op Theodorus-Jacobus Rijken, stichter van de Broeders Xaverianen", *Het Oude Land van Edingen*, V, 1977, pp. 47-50 and 135-140.

IDEM, *T.J. Rijken. Stichter van de Broeders Xaverianen 1781-1871*, Bruges, 1977.

Lucienne CNOCKAERT, *Pierre-Joseph Triest 1760-1836, le Vincent de Paul belge*, Louvain, 1974, 657 pp. (Univ. de Louvain, recueil de travaux d'h. et de philol., 6e série, 3).

(2) R. MERTENS, "Vrouwelijke religieuze roepingen tussen 1803 en 1955. Casus : de congregatie van Zomergem en de Zomergemse vrouwelijke religieuzen", *Belg. ts. voor Nieuwste Gesch.*, IX, 1978, 3-4, pp. 419-480.

congregations and as the century progresses some congregations have an increasing number of candidates from the working-class. (J.A.)

Also the very interesting article by Albert Druart (1) proves that the history of the religious communities must not necessarily be restricted to a mere account of foundation-events. Druart has a thorough knowledge of the sources for the history of the Salesians which are kept in the provincial (Belgian) and central (Italian) archives of his congregation. After giving a survey — based on that knowledge — of the Salesian implantations in Belgium between 1891 and 1914, the author tries to elaborate a typology of the foundation, and to find out its real functions in social life, among other things on the plane of the “solution of the question sociale”.

In the realization of a Salesian implantation the recruitment-possibilities played the most important part. Moreover, the foundations came about mostly through the intervention of leading conservative catholics who greatly determined the spirit of them. Finally the local situations and circumstances caused a growing discrepancy between the original theoretical purpose of the Salesian works and their eventual results. In a quiet but doubtlessly thorough way Druart analyses the origins of the Salesian initiatives. The article creates the best of hopes for his current study on the foundation-circumstances of a few male religious orders and congregations in Belgium in the former half of the 19th century. (J.A.)

W. Blondeel is interested in an analogous problem when dealing with the implantation-policy of the White Fathers in Kivu (Zaire) between 1910 and 1912 (2). This author also uses both the provincial and the central archives of the religious community studied, so sources which were little used before. He demonstrates how the missionary strategy was mainly determined by the fear of the protestant (English) infiltration in the border-area discussed, the

(1) Albert DRUART, “Les origines des oeuvres salésiennes en Belgique 1891-1914”, *Salesianum*, XXXVIII, 1976, 3, pp. 653-684.

(2) William BLONDEEL, “Settlement-policy of the missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in Kivu, Belgian Congo. Phase 1910-1924. Political and religious factors in the decision-making of the Society”, *Revue belge d'Histoire contemporaine*, VI, 1975, 3-4, pp. 329-363.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

competition among the different catholic missionary congregations and the desire to co-operate with the Belgian government who had the intention to clear the area of both native and foreign agitators. This article also constitutes a preliminary study for a more extensive work, the results of which are looked forward to with curiosity.  
(J.A.)

### 3. THE LAYMEN

Next to the diversifications among the nuns and priests, there are the different forms of religious experience among the laymen, which quite often developed around a religieuse or a religious community. Thus the convents and monasteries are in many cases valuable gateways to the study of informal religious subgroups (of laymen). The social radius of action of certain spiritualities can thus be determined. Who was a member of the fraternity in honour of St.Appolonia, founded by the Sisters of Wichelen, "afin d'être préservées des maux de dents durant le terme de 9 ans" (1912) ? And what was Constantin Meunier looking for in the Westmalle abbey ?

#### a. Middle class subgroups

A good example of a study of a religious subgroup is the article by P. Catrice — a summary of an extensive, but unfortunately unpublished study of some 750 pages about the Vercruysse family at Courtray (1). It deals with a leading middle-class family having connections a.o. with Donche, the Jewish converts-founders of orders de Ratisbonne and well-known members of the de Hemptinne family, de Robiano, etc. whose publications throw a remarkable light on utopism and millenarism alive in Flemish bourgeois catholicism during the last century.

(1) P. CATRICE, "Deux courtraisiens du XIXe siècle prophètes de la régénération du monde et de la conversion des Juifs", *Handelingen van de kon. Geschieden Oudheidkundige Kring te Kortrijk*, XVI, 1974, pp. 123-315.

The article contains a wealth of data on the spirituality of a certain superstratum and gives information about, among other things, the penetration of the devotion to Our Lady of La Salette in Belgium, the Belgian followers of the "prophet" Vintras, the reaction to this on the part of the clerical authorities, etc. (1). (J.A.)

Vintras appears again in another important study devoted to a Belgian religious cleavage-group of last century, notably in J. Bartier's article on the "vrais catholiques" (2). Here again ex-religieuses and priests act as catalysers in the process of fermentation that seems to have occurred in the 19th-century Belgian religious opinion. The movement of the "true catholics" which was associated with the foreign ex-catholics, and after a short period of independence evolved to a cabinet of magnetism — through which it can be considered an early forerunner of Antoinism, which was successful in the same social circles — had but a limited number of followers. Meanwhile the article is a valuable illustration of the actual religious diversity which was hidden behind the façade of a unitarian christian Belgium. (J.A.)

