

CRITICAL CHRONICLE OF THE  
BELGIAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

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I. GENERAL

A study, remarkable in all respects, written by Firmin Lentacker and published in 1974, deals with the role which was played — and is still played — by the Franco-Belgian frontier both on the economic traffic between the two countries and on the social traffic in the frontier-area itself. The work is composed of five parts : a historical survey of the origin of the frontier : from a mosaic of small feudal estates which were subject to the political authority of one of the two countries (Peace of Utrecht, 1713) to the line demarcated by surveyors, described in the Treaty of Courtray (1820). The second part deals with the influence of the frontier on the road-systems in the two countries (the bending of the roads, away from the frontier) and the consequences on the goods-traffic. In the third part the consequences of this situation are discussed : the implantations of French and Belgian enterprises across the frontier and the attendant shiftings of capital. In this the author naturally does not restrict himself to the frontier-area itself, but deals with the totality of the Franco-Belgian economic relations. In the fourth part the influence of the frontier on the labour-market in the frontier-area is dealt with : frontier, shuttle and seasonal work, mainly moving from Belgium to France. Finally the author discusses the frontier as a spoil-sport both for the economic evolution and for the town-planning development of an oversized region stretching from Lille to Antwerp. Here the author sounds rather pessimistic about the short-term evolution in the perspective of the European integration.

Throughout the book we find one great constant : French economic protectionism and the vulnerability of the Belgian economy which is largely dependent on the French policy. Though the author did not deal with a few aspects, the most important of

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of which are the impact of the frontier on the cultural traffic between the two countries or the interpenetration of political ideas on either side of the frontier, we are confronted here with a basic work on the Franco-Belgian relations which contains an unprecedented wealth of detail-information, along with many fundamental findings (1). (L.S.)

(1) F. LENTACKER, *La frontière Franco-Belge. Etude géographique des effets d'une frontière internationale sur la vie des relations*, Lille 1974, 460 pp., ill.

## II. REFERENCE WORKS

### 1. BIBLIOGRAPHIES

#### Historical Demography

It is not to be denied that the impact of the internationalization of the entire Western civilization can be felt even in the national bibliographies.

Formerly they had irreplaceable values and they formed a vital part of the intellectual life within certain frontiers. In this an unmistakable function-shifting is now taking place : the national bibliography retains a specific use, but more and more attention is being paid to thematic bibliographies.

The national frontiers are losing their importance both for social, economic, mental, and cultural aspects which are gradually being experienced as worldwide phenomena. Hence the appearance of an internationally accepted approach. The "bibliographie internationale de la démographie historique — international bibliography of historical demography" through its approach and elaboration belongs to the pioneers of the new wave. The initiative was taken by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Historical Demography Society and the International Committee on Historical Sciences. Under the auspices of that impressive patronage it is especially Etienne Hélin, professor at the Liège University, together with Marc Lebrun and since 1980 with Madeleine Grégoire-Reiters who are the leading figures of the undertaking.

The first issue of their bibliography was published in 1978 and contained 339 items; the third issue, of 1980, already contains 577 items.

The originality of the initiative is to be found mainly in the structure of the different parts. The authors no longer take into account frontiers or historical periods, but start from a general problem. A brief survey of the principal titles makes this clear. After a general part we find successively : the spatial distribution of population, population-growth, mortality, fertility, nuptiality, families, households, structures of past populations or subpopula-

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tions, economies of past populations, interrelations between demographic variables and other social factors, methodology of historical demography. Each of these parts is, in its turn, subdivided into smaller headings about which we can give no further details here.

Realizing the extremely subjective character of the classification of studies under one single heading the authors have always placed very careful references to other headings, so that the user can hardly be mistaken. Of some leading studies they moreover indicate : the main parts, sources, methods and results. In spite of the fact that the organizers had to build up an international net of co-operators, they succeed in following the topicality rather closely. Thus the bibliography for 1980 which was published a few months ago, already contained predominantly publications of 1979. A very manageable geographical index, a chronological index and author index make of this annual bibliography an enviable tool which will within a short period give strong impulses to the study of demography (1). (R.V.E.)

### Military history

The originators of the "Bibliographie d'histoire militaire belge des origines au 1er août 1914" went to work along more traditional lines, but have yet succeeded in representing the historical production with regard to the military history from 1830 to 1970 in a conveniently arranged way. In doing so they had to face a considerable challenge. Generations of amateur-researchers, mostly urged by anything but scientific motives, have so thoroughly disturbed that field of research, that for interested people it certainly is no easy task to separate chaff from wheat. Yet, they kept as many as 9,330 entries, about two-thirds of which on contemporary history. So, we cannot accuse them of a lack of diligence; on the contrary, we should have preferred a more resolute elimination. The result is impressive.

(1) E. HELIN, M. LEBRUN, M. GREGOIRE-REITERS, "Bibliographie internationale de démographie historique — International Bibliography of Historical Demography", *Annales de Démographie Historique*, Paris, Liège, Comité international des sciences historiques, Société de démographie historique, Union internationale pour l'Etude scientifique de la population, 1978, 76 pp., 1979, 116 pp., 1980, CXI pp.

Their second problem was connected with the classification. Indeed, it depended on their collective imagination if their efforts would result in a dull enumeration of titles or eventually become an inspiring tool. Here again they proved successful.

They kept two large groups : a chronological group and a thematic one, preceded by a general part in which bibliographies, inventories, biographical dictionaries and general surveys were given a place. The chronological part especially will offer food for discussion for the specialists of the early centuries : whether the origin of Belgium should be traced back to the days of Julius Caesar or to the period of the feudal counties is a question which we gladly leave to them. Personally we were especially fascinated by the thematic part which offered the possibility to bring more modern aspects to the fore with some emphasis.

Especially the first subdivision (the military community) contained attractive headings, such as "sociology of the military milieu, anti-militarism, the relation army-nation, organizations of soldiers and ex-soldiers, the linguistic problem, psychology and everyday life, statistics and demography". The second chapter deals with the Belgian presence abroad and demography". The second chapter deals with the policy. The third chapter (the dynasty and the army) covers the classical themes of military history, though we thought it was a good idea to give room here to studies about the citizen militia, the state-police, the military educational establishments and the military court.

The fourth and last chapter is devoted to auxiliary sciences and pays attention, among other things, to "arms and arms industry". Each of these headings is further subdivided into smaller units, so that any possible topic is given a pat bibliography.

Overlappings and gaps are eliminated without any problem by four thoroughly elaborated indices : authors, persons, place-names and things.

It would be a mistake to consult this bibliography only for military matters. For example, the fact that on the 1830-revolution only, no less than 347 titles were mentioned, proves that the authors' attention extended beyond the strictly military events (1) (R.V.E.)

(1) *Bibliographie d'histoire militaire belge des origines au 1er août 1914*, Brussels, Musée Royal de l'Armée, 1979, 673 pp. (Centre d'histoire militaire, Travaux 14).

## World War II

Since 1971 Wim Meyers has been entrusted with the bibliography on the history of World War II in the "Mededelingen van het Navorsings- en Studiecentrum voor de geschiedenis van de tweede Wereldoorlog" (Journal of the Research and Study Centre for the History of World War II). From the start he got into the praiseworthy habit of not only mentioning the scientific studies, but also of perusing dailies and weeklies in search of such casual sources as interviews, memoirs and articles of contemporaries. This yielded such an extensive result that in 1977 he proceeded to a more systematic collection of the 1070 titles in book-form. On that occasion the author definitively arranged the classification which had gained in clearness in the course of the many preceding years. After a list of the bibliographies, inventories and working-instruments, he makes a division into a number of main parts, such as : 1) 1936-1940; 2) the eighteen-day campaign (the period during which the Belgian army fought against the Germans); 3) the Belgian government in London with regard to the allies; 4) from the capitulation to the liberation; 5) from the liberation to the peace (8th May, 1946); the post-war period (1945-1950) and 7) the personal data.

For each of these sub-periods he takes the political, social, economic, mental and military dimensions into account. In the pivotal part covering the period between 1940 and 1944 he deals, of course, with the different phenomena of collaboration, resistance, terror, public opinion and daily life. He also pays the necessary attention to the importance of the Congo and the attitude of the king before, during and after the war.

With regard to the post-war period he mainly deals with the repairs, the purge, the repression and the occupation of Germany. The work is rounded off with a register of authors, persons, names and things. Apart from its undisputed utility for further research, this bibliography constitutes in itself a piece of mentality-history. It is really worth while converting the different parts into statistics in order to compare the tumultuous development of one sector to the dull nature of other spheres of interest.

Two new issues of his annual bibliography, numbering respectively 201 and 145 entries, were published later. This bibliography is of the greatest importance for the study of the World

War II-period, which was started quite late in Belgium, and it replaces the scanty bibliographical references found in the German periodical "Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte" (1). (R.V.E.)

In the bibliography devoted to the anti-fascist powers in Western Europe during World War II, A. Namazova was entrusted with the part on Belgium (2).

She was indeed the right person for this task : she knows Belgium and already published several scientific articles on Belgium during the days of the revolution of 1830. In certain aspects the result of her research is clearly inferior to the above-mentioned bibliography by W. Meyers, but it is very interesting for other reasons. Her greatest shortcoming lies in the fact that she does not understand Dutch. She cannot be blamed for that, but for the analysis of the publications in that language another collaborator could have been applied to. Now the picture is, of course, entirely distorted : in the list of 347 articles and books only five works in Dutch are to be found. Thus a considerable amount of fundamental work was not mentioned. She is fully justified in citing Van Brussel's work on "the partisan struggle" and Van den Wijngaert's work on the "commissionars-general", but we think that many people will be amused when reading nr. 288 : "Proceedings of the Congress of the Flemish Resistance (1958). Under the auspices of the David Foundation (Davidsfonds), the General Flemish Association of Ex-University Students (Algemeen Vlaams Oud-Hoogstudentenverbond) and the Flemish Popular Movement (Vlaamse Volksbeweging)". Very positive in her work is the finding how much was written in Russian about our country, without ever reaching us. Another merit is the

(1) Willem C.M. MEYERS, *België in de tweede wereldoorlog. Bibliografie 1970-1975*, Navorsings- en studiecentrum voor de geschiedenis van de tweede wereldoorlog, 1977, 146 pp. (Belgium in World War II - Bibliography 1970-1975).

(2) A. NAMAZOVA, *Antifasistkoe dvizenie soprotivlenija v Avstrii, Belgii i Niderlandach v gody vtoroj mirovoj vojny. Annotirovannyj bibliograficeskij ukazatel — La résistance antifasciste en Autriche, en Belgique et aux Pays-Bas pendant la seconde guerre mondiale. Bibliographie annotée*, Moscou, 1979. (The anti-fascist resistance in Austria, in Belgium and Holland during the second World War.)

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fact that her inquiry started from a wide horizon, which enabled her to cite numerous foreign authors who are little or not known here.  
(R.V.E.)

The authors of the bibliography on the armed resistance in Belgium (1940-1944) make no secret of the fact that the result of their patient research is quite disappointing. Until recently we did not get beyond some hagiographical writing describing isolated events, which lagged far behind the thorough analyses of our neighbouring countries.

The many titles which the authors looked up in hardly known periodicals of patriotic associations, reports and stories of resistance-fighters, require of the users, even for their informative value, a highly developed critical approach.

Only a few recent colloquies and the co-operators of the Research and Study Centre for the History of World War II produced justified and objective studies. In order to fill the gaps to some extent the authors consequently did not hesitate to cite many French and English standard works.

Their initiative will contribute to a more serious approach and dissertations written at the universities which are not mentioned here, enable us to look forward to a more favourable evolution in the future (1).  
(R.V.E.)

### Relations between Belgium and Italy

The rather modest formula in which this bibliography covering the relations between Belgium, Italy and the Holy See during World War I was realized, detracts nothing from the interesting character of the initiative.

(1) M. GOOSENS, J.L. CHARLES, J.J. HEIRWEGH, E. CLEENEWERCK de CRAYENCOUR, *La résistance armée en Belgique 1940-1944. Guide bibliographique*, Brussels, Royal Military Academy, 1977, III, 31 pp. (The armed resistance in Belgium.)



Italy was courted by all belligerent countries in the hope of gaining her as an ally, whereas the Vatican constituted a centre from which peace negotiations could be directed.

This publication comes at the right time and point at a reorientation. The interest of the late Mgr. Simon, promotor of the study of the *Risorgimento*, and of the periodical "*Risorgimento*" had been focused mainly on the 19th century, with the exception of Professor R.U. Van Nuffel's work.

At this time, when the archives of the ministries of foreign affairs are accessible, any attempt at facilitating a more systematic research of the impact of World War I can only be welcomed.

The authors do not restrict themselves to an enumeration of the existing bio-bibliographical tools and available studies, but try to give a survey, country by country, including Germany, of all collections which can be consulted in public and private depositories and which may have a elucidating effect with regard to their field of study. The result of their investigations is quite poor, though the authors are not to blame for this. It is distressing to find out how few politicians and leading clergymen kept their archives in the past, so that in many cases the findings were painfully disappointing.

Where a wealth of documents could have been expected nothing proves available or accessible. From this it follows that there is no danger of the printed sources — of which the authors provide an extensive list — losing their interest in the future.

We dare hope that the pattern of this bibliography will be used as the model for analogous inquiries into the relations with other European countries (1). (R.V.E.)

### Relations between Belgium and Zaïre

The "Centre d'étude et de documentation africaines" (CEDAF) published a bibliographical table of contents of 32 scientific

(1) M. DEMOULIN and J. WILLEQUET, *Bibliographie pour servir à l'histoire des relations entre la Belgique, l'Italie et le Saint-Siège de 1914 à 1918*, Brussels, 1978, 67 pp. (Comité belge d'histoire du *Risorgimento*. Séminaire Interuniversitaire du II<sup>e</sup> cycle.)

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periodicals about Zaïre published between 1970 and 1977.

The writers used an idiom and techniques of analysis which were to enable them to integrate their information into an international network of documentation. They also put the data on magnetic tapes, so that they can be treated in an automatized way.

Their bibliography contains 745 titles and the bibliographical addresses are always followed by a brief summary.

Anyone who is interested in some aspect of the past and present relations between Zaïre and Belgium cannot overlook this bibliography. Yet, the reader will find out that the classification of the titles per periodical is not a good formula, and will soon pass on to the very thorough indices (1). (R.V.E.)

## 2. INVENTORIES OF ARCHIVES

### Relations with Poland

In 1976 Mrs. H. Coppejans-Desmedt, department-head of the general State-archives, undertook a mission to Poland to study the structure and action of the State-archives there and to trace the documents of interest for Belgium. The report of this mission has become a voluminous brochure (2) which no archivist or historian of economic, social, cultural or international history will be able to overlook in the future. After a thorough introduction in which the author does not conceal her admiration for the organization of the state-archives, she gives a broad survey of the relations which Belgium has maintained with Poland since the Middle-ages.

The rebellion against Russia in 1830 was naturally the most

(1) E. SIMONS and M.L. KERREMANS, with the co-operation of D. SINECHAL and M. MEURRENS, *Bibliographies analytiques sur l'Afrique centrale. Volume I. Les périodiques Zaïrois 1970-1977*, Brussels, CEDAF, 1978, VII-158 pp. (Analytic bibliographies concerning Africa. I. The periodicals of Zaïre).

(2) H. COPPEJANS-DESMEDT, *Les archives de l'état en Pologne avec un relevé de documents relatifs à l'histoire de la Belgique conservés aux archives centrales de l'état à Varsovie précédé d'un aperçu historique*, Brussels, Archives générales de l'Etat, 1978, VII-122 pp. (Miscellanea archivistica, XVIII).

decisive moment. Through that fact Czar Nicholas I had his work cut out and he was not in a position to equip an army for suppressing the revolt in Brussels. Later high-ranking Polish military officers played an important part in organizing the Belgian army. During the 19th century Belgian capitalists and industrialists had a very active role in the industrialization process. The author points out their presence in the textile, metal, glass, ceramics and chemical industries. Belgians were involved in the exploitation of the important oil-wells in Borislav, in the mining of coal, in the construction of tram and railways, in the building of an electricity and water distribution network. Moreover, a busy commercial intercourse came about between the two countries.

Of course, the Polish ambassadors and consuls accurately kept Warsaw posted as to the general evolution in Belgium. Also the churches had mutual contacts. Before and especially after World War I many thousands of Poles emigrated to Belgium. About all these aspects and many others, which can easily be found in the excellent index, the "Archives des actes modernes" contain unexpected, rarely used and easily accessible sources. (R.V.E.)

### The Royal Museum of the Army

For some time past the Royal Museum of the Army and of War History has made an incessant effort to escape a relative obscurity and to inform a wider public of its rich possessions.

An essential key to this is the survey of the archive-documents published by Boyen and Paridaens (1). The reading of this guide is particularly instructive and often causes amazement. Yet, it is not easy briefly to give, even approximately, an idea of the wealth of this museum. The sources of the diverse collections are so varied in nature, origin and value that we are obliged to restrict ourselves here to some impressionist touches. Thus, there are naturally complete series originating from the Ministry of War, from military men and

(1) R. BOYEN and M.A. PARIDAENS, *Overzicht der archieffondsen van het Koninklijk Legermuseum van het Leger en van Krijgsgeschiedenis*, Brussels, Koninklijk Museum van het Leger en van Krijgsgeschiedenis, 1979, IX-88 p. (Survey of the Archive-documents of the Royal Museum of the Army and of War History).

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from army-units. The surprising thing in this inventory, however, is that the attention is drawn to the presence of basic material which can be useful for a very wide range of other scientific approaches. We shall give a random selection out of the many possibilities.

The archive-documents "Brabantine Revolution" contain printed and written sources of all possible natures and origins.

Brouwet, who was a passionate admirer of Napoleon's, donated his library, containing 20,000 works on this period, to the museum, as well as his collection of archive-documents among which the personal archives of Rousselin de Saint Alban.

The archive-documents "Dutch Period" is an amalgam of donations by different people.

The "Risquons-tout and the Political Crisis of 1848" documents contain contemporary documents about the military activities, but also about the political difficulties and the public opinion at home and abroad. The "World War I" documents, composed of 416 boxes, are interesting to know the careers of officers, but also provide information on the front-lines, the linguistic problem and the foreign relations. The documents on the "Auslandsorganisation der NSDAP in Belgien (1932-1944)" deal with an organization of German citizens in Belgium, but also with the "Hitler-Jugend Flandern". The papers of G. Rhodius deal with the secret intelligence-services during the two World Wars and the trials of collaborators after 1945. The documents "Belgium during World War II" concentrate intelligence reports about the period from September, 1944 to December, 1945, the Belgian military air-force as a unit of the R.A.F. and documents on Belgium during the eighteen-day campaign and the time of the occupation.

Furthermore, there are collections about the German prisoners of war in Belgium after 1944, on the NSKK, on the German kriegsmarine, on the presence of Belgians in England. Finally, we want to mention the papers of Minister Chazal, of A. Namez who occupied himself with experiments of electro-ballistics, of G. Goethals, military attaché in Germany since 1937, of the relatives of King Albert I.

The undermentioned inventories examine the contents of three collections more closely.

(R.V.E.)

The inventory of the archive-documents "Belgium in the Period between 1830 and 1839" proves the importance of such inventories, especially for the interested layman and researcher who do not live in the capital. Numerous documents preserved in those archives, would normally not have been expected there. Thus it seems logical that the contents are composed mainly of sources on the most spectacular military events of this period : the ten-day campaign of the Netherlands in Belgium, the French intervention after the humiliating defeat, the siege of the Antwerp fortress by the French troops, the peace-negotiations, the organization of the Belgian army-units and volunteer corps.

Yet, one is surprised at a series of private papers, among which those of Levae, for example, at reports about the riots, at information about the veterans of 1830, at a series of official prints and posters.

A clear introduction, a brief bibliography and indices facilitate the use of that inventory. In fine the author outlines the careers of the scores of Belgian military men mentioned in his inventory (1).

(R.V.E.)

The inventory of the publications on "The Belgian Military Presence Abroad (1826-1955)" gives a survey of the sources on all military expeditions in which Belgium took part from the Greek war of independence (1823-1830) to the Korean War (1950-1955).

Many of these expeditions were but a part of a broader expansion or colonization movement, so that the sources can naturally also be used for other research.

In chronological order the author gives for each of the 23 expeditions first a brief historical outline of the events, followed by a description of the collection and the bibliography.

