Recent Dutch-Language Publications

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Lex Heerma van Voss, Marjolein 't Hart, Karel Davids, Karwan Fatah-Black, Leo Lucassen and Jeroen Touwen (eds), *Wereldgeschiedenis van Nederland*. Amsterdam: Ambo/Anthos, 2018, 751 pp. ISBN: 9789026343995, price: EUR 39.99 (hardback).

Wereldgeschiedenis van Nederland endeavors to introduce a more balanced approach to the study of the history of the Netherlands, and step beyond a primarily nationalist view of history and culture. Of course, this is not altogether novel, but with its broad approach and systematic treatment as well as the abundance of case-studies, the point is convincingly made. The editors were inspired by a French precursor *Histoire mondiale de France* published in 2017. In a remarkable achievement the editorial team of this book succeeded in soliciting 119 authors to submit 118 contributions, adhering to strict guidelines regarding the set-up and length of their essays. These were maximally allotted six pages, and five references to further reading. They were organized by the year in which the event or development described is most logically situated. The first piece is thus dated 70,000 BC on the presence of Neanderthals; the last one 2017, on the reaction to natural disasters, in particular to hurricane Irma in the Caribbean. The contributions are thus not part of a coherent narration. Each and every one may be read as an independent illustration of the book's premises. They make for pleasant reading, too, as is also demonstrated by the success of the book, already in its third printing. It goes without saying that the colonial exploits of the Netherlands, to begin with the VOC and the West Indies Company (WIC), had a great international influence. However, because this is probably considered self-evident, pieces on the colonies are relatively modest in number. I counted about ten contributions about VOC territory and the Netherlands Indies, with an interesting one on the death penalty, abolished at home and upheld in the Indies. On the Indonesian-Dutch conflict, lasting until 1962, only one entry on the 1945 Indonesian Proclamation

is included. But this is only a minor critique. More serious is the fact that the index is incomplete. Quite a number of names in the text have not been given an entry in the index, in what looks like a rather slipshod and arbitrary fashion.

H.K. s'Jacob (ed.), *Generale Missiven van Gouverneurs-Generaal en Raden aan Heren XVII der Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie. Deel XIV:1761–1767*. Leiden: Sidestone Press [Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatiën, Grote Serie 270], 2017, xix + 1176 pp. in two volumes. ISBN: 9789088905346, price: EUR 80.00 (hardback) ISBN: 9789088905360, price: EUR 39.95 (paperback).

In 1610, the first *Generale Missiven* were sent by the Governor General and his Raden (advisors) to the Heeren XVII, the board of the VOC in the Netherlands. It was to become the yearly report on the exploits of the VOC, reporting in detail on the vicissitudes of the Company. The information contained in this stocktaking is of indispensable value for any student of the VOC. However, the sheer massiveness of data made the *Generale Missiven*, kept in the National Archive in The Hague, difficult to access. It was only in the 1950s that a project to publish the *Generale Missiven* was launched. At once it was clear that a complete transcription of this source was impossible for reasons of length. A practical solution was found in a combination of inventory and source publication. Thus a nice balance is struck between the two, to the benefit of the reader and researcher. The use of the information is made easier by the inclusion of four indexes, comprising one hundred pages. When, for instance, a researcher wants to access more information than given in the inventory, he can turn to the original *Missiven* in the National Archive. Recently, volume 14 was published. After W.Ph. Coolhaas, J. van Goor and J.E. Schooneveld-Oosterling, Hugo s'Jacob has become the editor of the series from volume 13. Presently the editorial board is discussing how to publish further volumes. This volume, 1200 pages in two issues, contains the *Missiven* sent during the first half of the rule of Governor General Petrus Albertus van der Parra, who held office from 1761 until 1775. For the period 1761–1767, six yearly reports, dated December 31, are included, as well as eleven shorter reports on topical matters. The inventories comprise the majority of the text, and are in the summary of s'Jacob easily readable, and tell a coherent story, for instance about a specific region. The volumes are available in paperback and hardback. A digital edition of the whole series is accessible via <http://resources.huylgens.knaw.nl/retroboeken>

Chris F. van Fraassen, *Ambon in het 19e-eeuwse Indië: Van wingewest tot werf-depot*. Amsterdam: De Bataafsche Leeuw, 2018, 750 pp. ISBN: 9789067077156, price: EUR 39.50 (hardback).