The Liberal-catholicism around Lamennais is one of the partial fields of the same problem, which have been thoroughly investigated, though so far the attention was almost exclusively directed to the political aspect of it. K. Jürgensen re-examines — on the basis of his knowledge of the subject-matter — the influence of Lamennais on

(1) A fragmentary, but important part of the growing dossier on the relation between the bishops, the ultramontane middle class and the flamingant lower middle class is the article by R. VANLANDSCHOOT, "Bisschop Faict in april 1874 tussen ultramontanen en flaminganten", *Huldeboek André Demedts*, Courtray, 1977, pp. 113-126. The author demonstrates how the firm attitude of Faict in his later conflict with the West-Flemish flamingant schoolboys had taken shape years before, among other things with regard to ultramontane manoeuvres.

(2) John BARTIER, "Les 'vrais catholiques' en Belgique 1872-1878", *Problèmes d'histoire du Christianisme*, 1974, pp. 39-54.

CRITICAL CHRONICLE

the Belgian political scene and provides his article with an ample bibliography (1). (J.A.)

R. Aubert gives a concise survey of the "unionist" years of Belgian liberal catholicism, emphasizing the typical Belgian element in it, and availing himself of the recent literature (2). (J.A.)

Not especially focused on Belgium, but inspiring and renewing for further local investigation is the article by J. Lecler on the spirituality of the liberal-catholics (3). This author points at ties existing in France a.o. between the liberal-catholics on the one hand and the Dominicans and Benedictines on the other hand, which ties deserve the same attention for Belgium. (J.A.)

R. Desmed deals with the evolution of the religious feeling in the Belgian lodges between 1830 and 1914, using mainly printed material and the archives of two large Brussels lodges (4). It is hard

(1) K. JURGENSEN, "Der Einfluss des französischen Abbé Félicité de Lamennais auf die Gründung des belgischen Königreiches", *L'Eglise et l'Etat. Mélanges A. Simon*, Brussels, 1975, pp. 315-336.

(2) R. AUBERT, "Les débuts du catholicisme libéral en Belgique", *Les catholiques libéraux au XIXe siècle. Actes du Colloque international d'histoire religieuse de Grenoble des 30 septembre-3 octobre 1971*, Grenoble, Presses univ. de Grenoble, 1974, pp. 67-78 (Coll. du Centre d'histoire du catholicisme 11). In the same volume (pp. 113-123) we must mention the article by S. SAILLARD, "Louvain, Salamanque, Lyon, Rome : itinéraire européen d'une controverse à propos de Ste. Thérèse, 1882". It deals with the reactions caused by an article of a Belgian Jesuit, J.S. HAHN, "Les phénomènes hystériques et les révélations de Ste. Thérèse". Hahn was an old student of Charcot's.

(3) J. LECLER, "La spiritualité des catholiques libéraux", *Les catholiques libéraux au XIXe siècle. Actes du Colloque international d'histoire religieuse de Grenoble des 30 septembre-3 octobre 1971*, Grenoble, Presses univ. de Grenoble, 1974, pp. 367-420 (Coll. du Centre d'histoire du catholicisme 11).

(4) Roger DESMED, "L'évolution du sentiment religieux chez les Francs-Maçons belges entre 1830 et 1914. L'exemple des loges bruxelloises", *Problèmes d'histoire du Christianisme*, VII, 1976-1977, pp. 57-87.

to overestimate the importance of his article owing to the difficult accessibility of the sources used here, and on account of the information supplied about the mental evolution of a leading group in the Belgian middle classes. We believe that this evolution presents many analogies with what happened among the ultramontane middle classes, be it in different forms. Such articles enable us to think of a religious history of the Belgian middle class, in which the stress would no longer be on the contrasts, but on the resemblances between clerical and anti-clerical, liberal and conservative which are different expressions of a same attitude of the members of the same social-economic group. (J.A.)

Closely related to the above articles is the dissertation by Mrs. Sautier-Keulemans on liberal-protestantism in Belgium between 1865 and 1888 (1). The movement was highly determined by the 'religious' aspirations of leading liberals-freemasons who wanted thus to create in Belgium an enlightened form of religious experience which was not dominated by the clergy, but yet ecclesiastically organized (2). It is our hope that next to the more biographical parts of this dissertation (3), also the central part dealing with the local initiatives of Brussels, Liège and Sart-Dames-Avelines, will shortly be published, and that similar research should be undertaken in Ghent and Antwerp. In that way the Belgian bourgeois religious mentality could be mapped out even further than it was done by the above-mentioned articles. (J.A.)

(1) Sabine KEULEMANS, *Le protestantisme libéral en Belgique 1865-1888*, U.C.L., unpublished dissertation, 1973, 318 pp.

(2) A more anecdotal, but yet valid contribution to that dossier is Marcellijn DEWULF's, "De Egyptische zaal van het kasteel Moerland te St.-Niklaas opgericht als tempel der Rozenkruisers", *Annalen van de Kon. Oudheidk. Kr. van het Land van Waas*, LXXXI, 1978, pp. 34-43.

(3) S. SAUTIER-KEULEMANS, "Les précurseurs de la propagande libérale en faveur du protestantisme", *Bulletin de la Soc. d'histoire du protestantisme belge*, VIe série, 1974, 3, pp. 87-94.