The nature of the material is very heterogeneous and is always different both in nature and size. Thus we are confronted with ministerial documents, lists of volunteers, press-cuttings, reports and letters of soldiers and experts, letters of appointment, regimental

(1) R. BOYEN, *Inventaris van het archieffonds "België" in de periode 1830-1839...*, Brussels, Koninklijk Legermuseum, 1979, 44 pp. (Centrum voor militaire geschiedenis, inventaris 3). (Inventory of the Archive-documents "Belgium in the Period between 1830 and 1839....")

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rolls, in memoriam cards, maps... etc. There is remarkably much material on the colonization attempt in Santo-Thomas, Guatemala (1841-1856), on the Belgians in the service of the papal states (1860-1870), on the expedition to Mexico (1864-1867), on Congo Free State and Belgian Congo (1885-1960). About other events the museum has hardly anything. Thus, on the expedition to Costa Rica (1889) for example, only one file has been preserved (1). (R.V.E.)

The archive-documents "1870-1871" of which Marie-Anne Paridaens made an inventory, are a complete whole in time, but not so with regard to sources. They are composed mainly of documents from the "operations" and "personnel" departments of the Ministry of War. Indeed, Belgium was not involved in the Franco-German war, because it succeeded in preserving its neutrality, though it did put its army on a war footing. Consequently, the many reports and letters deal with problems of mobilization, the medical service, the organization of the headquarters, the military events, etc... while only a few series go beyond the strictly military aspects.

Thus numerous collections have been preserved on matters which have direct reference to the neutrality-policy, such as the internment of wounded, fled or captured Frenchmen and Germans.

Under the meaningless title "diverse" the last chapter deals with a medley, ranging from lectures of military men to press-cuttings. The author added good indices to her work (2). (R.V.E.)

## The University of Ghent

Only after 1955 did the archives of the Ghent State University undergo a serious form of classification. The definitive impulse was

(1) R. BOYEN, *Inventaris van het fonds "Belgische militaire aanwezigheid in het buitenland (1826-1955)"*, Brussels, Kon. Legermuseum, 1979, 66 p. (Centrum voor militaire geschiedenis, inventaris 1.) (Inventory of the Archive-documents "The Belgian Military Presence Abroad (1826-1955)".)

(2) Marie-Anne PARIDAENS, *Inventaire du fonds d'archives "1870-1871"*, Brussels, Royal Military Museum, 1979, 33 pp. (Centre d'histoire militaire, Inventaires 2).

given in 1972, when the archives were recognized as a central service and Prof. K. De Clerck was appointed director. The available excellent inventory testifies to the long way gone since that time. Owing to the efforts especially of Anne-Marie Simon-Van der Meersch 1,200 running metres could be made accessible for any form of research regarding Higher Education in Flanders. In order to put the layman up to the ropes in the composition and the authority of the executive bodies of this university, she successively analyses the acts of 25 September, 1816, 27 September, 1835, 24 June, 1920, 28 April, 1952 and 24 March 1971, each of which meant a crucial point in the development of the university. From this she makes a dynamic graph which enables her to integrate all existing sources approximately, but also to take receipt of all expected donations of old archives, as well as transfers from existing services. Thus she distinguishes five main groups : 1. the advisory organs composed of the college of assessors, the academic senate or the academic council, the advisory college; 2. the executive and management-organs, ranging from the college of trustees to the Board of Directors and the permanent office; 3. the Rector's services; 4. the central services; 5. the faculties.

Some divisions are amply filled, whereas others — such as the faculties — show irremediable gaps. She could not place certain collections in the institutional framework which she had designed. Therefore she created a separate series, the so-called "collections" deserving special attention on account of the fact that the unusual things were gathered there. In the "collections" are to be found : microfilms and photostats, press-cuttings, stereotype blocks and photographs, the library collection of the "Nationaal Vlaamsch Verbond" (National Flemish Union), didactic material and a collection on the "Ecole des Hautes Etudes de Gand". Since the archives have found a spacious accomodation all information on student life is also carefully preserved (1).

(R.V.E.)

(1) A.M. SIMON-VAN DER MEERSCH, *Inventaris van het archief van de Rijksuniversiteit Gent (1817-1975)*, Brussel, 1978, 61 p. (Archief- en Bibliotheekwezen in België. Inventarissen 9) en *Inventaris van het archief van de Rijksuniversiteit te Gent (1817-1975)*, *Bijlagen*, Gent, 1980, 357 p. (Archief van de Rijksuniversiteit Gent). (Inventory of the Archives of the Ghent State University.)

### III. INTERNAL POLITICAL TENSIONS

#### 1. UNDER AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

A young Louvain historian (1) wrote a biography of the last Austrian female Governor-General who represented the Austrian emperor in our area from 1781 to 1793. This favourite daughter of Maria-Theresa's indeed governed our country in an extremely dramatic period : the opposition to the reforms of Joseph II, the Brabantine Revolution and finally the war against France and the first French Domination.

Besides, the execution of her office gave her even more frustrations. Maria-Theresa had promised her daughter a considerable power in the Southern Low Countries. Joseph II degraded the governors-general to merely representative functions and gave all powers to his real representative on the spot : the minister. She also found the emperor's reform policy unrealistic, but did not possess sufficient authority to make Joseph II abandon his reforms. As soon as it became obvious that Joseph II was not to recover from his illness Maria-Christina conspired with her brother, the future emperor Leopold II. Consequently, Emperor Leopold II was to restore the governors-general to their former prerogatives, but the French Invasion very quickly put an end to this situation.

This fluent and very readable biography was realized mainly through an exemplary use of the published correspondence of the Austrian imperial family. In fact, no new sources were used. Some comment may be made on the choice of the title : is there really a distinction to be made between a "democratic" and a "conservative" period of the princess ? Maria-Christina showed few democratic characteristics. In fact she remained a champion of a strong imperial authority.

Such kinds of biographies raise an important problem : actually the ideas and the actions of Maria-Christina cannot be dissociated

(1) Eliane VAN IMPE, *Marie-Christine van Oostenrijk. Gouvernante Generaal van de Zuidelijke Nederlanden : 1781-1789; 1790-1792*, Standen en Landen, LXXVII, 1979, 202 pp. (Maria-Christina of Austria. Governor-General of the Southern Low Countries : 1781-1789; 1790-1792).



from those of her husband, archduke Albert. The latter is continuously left in the background and, in our opinion, plays too unimportant a part in the story. (Y.VD.B.)

In an enjoyable article Prof. E. Hélin studies the stereotypes in the international public opinion on the inhabitants of Liège in the 18th century.

It is remarkable indeed that at this colloquy, though organized by French-speaking Belgians (Brussels, 26th and 27th May, 1975) only one speaker deemed it worth while dealing with the Low Countries in the eighteenth century (1). (Y.VD.B.)

The initiative taken by the "Koninklijke Gidsenbond van Brugge" (Royal Guides Association of Bruges) to assemble 17 previously-published essays by Y. Vanden Berghe into one collection is certainly to be applauded. This collection gives us a crystal-clear picture of Bruges which, by the end of the 18th century, was still full of economical vitality and would only later drift into lethargy. It is remarkable to see how the author with apparent ease treats of different aspects. We have enjoyed rereading the article on "De verlichte wereld van de oud-katholiek B. Détert" (The enlightened world of the Old Catholic B. Détert) in which the author recognizes and elucidates the economical and political views of the trade circles in Bruges; the brilliant contribution on "De Algemene Armenkamer te Brugge, 1776-1925" (The Public Assistance Institution of Bruges, 1776-1925) with its analysis of the way in which the system of poor relief was gradually taken over by laymen, and also "De sociale en politieke reacties van de Brugse volksmassa op het einde van het ancien regime" (The social and political reactions of the lower classes by the end of the Ancien Régime) in which the author convincingly demonstrates his complete mastery of the analysis of micro-processes. These 17 articles highlight so many aspects which were not

(1) E. HELIN, *Le caractère national comme révélateur de déterminismes sociaux*, Brussels, 1976, Editions de l'Université de Bruxelles, Etudes sur le XVIIIe siècle, III, éditées par R. MORTIER et H. HASQUIN, pp. 57-75. (The National Character as an Indication of Social Determinism.)

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at all or hardly discussed in his principal work "De reacties van de Bruggelingen in de Revolutietijd (1780-1794)" (The reactions of the inhabitants of Bruges during the Revolution (1780-1794).) (1).  
(R.V.E.)

### 2. THE BRABANT REVOLUTION, THE BELGIAN REPUBLIC, THE BOUILLON REVOLUTION

J. Van Den Broeck wrote a dissertation, as yet unpublished, on J.B.C. Verlooy, a Brabantine jurist and publicist of the 18th century (Catholic University Louvain, 1975) (2). Up to now the revolutionary Verlooy was studied only as a politician. Prof. Van Den Broeck is the first who undertook a detailed study of Verlooy's importance as a jurist. In this contribution he deals mainly with a proposal to modernize the state-structure, which Verlooy published in January, 1790. From this it appears clearly that he was in favour of a constitution and a system of representation. As a compromise with the Conservative States of Brabant, he was willing to maintain a certain form of class-representation. The States of Brabant found his proposal far too progressive and the brochure was seized even before its publication. In his article Van Den Broeck clearly demonstrates that Verlooy was one of the first in our country to study and defend the new constitutional law arisen from the Anglo-Saxon and French revolutionary thinking.  
(Y.VD.B.)

L. Dhondt devotes a thorough study to the farmers' revolt which broke out against the new patriotic government in the area

(1) Y. VANDEN BERGHE, *Brugge in de revolutietijd (1770-1794)*, Bruges, Koninklijke Gidsenbond Brugge en West-Vlaanderen, 1978, 194 pp. (Bruges during the revolution).

(2) J. VAN DEN BROECK, "J.B.C. Verlooy : "Projet raisonné d'Union des Provinces-Belgiques" (1790)", *Rechtskundig Weekblad*, XXXIX, 1976, 21, col. 1281-1294. (J.B.C. Verlooy : "Reasoned Project for the Union of the Belgian Provinces" (1790).)

between Oudenaarde, North Hainault, Gavere and Alost at the end of May, 1790.

He considers the Brabantine Revolution a reaction of the principal privileged and propertied groups in our country who feared that Joseph II would deprive them of their privileges and offices. In many places the exploited and oppressed farmers were in favour of the reform-plans of Joseph II. In him they recognized the good sovereign who would abolish the remaining feudal obligations, such as the tithes, and would in some way provide for more equality. This group of farmers consequently remained loyal to the Emperor during the Brabantine Revolution. Before studying the revolt as analytically as possible, L. Dhondt deals with the ancien régime society. This keen analysis has both the advantages and the disadvantages of a schematic presentation : it is basically correct, but some nuance could be added here and there. From the analysis of the spontaneous revolt it appears that all of the more than ten thousand farmers participating in it, quite well realized what they were doing : they revolted against the established social system and especially feudality, the tithes, etc. The rural notable citizens and the inhabitants of Oudenaarde were panic-stricken and consequently their reaction was particularly vehement : hundreds of farmers were murdered.

This is but a first part of the study. In a second part "the repression and the restoration of the power of the patriots, the analysis of the revolt and its personnel, an investigation into its causes and ideology and the reactions to the townfall of the Republic" are dealt with. Maybe L. Dhondt exaggerates a few things in his conclusions. Not only the rural proletarians were in favour of Joseph II. In at least two cities, Bruges and Ostend, large groups of the lower classes were also supporters of Joseph II. Likewise exaggerated is the thesis that the Brabantine Revolution was merely the work of conservatives. Then what about the "Vonckists" and someone like J. Verlooy (1) ?  
(Y.VD.B.)

(1) Luc DHONDT, "De plattelandsofstand der gelijken van 1790. Bijdrage tot de kennis van de crisis van de oude maatschappij en de politieke en ideologische geschiedenis van het platteland", *Handelingen van de geschied- en oudheidkundige Kring van Oudenaarde*, 1978, pp. 185-159. (The Rural Revolt of Equals of 1790. Contribution to the Understanding of the Crisis of the Old Society and the Political and Ideological History of the Rural Society.)

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In another, equally detailed article Luc Dhondt analyses the destruction on March 8th, 1790 by the infuriated Oudenaarde popular mass of the "economic mills" owned by the Ghent entrepreneur Schepers. The event takes place against the background of the Brabantine Revolution. The local Oudenaarde traditionalist notable citizens, such as J.J. Raepsaet, set poor threatened artisans against the alleged grain-hoarder Schepers. In fact it was a conflict between the traditionalist authorities of the ancien régime and a representative of the modern enterprising middle classes.

In an exemplary way Luc Dhondt goes to the bottom of the complicated interplay of family and interest-groups, of spontaneous and at first sight casual events (1). (Y.VD.B.)

In a concise and clear article the same author establishes a relation between the bloom of the rhetoricians' activities since the middle of the 18th century and the rise of a new social group : the rural lower middle class. The career of Judocus de Borchgrave (1758-1819), rhetorician and baker from the prosperous village of Wakken convincingly illustrates this thesis. Important is also the remark that this group showed linguistic consciousness as well, which again proves that J. Verlooy's "Verhandeling op d'Onacht der Moederlijke Taal" (Dissertation on the Neglect of the Mother-Tongue) was not an isolated phenomenon. Throughout these three articles the author demonstrates his clear insight into the structures of the last days of our ancien régime society (2). (Y.VD.B.)

(1) Luc DHONDT, "Een ondernemer, notabelen en het volk van Oudenaarde tussen Ancien Régime en Nieuwe Maatschappij. De vernieling van het "Gouvernement" op 8 maart 1790", *Handelingen van de Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde van Oudenaarde*, XVIII, 1976, 2, pp. 309-419. (An Entrepreneur, Notable Citizens and the People of Oudenaarde between Ancien Régime and New Society. The Destruction of the "Gouvernement" on March 8th, 1790.)

(2) Luc DHONDT, "Het debuut van de Borchgrave, het kultuurbewustzijn van de nieuwe plattelandsburgerij en de Brabantse omwenteling", *Wetenschappelijke Tijdingen*, 1978, pp. 1-10. (The Début of de Borchgrave, the Cultural Consciousness of the New Rural Middle Class and the Brabantine Revolution.)

In a fluent article it is demonstrated by means of substantial source-material what great role was played by the abbot of Tongerlo, Godfried Hermans, in the revolutionary events of 1789-1790. The author always confronts the actions of this extremely conservative prelate with the general events and thus tries to determine his excessive influence in the origins of the Brabantine revolution. Yet, it was certain that the abbot of Tongerlo, who invested at least 485,645 guilders in the revolution, was the principal money-lender of the patriotic army.

Although this is a thorough article, it does not at all conclude the investigation into the role of the Campine abbeys in the revolutionary events. The general conclusions such as "Whereas elsewhere the antiquated and mouldered structures were assaulted, people here proved rather inclined to put back the clock a few centuries" and "The sickening intermingling of religion and politics has thoroughly ruined the whole plan" point at a deficient knowledge of the recent findings of historical research on the one hand, and at a rather naive idea of the historical events on the other hand (1). (Y.VD.B)

The book by honorary public prosecutor A. Vermer on Bouillon during the period of revolution is a pleasant surprise. The work is the result of a thorough research of the sources and was built up very rationally. The author not only pays attention to the political events, but also succeeds in situating his characters socially and ideologically. Moreover, the book is written in an enthralling way. The duchy of Bouillon which had only 14,000 inhabitants, was in an exceptional situation at the end of the 18th century. It was an entirely independent and sovereign state governed by the princess de la Tour who resided in France. The mini-state situated between the prince-bishopric of Liège, the Austrian Low Countries and France, of course offered a great many possibilities : it became a refuge for numerous publicists wishing to escape the censorship of their sovereigns. The duke of Bouillon Godefroy-Charles-Henri de la Tour

(1) L. VERCAMMEN, "Uit de tijd der patriotten. De Belgische Republiek 1789-1790", *De Speyker*, XXXV, 1978, 3-4, pp. 83-129. (From the Time of the Patriots. The Belgian Republic 1789-1790.)

was a liberal prince who did not offer resistance when the inhabitants of Bouillon, who were influenced by the events in France, set up a constituent assembly in 1790. The first task of this assembly, which was composed mainly of farmers, was the abolition of feudal duties. In the difficult years between 1790 and 1794 the duchy of Bouillon succeeded in remaining independent.

On the 26th of October, 1795 the French National Convention was to proclaim unilaterally, against the will of the inhabitants, the annexation. In order to suppress all forms of national feeling, the territory of the duchy is divided among three departments. It must be said that a number of Bouillon Jacobins played an important part in the revolutionary events of 1830, such as L. Weissenbruch, publisher since 1826 of the agitating "Le Constitutionnel" and François Pirson, republican member of the National Congress and the leading revolutionary figure at Dinant (1). (Y.VD.B.)

### 3. UNDER FRENCH GOVERNMENT

The periods of the French domination (1794-1814) and the United Kingdom of the Netherlands (1815-1830) fall, for the time being, outside the sphere of interest of the Belgian universities and the professional historians. One may wonder what caused this phenomenon, but it remains a fact that there are hardly any students writing dissertations about those periods and that the principal recent publications were written by just a handful of historians. Moreover, it must also be observed that the cultural autonomy of Flemings and Walloons is acquiring consequences also for historiography. Especially delicate are naturally the French occupation (1794-1814) and the Dutch period (1815-1830). For obvious reasons Dutch-speaking and French-speaking historians interpret these periods in different ways. In this brochure on Wallonia in the French period, published by the Wallingant

(1) Adelin VERMER, "La révolution bouillonnaise et ses lendemains", *Anciens pays et assemblées d'Etats*, LXV, 1975, 354 pp., ill. (The Bouillon Revolution and Its Aftermath.)

Fondation Plisnier, the author, Walloon physician and historian R. Darquenne, tries to point out as much as possible the differences in reactions between Flemings and Walloons. Hardly has he arrived at 1793 in his story, when he must pass without comment the fact that the Liège and Flemish progressists in Paris unite into one "Comité des Belges et Liégeois Unis". The author has apparently overlooked the fact that also among the more moderate democrats there were a lot of Flemings. He starts from the axiom that the Brabantine and the Liège revolutions fundamentally differed in nature and that this contrast was the result of the divergent character of Walloons and Flemings. However, the dividing-lines did not always coincide with the linguistic frontier. Also other factors, such as the historically developed social-economic and cultural situations made their influence felt.

According to the author the Flemings rather dissent from the French rule, whereas the Walloons were among the most devout defenders of the Empire. The author exaggerates when he says that the Flemish historians take an anti-French line. He must certainly not do so when he himself does not include one single Flemish work in his ample bibliography. That is why he is not aware of the recent Flemish opinions on the nature of the Brabantine revolution and the realizations of the Empire for Flanders. Thus he merely corroborates a certain Walloon thesis saying that the French period was excellent for Wallonia. With this brochure — which is interesting and fluent — the author exaggerates his latin enthusiasm when he says that the Flemish middle-class was thoroughly Frenchified as early as the 18th century. This phenomenon will not occur before the 19th century (1). (Y.VD.B)

The same author, who is interested mainly in the history of the province of Hainault and belongs to the leading publicists on the French period, wrote a study on the Belgian public debt in the chaotic period from 1790 to 1830, which is interesting in many respects. The investigation is certainly not complete and is in fact

(1) Roger DARQUENNE, *Les révolutions et l'empire en Wallonie (1780-1815)*, Nivelles, Fondation Charles Plisnier. Etude d'Histoire Wallonne, 1974, 46 pp. (The Revolutions and the Empire in Wallonia — 1780-1815.)