In 2016 the source publication *Bronnen betreffende de Midden-Molukken 1796–1902* was published. The digital edition of this voluminous book, containing 2,800 documents, is available in open access: <http://resources.huylens.knaw.nl/retroboeken/middenmolukken17961902>. The editor was senior researcher Chris F. van Fraassen (1945), who devoted his vast expertise—besides writing ‘a companion volume’—to putting the overwhelming mass of documents in perspective. This resulted in 750 pages of tight print. Van Fraassen did far more than making coherent stories of the scattered facts in the documents, ‘translating’ these in more accessible Dutch language, although some archaic words managed to survive. Geographically, the focus is on Ambon, Haruku, Saparua, Nusalaut, Seram, and Buru. The Kei, Aru, and Tanimbar Islands, as well as the Southwestern Islands, gradually get more attention, when Dutch colonial authority was extended to these islands. Banda falls outside this scope, but as a close and involved neighbor it is mentioned frequently. This history of course has a bias, as the archival sources are written by Dutch colonial officials or their Moluccan subordinates and reflect their background. Thus a Moluccan perspective is absent, or has to be reconstructed from the rare reports that try to delve deeper in Moluccan thought and motives. The great bulk of material reports on administrative measures, or relates to matters concerning the church, mission, and education. When the local indigenous society is mentioned, it is most often because of internal warfare or resistance against the colonial order. However reluctant, in a considerable number of cases the authorities—backed by military force—sprang into action, with the setting ablaze of villages as a common punishment. Van Fraassen does not restrict himself to relating the course of events in the Moluccas itself. He devotes several hundred pages to developments in Batavia and The Hague, even if these have no direct bearing on the Moluccas. Of all Ministers of the Colonies and Governors-General, extensive biographical details are given, as well as an outline of their political positions. Thus the re-establishment of Dutch rule after the British Interregnum, the Java War, the extraction of surplus value (*batig slot*) to benefit the mother country, the Cultivation System, the Aceh War, the Ethical Policy, and the foundation of a modern colonial state as a sovereign force for the whole of Indonesia are all covered. It thus makes this study a comprehensive history of nineteenth-century Dutch Indies.

The Moluccas were of crucial importance to the VOC, as producers of nutmeg (Banda) and cloves (Ambon), on which the VOC imposed forced deliveries

and enforced its monopoly, with more and more difficulty. The fact that the highest authority rested with a governor was ample proof of the Moluccan central position. With the VOC demise in 1799, the lack of Dutch authority and the takeover by the British, it was only in 1817 that the Dutch resumed their colonial rule. For the Moluccans it was a change for the worse, and this went as far as a full-fledged revolt led by Pattimura (or Thomas Matulesy). Van Fraassen thus adds another account to recent publications on Pattimura. The revolt was quelled, with excessive violence. The forced cultivation of cloves was upheld until 1864, but its net result was negative. The costs of government were also negative; only Banda yielded a profit. The Moluccas could be characterized as a region in stagnancy, without prospects, where all plans that involved costs were disapproved by Batavia. Telling in this respect is the 1867 decision that the highest official no longer held the rank of Governor, but was demoted to Resident. In the 1880s a trend gained momentum that asked for liberal reform, measures that benefitted indigenous groups, more presence of government officials to enforce law and order, and eradicate head-hunting, statute labor, and slavery. Slowly, the Moluccas also followed this modernization. Ambon caught Batavia's eye by becoming a recruitment center for the KNIL army. Christian Moluccans turned out to be excellent soldiers, dedicated to the Dutch cause. This was encouraged by material and immaterial favors, which distinguished them from other indigenous soldiers. However, in numbers they didn't exceed ten percent until 1902. Van Fraassen adds some illuminating pages on the military (pp. 535–556). These last years of the nineteenth century also saw at last distinctive progress in many fields with the government in its civilizing mission. At last in unruly Seram, head-hunting was prosecuted.

Van Fraassen shows this laborious process at length. He goes into deep detail, describing all kinds of events and processes on the Moluccas. He thus dizzies the reader, but in this way also lets the reader come close to the thinking and acting of officials, preachers, teachers, and soldiers, and there are glimpses of the motives of the indigenous inhabitants. Van Fraassen thus has concluded his mammoth task of editing the source publications on the Moluccas with a commendable monograph.

Hans Straver (editor), *De strijd van Pattimura in documenten en verhalen*. Den Haag: Stichting Moluks Historisch Museum, 2018, 205 pp. ISBN: 9789074352178, price: EUR 21.00 (paperback) (to order from info@museum-maluku.nl).

As a contribution to the commemoration of the Pattimura Revolt in 1817, Hans Straver, a retired expert on Moluccan history, has published a compendium