IDEM, "Théophile Bost et le protestantisme libéral", *ibidem*, VI, 1974, 6, pp. 165-202.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

The ties between 19th-century protestantism and anticlerical liberalism also become obvious in the article by Urbain Vermeulen (1). He examines the press-polemics which broke out in Ghent in 1879 between catholic and liberal newspapers on the occasion of the Pacification-festivities of that time. Seldom was the legitimating function of 19th-century historiography so clearly illustrated as in the case of the conflicting interpretations of 16th-century protestantism. That theme of "the development of the Beggars' mysticism among the 19th-century liberal lower middle classes" deserves a systematic study. (J.A.)

The Society for the History of Belgian Protestantism sees to a continuous production on the history of Protestantism as such, making more and more room for Late Modern History.

It speaks well for E. Pichal that in his "Preface" he considerably shades the promising title of his work (2). It is a history "through anecdotes... a popular work... about some of the most remarkable and often most touching pages of history". Consequently, the qualities of his book are to be found on a plane different from the historical-scientific one. (J.A.)

Before reaching a critical synthesis of Protestantism in Flanders it will be necessary to write a good many monographs, if possible in the style of W.J. Lutjeharms's "Vlaamse Opleidingsschool" (3). This work strongly emphasizes the personalia of the 33 students who left the institution during the past 100 years. That approach can be explained in view of the strongly personal nature of most protestant activities developed in Belgium in the last century. This is a very good starting-point for a detailed study of the diverse actions, a.o.

(1) U. VERMEULEN, "Katholieken en liberalen tegenover de Gentse Pacificatiefeesten van 1876", *Opstand en pacificatie in de Lage Landen*, Ghent, 1976, pp. 332-350. This is a reprint of an article that was published earlier and reviewed in *Bull. Crit.* 1966-67, nr. 102.

(2) E. PICHAL, *De Geschiedenis van het protestantisme in Vlaanderen*, Antwerp, Standaard Wet. Uitgeverij, 1976, 233 pp.

(3) W. LUTJEHARMS, *De Vlaamse Opleidingsschool van Nicolaas de Jonge en zijn opvolgers (1875-1926)*, Brussels, 1978, 128 pp. (Vereniging voor de Gesch. van het Belg. Protestantisme, reeks van histor. studies, 6).

the "Urban and Rural Evangelization". So, here we have a handy biographical instrument which at the same time is a first reconnaissance of literature, sources and further investigation-possibilities. (J.A.)

Also the "Bulletin" of the Society devotes attention to biographical notes on protestant leaders of the Belgian 19th and 20th centuries (1), whereas the hundredth anniversary of local parishes led to the publication of historical surveys, all of which are highly based on memory and limited to factual accounts (2). There are also a few notes on the origin of certain protestant meeting-centres, the purpose of which is mainly documentary (3). Two source-publications may also be of interest for the general Belgian history (4). (J.A.)

(1) J. MEYHOFFER, "Les pasteurs Chr.-H. et Ern.-H. Veut", *Bulletin de la Société d'histoire du protestantisme belge (B.S.H.P.B.)*, VI, 1974, 1, pp. 3-8. M. VAN DEN STEENE, "Le pasteur Paul Hamelrijck", *ibidem*, VI, 1975, 5, pp. 133-149.

"In memoriam Jean Meyhoffer", *ibidem*, VI, 8, 1976.

LESAFFRE, "Charles Lagrange", *ibidem*, VI, 10, 1976, pp. 337-347.

H.R. BOUDIN, "Goedkoop, Albert", *ibidem*, VII, 1978, 7, pp. 228-230.

(2) "125e anniversaire de l'Eglise de la Bouverie", *ibidem*, VI, 7, 1975, pp. 213-248.

*Histoire de l'Eglise protestante de Dour*, Brussels, 1977 (B.S.H.P.B., Collection des études historiques, 5).

Here we must also mention the study under the direction of J. BILLIET, *De Protestantse gemeente van St.-Maria-Horebeke, een sociologisch onderzoek naar de overlevingskansen van een godsdienstige minderheidsgroep*, K.U.L., 1977 (polycop.), which is focused on the present situation, it is true, but which is provided with a historical retrospect.

(3) R. MEYHOFFER, "Le 25me anniversaire de la fondation de la société pastorale de Bruxelles 1886-1911", *B.S.H.P.B.*, VII, 6, 1978, pp. 193-202. IDEM, "Notice historique sur la conférence théologique pastorale 1853-1914", *ibidem*, VII, 9, 1978, pp. 279-291.

W. LUTJEHARMS, "Bij de stichting van het Belgisch Bijbelgenootschap", *ibidem*, VII, 9, 1978, pp. 292-300.

(4) "Memorabilia in het leven van J.A. Stoop van hemzelve", *ibidem*, VI, 9, 1976, pp. 293-314 (Antwerp, 1840-1850).

H.R. BOUDIN, "Dokument over de revolutionaire gebeurtenissen in de Nederduitsche Protestantsche Kerk te Brussel", *ibidem*, VII, 1978, 7, pp. 209-214 (1830).

b. Popular variants

Much more difficult to investigate than the "higher forms" are the popular variants of religiosity. It is necessary expressly to mention any article on this subject, even though it is limited -- as in the case of K. Van Den Bergh -- to giving sources without any form of interpretation (1). In an abundantly illustrated book this author gives a survey of the formal shiftings of "In Memoriam" cards in the southern Netherlands, from their appearance up to now. The author enters a practically unworked field and his study is a first support for anyone wanting to utilize this source for the religious history of the 19th century. (J.A.)