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so vast that only team-work may give a solution. Anyhow, it appears clearly that the Belgian public debt was relatively small at the end of the Ancien Régime, as compared with the French public debt. The French indeed wished to acknowledge as little as possible of the Austrian debt. Moreover, the creditors were twice struck by a 2/3-bankruptcy. From the detailed discussion of the evolution of the legislation in question it appears that the state took over the control of the municipal finances and saw to it that the municipal funds flowed to the state-treasury. Also during the amalgamation a 1/3-bankruptcy followed, but the difference was that King William I allowed the municipal authorities to control their finances autonomously. As he was in a weaker international position than his French predecessors, he was compelled to acknowledge the former Austrian debt. It was, however, largely shifted off to the municipalities. Because the municipalities increasingly disposed of their commons and were ever more closely controlled in their management by the central authorities their revenue increased continuously in the period concerned. An important consequence of this was that locally sufficient funds were available to make the considerable extension of primary education possible under the United Kingdom. As the principal concern of the state was restricting its own debt to a minimum, through which the debt of the municipalities kept increasing, the municipal authorities were severely handicapped when the time came that the diverse public institutions were made responsible for the great utilities (1). (Y.VD.B)

It may be true that Oxford historian R. Cobb is "one of the most controversial, original, and talented historians writing today" as Robert Darnton writes in "The New York Review of Books". Yet, his book "Paris and its Provinces 1792-1802" proves a classical example of how history should not be written. The book wants to study the relations between Paris and the surrounding countryside, but this is hardly done. Instead, more than half of the book is devoted to the description of two "Belgian" gangs of robbers which

(1) Roger DARQUENNE, *La dette publique belge de 1790 à 1830 : le cas de Hainaut*, Brussels, Collection Histoire Pro Civitate, série in -80, 1978, 177 pp. (The Belgian Public Debt from 1790 to 1830 : the Hainaut case.)



have nothing at all, or hardly anything to do with Paris.

I believe that it was rather a chance discovery in the "Archives Nationales" in Paris of the interesting trial-dossiers that has determined the contents of the book. It is about a Jewish gang of robbers and the notorious gang of Salambier who was guillotined with 21 gangsters in Bruges on 30th September, 1798.

In a slovenly and utterly unsystematic way those gangs are studied with the absolute exclusion of the existing Belgian literature and without consulting the abundant sources preserved in Belgium. Thus the author could not locate a well-known place such as Tielt, and he has no inkling of the obvious relation between compulsory conscription and gangsterism.

Neither does he know that the two gangs studied were no isolated phenomena, but that in the period concerned tens of large and small gangs were active. A very disappointing book (1) !

(Y.VD.B.)

This work (2) by the well-known publicist Jo Gérard was written for the non-specialized French-speaking Belgian reader and does not contain any new data or insights. It is a fluently written and beautifully illustrated book.

In fact it deals with only a few aspects of the French period in Belgium. Certain events which apparently do not interest the French-speaking readers so much, such as the Peasants' War and the Frenchification-policy, are not discussed. There are also few data on the administrative and judicial reforms. Few details are given about the first difficult years of the French occupation. Of course, much attention is paid to Napoleon and his numerous journeys in our country. The reason is obvious : the public at large are still fascinated by Napoleon. Yet, a number of readers will be surprised when reading that conscription was not so much of an evil and that, on the contrary, it enabled a large number of Belgians to make careers in the French army.

(1) Richard COBB, *Paris and its Provinces, 1792-1802*, London, New-York, London Univ. Press, 1975, VII-297 pp.

(2) Jo GERARD & F. T'SAS, *Quand la Belgique était française*, Brussels, 1977. (When Belgium was French.)

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Finally, it must be mentioned that the specialist of military history, François T'Sas describes the battle at Waterloo. We think the authors are justified in putting the French defeat down to a number of blunders made by Napoleon. (Y.VD.B.)

In this posthumously published article by F. Dumont a study is made of the attempts of the French generals Carnot and Jourdan who, in October-November, 1793 tried to chase away the allied troops from the French territory. The ambitious plan — in imitation of the theories of British general Lloyd — consisted in surprising the allied troops by an encircling-manoeuvre by way of the Southern Netherlands. This attempt failed through the unfavourable weather circumstances, the deficient supplying of the French troops and the inexperience of the 29-year old Jourdan.

This is a very detailed article based mainly on the unpublished correspondence of Jourdan with Carnot and the representatives of the Comité du Salut Public (1) (Y.VD.B.)

Because the opponents of the French during the first French Rule (1792-1793) claimed that the new regime endangered faith, freedom and proprietary rights, the jurist, J.B.C. Verlooy, who became a Jacobin later, wrote a pamphlet to react to this. This booklet (40 pp. in octavo) again testifies to the modern views of the author who was in fact ahead of most of his contemporaries. J. Van Den Broeck justly points out that Verlooy did not advocate entirely liberal proprietary rights, but did view ownership for most small farmers as a guarantee against the feudal proprietary-relations.

Though the author deals extensively with the ideological sources and the influencing of Verlooy, he might have situated the

(1) Francis DUMONT, "La première tentative de reconquête de la Belgique par les troupes révolutionnaires (octobre-novembre 1793), Carnot, Jourdan et les théories de Lloyd", *Revue belge d'histoire militaire*, XXII, 1977, 1, pp. 63-76; 2, pp. 167-180; 3, pp. 230-245; 4, pp. 313-330. (The First Attempt at Reconquering Belgium by the Revolutionary Troops.)

the pamphlet even better by placing it in the framework of the activities of the Brussels Jacobin club in which Verlooy played an important part (1). (Y.VD.B.)

The same author demonstrates in a convincing way that a number of anonymous letters from 1790 which are kept in the Royal Library at Brussels come from J.J. Torfs, envoy of the Congress of the United Belgian States in Paris and are addressed to his brother-in-law J. Verlooy. It appears from the letters that J.J. Torfs, although being a democrat, took a more moderate stand than his revolutionary brother-in-law (2). (Y.VD.B.)

A number of articles supply us with information on the action of the French occupational forces and on the attitude of the population. In a well-documented article (3) W. Couvreur deals with an Antwerp pamphlet directed against the Antwerp bishop Mgr. Nelis and arch-bishop Mgr. von Franckenberg. It is related to the flare-up in Antwerp at the end of 1795 of the old party-disputes between patriots and followers of Joseph II, as a result of the annexation of the Austrian Netherlands to France announced on the 7th October, 1795. Moreover, the progressive pro-French fraction feared a possible return of Nelis to Antwerp and the curbin influence the prelate would have on the Scheldt-town which was already reactionary as it was. The author refutes a previous view that the Louvain Jansenist ex-professor Le Plat was the author of this almanac. For the time being its author remains unknown, though Couvreur sums up a number of sound reasons for attributing the work to the Antwerp

(1) J. VAN DEN BROECK, "J.B.C. 'Zijn geloof, vrijheid en eigendommen in gevaar?' (1793)", *Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis*, LIX, 1976, 3-4, pp. 274-290. (Are Faith, Freedom and Possessions Endangered? (1793).)

(2) J. VAN DEN BROECK, "Anonieme brieven van de Brusselse democraat J.J. Torfs", *Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis*, LIX, 1976, 1-2, pp. 70-80. (Anonymous letters from democrat J.J. Torfs of Brussels.)

(3) W. COUVREUR, "Politieke pamfletten tegen Nelis. De Antwerpse kathedraalalmanak van 1796 en de keizerlijke brief van 1791", *Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis*, LVII, 1974, 3-4, pp. 256-265. (Political Pamphlets against Nelis. The Antwerp Cathedral Almanac of 1796 and the Imperial Letter of 1791.)

printer Spanoghe. Yet, the fact that a letter, written shortly after the publication of the almanac, mentions "a rowdy youngster" as the author of a lampoon against Nelis induces Couvreur again to question his own hypothesis. In his second article (1), however, which is a supplement to the previous one, Couvreur strengthens his supposition that Spanoghe is the author of the almanac in question, by pointing out that the above-mentioned youngster is Norbert Cornelissen and that the letter cited referred to an attack by the latter on Nelis in the "Républicain du Nord" of which he was the editor-in-chief. The great danger of confusion in defining the authorship again proves that such pamphlets were no isolated phenomena at that time. W. Couvreur digresses on the views of Cornelissen (amply demonstrated by means of quotations from the "Républicain du Nord") and on the further adventures of the man who developed from an extremely pro-French Jacobin publicist into a leading Orange-man and eventually into a leader and promoter of the Flemish Movement. (Y.VD.B.)

L. François devoted a fascinating article (2) to the well-known Bruges jurist Frans Beyts (1763-1832) who is remembered to this day because of his balloontrip over Louvain one year after the flight of the Montgolfier brothers. At first, Beyts faithfully served the Austrian emperor and the French occupation hardly upset him. After the annexation, he was selected on the basis of his capacities to reside in the "Conseil des Cinq Cents" in Paris. There he openly stood up for religious liberty and he took the fate of the fled nobility to heart. Although he protested for some time against the coup d'état of Napoleon, he was appointed attorney-general to the Court of Appeal in Brussels. During the period of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands he fell into disgrace, but after 1830 he became a member of the National Congress and finally vice-president of the

(1) W. COUVREUR, "Norbert Cornelissen en de Républicain du Nord over Nelis en von Franckenberg", *Verslagen en Mededelingen van de Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde*, 1977, 2, pp. 291-313. (Norbert Cornelissen and the Républicain du Nord on Nelis and von Franckenberg.)

(2) L. FRANÇOIS, "Frans Beyts, Brugge 1763-Brussel 1832", *Handelingen van het Genootschap voor Geschiedenis "Société d'Emulation" te Brugge*, CXI, 1974, 1-2, pp. 32-55. (Frans Beyts, Bruges 1763-Brussels 1832.)

senate. He appears to be the prototype of the high-ranking official who in spite of different régimes does not fundamentally change his attitude towards the authorities. (Y.VD.B.)

K. Stevaux studies the attitude of J.L. Coelman who, as "maire" of Brustem (province of Limburg) wanted to enforce the French ordinances very rigidly (1). In doing so he quite often did not spare the villagers, but in certain cases he kept the French troops out of his struggle against the Brustem inhabitants who were more devoted to the Roman-Catholic faith. Apparently this maire was someone who availed himself of the French occupation in order to confirm and extend his own power. Next to the many tribulations over the question of whether to close down the village-church or not, he had severe difficulties with recalcitrant conscripts.

Though J.L. Coelmont had to go into hiding for one month at St.Trond in February, 1814 to escape the popular fury, he still acted as an alderman of his municipality from 1825 to 1830. The article is well documented and written in a very fluent style. (Y.VD.B.)

Mrs. Douxchamps-Lefèvre draws attention to an important series of dossiers on sentences passed by the special courts-martial of the army on deserters from the Tournay-district (2).

This is a unique source for the study of our conscripts in the army of Napoleon. The author successively deals with the origins of these courts-martial from an institutional point of view and with the nature of the sentences that could be passed by these courts. She also mentions what data can be found in these dossiers on both the deserters and on the officers who were on the jury. She points out that these dossiers are so far unique in their kind in Belgium or

(1) K. STEVAUX, *J.L. Coelmont, "agent municipal" en "maire" te Brustem*, Hasselt, 1978. (Mededelingen van het Centrum voor studie van de Boerenkrijg, nr. 89.) (J.L. Coelmont, "Agent Municipal" and "Maire" at Brustem.).

(2) C. DOUXCHAMPS-LEFEVRE, "Jugements de conseils de guerre spéciaux de la Grande Armée à charge de conscripts du département de Jemappes, 1806-1809", *Revue du Nord*, LVIII, 1976, pp. 235-243. (Judgments passed by the special courts-martial of the Great Army on conscripts from the Jemappes-department, 1806-1809.)

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France. This consideration emphasizes the importance of this collection as a first-rate source, but also points at its relative value.  
(Y.VD.B.)

In compensation for the scant attention paid to the first French invasion of the Namur province, four documents dealing precisely with the period 1792-1793 are now being published. They successively are : part of the diary of baron J.-J.-A. de Stassart, the reports and correspondence by the national commissioners of the "Convention" of Namur, the minutes of the sessions of the general council of the Namur province and of the municipal council of the city of Namur, and finally some documents which are considered relevant but have not been mentioned in P. Verhaegen's "La Belgique sous la domination française". Stassart's diary is undoubtedly the most important of the four documents. During this very period its author was chairman of the Council of the Namur province and a fervent adherent of the enlightened despotism of Joseph II. His account did not, in the first place, pay attention to the concrete events but rather to the reactions and attitudes of his contemporaries and as such it reveals a fierce requisitory against the French revolutionists and their sympathizers in Namur. The influence of this select group of leading figures and the position of its observer point out the importance of the diary, the part now published running from 18 August 1792 till 10 February 1793. The other documents included express the views of the other side : they convey the opinion of the authorities (1).  
(Y.VD.B.)

(1) F. COURTOY & F. JACQUES, *Journal de baron Jacques-Joseph-Augustin de Stassart, et : Documents inédits sur l'occupation française du pays de Namur en 1792-1793*, Namur, Wesmael-Charlier, 1976, pp. XXIII-333. (Documents inédits relatifs à l'histoire de la province de Namur, publiés par ordre du Conseil Provincial). (The diary of J.-J.-A. de Stassart, and : Unedited documents about the French occupation of the Namur region in 1792-1793.)

## 4. UNDER DUTCH GOVERNMENT

In an extremely detailed article (1) this specialist of the history of the United Kingdom deals with the church-state relation in four important years of the reign of William I. He ascertains that the existing literature which has always used partial or second-hand sources, often presents a different picture of the king as "the active or passive element" of the policy with regard to the church.

However, Bornewasser believes that the real share of the king can be determined by means of a thorough investigation of the archives of the "General State Secretariat", since the king wished to have all instructions to and advice from his collaborators in writing. The author successively deals with three important documents : the "General Ordinance on the Organization of the Roman-Catholic Religious Community in the Kingdom of the Netherlands" (May, 1826), the "King's Essay" on the pope and Christendom (presumably July, 1827) and the king's opinion about Mgr. Van Bommel's works on the church-state relation. He goes into the details of its previous history, of the advice given and of the alterations the king sometimes made to his projects. Bornewasser thinks he is justified in concluding that the king had clear ideas on the relation of the state and the church, put these ideas on paper himself and could be influenced by his advisers only for their elaboration. As the king stuck rigidly to his views, he didn't understand why their realization increasingly failed. Bornewasser's article has become a renovating contribution on the policy of William I with regard to the Roman-Catholic Church and it is also a typical example of a historical investigation based on original archive-material.

(L.F.)

(1) J.A. BORNEWASSER, "Het Credo... geen rede van twist". Ter verklaring van een koninklijk falen", *Archief van de Geschiedenis van de Katholieke Kerk in Nederland*, XIX, 1977, pp. 234-287. ("The Credo... No Argument to Argue". In Explanation of a Royal Failure.)

In her first article (1), archivist Thielemans gives an inventory to the archives of the General State Secretariat, which are related with the documents of the archives "State Secretariat for Belgium, 1814-1816", stored at the General State Archives in Brussels since 1953. The author admits that the final date was chosen arbitrarily, for the series could indeed have been continued till 1830 at least. The importance of this inventory lies mainly in demonstrating the wealth of the "General State Secretariat"-fund, at the same time giving an idea of the tremendous amount of subjects the king dealt with personally.

The same applies to the documents to which Mrs. Thielemans drew attention in the secret archives of the Ministry of Justice. In this inventory she has gathered the dossiers which belong together from the point of view of their contents. Thus the historian is given a survey of all material on a certain subject.

Next to many minor themes, the following points of interest are dealt with : the reactions of the clergy to the constitution, the activities of the French emigrants, the influence of the liberals on the press and the evolution of stevenism. The limited periods covered by these inventories make a good start possible. On the spot, it is possible quickly to obtain information on persons, places and events, thanks to the handy system of registers, indices and repertories.

Briefly, these inventories are an ideal start for anyone wanting information on a certain theme. (L.F.)

(1) M.-R. THIELEMANS, *Inventaire des dossiers soumis au roi concernant la Belgique et le Grand-Duché de Luxembourg du 24 décembre 1815 au 29 février 1816 conservés dans le fonds de la Secrétairerie Générale d'Etat aux Archives Générales du Royaume à La Haye*, Bruxelles, Archives Générales du Royaume, 1976, VI-67 pp. (Miscellanea Archivistica, nr. XII). (Inventory of the Dossiers Submitted to the King with regard to Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg from December 24, 1815 to February 29, 1816, Stored in the Fund of the General State Secretariat in the General Archives of the Kingdom in The Hague). M.-R. THIELEMANS, *Inventaire des archives secrètes du Ministère de la Justice concernant les Pays-Bas Méridionaux conservées aux Archives Générales du Royaume à La Haye, 1815-1818*, Bruxelles, Archives Générales du Royaume, 1978, VI-33 pp. (Miscellanea Archivistica, nr. XIX) (Inventory of the Secret Archives of the Ministry of Justice with regard to the Southern Netherlands, Stored in the General Archives of the Kingdom in The Hague, 1815-1818.)



With her iconographically beautiful work (1) Reina Van Ditzhuyzen made a mistake. She restricts herself to an introductory chapter in which a brief survey is given of the evolution of the situation and legislation in the field of education. Then, by means of fifteen rough biographies, she tries to paint the doings of the ministers entrusted with the care of education.

In doing so she does not succeed in drawing a reasoned and enlightening picture of the educational policy, but simply repeats, somewhat more extensively, her introduction. So, Reina Van Ditzhuyzen does not go in search of the positive influence of the successive ministers and of the forces working in the background (the king, the administration, ...).

The absence of this intention makes a similar book absolutely superfluous. (L.F.)

The "Catholic Society for the Encouragement of Religious Sciences and Morality in the Kingdom of the Low Countries" (Société Catholique pour l'encouragement des sciences religieuses et des bonnes moeurs dans le Royaume des Pays-Bas) of Le Sage ten Broek was meant as a counterpart of the society "Tot Nut van 't Algemeen" (for the Benefit of Everyone) which was rather under protestant influence and preached a religious indifference. The catholic initiative, however, fell apart, in the course of the first year after its establishment, into two independent organizations. This was the consequence of disagreements among the people responsible on the one hand, and of the different situation of the catholic population-groups in the two parts of the country on the other hand. In the North people thought mainly of support to catholic press-initiatives, of improvement of elementary education, of the training of the broader popular mass, and consequently of the circulation of small vulgarizing works in which any political controversy had to be carefully avoided. Count de Robiano and his supporters in the South viewed things differently : they edited their own publications, didn't take any interest in elementary education and addressed mainly the

(1) R. VAN DITZHUYZEN, *Onderwijs als opdracht. Leven en werk van de eerste vijftien ministers belast met het onderwijs in de periode 1798-1830*, Den Haag, Staatsuitgeverij, 1977, 120 pp. (Education as a Mission. Lives and Works of the first fifteen Ministers Entrusted with Education in the Period 1798-1830.)

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intellectual and propertied circles. Consequently, people in the South thought rather of the circulation of greater, classical works which could be used as weapons in the struggle against the religion-policy of the king. Each of these two initiatives had a relative success in its own area, which should prove once more that a co-existence of North and South was utterly impossible. Biart's conclusion is quite tempting, but somewhat rash. However, the author refers to a more thorough analysis in his Master's dissertation. When we compare only the "Verspreiding van goede boeken" (Circulation of good books), the Dutch-speaking initiative of Sterckx, with Le Sage's intentions, we find a much greater similarity, which disproves Biart's conclusion. Moreover, it simplifies matters too much when de Robiano and the entire "Société Sainte" are depicted as being representative of the catholic ideology at the time of the United Kingdom. Yet, Biart's investigation is worth while : the influencing and the domination of the intellect of population-groups forms a considerable element in the struggle for power (1). (L.F.)

The interest which Thorbecke — who was an extraordinary professor at the Ghent university from 1825 to 1830 — took in the situation in Belgium after 1830, makes the publication of his correspondence very interesting for the history of our country in this period. Thorbecke was an advocate of the so-called "perseverance policy" with which he hoped to be able to bring a restoration about. In this he avoided relying on the Belgian orangists. Though most of the people with whom Thorbecke kept up a correspondence, were Dutchmen, the Belgian issue and the related problems — such as an armistice between North and South, the blockade of the Scheldt and the occupation of the Antwerp Citadel — are repeatedly discussed and consequently also his opinion about a good many prominent Belgians, such as Bartels, de Celles, Conway, Leopold I, de Stassart,

(1) G. BIART, "Les antinomies du mouvement catholique des bons livres aux Pays-Bas (1820-1830) : un aspect de l'impossible amalgame", *Fédération des Cercles d'Archéologie et d'Histoire*, XLIVe Congrès, Huy, 1976, pp. 306-316. (The Paradoxes of the Catholic Movement for Good Books in the Low Countries (1820-1830) : An Aspect of the Impossible Mixture.)

Metdepenningen, Lesbroussart, van Crombrugghe, van der Linden d'Hooghvorst... Finally, we must add that the publication of this correspondence entirely meets the high standards set for State Historical Publications. An exemplary annotation, a faultless index of all names and an extensive bibliography make this work an essential book of reference (1). (L.F.)

