The impetus for the collection of essays in this book came from a small scale seminar organized on the occasion of Bram Verhoeff's retirement from the chair of English literature at the University of Utrecht. Three of the four speakers on that occasion were holders of chairs of literature, British or American, in The Netherlands and, since the topic of the meeting was the position of British and American literary studies in the Dutch universities, their speeches had an import for the future of Dutch 'Anglistiek' that went beyond the tributary mood of the moment. The first three articles of the present volume, by Dominic Baker-Smith, Hans Bertens and Theo D'haen, are the written versions of those speeches. They propose a number of areas that might provide a common ground for the study of British and American literature in a Dutch context. The delimitation of a common territory for Dutch 'Anglistiek' is a matter of some urgency in view of the new onslaughts on the research facilities that seem to lie ahead for the large Modern Language Departments in this country. This is not a matter of exclusive interest to those engaged in literary research. In our view the main and decisive factor distinguishing academic studies from other types of higher education is the intimate connection that should exist between active research and classroom practice. If research is no longer allowed to inspire teaching or, conversely, if university teaching is no longer informed by ongoing research the very raison d'être of the university is imperilled. The concerns expressed by the speakers affect, therefore, the departments as a whole and, in a wider perspective, all of the humanities.

Since we did not see much sense in turning a programme into a book, we decided, in conjunction with the general editors of the DQR Studies in Literature series, to select literary translation, one of the topics put forward in the seminar, as the focal point for this volume. Subsequently a number of specialists was asked to contribute. None of their articles had been published elsewhere.
previously. As an area in which the English and Dutch linguistic cultures meet explicitly and intimately literary translation is obviously of special interest to Dutch 'Anglisten'. In recent years this interest has found a practical reflection in the fact that translation studies have become specialisation programmes in several departments in the country.

The book is not intended for academic consumption only. We aim at a wider readership than that. The variety of topics dealt with, from Shakespeare translations to subtitling on television, from translation problems in the Song of Songs to the problems of metre and rhyme in translating Dutch poetry, from the translations of Laurence Sterne's novels to the collage experiments of the modern Dutch poet H.C. ten Berge, to mention but a few, should be of interest to anyone interested in the many theoretical and pragmatic ramifications of literary translation.

The third group of potential readers we have in mind is no doubt the smallest but by no means the least important. There is a minor but persistent interest for the Dutch language and Dutch culture in Great Britain and the U.S.A., an interest that expresses itself in books on Dutch art and history, particularly of the Golden Age (e.g. Boxer, Alpers, Schama) and in the growing number of Dutch authors translated into English. One impressive project that caters for both of these interests is the recently completed Library of the Indies, a twelve volume series of translations, edited and introduced by E.M. Beekman, Multatuli Professor of Dutch Literature at the University of Massachusetts and one of the contributors to our volume. The policies of publishers and their influence on the nature of the translations published are scrutinized in some of the contributions. In a number of universities abroad there are Dutch departments, functioning either as independent units or as subsections of departments of Germanic languages and literature. Three of the contributors work in such departments (Beekman, Hermans, Lefevere). Recently a highly successful conference on the culture of the Low Countries was organized by Theo Hermans at the University of London and at the University of California a conference on Dutch culture is a regularly recurring event. If the Dutch take their own culture and literature seriously, they should not only make their products available to foreign readers but they should also make them aware of some of the specific linguistic
problems, syntactic, phonological and semantic, that are involved in the process of translating, whether Dutch or English is the target language. It is with this part of the readership, students of Dutch whose native language is not Dutch, in mind that we decided to use English as the language of the book, even though this presented the authors with some awkward problems. The rationale behind this decision was that we expected all potential readers to have a proficient command of English but that not all of them would have the same proficiency in Dutch.

The major part of the book is, therefore, devoted to various aspects of literary translation. They are presented in three sections, the first consisting of five articles of a more general nature (Beekman, Lefevere, Paul, Kievit c.s., Reid), followed by a section in which a more or less chronological order is observed, consisting of a number of articles each of which focuses on a particular author or a number of literary texts (Stienstra, Leek, Verhoeff, de Voogd, Korpel, Schoneveld, Wellink, Scholz-Heerspink, Hermans). The final section is a report of the workshop that took place in September 1989 at the University of Utrecht during which most of the papers for this book were presented and discussed.

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