Much more important from a methodological point of view is the article by J. Pirotte (2). It is his intention to show what can be done with collections such as the one of Van den Bergh if they are approached from a clear-cut question.

The list of questions suggested here, was drawn up with a view to the analysis of the In Memoriam-cards which could be gathered among the Namur population by means of an inquiry. So, this is the preliminary study to an extensive work the results of which are looked forward to with keen interest and the methodological introduction of which already opens the possibility of an analogous investigation for Flanders. (J.A.)

With her study on religious toys Mrs. Mettewie draws the attention to another possible source for the study of religious feeling (3). Indeed, in Belgium the utilization of the unwritten

(1) K. VAN DEN BERGH, *Bidprentjes in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden*, Brussels, Aurelia Books, 1975 (Aureliae folkloricae 2).

(2) J. PIROTTE, "Les images de dévotion témoins de la mentalité d'une époque (1840-1965). Méthodologie d'une enquête dans le Namurois", *Revue d'histoire de la Spiritualité*, L, 1974, pp. 479-505.

(3) A. METTEWIE-MORELLI, "Les jouets religieux dans les collections belges", *Enquêtes du Musée de la vie wallonne*, XIII, 1973 (1978), pp. 221-227. IDEM, "Les jouets religieux", *Fédération des cercles d'archéologie et d'histoire. Congrès de Huy*, vol. II, pp. 476-478.

IDEM, "Une utilisation à des fins religieuses de la fonction ludique : les jeux religieux pour enfants du 18e au 20e siècle", *Problèmes d'histoire du Christianisme*, VII, 1976-1977, pp. 103-129.

evidence is still in its infancy and it is to be hoped that this article has taken a step in the direction of the systematic utilization of other religious objects of former times, such as statues, scapularies, relics, etc. (1). (J.A.)

Marcel Daem's book (2) draws the attention to the possibilities of the interior of churches and chapels. The book brings the history of the chapel, the collection of some 70 children's costumes, biographical and bibliographical data of people painted and painters, and finally the publication of the Miracle-Book (1664-1723). (J.A.)

The importance of the material gathered by folklorists for the study of popular religiosity is also illustrated by Chapter VII of Theo Penneman's "Heksenprocessen in Vlaanderen, inzonderheid in het Land van Waas" (3), under the title: "De Wase volkssagen der 19de en 20ste eeuw: een eerste vergelijking". From the bibliography it appears that the entire oral tradition of the Waas-district has meanwhile been noted by the folklorists: a historical application of that source is urgently needed. (J.A.)

The article by J. Van Laarhoven draws the attention to a much more classical source which, because of its size, has hardly been used systematically so far: the prayer-books.

An investigation — which was unfortunately stopped prematurely — into the Dutch and Flemish production in that sector between 1800 and 1899, succeeded in listing no less than 1443 different titles (404 of which from 1800 to 1850), which was realized by means of the investigation of bibliographies and libraries. A first examination of this "De Graaf-catalogue" enables Van Laarhoven to state a few

(1) A first collection of photographic material on religious life in Flanders is presented by K. VAN DEUREN and A. MERTENS, *Liefde gaf U duizend namen. Toen de kerk nog in het midden stond*, Tielt, Lannoo, 1977, 184 pp. Apart from the nostalgic and anecdotal tone of the basic texts, this book gives an idea of the wealth of iconographic material which is still deposited in ecclesiastical archives.

(2) Marcel DAEM, *Votiefschilderijen en mirakelboek van kapelletje Schreiboorn te Gent*, Ghent, 1975, 140 pp.

(3) Theo PENNEMAN, "Heksenprocessen in Vlaanderen, inzonderheid in het Land van Waas", *Annalen van de Koninklijke Oudheidkundige Kring van het Land van Waas*, LXXIX, 1976, pp. 5-136.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

findings with regard to numbers, origin and contents of the prayer-books. An appendix lists the 25 best-sellers in this genre. We can only hope that this fundamental investigation will be continued (1). (J.A.)

A good example of what may result from a careful and attentive study of the worship of saints is given in J.P. Ducastelle's article on the patron saints of the labourers in the quarries in the vicinity of Ath and Lessines. With the help of modern sociological inquiries, the press, the parochial archives and an ample bibliography, the author investigates the history of customs which have practically disappeared now. Seldom was it demonstrated so clearly how the popular customs live an autonomous life and remain unaltered in spite of the different forms of expression enforced by the authorities (the church or the socialist party). The 'fair-days' keep fulfilling their own function in the lives of the people, independent of the saint they celebrate or of the political theme (2). (J.A.)

H. Bourgeois deals with an analogous subject, be it in a different way (3). His article is important not only on account of the abundantly illustrated documents gathered in it, on processions, pilgrimages and rounds in the Comines-area, through which an oral tradition which would otherwise have been lost, was now put on record. The author is one of the first to deal not only with a certain place of pilgrimage, but with all pilgrimages and processions customary in a certain parish. The result of the investigation is a panorama of the spiritual panoply in a pre-council parish, and also of the evils and needs existing there. Once more it has been demonstrated how the initial question forms the basis of thorough historical investigation — even though it has in the first place a documentary purpose — rather than some complete archives. (J.A.)