In this survey (2) Lode Wils gives an outline of the linguistic policy of William I, in which he mainly aims at showing the relative importance of this element, on the side of both the government and the opposition. Indeed, as an isolated grievance the resistance to the linguistic policy of the Dutch king stood no chance, and the fundamental, though only partial, concessions of 1829 and 1830 were sufficient for the opposition. He also points out very clearly why that linguistic policy was eventually to fail: the generalized introduction of Dutch remained a matter of the authorities and did not meet a need of the basis; in other words, Dutch remained limited to a state-language, without becoming a popular language in those years. Wils also succeeds in indicating the exact relation between the Dutchification under William I and the rise of the Flemish Movement in the years after 1830. (L.F.)

## 5. FLEMISH MOVEMENT

A.W. Willemsen — the pre-eminent specialist of the Flemish movement between the two World Wars — has now made a clever and fluent synthesis for the period between 1830 and 1914. It is a status quaestionis which is not based on a personal investigation of sources and consequently is closely associated with works such as the ones

(1) G.J. HOOYKAAS & J.C. BOOGMAN, *De Briefwisseling van J.R. Thorbecke, deel I, 1830-1833*, Den Haag, Martinus Nijhoff, 1975, X-527 pp. (Rijks-geschiedkundige Publicaties, Kleine Serie, nr. 42) (The Correspondence of J.R. Thorbecke. Part I, 1830-1833.)

(2) L. WILS, "De Taalpolitiek van Willem I", *Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden*, XCII, 1977, 1, pp. 81-87. (The Linguistic Policy of William I.)

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by H.J. Elias, L. Wils and P. Fredericq. This also accounts for a number of flaws. Yet, this indebtedness did not prevent the Utrecht historian from developing his own insights. Thus he thinks that liberal flamingantism together with democratic progressism until World War I was at least as strong as its counterpart in the catholic party. This view is opposed to the Catholic historiography according to which the political basis of the Flemish movement was predominantly catholic. He also posits that one of the principal explanations for the lack of blending of socialism and Flemish movement must not be searched either in internationalism or in anti-religiousness, but rather in the absence of a close relation between a pro-Flemish liberal progressism and a rising socialism after the middle of the 1870s.

Praiseworthy is also the starting-point of the author in his working-up of the material. Each part (Introduction and previous history, the Flemish Movement 1830-1857 : Literature and politics, the formation of the political structure 1857-1872, Between liberal and catholic, 1872-1894, For the integral Dutchification of Flanders 1894-1914) is first situated in a Belgian political and social context, then the place of the movement is determined and finally its contents and the pro-Flemish action itself are discussed. Finally each part is followed by concluding considerations on the situation of the movement at that moment. Like any volume in the series, this work is abundantly illustrated (1). (H.V.V.)

J. Craeybeckx inquired into the relation between socialism and Flemish movement about 1900 (2). He puts the alienation down to the petty-bourgeois mentality of flamingantism which, for the sake of its status, did not really want to fight for the working-class in a struggle which was more than merely cultural. Also the exaggerated miserabilistic vision of Anseele and other party-leaders, who did not come to a real analysis of the relation between the national and the

(1) A.W. WILLEMSSEN, *De Vlaamse Beweging. I. Van 1830 tot 1914*, Has-selt, 1974, 410 pp. (Twintig eeuwen Vlaanderen, dl. 4). (The Flemish Movement. I. From 1830 to 1914.)

(2) J. CRAEYBECKX, "Socialisme en Vlaamse Beweging omstreeks 1900", *Provocatie en Inspiratie, Liber Amicorum Leopold Flam*, vol. 2, Antwerpen, 1975, pp. 787-798. (Socialism and Flemish Movement about 1900.)

social problems and who did not want to use the national issue as a lever for the break-through of socialism in Flanders, played a part. Especially fascinating is the way in which the author relates this to the renovating contents which L. de Raet gave to the Flemish program, against the background of the second industrial revolution. (H.V.V.)

## 6. LABOUR MOVEMENT

L. Denys has examined the socio-economic conditions of the industrial workers about 1886 (1). To this end he has made use of the official inquiry — which took place after a series of violent strikes that very year — conducted by the government and entrusted to the “Commission de Travail”. In spite of the amateurish way in which the inquiry was held, especially when compared to modern techniques, it remains an invaluable source because it provides information on various fields about which other sources are practically non-existent. After a successful attempt to seriate the available statistical matter on the various industrial branches, the author pins down a few trends which are certainly more valuable than the fragmentary information provided by the predominantly qualitative sources.

He has focused his attention on the organization of labour — structured according to age- and sex-groups —, on the working-hours in the different industries, and also on the budgets of working-class families. The study reveals that there must have been marked differences among the labourers. In spite of an advanced mechanisation the physical capacities remained to be the decisive factor for the recruitment and employment of men, women and children. The part played by the younger labour force was very considerable : 1/5 to 1/3 of the employed labourers belonged to the age-group of 12 to 21 years. Working-days of up to 12, 13, 14 hours

(1) L. DENYS, “Trends in de sociaal-ekonomische toestand van de Belgische arbeiders rond 1886”, *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor nieuwste geschiedenis*, V, 1974, 3-4, pp. 361-425. (Trends in the socio-economic situation of the Belgian labourers about 1886.)

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were the rule rather than the exception. Nevertheless, working-class people with large families did not manage to balance their household budget. On average, about half of the budget was spent of food, in poor families this might even mount up to 90%. (H.V.V.)

The proletarians' song with its inevitable "tune" had also in the Low Countries a great social, cultural and political significance. This song which, according to J. Van de Merwe, must point at the necessity or at least at the possibility of improvement through social reform, is given four functions : 1. Solidarity, avowal and self-encouragement, 2. Teaching and preaching in their own circles, 3. Recruiting new followers, 4. Provoking and challenging the opponents or even intimidation (1).

It is the author's great merit that he tries to explain the meaning of this song throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. In order to make a sensory perception possible he makes a choice out of more than a thousand songs. He provided these with enlightening background-comments and tried to bring the most important figures to the fore, while situating their contribution. The book is very well illustrated. (H.V.V.)

The contribution by L. De Paepe and F. Sartorius (2) is an important one because it emphatically draws attention once more to the extensive files concerning public opinion in general and socialism in particular which are kept in the archives of the "Préfecture de Police" in Paris. These collections give a running survey of the evolutionary moments during the period 1873-1891, and they are of great value to enhance our knowledge of the socialist labour movement in Belgium.

(1) J. VAN DE MERWE, *Gij zijt kanalie, heeft men ons verweten ! Het proletiërslied in Nederland en Vlaanderen*, Utrecht-Antwerpen, 1974, 400 pp. (We have been Blamed for Being a Bad Lot ! The Proletarians' Song in Holland and Flanders.)

(2) J.L. DE PAEPE & F. SARTORIUS, "Quelques notes tirées des archives de la Préfecture de Police sur le mouvement socialiste en Belgique au XIXe siècle", *Archives et bibliothèques de Belgique*, XLV, 1974, 1-2, pp. 23-42. (Some notes drawing upon the archives of the "Préfecture de Police" concerning the socialist movement in Belgium during the 19th century.)

To illustrate the importance of these pieces for investigation into diverse fields, the authors have reproduced some representative notes or reports in connection with : the International, the association for free research, the origin of the Brabant socialist party, the working-class people, the anarchist groups. The second group contains five reports, published in their entirety, on the situation of and the attitude taken by the socialist party in Belgium and its connections with analogous groups in France and abroad. (H.V.V.)

The way in which reformism and opportunism penetrated into the Belgian labour movement continues to evoke studies. In a remarkable article A. Mommen (1) has demonstrated how both attitudes were present from the beginning and have always been predominant. The hesitation shown by the party leaders of the Belgian Labour Party to approve of the strike-actions of the labourers for political ends and to canalize them purposefully by means of an adapted strategy, the sacrifice of that to a good co-operation with the progressists — in a key-position and holding the balance up against the doctrinarians — is defined by Mommen as the "liberal connection", which is the outcome of a much more radical process than a mere search for electoral alliances, and this he extensively analyses. (H.V.V.)

H. Landuyt's study of "Daensism" in Antwerp is an important contribution to our knowledge of the spread of this movement outside the Alost region (2). As is the case in other towns, this dissident wing was rooted in a lower-middle-class setting of pro-Flemish people who joined issue with the notabilities because of the language. De Beucker, Pauwels and Lebon were among the prominent figures. They were supported by the discontented middle-classes in the towns as well as in the country. They attempted to build up their own

(1) A. MOMMEN, "Een aspect van het reformisme : de Belgische Werkliedenpartij en haar liberale connectie (1889-1894)", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, V, 1974, 3-4, pp. 273-338. (One aspect of reformism : the Belgian Labour Party and its liberal connection (1889-1894.)

(2) H. LANDUYT, *Het Daensisme in Antwerpen*, Westerlo, 1975, 125 pp. (Campusreeks KVHU) ("Daensism" in Antwerp.)

party structures after the example set by the Daens brothers. In spite of their moderate actions, they did not even succeed to have themselves integrated into the "Meeting party". After 1900 the boisterous action of priest Florimond Fonteyne of Bruges polarized the different tendencies. The more moderate ones returned to the catholic party while the radicals promulgated a more leftist and less Flemish-minded course.

After World War I some leaders quite spontaneously joined the Front Party, or Flemish Nationalism, others laid the foundations for a new party. (H.V.V.)

Professor F. Van Hemelryck, historian at heart of the criminality during the Ancien Régime, has successfully embarked on modern history with a study on "Daensism" in Brussels (1). Certain aspects of the actions of this catholic splinter-party were particularly interesting because the confrontation between the supporters and the opponents of co-operations with the catholic party was most poignantly personified in the capital city. Until 1895 the intellectuals connected with the periodical "La Justice Sociale" had always 'approved of the Daensians and they had argued for the existence of the group as an independent wing within the fold of the Belgian "Volksbond" (National Union), the umbrella organ of christian-democracy. But as soon as the standard-bearers of "La Justice Sociale", notably Renkin and Carton de Wiart, had been elected representatives of the people on a catholic list this relationship underwent a drastic change. They endorsed henceforth the viewpoints of the party which did not accept any opposition from outside the party. For this reason all ties with priest Daens, who had launched the battle for the acquisition of a political mandate in Brussels, were completely severed. Due to the fact that the Belgian Labour Party in Brussels had already obtained a firm footing among the labourers of the traditional crafts and that radical-liberals from of old had their followers among the lower middle classes and tradespeople, it was difficult for Daens to find his own electoral public. He managed to get the support of those tradespeople who stuck to their faith, and

(1) F. VAN HEMELRYCK, *Het Daensisme in Brussel*, Brussel, Economische Hogeschool Sint-Aloysius, 1979. (Daensism in Brussels.)



labourers, especially hops-pickers and brick-makers.

Van Hemelryck's contribution highlights the fundamental importance of the exclusion of "Daensism" by the Belgian "Volksbond". This opposition wing within the catholic camp had lost a number of its leaders and did not succeed in attracting any substitutes. This, at first, created a stagnation which led to eventual dissension. (R.V.E.)

The importance of the work by Koen Rotsaert, *Priester Fonteyne en het fonteynisme te Brugge* (Father Fonteyne and "fonteynism" in Bruges) (1), lies in the fact that he assembled all extant information on priest Fonteyne into a very readable book. This pro-Flemish, later on people-minded priest, was one of the founders of the establishment of an autonomous christian democratic party, the Daens wing, in Bruges. Punished by his bishop because of his political actions, he refused to submit and agitated as a fervent companion of Daens, especially in Antwerp and Brussels. About 1910 he was called back to his point of departure by the dying Bruges faction of daensists; there he managed to get a seat in parliament after a spectacular election campaign. This study is partly based on well-known facts but it reveals new information about the activities of Fonteyne about 1890 in Tielt, his actions in parliament and his political swing-over after World War I. The very moderate and patriotic points of view which he adhered to did no longer arouse enthusiasm. Half of his traditional electoral following deserted him. (R.V.E.)

In an unpretentious booklet consisting of a collection of articles which had been published in a regional weekly, F.J. Verdoodt has portrayed the most prominent "Daensian" leaders of the Alost region (2). The text, which at times tends to be superficial, has felicitously been supplemented by some fifty unique photographs

(1) Brugge, 1975, 104 pp.

(2) J.J. VERDOODT, *Het Daensisme in het arrondissement Aalst*, Dendermonde, 1975, 123 pp. ("Daensism" in the district of Alost.)

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and documents. The originality of the work lies in the fact that the author draws attention to some lesser-known militants who had always been overshadowed by the Daens brothers as well as to the most important local antagonists. (H.V.V.)

### 7. JURIDICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE LAW

Up to now the study of 19th-century law-history has been greatly neglected. Preference has always been given to the study of ancient law and of the legal science especially of the medieval and early-modern periods. In itself this fact can historically be explained through the flourishing of the historical school in the 19th century in general and through the work of the medievalists in our country. It is, however, remarkable that the rise and the success of contemporary history of the last fifty years has not yet aroused sufficient interest in the history of modern law.

This can be attributed, among other things, to the technicality of the subject, which mainly discourages historians and to the unwillingness or inability of jurists to give their subject-matter as a social phenomenon, also a historical dimension.

Internationally this is being changed now, especially under the impulse of the work of the Max Planck Institute (*Ius commune*) and of a few Austrian and French historians. Thus a new periodical was first published in German recently : *Zeitschrift für Neuere Rechtsgeschichte*. The first volume contained only one (trial-)issue. In the first issue of the second volume P. Nève published a general survey of Dutch and Belgian law-historical literature of the last decade (1). Here he also points at the start of a contemporary law-history in the Dutch-speaking countries. (C.C.)

(1) P. NEVE, "Niederländische und Belgische rechtshistorische Literatur", *Zeitschrift für Neuere Rechtsgeschichte*, II, 1-2, pp. 66-82.

The hesitation which is noticeable with Nève, can also be found with P. Godding (1). First the author dealt with the question why the law-historians show so little interest in the study of modern law. Starting from a few examples (liability — parental authority) he then discussed the division into periods and the definition of law, the bibliographical problem, and he made a few recommendations for further study. His article is provided with a systematically arranged introductory bibliography. (C.C.)

At the third colloquy of Dutch and Belgian law-historians G. Van Dievoet discussed the reform attempts of Joseph II in the domain of civil legal proceedings(2). He situated these attempts in the currents of natural law by means of a systematic classification drawn up by H. Thieme. Then he criticized both Thieme's classification and the importance of the reform by Joseph II. This article — which does bear witness to a right insight into 18th-century legal thinking — is, however, more interesting as a promise of a more thorough and extensive work which we hope will be published in the near future. (C.C.)

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the School of Criminology at the State University in Ghent the speech of the day was delivered by H. Bianchi (3). This Amsterdam criminologist with a marked historical interest, surveyed one and a half centuries of

(1) P. GODDING, "De huidige stand van het onderzoek betreffende de evolutie van het privaatrecht in België in de negentiende eeuw", *Verruiming van de grenzen van de rechtsgeschiedenis*, Amsterdam, 1978, pp. 92-107. (The Present Situation of the Research with Regard to the Evolution of Civil Law in Belgium in the nineteenth Century.)

2) G. VAN DIEVOET, "De hervorming van het burgerlijk procesrecht door Jozef II in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden en de school van het Natuurrecht", *Derde colloquium van Nederlandse en Belgische rechtshistorici*, Amsterdam, 1979, pp. 41-50. (The Reform of Civil Legal Proceedings by Joseph II in the Southern Low Countries and the School of Natural Law.)

(3) H. BIANCHI, "Over kriminalisering", *Excerpta criminologica. Veertig jaar School voor Criminologie (1938-1978)*, Gent, 1978, pp. 2-23. (On Criminalization.)

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criminological thinking, in which he paid much attention to the figure and the work of Quetelet. From there he proceeded to outline the development of law, ethics and criminalization, eventually creating an interesting but disputable image of the thinking of crime in a bourgeois society. (C.C.)

Finally we must point out two publications which fall outside the scope of this chronicle, but which do have an importance in this framework. First, there is H. Huussen's article on matrimonial law and the French revolution (1), a study which has — next to its intrinsic value — also an importance for our country, because 19th-century law here was almost exclusively French law. A second publication is the one by J. Gilissen (2) in which the author pays much attention to the evolution of modern law and 19th-century law-history. This is not surprising as Gilissen may be considered one of the pioneers of contemporary law-history in Belgium. (C.C.)

(1) A.H. HUUSSEN, "Le droit du mariage au cours de la Révolution française", *Tijdschrift voor Rechtsgeschiedenis*, XLVII, 1979, 1, pp. 9-51; 2, pp. 99-127.

(2) J. GILISSEN, *Introduction historique au droit. Esquisse d'une histoire universelle du droit. Les sources du droit depuis le XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Eléments d'histoire du droit privé*, Brussel, 1979.

#### IV. THE ECONOMY

##### INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In 1975 a very remarkable exhibition in Brussels was devoted to "industrial archaeology".

This aroused the interest of the general public in a practically unknown branch of historical science. The authors of the catalogue which was published on this occasion, availed themselves of the opportunity to delimitate their field and to indicate objectives, means and sources.

Mr. G. Van den Abeelen was entrusted with the general introduction. Before, he had already published a few remarkable articles, in which the attention was drawn to industrial archaeology and which caused a sensation, not only in academic circles, but also among the population at large.

The present article dates from 1975 and consequently contains views which were thoroughly reconsidered later and are now being discussed. The article starts from the thesis that industrial archaeology occupies itself with the physical remains of the industrial revolution. He views the latter as one of the three great revolutions in the history of man and situates it between the end of the Austrian regime and 1914.

In the survey of the physical remains and of the methods he points out what an enormous task is awaiting the industrial archaeologist in Belgium and the great variety of sources that can be used. In doing so he does not strive after completeness in the enumeration. The lack of a clear bibliography is felt as a shortcoming of this article.

Indeed, the average reader is not sufficiently familiar with the publications of the industrial archaeologists and other authors mentioned by Van den Abeelen (1). (R.D.H.)

(1) G. VAN DEN ABEELEN, "De Industriële archeologie", *En toen kwam de machine. Ontmoeting met de Industriële Archeologie*, Brussel, 1975, pp. 12-18, (Nationale Maatschappij voor Krediet aan de Nijverheid. Gemeentekrediet van België). (Industrial Archaeology.)

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Marinette Bruwier, professor at the State University at Mons, gives an enumeration of a number of "industrial archaeologists before their time" and at the same time creates an idea of the sporadic projects undertaken in this field in Belgium.

René Evrard, a clerck with the "Compagnie des Conduites d'Eau", whose collections of manufactured products and tools are now owned by the "Musée du Fer et du Charbon", was the real pioneer of industrial archaeology in Belgium.

It is striking how poor the enumeration is of authors who dealt with industrial-archaeological aspects. A systematic approach is altogether out of the question in Belgium. What was true in 1975, still holds five years later. All attempts at making a scientific inventory failed.

The author provides an interesting bibliography (1). (R.D.H.)

On his part L. Génicot started from the thesis that the approach to the architectural realizations since, and within the framework of the industrial revolution, does not essentially differ from the approach to buildings of all styles of all periods.

After a rather confusing introduction in which he points out the importance of the location and the program of a building, the author deals with the real history of architecture in the industrial era. He does not want to restrict the investigation to constructions which are the direct results of the industrial activities, but he wants to extend it to elements "which are or are not mutually related in time and space, in order to come to a broader concept of the term *industry*".

Two categories are discussed. On the one hand the realizations with a new function : factories, railway-stations, public services, department stores, hot-houses, water-towers, telegraph-poles, etc. Here people attempted to realize a functional program with new materials.

The second category contains buildings with functions that existed already before the industrial revolution : dwellings, town-halls, halls, schools, charitable institutions, fountains. Here the application of the new materials was not so readily accepted. We do

(1) M. BRUWIER, "De Industriële Archeologie in België", *Ibid.*, pp. 20-25. (Industrial Archaeology in Belgium.)

not follow the author when he classifies this second category under industrial archaeology. In the construction of schools, churches, museums during the industrial period, building-materials will probably have been used which are typical of that industrial period. This does not mean, however, that the essence of the building belongs to the field of study of industrial archaeology. The essence of a building is in fact not determined by the materials, but by the function which it is given and by the use man makes of it. Unfortunately the author does not illustrate his article with examples from Flanders (1). (R.D.H.)

Archaeology related to technology reminds of the industrial revolution. However, in Belgium there are a lot of older technical remains. The author emphasizes the economic activity in our provinces in the 16th century which, consequently, preceded the "great industrial revolution" by nearly two centuries. Then the author comes to the names of William and John Cockerill and their plants. Subsequently a number of Belgian achievements are mentioned in the domain of steam-engines, steam-locomotives and railways (especially with relation to Cockerill). Then he deals with the discovery of Ernest Solvay for producing carbonate of soda in a cheap way. Yet, he hardly mentions numerous other Belgian technicians and inventors, such as L. Gevaert and Baekeland ! Another question, namely to what extent the Belgian technology was influenced by foreigners, is not answered either.

Moreover, the role of the technological sections of the universities in the industrial development could have been discussed here. Also the bibliography is unsatisfactory (2). (R.D.H.)

A. Linters starts his contribution with a few considerations about what a museum, particularly a "living museum" and an "industrial archaeological museum" should be.

This is followed by a survey of a number of museums in

(1) L. GENICOT, "Industriële Archeologie en de Gebouwen", *Ibid.*, pp. 36-43. (Industrial Archaeology and the Buildings.)

(2) A. LEDERER, "Industriële Archeologie en Technologie", *Ibid.*, pp. 44-51. (Industrial Archaeology and Technology.)

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Flanders possessing objects of some "industrial-archaeological" value. Moreover, mention is made of a few initiatives to establish new museums focused on industrial archaeology. That a museum must necessarily illustrate man and his activities, as is claimed on p. 52, will not be accepted by everybody. We must only think of the many museums devoted to flora, fauna, geology, etc. (1). (R.D.H.)

This article by L. Willem is largely devoted to a theoretical vision on the museum-problem (2). It is a positive element that these theoretical considerations are based on a thorough experience. One of the important problems is the question as to how the preservation "in situ" can be reconciled to a well-directed museum policy.

In analysing the transition from tool to machine the difference between a museum of industrial archaeology and a folklore-museum becomes apparent.

Gigantism as applied by the Deutsches Museum of Munich is, however, rejected. Moreover, it is necessary that a museum, or rather a Centre of Industrial Archaeology, should be organically connected with the industrial area in which it is situated. This requires : making a geographical division, looking for remains, noting the data, describing the findings, making up-to-date files, taking the technical measurements of buildings and machines, using filing-techniques, etc.

As specific qualifications for industrial archaeology Willem sees the multidisciplinary aspect, the awakening of the public opinion and the addition of the leisure-culture. Then he presents a number of industrial museums, beginning with the "Musée du Fer et du Charbon" in Liège.

In spite of the fact that the author's exposition is not always quite clear, the article contains a number of good ideas and is considerably better than other articles on "industrial archaeology and museums". However, the absence of a bibliography must be considered a deficiency and we were also surprised to read that the Tram-Museum of Schepdaal is situated in Wallonia. (R.D.H.)

(1) A. LINTERS, "Industriële Archeologie en de Musea in Vlaanderen", *Ibid.*, pp. 52-57. (Industrial Archaeology and the Museums in Flanders.)

(2) L. WILLEM, "Industriële Archeologie en de Musea in Wallonië", *Ibid.*, pp. 58-69. (Industrial Archaeology and the Museums in Wallonia.)



H. Coppejans-Desmedt reminds us of the fact that also in industrial archaeology the material findings must be confronted "in situ" with the written evidence.

Numerous archives on the metal industry and the mining in Wallonia are still preserved in state-archives, such as the very interesting documents on the colliery of Bois-du-Luc at Houdeng-Aimeries, with reports dating back to 1685. With regard to the textile-industry the most important collections are to be found in Flanders, among others in the Town-archives in Ghent.

Also a number of museums possess archive-collections on some sector of industry, such as the Royal Museum of Mariemont, the National Shipping Museum in Antwerp, the Sterckshof Museum at Deurne and we could also add the Museum of Industrial Archaeology and Textile in Ghent to the list.

Even if industrial archives are lost, several things may be traced back. The author enumerates a few possibilities : the notary's office, registration, the Belgian Statute-Book, the Collection of Inventors' Patents, the *Recueil officiel des marques de fabrique*... Moreover, a few important archive-series are pointed out, which may contain quite a lot of information on factories : the building-permits, the collections of *Maps and Plans*, the archives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Sales of National Goods (French Period). One extremely important series is not mentioned : the cadastral archives with, among other things, the mutation-outlines (1). (R.D.H.)

Between 1900 and 1914 the picture-postcard was a widespread means of communication. Also for industrial archaeology it may be a rich source. So far its value has not yet been investigated systematically.

Along with the picture-postcard the photograph must be mentioned as an important source of information. A clear photograph together with a plan or a cadastral map often admit of a whole analysis (2).

(1) H. COPPEJANS-DESMEDT, "Industriële Archeologie en het Archief", *Ibid.*, pp. 70-77. (Industrial Archaeology and the Archives.)

(2) G. ABEELS, "Industriële Archeologie, Oude Foto's en Prentbriefkaarten", *Ibid.*, pp. 86-93. (Industrial Archaeology. Old Photographs and Picture-Postcards.)

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The Liège artist Léonard Defrance left several paintings with regard to industrial buildings and factories, such as foundries, smithies, a colliery, a tobacco-factory.

Another important source for the knowledge of industry about 1840 is formed by the idealized pictures in the album "La Belgique Industrielle" (Industrial Belgium).

Also the Brussels artist Constantin Meunier applied himself especially to rendering the life of the labourers in Liège and Hainaut at the end of the 19th century.

We were struck by the fact that a few important names, such as E. Laermans, A. Bentos, H. Luyten, were missing or should be discussed in more detail. Moreover, there are a lot of art-works by painters or even by anonymous artists who did not paint "industrial scenes", which are of the utmost importance for industrial archaeology. Examples are the etchers and painters of the harbour activities in Antwerp and Ghent, and of the countless town, village and site-views which do supply us with a lot of information on the local industry (1). (R.D.H.)

In this guide (2) to the exhibition of the same name Myriam De Clopper wants to give an image of industrial archaeology in the textile-sector. In fact it has become an anecdotal and richly illustrated image of the history of the textile-industry.

The result was a concise, amply illustrated, but merely vulgarizing work. On account of the anecdotal nature and a jumping at conclusions it must be consulted with the necessary caution. Several small inaccuracies are somewhat compensated by a good bibliography. Furthermore, this manual contains an introduction to industrial archaeology in Flanders, entitled "Industrial Archaeology"

(1) J. STIENNON, "Industriële Archeologie en Kunst, van Léonard Defrance tot Paul Delvaux", *Ibid.*, pp. 94-101. (Industrial Archaeology and Art, from Léonard Defrance to Paul Delvaux.)

(2) *Toen het leven nog een kortstondig verblijf in de textielfabriek was... Een fotomontage van de industrialisatie en haar ontwikkeling in de Belgische vlas-, katoen- en wolindustrie (1800-1914)*, Boechout, Sfinks v.z.w., 1979, 72 pp. (When life was still a brief stay in the textile-factory... A photomontage of the industrialization and its development in the Belgian flax, cotton, and wool-industries (1800-1914).)

and written by A. Linters.

Here, however, the author forgets to mention the Team for Industrial Archaeology of the State University in Ghent, the Centre of Industrial History at Antwerp and the Museum of Industrial Archaeology and Textile in Ghent. (R.D.H.)

The article by R. Baetens gives a good, thoroughly elaborated and reasoned survey of the sources to which the industrial archaeology of the Antwerp harbour can or must appeal (1). He uses the classical classification of the sources.

Yet, we must make a few remarks : first of all, the published or unpublished "map" could have been mentioned more clearly as a source, and the cadastral maps and mutation-plans would have deserved attention.

We can hardly agree to the author's radical point of view when he states : "We resolutely reject the establishment of some kind of archaeological zoological gardens, which would consist of fragmentary collections and would require considerable amounts of money". In the light of the circumstances, the objects we want to keep and the financial possibilities, a suitable solution must be looked for. In a number of cases preservation "in situ" will be the best plan, whereas in a lot of other instances, the museum will be preferable. (R.D.H.)

It is possible to get a clear image of the warehouses and wharfs at the disposal of the Antwerp business community, through "Inspection générale des risques commerciaux et industriels des royaumes de Belgique et de la Hollande. Rapports sur les magasins, entrepôts et risques industriels de la ville d'Anvers", published in

(1) R. BAETENS, "Typologie van de bronnen voor de studie van de Industriële Archeologie van de haven", *Colloquium industriële archeologie van de Antwerpse haven*. (Universitaire Faculteiten Sint-Ignatius, Antwerpen 26 oktober 1974), *Mededelingen van het Centrum voor Bedrijfsgeschiedenis*, nr. 4, pp. 5-14. (Typology of the Sources for the Study of the Industrial Archaeology of the Harbour.)

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1874 for the insurance-companies as a guide for determining the premiums.

In that report 269 warehouses are mentioned.

With the help of this report, of other sources and of investigations on the spot the author discusses the location of the warehouses, district by district; he describes the nature and the situation of the warehouses and mentions their names.

The author comes to the conclusion that after 100 years about 13% of the warehouses remained in a more or less recognizable situation. Nearly two-thirds of the more or less preserved warehouses date from the 19th century (1). (R.D.H.)

The article of A. Himler (2) deals with the problem of the use of cold-water pressure for harbour-tools at Antwerp.

This system had been used at Antwerp since 1808. In the water-pressure plants the water was put under pressure and from there it went to the harbour-tools. Special attention is paid to the hoisting-apparatus, particularly the shore-cranes. Also the trade of the crane-driver is discussed. It is interesting that, when Antwerp takes harbour-tools out of service, at least one specimen of all remarkable pieces is kept and stored in technological archives. Of each important type of crane one specimen will be kept as an industrial monument. (R.D.H.)

This article (3) is a brief, but interesting survey of the technology applied at the Antwerp docks in the latter half of the 19th century,

(1) A. THIJS, "Pakhuizen te Antwerpen in 1874, een balans na honderd jaar", *Ibid.*, pp. 15-26. (Warehouses at Antwerp in 1874, a Balance After One Hundred Years.)

(2) A. HIMLER, "Historiek en verdwijnende toepassingen van een energieverdeling 1879-1975. Koudwaterdruk voor havenwerktuigen te Antwerpen", *Ibid.*, (History and Disappearing Applications of Energy-Distribution 1879-1975. Cold-Water Pressure for Harbour-Tools at Antwerp.)

(3) G. THUES, "Antwerpens groei tot wereldhaven. De hydraulische technologie, dernier-cri in de havenuitrusting van de tweede helft der negentiende eeuw", *Ibid.* (Antwerp Growth to an International Port. Hydraulic Technology, the Latest Thing in the Harbour Equipment of the Latter Half of the 19th Century.)

when Antwerp was working itself up from a second-rate harbour to an international port. The introduction of the steam-ship necessitated a great adaptation of installations, services supplies and the treatment of goods. The hand-derrick was a thing of the past, the steam-cranes did not prove fully satisfactory. A new technology using cold-water pressure and developed by Armstrong from Newcastle, England, was introduced.

A few interesting tables on the amount of municipal shore-cranes illustrate the text.  
(R.D.H.)

## V. EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

### 1. GENERALITIES

In a lecture delivered at the meeting of the Belgian Society for Contemporary History at Mons on December 10, 1977, M. De Vroede, Professor at the Louvain University, discussed the recent developments that occurred in the field of the history of education abroad (1). He justly points out how far Belgium lags behind countries as the U.S.A., Great Britain, Germany and France. Indeed, since the sixties these countries have been busily practising socio-paedagogical history, studying the interdependence of school and society and of education and economy, establishing relations between the socio-economic situations and the school-system. The attention is focused on the function of the school-system. In Belgium the traditional historical pedagogy remains dominant, i.e. the history of ideas and the school-history. In order to expedite the introduction into the paradigm, M. De Vroede, at the end of his exposition, indicated a number of suggestive examples of investigation-possibilities and problems.

For that matter, anyone wanting to form an idea of the production in Belgium should consult a bibliographical survey drawn up by the same author (2). Along with a short bibliographical article by K. De Clerck "Twintig jaar historische pedagogiek in België" (Twenty Years of Historical Pedagogy in Belgium) published in 1971 (3), the one by M. De Vroede offers the start for a completion

(1) M. DE VROEDE, "Actuele tendensen in het onderzoek betreffende de geschiedenis van het onderwijs", *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, IX, 1978, 1-2, pp. 289-304. (Modern Tendencies in Research with regard to Education-History.)

(2) ID., "Das Fach "pädagogische Historiographie" in Belgien seit 1945", in : M. HEINEMANN (ed.), *Die historische Pädagogik in Europa und den U.S.A. Berichte über die historische Bildungsforschung, Teil 1 : Belgien, Finnland, Frankreich, Gross-Britannien, Italien, Niederlande, Norwegen, Oesterreich, Polen, U.S.A.*, Stuttgart, 1979, pp. 11-42. (Veröffentlichungen der Historischen Kommission der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft, Vol. 3, 1). (The Subject "Pedagogical Historiography" in Belgium since 1945.)

(3) *Persoon en gemeenschap*, XXIV, 1971/1972, pp. 210-214.

of and a supplement — which by now has become urgent — to the work by R.L. Plancke, “De historische paedagogiek in België. Overzicht en bibliographie” (Historical Pedagogy in Belgium. Survey and Bibliography), published in 1950. In his survey, which does not intend to be exhaustive, M. De Vroede clearly emphasizes the 19th and 20th centuries. Kindergartens, elementary, secondary, higher, technical and special education are considered, as well as the training and status of the teachers, education-legislation and education-policy, the most important educationists, the teaching-congregations, youth-work and adult-training. Special mention must be made of the insertion of numerous unpublished essays and dissertations. (F.S.)

In order to guide students through “the labyrinth of laws, decrees, recommendations and realizations” with regard to the Belgian education-history, K. De Clerck compiled a manual, consisting of a chronological survey of the principal events since 1830 (1). Numerous source-abstracts, almost exclusively taken from official publications, were inserted by way of illustration. (F.S.)

The Louvain professor of pedagogy V. D’Espaillier (1904-1975) died even before the publication of the *Liber Amicorum* (2) dedicated to him.

Of his many publications we only mention the often used “Katholieke encyclopedie voor opvoeding en onderwijs” (Catholic Encyclopaedia for Education and Teaching) (The Hague-Antwerp, 1951-1954, 3 vol.). His bibliography and the essays and papers written under his supervision were inserted in the *Liber Amicorum* (pp. 13-29) and bear witness to his historical interest. The articles of a historical-pedagogical nature, some of which contain personal testimonies of the respective authors, are certainly not out of place in this *liber amicorum*. They deal with the training-schools of the Catholic secondary teachers’ seminary for boys at Antwerp (F. Stoffelen, pp. 31-53), the Catholic Higher Institutes of

- (1) K. DE CLERCK, *Momenten uit de geschiedenis van het Belgisch Onderwijs*, Antwerpen, 1975, 175 pp. (Moments in the History of Belgian Education.)  
 (2) *Liber Amicorum* † Prof. Dr. Victor D’Espaillier, Leuven, 1976. (*Studia Paedagogica*. Nieuwe serie, 5).

Pedagogy (Id., pp. 55-87), "Child Guidance" in Belgium (C. Arnou, pp. 89-96), educationist Canon A. De Coene (1881-1958) (F. D'Heedene, pp. 97-116), the education of mentally handicapped people, particularly the possible interaction with regard to educational appliances, between M. Montessori and the Brothers of Charity (Ghent) at the beginning of the 20th century (M. Van Walleghe, pp. 117-164), the kindergarten in Belgium (M. De Vroede, pp. 165-173), the influence — or rather the absence of it — of German educationist J.F. Herbart on the pedagogical life in Belgium, 1870-1885 (C. Martens, pp. 175-186), the education of deaf people in schools in Belgium, 1819-1880 (Br. Orest, f.c., pp. 187-209), the laboratory for experimental pedagogy at the Louvain university (A. Gille, pp. 211-229). The approach and the nature of most of these articles is rather anecdotal. (F.S.)

In Belgian history education is a field in which ideological and political oppositions have regularly appeared in their most acute forms. Not until the publications of A. Simon about 1950 was the problem of educational policy approached in a scientific way. Although he did not neglect the liberal point of view, the eminent historian was, however, more interested in the motivations in the Catholic camp. The fact that the liberal attitude with regard to the educational problem in the years from 1842 to 1879 — yet an actively studied period ! — needed more elucidation, is proved by J. Lory in a substantial work, a practically unchanged version of his dissertation he defended in 1971 (1).

In the build-up of his study the author preferred a chronological order which respects the classical political fluctuations and the education-acts. After a few introductory considerations on the ambiguities and the shortcomings of the first organic act on primary education (23 September, 1842), in a first part he deals with the liberal attempts at adapting this act. The downfall of the doctrinarian liberal government in 1870 forms a first delimitation.

(1) J. LORY, *Libéralisme et instruction primaire, 1842-1879, Introduction à l'étude de la lutte scolaire en Belgique*, Louvain, 1979, 2 vol., (Université catholique de Louvain, Recueil de travaux d'histoire et de philologie, 6e Sér., fasc. 17-18).



J. Lory devotes his second part to the determining action in the sixties of three important pressure-groups in the domain of education : freemasonry, the *Libre Pensée* and the *Ligue de l'enseignement*. The third part deals with the attitude of the liberals during their opposition-period from 1870 to 1878. In the fourth and last part attention is drawn successively to the formation of the liberal Frère-Orban government, to the preparation of the education-bill and to the contents and the spirit of the second organic act on primary education (1 July, 1879).

J. Lory's extremely accurate analysis starts from and is entirely based on the 1842-act. Two aspects to which the liberals were quite sensitive, are emphasized. In the first place he stresses the ambiguous character on the politico-religious plane. At once the catholics did their utmost to use the possibilities of the act as much as possible. Religion was a compulsory branch and the schoolmaster was subject to the clergy for this branch. The school was to exhale a religious catholic atmosphere. J. Lory points out that the result in this field was small. The real impact of the clergy on the village-schoolmaster was indeed strongly perceptible. As a second aspect the "faiblesses au plan pédagogique" are discussed (inspection, girls' education, infant education).

When in 1846 the liberals proceeded to party-formation, they advocated an education under the sole power of the civil authorities. Especially under the doctrinarian rule (1857-1870) this found expression constantly, through the application of administrative corrections to the 1842-act. Since the latter half of the seventies the church gradually had to cope with the competition of a new generation of intellectual radical liberals with a consistent anti-clerical attitude to life, which was canalized precisely in the education-problems. They devoted themselves to a complete laicization in the sense of banning both the clergy and religion from the school. Moreover, they especially gave the problem a broader social basis. It was not in the moral, but in the intellectual inferiority that the radicals saw the social inferiority of the labourers. Knowledge was now the basis of the social hierarchy. Education was viewed as the remedy to get out of this ignorance and to emancipate the individual and particularly the child.

Free and compulsory education constituted the essential complement of the extension of the franchise.

By preference the radicals moved in the margin of the liberal

party and particularly in the above-mentioned "groupes de pression laïques".

The Ligue de l'enseignement which had been founded on December 26, 1864, acted as a typical education pressure-group. In this association the endeavours of the radicals were aimed at an extension of the franchise, at limiting the clerical urge towards monopolization with its attendant claims such as compulsory and laicized education, but last, not least at a qualitatively better education. In other words the 1842-act had to be revised. Moreover, the Ligue showed humanitarian intentions for the labour-problem and proved accessible to the Flemish claims.

Freemasonry, the Libre Pensée and the Ligue de l'enseignement in fact drove the liberals towards laicization and supplemented the problem of primary education with social and pedagogical dimensions. Within the liberal group, however, the doctrinarians were not willing to support a complete laicization or compulsory education. Consequently, education constituted a point of dissension between the doctrinarian and the radical wings. These internal disputes relegated the liberals to the opposition in 1870.

Education was a seed of disruption, but also a binding agent, as J. Lory clearly points out for the seventies. During the careful constitutional catholic governments the radicals increasingly succeeded in leaving their mark upon some urban centres and via the Ligue de l'enseignement they even proceeded to pedagogical experiments.