(1) Jan VAN LAARHOVEN, "Nederlandse kerkboeken in de negentiende eeuw. Notities voor een catalogoog De Graaf", *Archief voor de Geschiedenis van de Katholieke Kerk in Nederland*, XX, 1978, 1, pp. 14-30.

(2) J.P. DUCASTELLE, "Les saints protecteurs des ouvriers carriers au pays d'Ath et de Lessines (XIXe-XXe siècles)", *Annales du Cercle royal d'archéologie d'Ath et de la région et Musées athois*, XLVI, 1977, pp. 281-320.

(3) Henri BOURGEOIS, "Les processions, tours, pèlerinages et rogations à Comines et dans les environs aux XIXe et XXe siècles", *Mémoires de la Société d'histoire de Comines-Warneton et de la région*, VI, 1977, 2, pp. 333-358.

The above articles deal with municipalities in Wallonia or in the linguistic border area. For Flanders such type of investigation must be started yet, at least by historians. The interest in popular religion remains limited, as is apparent from the contents of many parish-monographs which are published regularly, and are carefully drawn up, but in which it is usually hard to find a single paragraph on the lives of the parishioners. This is the more regrettable when a West-Flemish parish is concerned, such as the one of St.Eloois-Courtray, since for all West-Flemish parishes data on Easter-practices are known from the work by Rombauts. In his introduction this author mentions -- precisely with regard to Our Lady's parish of Courtray, the mother-parish of St.Eloois -- the existence of interesting appreciations by the then priest of the religious life in the different districts of the (new) parish. Unfortunately no single trace of those appreciations is to be found in the study by De Pauw (1). (J.A.)

That it can be done differently, even when there are no preliminary studies such as the one by Rombauts, is proved by the author of the parish-history of Wildert (Antwerp). Through the history of the struggle for their own priest and parish, and by a careful utilization of all data from the oral tradition Backx succeeds in evoking not so much the history of an institution, but of a group of people in the Flemish countryside at the end of the last century (2). (J.A.)

The history of the parish of Vorst-Brussels has another quality, namely drawing the attention to the importance which the otherwise so dull administrative correspondence of a church-fabric may have, especially when it is concerned with the establishment of a new parish. In the case of Vorst this establishment had important town-planning implications and caused a lot of real-estate speculation (3). (J.A.)

(1) DE PAUW, "Overleienummer n.a.v. het 100 jarig bestaan van de St.-Eloois-parochie te Kortrijk", *De Leiegouw*, XIX, 1977, 1-2, 244 pp.

(2) F. BACKX, "Honderd jaar parochie Wildert", *De Spycker*, XXXIV, 1977, 3-4, pp. 145-175.

(3) A. VAN LIL, "De St.-Augustinusparochie te Vorst-Brussel. Een bijdrage tot haar geschiedenis", *Eigen Schoon en de Brabander*, LX, 1977, 10-11-12, pp. 421-429 (to be continued).

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

The work of J. De Brouwer is both a study and a source (1). On the one hand it gives rather a detailed panorama of 75 years of small-town parish-life (i.e. up to now) in the style of the handwritten 'Libri Memoriales': with the prices of purchases and rebuildings, the foundation-dates of societies, a chronicle of the war-years, a survey of the education-system and last but not least a list of all callings originating from the parish. On the other hand, through the style itself, the booklet becomes a source for the history of the world of a 20th-century East-Flemish priest: the selection of the illustrations, the definition of 'parish-life', the tensions (in 1969!) with the assistant priest and thus with some parishioners, and the gaps.

We do not find a single practice-datum, though they exist, not a single attempt at placing events in a broader context, which could have been done with regard to the history of the origin of the parish, as 1894 was not an accidental date, and the new parish was wanted not only "to make everyone participate in parish-life" — as the author expresses it — but also to protect "une population composée surtout d'ouvriers et de pauvres, qui se trouve plus exposée par conséquent à subir l'influence de la propagande socialiste", as the vicar-general of the bishopric flatly declared in 1896 (2). The truth has many facets. (J.A.)

All above-mentioned qualities together are found in the history of Our Lady's parish of Roeselare — a book which may be used as an example for other modern parish-histories through the breadth of the approach and the attention for the parishioners, rather than for the parish-institution (3). Unfortunately this beautiful book lacks a systematic statement of sources. The authors make up for this shortcoming by their attention for the expressions of popular religiosity, which causes them to print not the official deed of foundation, but the petition signed by the inhabitants of the district,

(1) Jozef DE BROUWER, *Dendermonde-St.-Gillis-Buiten, 75 jaar parochie, 70 jaar kerk*, Dendermonde, 1977, 75 pp.

(2) The statement was made on the occasion of the appointment of an additional assistant-priest in the mother-parish of St.-Gillis-Buiten. Cfr. Jan ART, *Kerkelijke structuur en pastorale werking in het bisdom Gent tussen 1830 en 1914*, Heule, 1977, p. 162, note 8 (Standen en Landen LXXI).

(3) J. HUYGHEBAERT, F. CALLEWAERT and P. DEJONGHE, *Geschiedenis van de Onze-Lieve-Vrouweparochie te Roeselare, 1873-1973*, Roeselare, 1974, 310 pp.

for obtaining their own parish. Only the fervour with which, in this and other parishes, the inhabitants of that time fought for their 'own' priest, their 'own' church, should induce us to write histories of parishioners rather than parish-histories. These histories might constitute an excellent approach to the study of 19th-century popular group-life, of how it was structured, how it was channelled by the authorities and how it fell apart later. Parish — "paroikia" — before the 4th century meant as much as 'enclave', later 'cohabitation' — it is that history of 'cohabitation' in which we are interested and which forms the foundation of every scientifically justified religion-history. (J.A.)