Free laicized liberal schools were established, the showpiece of which was the Brussels "Ecole modèle", the typical materialization of the radical ideas, where the intuitive method was propagated, where the child as an individual held a central place and where they strove after the integral development of his faculties. The very existence of these schools familiarized the liberals with a laicized reality. A tactical invention, of which freemasonry was not innocent, to accept the principle of revision of the 1842-act and to place the development of education in the sign of the defence of the national institutions, caused the liberals to unite in 1876. June 11, 1878 was the day of electoral triumph. One week later a ministry of national education was already established, the first in Belgian history : a new education-act was in the making.

J. Lory rightly calls the spirit of the 1879-act "modérément laïque, profondément pédagogique et nettement centralisateur". A

complete independence of the civil authorities with regard to the clergy was not reached. The diocesan inspection was abolished and in principle religious education disappeared from the curriculum, but at the same time the law allowed the priests to teach religion before and after the lessons, in a room which was placed at their disposal. In the lessons of laic ethics nothing prevented the teachers from discussing the christian dogmas. In his education the teacher had to abstain from any attack on the faith of his pupils.

No doubt, a strong centralizing tendency is to be observed. The state dictated the number of schools, classes and teachers per municipality, as well as the educational methods. Moreover, it seized the monopoly of the teachers' training, converted the inspection-system into a solid state-structure and reduced the municipal prerogatives with regard to appointment and control of the teaching-staff.

It is one of the great merits of J. Lory that he has emphasized the educational renovations of the act. Indeed, the aspect of the "unlucky law" has prevailed in scientific literature far too long. Thus the new primary-education curriculum was characterized by uniformity and by the application of concentric education and of a few Fröbel and Pestalozzi principles.

It is common knowledge that the act unchained the notorious school-struggle, which contributed to the liberal electoral defeat of June, 1884. Hardly three months later the third organic act on primary education had already been promulgated.

The year-long action of the liberals for a reform of education had not, however, been in vain. As J. Lory rightly remarks in his general conclusion, the aspect of educational renovation in their policy proved most lasting : the "spirit of 1879" remained active in the large liberal centres and in the long run the new methods were also to penetrate into catholic education.

So far this analysis which cannot possibly render the exceptionally copious information contained in J. Lory's easily readable work. Anyone studying the period between 1842 and 1879 in Belgium, must not leave out this study.

Yet, we want to make a few critical remarks. Unfortunately the author has hardly ever hazarded any generalization. The work has too narrow a Belgian character. Thus the renovating tendencies with regard to education of Belgian liberalism, are no doubt to be situated in a renovating movement which was characteristic of the Western

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industrialized countries. It was there, indeed, that about the eighties a number of fundamental options were taken which determined the educational system for years and gave it a bureaucratic outlook. The references of the author to the Dutch or French situations do not fill this gap.

We should also have preferred a clearer approach to the class-relations. Thus, considerations about the class-reconciling function of the intellectual (the radical liberal) would not have been out of place. Rationalism and social progressism could have been viewed more explicitly as typical expressions of the middle-classes whose field of action was just directed to education, the very means to solve the social problems and for them also a way of acquiring participation in the national power.

Thus more attention would probably have been paid to another aspect, flamingantism, expressed in the middle-class tendency towards an independent democratic party.

Indeed, this group of flamingants, among whom the teachers were amply represented, had ties with the radicals.

The above remarks detract nothing from the appreciation and the value of J. Lory's work which, as is indicated by the subtitle, is an introduction to the study of the school-struggle in Belgium. It is to be hoped that the author will one day take this sharp ideological conflict in hand, for we are still waiting for a thorough and adequate analysis which relates this struggle between two fractions of the dominating upper middle class with their attempts at winning the lower middle classes over.

At the same time this conflict is part of the prevailing problem of the ideological and political integration of the working-class into the middle-class state. Indeed, this class has adopted a rigid structure in a vehement struggle around education, an extremely important state-instrument.

For that matter, the phenomenon was not typically Belgian, but also occurred in the countries surrounding us, such as Germany, France and The Netherlands. On this plane generalization must certainly not be avoided. (F.S.)

## 2. POPULAR EDUCATION

### The function — determination

In October, 1976, the Dutch Historical Society devoted its congress to the theme of "history of popular education as a reflection of society". In the inaugural address M. De Vroede pointed out some developments of the relation between popular education and society in Belgium and Holland from the 17th century to the beginning of the 20th century (1).

In this most attention is paid to Belgium in the 19th century. Under the name of popular education he deals with elementary schools, nursery-schools, labour-schools, adult-schools, Sunday-schools, patronages and societies for popular education.

De Vroede's outline is important because it is an attempt at determining the function of this popular education. It is placed in the light of the relations among the social classes. Integration of the popular class into the ethical imperatives of the middle-class society through a religious-moral education was characteristic of the former half of the 19th century; education was an instrument of class-confirmation. During the latter half especially the radical-liberals came to the fore; they preached laicization, placed knowledge next to moralization and considered education a way to more social equality. The author also implicates the rise of socialism and the reaction to it in his survey. Education was impregnated with a suitable moralization in the sense of propagating values such as thrift, order, respect, foresight and solidarity. (F.S.)

In the framework of this function-determination of education an article by N. Haesenne-Peremans must be mentioned; for the beginning of the 19th century it gives a brief survey of the education

(1) M. DE VROEDE, "Volksonderwijs en maatschappij in België en Nederland van de zeventiende tot het begin van de 20ste eeuw", *Bijdragen en mededelingen betreffende de geschiedenis der Nederlanden*, XCII, 1977, 2, pp. 181-207. (Popular Education and Society in Belgium and Holland from the 17th Century till the Beginning of the 20th Century.)

given to children of deprived people in the province of Liège (1). Here also the integration of the popular class into the ethical imperatives of the middle-class society comes to the fore. Moreover, the author finds among the "employeurs" and "philanthropes" — who are dealt with too vaguely for the Dutch period who is behind the "Société d'encouragement pour l'instruction primaire et moyenne ? — the awareness that a skilled worker produces better. Extension of education to poor people was attended by the growing conviction in some circles that education was a paying investment for industry. In this connection one may wonder if industrialization and a rising level of education go hand in hand. Does a certain degree of literacy ensure a significant economic growth, as some economists claim ? Is such a correlation to be found, for example, in the former half of the 19th century in Belgium ? And does not at the same time the realization grow that educated labourers might very well attack the established order ? Such questions are raised by a few suggestive remarks by N. Haesenne-Peremans. (F.S.)

The second colloquium of the Dutch Historical Society also concentrated on popular education, more specifically Belgian popular education during the nineteenth century. The colloquium took place on December 1 and 2, 1978 and was organized by the *Belgische Vereniging voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis* (Belgian Association for Recent History) on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the so-called "school conflict" (1879-1884). During the conference it became obvious that as far as Belgium is concerned the spheres of interest relating to the history of education are shifting. The organizers as well as the lecturers accentuated the internal history of education and the relationship with societal evolution. At the same time they stressed the fact that the history of education differs from the history of the schools. This falls in with the recent trend which considers history of education as a social history.

(1) N. HAESENNE-PEREMANS, "Déshérités et instruction dans la province de Liège au début du siècle dernier", *Revue belge d'histoire contemporaine*, IX, 1978, 3-4, pp. 383-418. (Deprived People and Education in the Province of Liège at the Beginning of the Previous Century.)

Except for a contribution on illiteracy the subjects treated can be classified into two groups : on the one hand, those relating to the school-system itself and, on the other hand, those dealing with out-of-school organizations for adult training.

The proceedings have been collected in one thematic issue (vol. X, 1979, Nos. 1-2) of the *Belgisch Tijdschrift voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis*, edited by M. De Vroede. His introduction (pp. 5-20) is more than the traditional bringing together of summaries. He goes further into some of the problems studied, he defines other problems and gives suggestions for further analysis. The issue contains the following contributions : "Kwantitatieve analyse van de Belgische lagere school (1830-1911)" (Quantitative analysis of the Belgian elementary school (1830-1911), by Marc Depaepe (pp. 21-81); "De onderwijzer : opleiding in het perspectief van professionalisering" (The schoolmaster : training in the perspective of professionalization), by An Bosmans-Hermans (pp. 83-104); "Maatschappelijke vorming, via het leesonderwijs in de 19e-eeuwse volksschool" ("Social training" through reading-lessons in the 19th-century elementary school), by Hilde Coeckelberghs (pp. 105-136); "De adultenscholen in België in de 19de eeuw" (Schools for adults in Belgium in the 19th century), by Maurice De Vroede (pp. 137-164); "De werkscholen en de leerwerkhuizen" (Labour-schools and apprentice-workshops), by Mark D'hoker (pp. 165-181); "L'alphabétisme en milieu urbain belge au XIXème siècle. Méthode et résultats" (Illiteracy and Belgian urban environment in the 19th century : Method and results), by Yves Wellemans (pp. 183-187); "Aspects éducatifs de l'action de sociétés ouvrières catholiques avant 1914" (Educational aspects of the action of Catholic workers' associations before 1914), by Paul Gérin (pp. 189-215); "Les sociétés d'éducation populaire de tendance libérale, 1860-1880" (The Liberal societies for popular education, 1860-1880), by Jacques Lory (pp. 217-254); "Hogeschooluitbreidingen en volksuniversiteiten" (University extensions and extramural classes), by Maurice De Vroede (pp. 255-278).

### Illiteracy

Popular education and the fight against illiteracy are to be

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mentioned in the same breath, at least as far as the nineteenth century is concerned. It is beyond any doubt that the elementary school played the leading part in that fight. The study by J. Ruwet and Y. Wellemans deserves to be mentioned in this connection (1). It provides us with a synthesis of a number of essays about the evolution of illiteracy during the period 1770-1860. Parish registers have served as source material, particularly baptismal registers, and also civil registers. As far as the eighteenth century is concerned the survey takes into account both the situation in towns as well as in the country. As for the nineteenth century, on the other hand, it is limited to six towns (Alost, Bruges, Tienen, Charleroi, Louvain, Turnhout) and one municipality of the Brussels conurbation (Anderlecht).

It appears that the situation was not that bad by the end of the Ancien Régime, but a decline occurred during the French and Dutch periods. The situation gradually improved from the forties onward and especially about 1860 the consequences of the Primary Education Act of 1842 became perceptible. It should be no surprise that illiteracy was rampant among the poorer classes of the population and that it was more common among women than among men. Although some general tendencies became apparent from these comparative treatments, future investigation into the more specifically local developments will not be superfluous.

J. Ruwet and Y. Wellemans properly put forward the question of the function — among the cultural circles of the time — of the ability merely to read rather than the ability to read and write. That they get to the very root of the matter becomes apparent when one considers the impressive investigation of illiteracy in France by F. Furet and J. Ouzouf (2). It was precisely they who highlighted the elementary level of alphabetization. This, together with the ascertainment that there is no unilinear correlation from school to

(1) J. RUWET & Y. WELLEMANS, *L'analphabétisme en Belgique (XVIIIème-XIXème siècles)*, Louvain-Leuven, 1978 (Travaux de la Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres de l'Université catholique de Louvain-XIX, section d'histoire-III). (Illiteracy in Belgium (18th and 19th centuries).)

(2) F. FURET & J. OZOUF, *Lire et écrire. L'alphabetisation des Français de Calvin à Jules Ferry*, Paris, 1977, 2 vol. (Reading and writing. Alphabetization of the French from Calvin to Jules Ferry.)



alphabetization but rather a mutual causal connection, constitutes the most original contribution of Furet's and Ozouf's work. Their quantitative findings cannot be disregarded in future investigations into alphabetization. (F.S.)

Analogous considerations were previously expressed by M. Fournaux who investigated illiteracy in Liège in the 19th century (1). There was no constant decline of illiteracy in Liège; on the contrary, an increase can be observed between 1800 and 1820. The fact that illiteracy occurred precisely in the poorest strata of the population and more among women than among men, is not surprising. Interesting is the brief comparison with seven other Belgian towns (Turnhout, Tirlemont, Alost, Bruges, Louvain, Anderlecht and Charleroi) and with Geneva. This comparative approach shows common tendencies, but does not make further inquiries into specific, local developments superfluous.

— Elementary schools, nursery-schools, labour-schools, adult-schools, Sunday-schools

Though M. De Vroede considers a more thorough investigation a requirement, the author claims, in contradistinction to the prevailing opinion, that the kindergarten in Belgium before the beginning of the 20th century, i.e. before the change in the didactics through the newer insight of psychology, was not dominated by Fröbel. The ideological liberal-catholic opposition is viewed as the principal determinant. From 1857 the method influenced only the (radical) liberal circles, and, apart from a few private and municipal initiatives, was to be propagated systematically only under the liberal government of 1878-1884. One remark: the assertion that the first kindergarten should have "appeared out of the blue" must certainly not be repeated. For the radical-liberals the

(1) M. FOURNAUX, "L'analphabétisme à Liège au XIXe siècle", *Annuaire d'histoire liégeoise*, XVI, 1975, pp. 151-216. (Illiteracy in Liège in the XIXth Century.)

application of the Fröbel-method was one of the means of elevating the working-class (1). (F.S.)

During the Dutch Period popular education was the object of constant concern. The education-renovation which had started earlier in the North, was extended to the Southern Netherlands by the government of William I since 1817.

Information on the education-policy of that time is to be found in the well-known works by A. De Jonghe (Linguistic policy, 1943) and S. Stokman (The religieuses and education-policy, 1935). For some insight into the internal history of this elementary education, particularly the teachers' training, we had, however, to await M. De Vroede's work (1970). It is pleasant to see that he succeeded in stimulating a number of students to further investigation of this important period in the matter of education-alterations. A few publications, based on important primary sources, are now available. Though restricted to the provinces of Antwerp and Limburg, they constitute essential links in order to obtain an image of the development of popular education from 1815 to 1830. (F.S.)

G. Landuyt outlines the structures in which the education-renovation occurs in the province of Antwerp (2). Here he points at the important role of the Temporary Jury (1817-1821), the Provincial Education-Committee (1821-1830), the inspection and the introduction of proviciency-certificates and competitive examinations for the teachers. The authorities' favouring public education above special education is striking. The author concludes that there was a qualitative and quantitative progress in education, even though, on all planes, there were great regional differences which may be accounted for, among other things, by the efforts of the local authorities and of the inspectors. He also succeeded in establishing a real relation between agriculture with its aestival child-labour and

(1) M. DE VROEDE, "De kindertuinen in België", *Liber Amicorum* † Prof. Dr. Victor d'Espaillier, pp. 165-173. (Kindergarten in Belgium.)

(2) G. LANDUYT, "Het lager onderwijs in de provincie Antwerpen onder Willem I. Schoolorganisatie en onderwijs", *Taxandria*, XLVII, 1975, nieuwe serie, pp. 3-143. (Elementary Education in the Province of Antwerp under William I. School-organization and Education.)

school attendance : in the barren Campine the school attendance was greater than in the south-west with its fertile loamy soil. Little maps, tables and diagrams elucidate the information supplied.

In three other articles G. Landuyt goes into the subjects of the class-rooms and the furniture (1) and of the living-standard of the teacher (2). With regard to the latter aspect the author justly points out that the research-results on the working- and living conditions of the teachers, however important for the pedagogical and socio-economic history, are quasi-non-existent. Anyhow, with his convincing articles he fills a gap. The figure-material on salaries, school-fees, income and cost of living were summarized in diagrams and maps. From the evaluation of the income in the period between 1815 and 1830 it becomes obvious that a rise in salaries was brought about through a great effort of the authorities, which, however, could not prevent that many teachers still belonged to the lowest social strata, had to accept additional jobs and were happy when they could grow vegetables and fruit in their own gardens. Breaking away from poverty, from the dependence on other professions and the generosity of the population was certainly not given to all teachers.

The excellent work of J. Brepoels also brings enlightening views with regard to elementary education in the Dutch Period (3). After a somewhat obscure start, in which he uses the ideal-typical outline of education-sociologist M.A.J.M. Matthijsen (*Class Education, Sociology of Education*, Deventer, 1972) for the explanation of the

(1) G. LANDUYT, "De vernieuwing van de schoolgebouwen en -uitrusting in de provincie Antwerpen", *Gemeentekrediet van België. Driemaandelijks Tijdschrift* 1976, 117, pp. 179-198. (The Renewal of the School-Buildings and Equipment in the Province of Antwerp.)

(2) ID., "De onderwijzers in de provincie Antwerpen onder Willem I.", *Taxandria*, XLIX, 1977, nieuwe serie, pp. 77-150 (The Teachers in the Province of Antwerp under William I); ID., "Het inkomen van de onderwijzer in de provincie Antwerpen tussen 1815 en 1830", *Onderwijzers in school en maatschappij. Belgische en Nederlandse situaties in de 19de en 20ste eeuw*, Gent, 1978, pp. 23-68. (The Income of the Teacher in the Province of Antwerp between 1815 and 1830.)

(3) J. BREPOELS, *Het lager onderwijs in de provincie Limburg (1815-1830)*, Assen-Amsterdam, 1976, 385 pp. (Maaslandse Monografieën, 22). (Elementary Education in the Province of Limburg 1815-1830.)

pedagogical renovations at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries, the autor gives a thorough survey of the education-policy in the South (1817-1830). Then he deals with several aspects of education, at the same time taking a fresh look at the education-practice.

Information is given on the Temporary Jury, the Provincial Education-Committee, the income, the capability and the prestige of the teachers, the class-rooms and equipment, the financing, the transition from individual to simultaneous education, the didactics, school-life and school-population, in which the necessary attention is paid to the winter-summer ratio and the proportion of girls and boys.

"Public opinion as a curbing factor", for which, it must be remarked, only inspection-reports were used, concludes the study. Tables, maps, diagrams and an organization-chart of the school-system provide the necessary elucidation. The author comes to the conclusion for the province of Limburg, as was also the case for Antwerp, that there was much progress in education, be it with local differences. Thwarting factors for the renovation were the lack of finances, of decent class-rooms and of good teachers, as well as public opinion, particularly the local civil and ecclesiastical authorities, and certain socio-economic circumstances.

Yet, some remarks must be made about the above-mentioned articles. With regard to the quality of education the periods before and after 1815 are readily described in a black-and-white relation. One cannot get rid of the impression that the reasoning is based too much on the present pedagogical views, and that the social needs of that time are too little taken into account. The same remarks applies in fact to the caesura 1830. The ascertainment of the stagnation in the progress towards 1830 in fact implies an acceptance of the opinion — which has so far been taken for granted, but can probably be questioned — that there was a qualitative decline after the revolution. A second remark concerns the teacher. The assertion that the prestige rose proportionally to the salary to us seems uncorroborated and, moreover, too simple. Wishful thinking of the persons concerned was probably viewed as a reality by the authors. We have the same criticism on the acceptance of the postulate, which is popular in teachers' circles, that a better remuneration produces a better education. (F.S.)

During the last two decades of the 19th century education was focused rather on the new economic needs : next to a general cultivation also useful knowledge was required. The insight into the vertical social mobility as a consequence of education did not appear so new as the fact that the higher class acknowledged the ambition of the lower classes to rise on the social ladder. This first attempt at determining the function of popular education in Belgium, in which the emphasis is on the popular school as a socialization-instrument, doubtlessly encourages further research in this direction. Anyone venturing this undertaking cannot possibly ignore the recent developments abroad. Here we think of a work which caused quite a sensation in scientific circles, namely *Schooling in Capitalist America* (New York, 1976) by the marxist economists S. Bowles and H. Gintis, about which D.K. Cohen and B.H. Rosenberg wrote considerations which are extremely remarkable from a historical point of view (1), or of a current project on the function of the Dutch popular education (2).

M. De Vroede published the above-mentioned article in a slightly adapted form in the "Dossiers Geschiedenis" (Dossiers of History) of the Acco publishing-firm (3). The dossier was supplemented with two of his older articles. The first, based on an analysis of 68 Flemish text and spelling-booklets of 1817-1843, shows with what ideal society-image the children of the popular school were confronted (4); the second describes the ideal image of the teacher as it appears from

(1) *History of Education Quarterly*, XVII, 1977, 2, pp. 113-137.

(2) M. DU BOIS-REYMOND, "De geschiedenis van het volksonderwijs — Vanuit onderwijssociologisch standpunt bekeken. Een onderzoeksvoorstel", *Pedagogisch Tijdschrift*, IV, 1979, 1, pp. 1-15. (History of Popular Education — From an Education-Sociological Point of View. A Research-Proposal.)

(3) M. DE VROEDE, *Aspecten van het volksonderwijs in België in de negentiende eeuw*, Louvain, 1978 (Dossiers of History, 5/6). (Aspects of Popular Education in Belgium in the Nineteenth Century.)

(4) ID., "Maatschappij en onderwijs in Vlaamse schoolboekjes uit de eerste helft van de 19e eeuw", *Geëngageerd en doelbewust leven. Vriendenboek Frans Valvekens*, Brussel, 1977, pp. 209-217. (Society and Education in Flemish School-Books of the Former Half of the 19th Century.)

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the three leading Belgian professional journals of the period between 1855 and 1865 (1).

In 1828 the first municipal free boys' schools were established in Ghent. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of this event, celebrated with lustre by the town-authorities, honorary inspector M. Steels wrote a history of the Ghent municipal school-system (1). Here the author emphasizes elementary education (kindergartens, elementary, training and adult-schools), deals but sporadically with vocational education and leaves the conservatoire and the academy altogether out of his survey. Though some attention is paid to curricula, text-books and certain teaching-methods, he knowingly left the pedagogical and didactic aspects on one side, which could, indeed, very well fill a second study. The author chose to divide his subject-matter chronologically, particularly by the terms of office of the altermen of education. This classification and the nature of the sources used (predominantly documents issued by the town-authorities) illustrate a certain approach and conception, namely "viewing history from above", typical of most local studies on education. Another fault of M. Steels's work lies in the fact that the events are dealt with in too isolated a way, which results in a loss of cohesion. He does try to remedy this by sporadically referring to situations in other large centres and in the province of East-Flanders and by not overlooking the social and political context altogether. Yet, the author should have analysed the impact of the results of the 1895-Act on religion-education. This is important because the teaching-staff refused to teach this subject and strongly influenced the parents not to let their children take it.

Commendable on the other hand is the attempt to present the numerous data graphically and in tabular form, such as the number

(1) M. DE VROEDE, "De Belgische onderwijzer omstreeks het midden van de 19e eeuw. Het streefbeeld gegeven door enkele vakbladen", *Onderwijzers in school en maatschappij. Belgische en Nederlandse situaties in de 19e en 20e eeuw*, Gent, 1978, pp. 135-141. (The Belgian Teacher around the Middle of the 19th Century. The Ideal Image as Given by a few Professional Journals.)

(2) M. STEELS, *Geschiedenis van het stedelijk onderwijs te Gent 1828-1914*, Gent, 1978, XV-376 pp. (History of the Municipal School-System in Ghent, 1828-1914.)

of pupils (sex, age), the number of teachers, the number of schools (the different categories), the educational publications, as well as the question of the efficiency of education through a little inquiry into the education of the conscripts. Special mention should be made of the elaborated information on the period 1864/1865 — 1872/1873 with regard to the destination of the school-leavers (pp. 153-173). A few obscurities in the book (e.g. the number of children of school-age not attending school in Ghent in the 40s is 6,480 on p. 52, 2,500 on p. 68 and about 2,000 on p. 77) contain a warning against the uncontrolled use of figures.

This slovenliness also occurs in the bibliographical data and in the list of persons. (F.S.)

Commemorative publications, of a quasi-exclusively chronological-descriptive nature cannot be thought away from a series of "school histories" and keep occupying an ample place in the production on the historical-pedagogical plane. Thus the municipal school-system at Antwerp seems to pile up the jubilee-books.

In 1976 the centennial was celebrated of the town institute for elementary education nr. 1, in 1979 the open-air school Diesterweg was 75 years old and for 1980 the centennial-celebration of the kindergartens is planned. In the richly illustrated jubilee-books H. Van Daele always sees to a historical survey. What is now called SILO 1 (Town Institute for Elementary Education 1) was in October, 1876 the first municipal elementary boys' school for paying pupils (1). The foundation of such a school seemed to supply a need : in the same month the liberal town-authorities established a second "paying boys' school" and in 1879 each of the schools had over 300 pupils.

The pupil-register, which the author did not sufficiently use, and in which the fathers' occupations are mentioned — do the Antwerp town archives contain similar lists for other years ? — shows that the children came from the middle-classes. The tuition-fee amounted to 15-18 Fr. per term. Children of labourers were automatically excluded from this education "à programme dévelop-

(1) H. VAN DAELE, "Een eeuw SILO 1" (One Century of Town Institute for Elementary Education 1.). R. METZEMAEKERS (ed.), *Jubileumboek 100 jaar SILO 1*, Antwerp, 1977, pp. 23-42.

pé" with strong emphasis on French. The struggle of the flamingants against this hotbed of Frenchification was to last until World War II and takes a central place in the article (2). The selective nature also found expression in the salaries of the teachers, all of them reliable liberals who earned 10 to 40% more than the teachers of the free schools. The latter always considered this an injustice and consequently their professional organization Diesterweg, established at the beginning of 1892, put "equality of salaries" on the list of grievances. Next to the defence of material interests this organization aimed among other things at improvement of education and practised charity. Thus the Diesterweg Relief Fund came about in 1894, which organized soup-distributions and holiday-camps.

The plan to have the disposal of a permanent school-camp was realized only in 1904 thanks to collections and town-subsidies. On the 17th of July the first permanent open-air school in the world was inaugurated at Heide-Kalmthout. The action of the Relief Fund constitutes the most original part of H. Van daele's commemorative article. In his contribution about the origin of the Antwerp kindergartens the author particularly directs his attention to the then Alderman of Education Evariste Allewaert (1835-89), and he takes into account several biographical details. From the time of his taking office in 1872 this radical-liberal lawyer devoted himself to the establishment of nursery schools. In 1880 his devotion materialized with the foundation of the first Antwerp kindergarten (2). (F.S.)

E.M. Braekman deals with a less known type of education : the protestant school. He gives a purely chronological survey of the protestant elementary schools in Belgium from the French Period to

(1) See also R. BECKERS, "Het Frans in de lagere scholen van Antwerpen rond 1891", *Antwerpen, Tijdschrift der stad Antwerpen*, XXII, 1976, 3, pp. 170-180. (French in the Elementary Schools of Antwerp about 1891.)

(2) H. VAN DAELE, "De pionierstijd van Diesterweg's Hulpkas", (The Pioneering Time of Diesterweg's Relief Fund), R. METZEMAEEKERS (ed.), *Gedenkboek 75 jaar openluchtschool Diesterweg, Antwerpen*, 1979, pp. 33-58.

(3) ID., "Fröbel en Allewaert. Het ontstaan van de Antwerpse stedelijke kindertuinen", *Ibid.*, XXVI, 1980, 1, pp. 1-16. (Kindergarten and Allewaert. The origin of the Antwerp municipal nursery schools.)



the first organic law on elementary education of 1842 (1). Only schools controlled by the protestant churches are dealt with : in 1842 there were eleven of them. (F.S.)

### — Teachers and Teacher-Training

In 1977 A. Bosmans-Hermans took her doctor's degree with the dissertation *De onderwijzersopleiding in België, 1842-1884. Een historisch-pedagogisch onderzoek naar het gevoerde beleid en de pedagogisch-didactische vormgeving* (Teacher-Training in Belgium, 1842-1884. A Historical-Pedagogical Inquiry into the Policy Pursued and the Pedagogical-Didactical Form), a sequel to the work of her supervisor M. De Vroede, who studied the training before 1842. Pending the publication of her work, she deals with a number of aspects in articles : the contents of the education in training-colleges (2), the pedagogical-theoretical formation acquired there (3), the social education of the teacher-students (4) and life at the boarding-schools (5). Through the articles the ascertainment that the development of the pedagogical thinking and acting with regard to the

(1) E.M. BRAEKMAN, "Les écoles primaires protestantes en Belgique au début du XIXe siècle (avant la première loi organique de 1842)", *L'Eglise et l'Etat à l'époque contemporaine. Mélanges dédiés à la mémoire de Mgr. Aloïs Simon*, Brussels, 1975, pp. 91-114. (The Protestant Elementary Schools in Belgium at the Beginning of the XIXth Century. (Before the First Organic Law of 1842).)

(2) A. BOSMANS-HERMANS, "De inhoud van de onderwijzersopleiding in België, 1844-1854", (The Contents of the Teacher-Training in Belgium, 1844-1854), *Pedagogisch Tijdschrift*, II, 1977, 10, pp. 565-590; ID., "Der Unterricht an den Belgischen Lehrerseminaren : die Programme aus den Jahren 1842 bis 1884" (Education at the Belgian Training-Colleges; the Curricula of the Years 1842 till 1884), *Paedagogica Historica*, XVIII, 1978, 2, pp. 296-313.

(3) ID., "De theoretisch-pedagogische vorming van de onderwijzers in België, 1842-1884", *Onderwijzers in school en maatschappij. Belgische en Nederlandse situaties in de 19e en 20e eeuw*, Gent, 1978, pp. 101-133. (The Theoretical-Pedagogical Formation of the Teachers in Belgium, 1842-1884.)

(3) ID., "De sociale opvoeding van de toekomstige onderwijzers in de Belgische opleidingsinstituten van 1842 tot 1884", *Pedagogische Studies*, LV, 1978, 1, pp. 19-25. (The Social Education of Future Teachers in the Belgian Training-Colleges from 1842 to 1884.)

(5) ID., "L'internat dans les écoles normales belges du dix-neuvième siècle", *Revue belge d'histoire contemporaine*, IX, 1978, 3-4, pp. 309-332. (The Boarding-Schools in the Belgian Training-Colleges of the 19th Century.)

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teacher-training is closely associated with the politico-ideological dimension, runs like a continuous thread. True, the trial of strength between liberal and catholics culminated in 1879, but at the end of the sixties already the liberal ministers made for a considerable state-control of the episcopal training-colleges and for the favouring of the state training-colleges through uniformization of the two kinds of institutions.

The liberals took more and more offence at the religious character of the teacher-training. The teacher was represented as an agent of confirmation classes, a dullard who behaved in a very unmannered way in civil society. More emphasis on social education and a greater remoteness from the religious dimension was to impart the necessary good manners to him. A. Bosmans-Hermans justly points out that this attitude illustrates the realization of the function of the training-colleges as a factor in the social mobility. The liberals wanted to train a teacher who was a propagator of the civil values and who lived next to the priest without being subject to him. (F.S.)

On April 10, 1879 the Royal Decree was issued which provided for the establishment of a state teacher-training college at Bruges. In this town teachers had been trained since 1849 in the teacher-training section attached to the elementary main school. Through the application of the law on secondary education of June 1, 1850 this institution was transformed into a state secondary school. In 1863 another section was added for the training of lower secondary education teachers. The establishment of a full-blown state training-college which took shape after the promulgation of the law of May 29, 1866 and was promised by Royal Decree of July 23, 1873, was preceded by numerous difficulties.

On the occasion of the centennial of this institution K. De Clerck and M. Van der Auwera devoted a brochure to this previous history, in which especially the political and architectural difficulties are discussed (1). (F.S.)

(1) K. DE CLERCK & M. VAN DER AUWERA, *De stichting van de rijksnormaalschool te Brugge*, Gent, 1979, 77 pp. (The Establishment of the State Training-College at Bruges.)

— Internal organisation of the school-didactics

In the framework of the criticism by the modern didacticians of the rigid class-system and their demand for a more differentiated and individualized education, M. De Paepe devoted four articles to the genesis of the internal form of the Belgian popular school before 1879. The basis of the class-organization was laid in the Dutch Period (1). In the conception of the Batavian popular school simultaneous teaching had superseded the individual method, which, in the way of school-structure, prepared the ground for a class-organization, the ideal form of which was considered a three-class popular school with further differentiation-possibilities.

Yet, the propagation of simultaneous education with its internal organization was to encounter much resistance in the south and was not at all to be widespread there. The first years of the Belgian independence proved little favourable for the development of a popular school of the class-type. The teachers trained during the Dutch Period, however, stuck to the organization-ideas which were accepted before the revolution and, after the promulgation of the 1842-Act, the tendency to a more rigid school-organization was to gain ground on the theoretical plane among authorities and teachers (2). Here the author justly emphasizes the relation between school-concept and the image of man and the world, particularly the rationalist view, and would have been justified in drawing the line as far as the developing process of social rationalization itself.

In this world-view he distinguished eudaemonistic components and a striving for bureaucratization and uniformity. Moreover, a class-organization meant for the teacher more order and less noise in the class-room, as well as the stimulation of the so longed-for emulation. The recommended school-structure itself was never questioned. Yet, the discrepancy between the tangible realizations

(1) M. DE PAEPE, "De conceptie van de klassikale volksschool in de Nederlanden, begin 19de eeuw", *Pedagogische Studiën*, LV, 1978, 10, pp. 398-412. (The Conception of the Class-type Popular School in the Netherlands, Beginning 19th Century.)

(2) ID., "De theorie van de interne organisatie van de Belgische lagere school tussen 1830-1879", *Pedagogisch Tijdschrift*, IV, 1979, 6, pp. 338-357. (The Theory of the Internal Organization of the Belgian Elementary School between 1830 and 1879.)

and the statutory regulations and the recommendations in the pedagogical literature remained considerable (1). An insufficient number of class-rooms, an inadequate number of teachers, the very irregular school-attendance, especially in the summer-months and a deficient co-ordination owing to the municipal liberty, prevented a quick tightening of the internal organization.

It may be claimed that, on the eve of the 1879-Act, the individual method had all but disappeared and that the class-structure, especially in the country, looked extremely flexible. (F.S.)

In the last two decades of the 19th century the foundations had been laid to organize the elementary school on the basis of the class-system : a more or less homogeneous group of pupils of the same age, were taught a certain subject-matter both simultaneously and in the same way (2). (F.S.)

### — Pedagogics

By the end of the 19th century Belgium witnessed the start of a new movement which rejected the traditional pedagogy as being unscientific, because it was merely based on experience and had no experimental character. From that moment on the child had to be studied scientifically, i.e. with positive scientific exactitude via observation and experiment. The new science was given the name of pedology; the conversion of the research-results into pedagogical practice was called pedotechnics. A first hasty inquiry into the significance of this pedagogical movement is given to us by M. De Vroede (3).

(1) M. DE PAEPE, "De interne vormgeving van de Belgische school tussen 1839-1879.", *Pedagogisch Tijdschrift*, IV, 1979, 8, pp. 454-466. (The Internal Form of the Belgian School between 1839 and 1879.)

(2) ID., "Wenselijkheid en werkelijkheid van de interne organisatie in de Belgische lagere school omstreeks het einde van de 19de eeuw", *Pedagogisch Tijdschrift*, V, 1980, 2, pp. 75-92.

(3) M. DE VROEDE, "Die Anfänge der 'wissenschaftlichen Pädagogik' (Pädologie) in Belgien von etwa 1895 bis 1914" (The Beginnings of "Scientific Pedagogy" (Pedology) in Belgium from about 1895 to 1914). U. HERMANN (ed.), *Historische Pädagogik, Studien zur Historischen Bildungsökonomie und zur Wis-*

Further investigation in this domain undeniably requires a supplementary socio-historical approach, so that we can part with the impression that pedology should owe its existence merely to a few scientists, who had studied medicine or natural science, organized laboratories, established societies, conferred regularly together and with interested teachers and produced publications.  
(F.S.)

— Vocational education

After Ypres (1) and Courtrai (2) also Bruges took the initiative to draw attention to the history of technical education. The occasion was the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the municipal industrial school, during which also a remarkable exhibition was held. The didactical material of the institution has been very well preserved and was presented to the municipal folklore-museum in 1975, which at that time became the first museum to take up a complete school-fund of the industrial period.

Together with M. Goetinck, the conservator of the museum W.P. Dezutter has drawn up a very interesting and detailed catalogue of the exhibition (3). The catalogue also contains, among other

*senschaftsgeschichte der Pädagogik*, 1977, pp. 159-173. (Zeitschrift für Pädagogik, 14. Beiheft.) Also published as : ID., "Pedologie : de aanzet tot de experimentele pedagogiek in België, ca. 1895-1914", *Pedagogische Studieën*, LIV, 1977, 11, pp. 373-385. (Pedology : The Start to Experimental Pedagogy in Belgium about 1895-1914.).

(1) O. MUS (ed.), *Tweehonderd jaar kunst- en nijverheidsonderwijs te Ieper 1778-1978*, Ieper, 1978, 104 pp. (Two Hundred Years of Art and Technical Education at Ypres, 1778-1978.)

(2) A. DE PAEPE, *Provinciaal Technisch Instituut Kortrijk. Wordings- en ontwikkelingsgeschiedenis*, Kortrijk, 1979, 77 pp. (Provincial Technical Institute Courtrai, History of Its Origin and Development.)

(3) W.P. DEZUTTER & M. GOETINCK, *125 jaar stedelijke nijverheidsschool. Techniek als hefboom voor wetenschap en cultuur*, Brugge, 1979, 318 pp. (125 Years of the Municipal Industrial School. Technology as a Lever for Science and Culture.)

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things, the histories — written by G. De Waele — of the industrial school and of the Bogarden-school, the orphans' school which was discontinued in 1883 and the buildings of which were occupied by the industrial school (pp. 13-103), and the survey, drawn up by town-archivist A. Vandewalle, of the archives of the two institutions, which were stored in the town-archives. (F.S.)

### — Secondary education

C.C. De Keyser and F. Slabinck present a detailed study on the "Ecole centrale" of the Lys-Department (1). They deal with its origin, paying much attention to the executive bodies, the teaching staff, the curricula and the subjects taught. To this end they used mainly sources from the "Archives Nationales" in Paris and the state and town archives at Bruges. The sub-title makes a somewhat strange impression. The authors restricted themselves exclusively to the Bruges Ecole centrale, pretend to bring a "contribution to a historical-comparative study" and leave articles already published on similar educational establishments in other departments (J.P.L. Spek-kens, 1951, Meuse-inférieure; F. Macours, 1961, Ourthe; A. Sprunck, 1964, Forêts; H. Fassbender, 1969, Dijle) entirely out of consideration. It remains the question how they intend thus to surpass the "explanation of the mere historical single occurrence" (p. 440). (F.S.)

L. Devos investigates a few aspects of military secondary education before 1940 (2). Very briefly he deals successively with the foundation and the organization of the educational

(1) C.C. DE KEYSER & F. SLABINCK, "De Ecole centrale van het Leie-departement te Brugge. Bijdrage tot een historisch-comparatieve studie", *Tijdschrift voor Pedagogie*, XX, 1974/1975, 4, pp. 199-230; 5, pp. 331-358; 6, pp. 441-456. (The Ecole Centrale of the Lys-Department at Bruges. Contribution to a Historical-Comparative Study.)

(2) L. DEVOS, "Enkele aspecten van het militair middelbaar onderwijs vóór 1940", *Revue belge d'histoire militaire*, XXII, 1978, 6, pp. 465-486. (A Few Aspects of Military Secondary Education before 1940.)

establishments : the company, later school for troopers' children (1847-1888), the "pupils" schools (1888-1935) and the cadets' school (1897-1940). He also draws attention to the education given, particularly the lessons of religion, French and Dutch, and to the cultural life at these schools. Without any statistical proof he wants to shade the prevailing opinion that the recruitment of officers was restricted to an elite. He also comes to the conclusion that the military educational establishments, with the exception of the cadets' school between 1897 and 1914, were elements of social promotion. He brands two other opinions as myths : the anti-religious and the anti-Flemish character of the army. The place of religion and the ratio of French and Flemish in the curriculum constitute the principal proof. Some more data on the real situation instead of on the standards set, would doubtlessly have given the article more persuasiveness. (F.S.)

A former secondary-school teacher in mathematics has published his memoirs under a title which reveals so little about the contents of the book that the book itself might easily be overlooked by historians (1). His memoirs refer to the long period from 1900 till 1960 and contain very personal and irreplaceable accounts of daily life in Ath, afterwards in Leuze and finally in Brussels in between the two Wars and after World War II. An important chapter is devoted to a description of the military services and the entire sphere in which the rebelliousness took place. The main part of the book, however, deals with the institutions of secondary education in the provinces as well as in Brussels. As son of a teacher and being a teacher himself he was in the ideal position to describe the educational circles, the prevalent atmosphere, and the pedagogical methods. Another chapter is devoted to the University in Brussels and his teachers of the Science Faculty. The exceptional character of this document enhances the value of its contents. For this double reason the work certainly deserves to be better known. (P.G.)

(1) M. DUPONT, *La ligne droite*, Brussel, La Renaissance du Livre, 1979, 177 pp. (The straight line.)