#### 4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The above-mentioned studies clearly elucidate the fact that the ecclesiastical sources were mapped out only partially. The 85th contribution in the Interuniversity Centre for Contemporary History, which is a thorough inventory of the modern sources kept in the Liège Episcopal palace, can only be welcomed very warmly (1).

For Liège (and Limburg !) there is a survey of sources provided with indices and which includes up to the last but one episcopacy (Kerkhofs, †1961). Each part is preceded by a bio-bibliographical introduction about the bishop discussed. We hope that this inventory will become the first in a long row. At any rate, the start of a similar Ghent initiative is present in the Inventory of the Stillemans-documents, though it is conceived in a strongly biographical way and does not, for example, mention the deans' reports of that period (2). Also about Daens there is more to be found in Ghent than the 9 volumes mentioned. This is probably a first draft. (J.A.)

(1) A. DEBLON, P. GERIN and L. PLUYMERS, *Les archives diocésaines de Liège. Inventaire des fonds modernes*, Louvain-Paris, Nauwelaerts, 1978 (Centre interuniversitaire d'histoire contemporaine, cahier 85). See also A. DEBLON, "Les archives de l'évêché de Liège. Aperçu des fonds et collections", *Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique*, XLVII, 1977, 3-4, pp. 617-629.

(2) L. COLIN, *Bisschoppelijk archief Gent. Inventaris van het fonds Antoine Stillemans 1832-1916*, Ghent, 1977, 13 pp.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

With regard to the above dioceses we must mention the publication of two other handy instruments. First a necrology of the secular priests of the diocese of Liège (1825-1967) (1), which enables us quickly to find biographical data on any priest under the direct authority of the bishop. Van Overmeire gives a brief survey of the history of the Ghent diocese, followed by a practically exhaustive list of the existing literature on this subject (2). (J.A.)

Interesting are also the more classical studies on the institutional framework in which Belgian Roman-Catholicism developed after 1830. Wagnon (3) demonstrates that the concordat of 1802-1827 was no longer valid in Belgium after the independence and how this situation eventually proved favourable for the restoration of the ecclesiastical institution. A. Miroir (4) continues in that direction and points out how J. Bara's interpretation of the Constitution in 1859 was a return to the spirit and the letter of the Constitution which had become obscured during the unionist period. (J.A.)

For the nth time Georges gives a summary of the whole problem of the relation Church-State in Belgium (5). (J.A.)

W.A.J. Munier continues his series of articles on the complications attendant on the adaptation of the ecclesiastical management

(1) E. KONINCKX, *Le clergé du diocèse de Liège 1825-1967*, Liège, 1974.

(2) P. VAN OVERMEIRE, "Historische nota betreffende het bisdom Gent", *Collationes*, 1978, pp. 61-74.

(3) H. WAGNON, "Le Concordat de 1801-1827 et la Belgique indépendante", *L'Eglise et l'Etat à l'époque contemporaine. Mélanges dédiés à A. Simon*, Brussels, 1975, pp. 547-564.

(4) A. MIROIR, "Jules Bara, novateur. Essai sur les conceptions des rapports entre l'Eglise et l'Etat dans la doctrine juridique belge 1830-1859", *ibidem*, pp. 435-462.

(5) R. GEORGES, "La situation constitutionnelle de l'Eglise en Belgique", *Etudes de droit et d'histoire. Mélanges Mgr. H. Wagnon*, Louvain, 1976, pp. 255-284.

to the state-frontiers after 1830-1839 (1). By way of a preparation to an extensive study in which the Limburg, Flemish and Luxemburg frontier-cases would be dealt with, he publishes documents with regard to the Dutch province of Limburg and the North-Brabantine vicariates. (J.A.)

(1) W.A.J. MUNIER, "De reorganisatie van het kerkelijk bestuur in het zuidelijk gedeelte van het koninkrijk der Nederlanden na de definitieve afscheiding van België", *Publications de la société historique et archéologique dans le Limbourg*, CXII, 1976, pp. 135-250.

## VII. THE EVOLUTION OF SCIENCE

After having been neglected for long years, the history of science is, also in our country, now beginning to take its place in historical publications. Thus, the twelfth volume of "Twintig eeuwen Vlaanderen" (1) is entirely devoted to this subject.

Like all volumes in this series, the work is addressed to the interested layman, though the surveys of the development of natural sciences and humanities in a certain period form also a handy aid for the specialist. They were written by A. Derolez (Middle Ages) and R.A. Blondeau (17th-18th and 19th-20th centuries). An abundant and well-selected illustration further enhances the value of the work. (R.C.)

In the "Histoire de Bruxelles", published under the direction of M. Martens, science-history is also discussed in five contributions by L. Wellens-De Donder (2). These articles are well-written surveys of what was achieved in the scientific field in the capital during the period concerned. It is only regrettable that the subject, by fitting it into the chronological framework, is torn to pieces, instead of being dealt with in one continuous story. (R.C.)