— The Higher Education and the Universities

Since 1972 Professor Dr. K. De Clerck has acted as director of the archives of the State University in Ghent. In 1976 he started the series "Out of the Past of the State University in Ghent". It is his intention to publish three brochures a year, dealing with some aspect of the history of this university. The approach of it may be both merely vulgarizing and strictly scientific. The first brochure in the series deals with the Latin-American students who studied in Ghent in the period between 1854 and 1914 (1). It is mainly about Brazilian students (219 out of 335) who preferably studied engineering (184) here. The author hastily establishes a relation between the three culminating-points in the enrolment (1860-1880, 1891-1897, 1904-1914) and economic and political factors. He then emphasizes the radiating-power of the Ghent State University in Latin America and its role in the modernization-attempts of this continent. An appendix contains the list of the Latin-American students who studied in Ghent (date and place of birth, years of study, specialization, diploma) and the number of enrolments per year and per country. (F.S.)

H. Deelstra, professor at the University Institution Antwerp, in this contribution (2) outlines the external history of the predecessor of the Faculty for Applied Sciences. In an introductory chapter he deals with the evolution of the situation of higher education in the Southern Netherlands from the end of the Austrian period to the first years of the reign of William I. In the corpus he enters extensively into all steps taken for the establishment and organization of the above-mentioned school in Ghent, and into the numerous opinions which preceded the ultimate Royal Decree of May 13, 1825. Finally, the author discusses the organization of the courses, the

(1) E. STOLS, *Latijns-Amerikaanse studenten aan de Rijksuniversiteit te Gent (1854-1914)*, Gent, 1976. (Uit het verleden van de R.U.G., 1). (Latin-American Students at the State University in Ghent (1854-1914).)

(2) H. DEELSTRA, *De School van Kunsten en Ambachten (1826-1835) aan de Gentse Universiteit*, Gent, 1977, 67 pp.-7 ill. (Uit het verleden van de R.U.G., nr. 5). (The Engineering School (1826-1835) at the Ghent University.)



appointment of the professors, the number of students...

Deelstra also pays attention to the history of the school between 1830, when it was threatened in its existence, and 1835, when it was organized as a separate institute. In his appendices the author brings biographical notes on the teaching staff and he gives us a general idea of the evolution of similar institutes at the other five universities of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. (L.F.)

The "Institut supérieur de commerce" in Antwerp, established by Royal Decree of October 29, 1852, is the oldest Belgian institution for higher education of commercial sciences. As an immediate result of the linguistic legislation, a Dutch-speaking section was started next to the French-speaking one in 1932. The law on university-expansion of April 9, 1965 provided for the absorption of the Dutch-speaking section into the State University Centre of Antwerp. In October, 1966 the French-speaking section was discontinued, through which the "Cercle des Anciens Etudiants" lost its recruitment-possibilities. In order to keep the memory of the institute alive in these ageing circles, A. Grunzweig was charged with writing a history of the institute (1).

For his chronological account, classified by the terms of office of the principals, the author used mainly official documents and the *Annuaire* of the institute. (F.S.)

(1) A. GRUNDZWEIG, "Histoire de l'Institut supérieur de commerce de l'état à Anvers", *Bulletin du Cercle des Anciens Etudiants de l'ISCEA*, oktober/december 1975, pp. 6-32, april/juni 1976, pp. 3-11, april/juni 1977, pp. 3-48. (History of the State Higher Institute of Commerce in Antwerp.)

## VI. THE ARTS

### Flemish Literature — History and Criticism 1789-1980

In the history of the Flemish Movement the *Verhandeling op d'Onacht der moederlyke Tael in de Nederlanden* ("Dissertation on the Neglect of the Mother Tongue in the Netherlands"; 1788) by Jan Baptist Verlooy has come to be considered the first real step in the crusade against gallicization. As such the essay naturally belongs to the 18th century and even to the "pre-revolutionary" period, but the critical considerations of Verlooy, a Flamingant democrat who, paradoxically, sympathized with the ideas of the French revolution and was to be (for a short time) mayor of Brussels during the French occupation (1795-1797), certainly do point towards future developments in political, literary and intellectual life in Flanders in general. The reprint of the essay (1), published in the very year of Brussels' millennium, was launched (rather bitterly) as a reminiscence of two-hundred years of linguistic struggle. Its political implications, at any rate, are obvious; its "engagement" in the idea of Flemish-nationalistic consciousness stands for its topicality. The original text of the "Dissertation" is reprinted in facsimile, with annotations, and is preceded by an important introduction by Prof. J. Smeyers and Prof. J. van den Broeck, specialists in the field. Verlooy's dissertation, once characterized by H.J. Elias as a pioneering work in the "Greater-Netherlandic" tradition in the history of the Flemish Movement, is here further analysed as a rebellious work, propagating a nationalistic and progressive attitude, although Verlooy's nationalism differed from what was currently developing in the 19th century in so far as the "dissertation" claims no territorial unification, nor political independence, nor the establishment of a separate nation. His nationalism was a "popular", not a "political" one. An interesting

(1) (Jan Baptist Chrysostomus) VERLOOY, *Verhandeling op d'Onacht der moederlyke Tael in de Nederlanden* (1788), ingeleid door J. SMEYERS en J. VAN DEN BROECK, Martinus Nijhoff/Den Haag — Tjeenk Willink/Noordduyn, 1979 (Klassieken Nederlandse Letterkunde).

point further made by the editors is the fact that the dissertation should not, as it has been done, be considered "a cry in the wilderness" (S.B. Clough) : it is rather to be seen as an accumulation of what was left of "national consciousness" (in an anachronistic use of the term) at the end of the 18th century. The ideas Verlooy voiced in his essay were shared by many others and may be considered a link between "old and new". (A.M.M.)

A similar characteristic was given by Prof. Smeyers in his survey of 18th century literature in Flanders in *Geschiedenis van de Letterkunde der Nederlanden* ("History of Literature in the Netherlands"), vol. VI (1). The history of this rather "dark" and barren period in Flemish literature is there rounded off by a chapter introducing what is called "Het nieuwe geluid" ("The new note"). The activity of men of letters proved to be of substantial importance on the political scenery. The dissertations of W.F.G. Verhoeven and of J.B.C. Verlooy are accordingly discussed as documents of considerable impact on political life on the eve of the Brabant revolution. This revolution also stirred different kinds of political newspapers, preluding on the so called spectatorial writings of Broeckaert and Antheunis. Literature and the press are directly conditioned by the political situation and are rightly discussed here in their obvious interdependence. (A.M.M.)

The mediating role of the press, more specifically of newspapers as distributive channels of literature, forms the central focus of a study by Helmut Gaus, devoted to *Pers, kerk en geschreven fictie. Gent 1836-1860* ("Press, Church and written fiction. Ghent 1836-1860") (2). This dissertation is a seminal and pioneering work, full of surprises and hints for future research. Although neither its

(1) J. SMEYERS & E. DE BOCK, "De Nederlandse letterkunde in het Zuiden", *Geschiedenis van de Letterkunde der Nederlanden*, d. VI, *De letterkunde in de achttiende eeuw in Noord en Zuid*, Antwerpen/Amsterdam, Standaard Uitgeverij, 1975.

(2) H. GAUS, *Pers, kerk en geschreven fictie. Gent 1836-1860*, Brugge, De Tempel, 1975 (Rijksuniversiteit te Gent. Werken uitgegeven door de Faculteit van de Letteren en Wijsbegeerte, 158ste afl.).

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theoretical first part, nor the list of the material on which it is based could for material reasons be published, the practical results given in the present work reveal an original discussion of a phenomenon that has been neglected up to now in the history of Flemish literature : i.e. "written prose" consumed in serial form. In the sociological approach practised by Gaus, the novel as it was serialized in newspapers bears relevance both to literature and to the reading public. There is, for one, a very informative list of the most popular serialized authors. The remarkable thing about this list is that H. Conscience, outstanding Flemish novelist and author of very popular historical novels in the manner of Sir Walter Scott, honoured by literary history as the man "who made his people read", turns out here to figure only as the last but one, preceded by French and English novelists and far behind such "minor stars" as Emm. van Driessche, Ecrevisse, Eug. Zetternam, Jan van Rijswijck, Dom. Sleeckx and Aug. Snieders. The essential point made here, however, is that the press was the most important of all distributive channels of written prose. A second point advanced rather impressively by Gaus in a richly documented chapter is the obstructive attitude of the church : the catholic church used to denounce written fiction that would offend its moral code but also proved to condemn fiction in general as an appeal to imagination. "Reading-cabinets", public book-auctions, society-libraries, book-hawking and bookshops are further indicated as important elements in the material context of literary consumption. (A.M.M.)

Apart from a quite intense critical activity unfolded around the person and the works of Guido Gezelle during the last four or five years — the whole of these studies will be discussed separately on the occasion of the next catching up survey of criticism — it is noticeable that little has been published in the field of 19th century literature, and more specifically on literature in relation to the Flemish Movement. One fortunate exception to be mentioned here is the publication of a complete list of the correspondence of dr. Ferdinand Augustijn Snellaert (1809-1872) (1), a physician who became a man

(1) Ada DEPREZ, *Briefwisseling van dr. Ferdinand Augustijn Snellaert (1808-1872), I. Bronnenbeschrijving. Lijst van brieven en documenten. II. Bio-bibliografische lijst van de correspondenten. Bio-bibliografie van F.A. Snellaert*, Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde, Gent, 1977-1978.

of letters and a philologist. In the early history of the Flemish Movement Snellaert played an important and active role by his many initiatives in the field of Flemish politics and culture. The inventory of his correspondence was edited by the care of Prof. dr. Ada Deprez, who is thus giving a sequel to her monumental edition of the letters of Jan Frans Willems, "father" of the Flemish Movement and Snellaert's older friend. The present list covers a correspondence that contains some 5,000 letters and documents, revealing a rich source of knowledge of Flemish cultural life in the 19th century in general. Here too, there is ample material for future research. That F.A. Snellaert was a prominent personality in the history of the Flemish Movement was elucidated before by Prof. Deprez in a life-chronicle (1972). The short biography given here in the second part of the study is followed by a complete bibliography. There is also a very useful "bio-bibliographical" list identifying his numerous correspondents. The actual correspondence, listed in part I, is preceded by a very careful description of the "sources": the richest of depositories proves to be the Ghent University Library, but many other libraries were found to store Snellaert-collections. (A.M.M.)

The generation of "Van Nu en Straks" ("Now and later"), which stood for the renewal of Flemish literature at the turn of the century, has received due attention in the last few years. The "Centre for the study of Flemish cultural life from the beginning of the 18th century" has set a research-team at work in the "Archief en Museum voor het Vlaamse Cultuurleven" (Archives and Museum for Flemish Cultural Life) at Antwerp in order to present a complete publication of the whole of the "Van Nu en Straks" correspondence. Up to now the initiative has resulted in a (stenciled) pre-publication of the letters from 1890 and from 1891; the edition is richly annotated and provides an "encyclopaedic" apparatus (1). This very interesting correspondence has bearing mainly on literary life but it also contains essential information on a wide range of subjects, such as anarchism with J. Mesnil and (temporarily) with August Vermey-

(1) *De wereld van Nu en Straks. Briefwisseling 1890-1891*, Antwerpen, 1975, 3 dln. (I. Brieven uit 1890; II. Annotatie bij de brieven uit 1890; III. Encyclopedisch apparaat bij de brieven uit 1890); *Brieven uit 1891*, Antwerpen, 1977, 3 dln. in 5 bdn. (I.A. en B. Teksten, II.A. en B. Annotatie; III. Encyclopedisch apparaat).

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len, the intellectual leader of the group. Published in its totality it will offer to the historian a valuable reconstruction of the renovating forces at work during the last decade of the 19th century. (A.M.M.)

Among the "Van Nu en Straks" protagonists Cyriel Buysse, novelist and playwright who introduced naturalism in Flemish literature, was the last to be honoured with an edition of his complete works. This edition (1) was started in 1974 by Prof. Dr. A. Van Elslander and Dr. A.M. Musschoot and is now (1980) completed with the publication of a sixth volume. The publication of a complementary seventh volume is ahead. Volumes 1 to 3 contain the novels and are preceded by general surveys, situating the works in the author's biography. The short stories are grouped in volumes 4 and 5, introduced by a general characteristic of Buysse's shorter prose and volume 6 contains the diaries, travel books, plays and some criticism. Among the travel books in the last volume especially *Van een verloren zomer* ("Lost Summer") deserves the attention of the historian. It consists of a direct commentary of the author's visit at the front in the summer of 1916, and reveals his contribution to the Foundation "British Gifts for Belgian Soldiers". The whole of Buysse's oeuvre is marked by a strong pole of social compassion which may come to induce its growing historical importance. Picturing the social and moral degeneration of the poorest Flemish agrarian population at the end of the 19th century, the small naturalistic story *De biezenstekker* ("The Bastard") and its dramatic adaptation *Driekoningenavond* ("Twelfth-night") are representative of the documentary nature of Buysse's works. They have been published separately (2) by the editors of the complete works. (A.M.M.)

Another remarkable document in relation to the "Van Nu en Straks" period is the biography of Alfred Hegenscheidt, professor of

(1) Cyriel BUYSSE, *Verzameld werk*, samengesteld en ingeleid door Prof. dr. A. Van Elslander en Dr. A.M. Musschoot, Manteau, Brussel, 1974-1980, 6 vol.

(2) Cyriel BUYSSE, *De biezenstekker gevolgd door Driekoningenavond*, ingeleid en toegelicht door A. van Elslander en A.M. Musschoot, Tjeenk Willink/Noorduyt, Culemborg, 1977.

geography at the Brussels Free University and author of *Starkadd*, a romantic historical play which made him famous at once (1898). With the programmatic essay "Rythmus" it is representative of "Van Nu en Straks" ideas. Hegenscheidt's biography, based on the memoirs of his wife Madeleine Hegenscheidt-Heyman, has been published with an introduction, annotations and a bibliography by Raymond Vervliet (1). The meticulous editorial work by Vervliet is admirable, the more so as the document concerned is a very rare one in Flemish literature. The authenticity of Hegenscheidt's life-story is ensured by the correspondence, that could be inserted entirely by Vervliet. Hence the superabundance of widely informative annotations, including other than literary topics. (A.M.M.)

The "Van Nu en Straks" generation is also fully dealt with in the fourth and last volume of G. Knuvelde's *Handboek tot de geschiedenis der Nederlandse letterkunde* ("Handbook on the History of Dutch Literature") (2), an enlarged edition of which was published in 1976. Irrespective of the many manifest merits of this comprehensive outline, — it is the only complete and up-to-date history of Dutch literature extant — the unavoidable drawbacks of such a one-man enterprise can be illustrated precisely where Knuvelde proves to be very uneven on "Van Nu en Straks" authors. Judging even from the purely external treatment of the material some fundamental objections could be raised : dealing with the major characters of the group (under the heading "second generation 1894-1905") Knuvelde spends 6 pp. on Aug. Vermeylen, 9 pp. on K. van de Woestijne, 2 pp. on A. Hegenscheidt, 2.5 pp. on C. Buysse and 40 pp. on Stijn Streuvels, whereas Van Langendonck (quite understandably) does not figure among the main characters. Herman Teirlinck (30 pp.), born in 1878 and thus Van de Woestijne's junior by one year, is considered to belong to the next generation ("third generation 1905-1916"). One could of course argue about the

(1) *Leven met een schrijver*. Biografie van Alfred Hegenscheidt volgens de memoires van Madeleine Hegenscheidt-Heyman en met editie van onuitgegeven documenten. Eindredactie van de biografie en teksteditie van de documenten, bijlagen en bibliografie door Raymond Vervliet, Ontwikkeling, Antwerpen, 1977.

(2) G.P.M. KNUVELDER, *Handboek tot de geschiedenis der Nederlandse letterkunde*, IV., vijfde, geheel herziene druk, Malmberg, Den Bosch, 1976.

respective and relative "importance" of each individual author, but one should doubt whether the differences as marked by Knuvelder are indeed that clear. Streuvels is more important than Buysse — perhaps, but what with the proportion 2.5 : 40, and what with poor van de Woestijne and his friend Teirlinck ? If objectivity could ever be attained by the mere proportionate distribution of the material to be discussed, this obvious disproportion would seem a simple travesty of honest history writing. Yet, as a whole, the literary history outlined by Knuvelder certainly is deserving of our high esteem. There are indeed these important synthetic presentations of some prominent authors. There is, moreover, the very effective advantage that Knuvelder does not maintain the strict separation of Dutch and Flemish literature. Finally it ought to be mentioned that Knuvelder has his survey of literature preceded by a very interesting general introduction, dealing with the main currents in literature and art in general in the 19th century, such as realism, naturalism, impressionism, sensitivism and Jugendstil etc.

In connection with "Van Nu en Straks" it is finally worth noting that both Karel van de Woestijne, famous symbolist poet and prose writer, and Herman Teirlinck, who realized the renewal of Flemish dramatic literature virtually on his own have known their centenaries. Among the various reviving commemorative initiatives on these occasions especially the great exhibitions will be remembered, as they brought along the compilation of new catalogues and new findings. Van de Woestijne the art critic was the central figure of an exhibition in the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts; the man of letters was honoured in the Brussels Royal Library by the combined efforts of the "Archief en Museum voor het Vlaamse Cultuurleven" (Antwerp) and the Royal Library (1). An interesting catalogue of the "Teirlinck in Brussels" exhibition was composed by

(1) *Veertig kunstenaars rond Karel van de Woestijne*, Karel van de Woestijne (1878-1929) en de kunst van zijn tijd met uittreksels uit zijn geschriften over kunst, samengesteld en ingeleid door Robert Hoozee, Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Gent, 1979. — *Karel van de Woestijne 1878-1929. Tentoonstellingscatalogus* door Marc Somers. Met een inleiding door Albert Westerlinck en chronologisch raamwerk door Prof. em. M. Rutten, Koninklijke Bibliotheek Albert I, Brussel, 1979.



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J. Van Schoor, who also contributed to a separate volume dedicated to *Herman Teirlinck* (1979) (1). Urbaan de Becker's contribution to the latter volume deals with Teirlinck's biography, stressing such less well known aspects as the role Teirlinck played in politics and in the Flemish Movement. (A.M.M.)

(1) *Herman Teirlinck in Brussel*. Catalogus bij de tentoonstelling Herman Teirlinck, "een noodzaak in ons klimaat" (Hugo Claus). Georganiseerd door Brusselment vzw in het kader van de Herman Teirlinck-viering 1879-1979 en ter gelegenheid van het 1000-jarig bestaan van de stad Brussel, Elsevier-Manteau, Brussel, 1979; Fernand VANHEMELRYCK, Urbaan DE BECKER, Hugo BOUSSET, Jaak VAN SCHOOR (foto's), Marcel VANDERELST, *Herman Teirlinck*, v.z.w. Zenne en Zoniën Opbouwwerk, 1979.

**Contributors to this *Chronicle* :**

Prof. Dr. Romain VAN EENOO (R.V.E.), Seminarie voor Nieuwste Geschiedenis, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent.

Drs. Christiaan COPPENS (C.C.)\*, Wetenschappelijk medewerker K.U. Nijmegen, Wolvenstraat 2, 9320 Melle.

Drs. René DE HERDT (R.D.H.), Verantwoordelijke voor het Museum voor Industriële Archeologie en Textiel te Gent, Hoorn-dries 89, 9220 Merelbeke.

Drs. Luc FRANCOIS (L.F.), Chrysantenstraat 19, 8400 Oostende.

Prof. Dr. Paul GERIN (P.G.), Séminaire d'histoire contemporaine, Université de Liège, Place Cockerill 3, 3000 Liège.

Dr. Anne-Marie MUSSCHOOT (A.M.M.), Seminarie voor Nederlandse Literatuur, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent.

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

Dr. Franky SIMON (F.S.), Seminarie voor Historische en Vergelijkende Pedagogiek, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Baertsoenkaai 3, 9000 Gent.

Prof. Dr. Yvan VANDEN BERGHE (Y.VD.B.), Docent Economische Hogeschool Limburg en Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen, Nachtegalenstraat 18A, 3202 Linden (Lubbeek).

Dr. Harry VAN VELTHOVEN (H.V.V.), Potaardestraat 29, 1860 Meise.

\* The name of this contributor was accidentally omitted in the precedent issue.