An international figure is certainly Adolphe Quetelet, astronomer, statistician, sociologist, founder of the Royal Astronomical Observatory of Belgium and for several years secretary of the Belgian Royal Academy. In 1974 the hundredth anniversary of his death was commemorated. On this occasion an exhibition was organized in the Royal Albert I Library, the catalogue of which gives

(1) *Twintig eeuwen Vlaanderen. 12. Kunst en wetenschap. III. Wetenschap*, Hasselt, Heideland-Orbis, 1975, 401 pp., ill.

(2) Liane WELLENS-DE DONDER, "Le mouvement scientifique sous la domination espagnole", *Histoire de Bruxelles* (1976), pp. 224-232; "Le mouvement scientifique au XVIIIe siècle", pp. 261-270; "Le mouvement scientifique de 1795 à 1815", pp. 310-313; "Le mouvement scientifique de 1815 à 1830", pp. 320-324; "Epanouissement intellectuel et scientifique (1870-1914)", pp. 411-422.

a detailed image of the life and work of this versatile scientist (1).

Also the Royal Academy of Belgium held a solemn meeting on the 4th of December, 1974. The speeches delivered there, were published by the Academy, along with a few studies on aspects of his work : here E. Lahaye deals with his contributions to the development of astronomy and geophysics, P. Godeaux writes about his mathematical work, and A. Philips and J. De Buck point at his pioneering-role in the development of the specialized libraries in Belgium.

Quetelet's very extensive correspondence is deposited in the Royal Albert I Library in Brussels. By way of an example of its wealth H. Elkhadem discusses the correspondence between Quetelet and the British astronomer Sir John Herschel, which correspondence is as diversified as the fields of interest of these two universal scientists (2).

Adolphe Quetelet's role in the development of statistics was studied for several years by the Hungarian R.A. Horvath, professor at the University of Szeged. On the occasion of the homage he collected his studies in this field, some of which had previously been published in Hungarian or in French, in one French work. This publication, which is extremely useful for the history of statistics, is marred only by a few Marxist-hagiographical statements — which are apparently unavoidable in East Europe (3).

Two other manifestations commemorated the significance of A. Quetelet in the field of statistics : a solemn session of the Supreme Council for Statistics, and a "Journée Quetelet" at Louvain-la-Neuve. The speeches delivered on these occasions, were published

(1) Jean-Luc DE PAEPE & Liliane WELLENS-DE DONDER, *Adolphe Quetelet, 1796-1874. Exposition documentaire présentée à la Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier à l'occasion du centenaire de la mort d'Adolphe Quetelet*, Bruxelles, Palais des Académies, 1974, XXXI-205 pp., ill. (Mémorial Adolphe Quetelet, 1).

(2) *Adolphe Quetelet, 1796-1874. Hommages et contributions*, Bruxelles, Palais des Académies, 1975, 60 pp. (Mémorial Adolphe Quetelet, 2). Pp. 46-57 : Hosam ELKHADEM, "La correspondance d'Adolphe Quetelet avec Sir John Herschel : un exemple de la richesse du Fonds Quetelet".

(3) Robert A. HORVATH, *Quetelet et la statistique de son époque (Essais choisis en l'honneur de Quetelet à l'occasion du centenaire de sa mort)*, Szeged, 1976, 107 pp. (Acta Universitatis Szegediensis de Attila Jozsef nominatae. Acta Juridica et Politica, 23 (1976), 3).

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

by the Academy and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the library of which still bears the name of the great scientist (1). (R.C.)

His importance in the sociological field is studied in a short article by F. Lehouck, who deals — among other things — with Quetelet's opinions on social determinism, his theory on the average man and his ideas about free will. He also points at the fact that Quetelet's approach to social problems was strongly influenced by the ideas of his time and of his social class (bourgeois) (2). (R.C.)

Also the "Centre d'Etude de la Population et de la Famille" of the U.L.B. (Free University of Brussels) devoted attention to the sociological work of Quetelet in the form of publication of extracts. The author, M. Lebrun, has grouped them into three parts : statistics, sociology, demography. All the texts are prefaced with a brief description of Quetelet's life and work (3). (R.C.)

Cartography has always played an important role in the development of science. Three articles deal with some highlights.

In 1801 the French engineer-geographer Jean-Jacques Tranchot was instructed to draw up a map on 1/10,000 (later changed to 1/20,000) of the areas on the left bank of the Rhine annexed to France. At the time of Napoleon's downfall the work was not completed yet, and the maps that had been drawn up, had to be handed over to Prussia, the new ruler over the area. Under the direction of the Prussian general von Müffling the work was completed in 1820. The Gesellschaft für Rheinische-Geschichtskunde published a modern edition of this map. For the East-cantons

(1) *Adolphe Quetelet, 1796-1874. Recueil des travaux et contributions présentés en 1974 en hommage à son rôle de statisticien*, Bruxelles, Académie Royale de Belgique & Ministère des Affaires Economiques, 1974, 158 pp., ill. (Mémorial Adolphe Quetelet, 3).

(2) Fernand LEHOUCK, "Adolphe Quetelet en de sociologie", *Politica*, 24 (1974), pp. 185-193.

(3) Marc LEBRUN, *Adolphe Quetelet. L'oeuvre sociologique et démographique. Choix de textes*, Bruxelles, Centre d'Etude de la Population et de la Famille, 1974, 183 pp., ill.

annexed to Belgium since 1919, this was done in co-operation with the Pro Civitate Centre of the Gemeentekrediet van België (14 sheets, reduced to 1/25,000, the scale of the modern survey-map) (1). (R.C.)

During the period of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, important cartographic activities took place in the Southern Netherlands, the later Belgium. The maps resulting from these activities are mostly on 1/25,000. They are deposited in the Archives of the Topographic Service at Delft and had remained practically unknown. Under the direction of C. Koeman, professor at the University of Utrecht, L. Hens-Vercauteren now published a detailed inventory of them, provided with copious explanations (2). (R.C.)

The foundation of all cartographic work is triangulation or trigonometry, a method to ascertain the mutual situations of points on the earth's surface. J. Loodts, chief of the specialized service with the Military (now : National) Geographic Institute, sketched the history of this method in Belgium.

He gives a short survey of the triangulations carried out before 1830 (the oldest, by Snellius, dates from 1617) and then describes in detail the geodetic operations executed until 1969 (3). (R.C.)

About the history of the Antwerp botanical gardens rather confused opinions were going the rounds. E. Frison and R. Aernouts have clarified that matter (4). It appears that three botanical gardens

(1) Jean-Marie DUVOSQUEL, "Een nieuwe uitgave. De Tranchot-von Müffling-kaart (1803-1820) (gebied Eupen-Malmédy-Sankt-Vith)", *Driemaandelijks Tijdschrift van het Gemeentekrediet van België*, 107, (January, 1974), pp. 29-33, ill.

(2) L. HENS-VERCAUTEREN, "De topografische kaarten van de Zuidelijke Nederlanden (1815-1830)", *Tijdschrift van de Belgische Vereniging voor Aardrijkskundige Studies*, 42, 1973, pp. 333-455, ill.

(3) Jacques LOODTS, *Historique de la triangulation en Belgique*, Bruxelles, Institut Géographique Militaire, 1969, 69 pp., ill.

(4) Edward FRISON and Regina AERNOOTS, "Le Jardin Botanique d'Anvers", *Janus*, 60, 1973, pp. 149-192.

## CRITICAL CHRONICLE

existed at Antwerp : the first was attached to the French Ecole Centrale and was in existence from 1797 to 1802; the second still exists; the third was meant as a mere municipal institution, but did not get beyond an attempted realization in 1818. This article deals mainly with the history of the botanical garden which is still in existence. It came about in 1804 and was placed under the authority of the Plantation Service in 1926, through which it lost its scientific nature. (R.C.)

Here we want to draw attention to an initiative which may stimulate research in a domain which lies practically fallow.

The Pharmaceutical Periodical for Belgium was first published in 1923 as the organ of the Algemeene Apothekers Vereeniging (General Chemists' Association). On the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary the present editor-in-chief, J.J. Vandewiele, sketched its history and published a very detailed index to the fifty volumes of this periodical which is very interesting for the history of pharmacy (1). (R.C.)

Prof. Elaut presents a figure who was politically active, but was known mainly as a theorist (2). Van Aelbroeck (1755-1846) wrote several works on the causes of the floods in 1817, on tillage, cattle-breeding and plant-culture. From these studies it appears that he knew well Dutch; they were later translated into French by Wallez and published in Paris. Van Aelbroeck also wrote down his opinion on the free corn-trade in the United Kingdom of the Netherlands (1924) and finally he devised a method to improve the sour meadows, which are so numerous in East-Flanders and to make them usable for cattle-breeding (1835).

(1) Leo J. VANDEWIELE, "Kort geschiedkundig overzicht van het Farmaceutisch Tijdschrift voor België, 1923-1973. Kumulatieve index van het Farmaceutisch Tijdschrift voor België, 1923-1973", *Farmaceutisch Tijdschrift voor België*, 51, 1974, pp. 1-134, ill.

(2) L. ELAUT, "Van landelijk baljuw tot grootgrondbezitter : een beleving van tellurische verlichtingsmotieven in de persoon van Jan Lodewijk Van Aelbroeck, landbouwekonom", *Jaarboek van de Zottegemse Culturele Kring*, 1975-1976, XX, pp. 49-64.

*CRITICAL CHRONICLE*

Van Aelbroeck was a bailiff under the Austrian rule, a member of the East-Flemish provincial council from the French period till after 1830, and a town-councillor of Ghent. The author defines Van Aelbroeck as an anticlerical, a freemason and a buyer of national goods.

(L.F.)

**Contributors to this *Chronicle* :**

Prof. Dr. Romain VAN EENOO, Seminarie voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Blandijnberg 2 - 9000 Gent.

Dr. Jan ART, Seminarie voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Blandijnberg 2 - 9000 Gent.

Roger CALCOEN, Navorsers bij het Nationaal Centrum voor de Geschiedenis van de Wetenschappen, Ten Berg 53, 9300 Aalst.

Drs. John DE VISSER, Asselkouter 32, 9242 Munte.

Drs. Maria DE WAELE, Muinkkaai 40, 9000 Gent.

Drs. Luc DHONDT, Lange Aststraat 21, 9760 Huise.

Drs. Luc FRANCOIS, Chrysantenstraat 19, 8400 Oostende.

Luc SCHEPENS, Cultureel attaché Provincie West-Vlaanderen, 't Speelhof 80, 8200 Brugge.

Prof. Dr. Els WITTE, Seminarie voor Hedendaagse Geschiedenis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Scailquinstraat 37, bus 12, 1030 Brussel.