on the uprising against Dutch colonial rule, restored after the British Interregnum. The Moluks Historisch Museum was the appropriate publisher of what it calls a dossier. The first part of the book relates the course of the revolt, which lasted from May until November 1817, as it is recorded in contemporary documents and later publications of eyewitnesses. These documents are derived from the source publication *Bronnen betreffende de Midden-Molukken 1796–1902* (2016). Straver selected the most salient descriptions, with only minimal explanation and comment. Pattimura (1783–1817) is at the center. He also includes the scarce information on Christina Martha Tiahahu (1800–1818), whose role in later historiography has grown continuously, but without firm basis in fact. Altogether this part of the dossier is a reliable summary of Pattimura's revolt, which claimed hundreds of victims on the European part, and many more on the Moluccan side. About fifty Moluccan leaders, among them Pattimura, were executed. The second part of the book gives a chronological listing of 38 publications on Pattimura (and Christina Martha) from the 1820s until today. The oldest ones are by Dutch military and officials who were present at the Moluccan theatre. The first fictional accounts also appear, followed in 1931 by the first narrative in the Indonesian language. After Indonesia's independence Christina Martha and Pattimura are included in the pantheon of national heroes, in 1969 and 1973 respectively. They receive a lot of attention, are the subject of seminars, and there is a whole list of booklets on their life stories. Straver lists them along with film scripts, theatre texts, poetry, and polemical works that, for instance, try to prove that Pattimura was a Muslim. In the Netherlands, where Straver and Van Fraassen are the authoritative voices, Pattimura is claimed by the Moluccans as an example and inspirational force. In Indonesia, his status of Pahlawan Nasional (National Hero) alongside Christina Martha has resulted in their inclusion in books with short biographies of all the national heroes. In general, they follow the biographies as published by the Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs in a yearly collection. In its latest edition, *Profil 173 Pahlawan Nasional (1959–2017)*, Christina Maria and Pattimura both get extensive entries. As the (temporary) definitive historiography these should have been discussed. Straver's coverage of publications seems exhaustive, but I do wonder why he refers to a 1984 MA thesis of P.J.M. Noldus, specifically on the Pattimura Revolt, but does not discuss its contents.

Roy E. Jordaan, *De politieke betekenis van de vrijmetselarij op Java tijdens het Britse Tussenbestuur (1811–1816)*. 's Gravenhage: Maçonnieke Stichting Ritus en Tempelbouw, Quatuor Coronati Nederland, 2019, 187 pp. ISBN: 9789080315853, price: EUR 29.50 (to order from www.ritusentempelbouw.nl) (hardback).

The anthropologist Roy E. Jordaan (1947–2019), who recently passed away, has extensively published on the archaeology of Java, offering new insights that are still being discussed. Lately his interest has turned to the role of the freemasonry during the turbulent period of Java's Interregnum (1811–1816), when Dutch, French, and British military and civilians tried to maintain or establish their sovereignty on Java, with H.W. Daendels, Lord Minto, Thomas Stamford Raffles, and Nicolaus Engelhard playing the main parts. After five articles, two of them co-authored by Peter Carey, he has now collected the results of his extensive research in a monograph on the political role of freemasonry during the Interregnum. Jordaan, himself not a freemason as is sometimes believed, endeavors with an abundance of contemporary documents to prove his point that it was the cooperation of British and Dutch officials on Java, in great majority freemasons, which resulted in a political experiment of supranational rule. In no small measure this was the result of the common roots in freemasonry. Thus Lord Minto, Raffles, and Engelhard reached an agreement that suited all parties involved. The British did not have enough staff and expertise to rule the Indies. The Dutch authorities were quite willing to offer their cooperation in exchange for the continuation of their positions in government and economy. Proof of this was also the appointment of two Dutchmen, next to two Brits, as members of the Java Council who became Raffles' closest assistants. Jordaan makes it quite plausible that indeed the common freemasonry background was of great importance in the realization of a workable rule on Java. The professed political neutrality of freemasonry could only be upheld in obligatory statements, at the time and in later publications on the subject. In Jordaan's overview, these are all more or less incorrect. His research is exhaustive. He writes, however, that he was not able to consult a few British archives, which is a pity. Not much could have been added, however, to these sources. His research is meticulous, and in eight appendixes he reprints and analyses sources. He rightly criticizes former publications on the subject, it seems. With this publication, definitive words have been written on the subject, which have serious implications for the transnational political interference of freemasonry and freemasons. The book is replete with names and thus useful in, for instance, genealogical respects. Thus, an index would have been helpful.

F.M. Carsjens, *Het vergaan van het fregatschip Aerd van Nes en de lotgevalen van de bemanning bij haar jammerlijk rondzwerven gedurende bijna zes maanden*. Edited by Willem van Rooij. Hoorn: Stichting Nederlandse Kaap Hoorn-vaarders, 2018, 96 pp. ISBN: 9789071940101, price: EUR 15.00 (to order from info@kaaphoornvaarders.nl) (paperback).

The Foundation Kaap Hoorn-vaarders, founded in 2005, aims to keep alive the memories of the era of the great windjammers, who sailed the oceans, and made the dangerous passage along Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of the American continent. Most appropriately, it is based in Hoorn, the city of origin of Willem Schouten and Jacob le Maire, who were the first to round the Cape in 1616. To fulfill its aim, the Foundation, with more than 400 members, organizes seminars, and publishes the *Kaap Hoorn Journaal* twice a year, as well as monographs. The 2018 publication reprints the story of the frigate 'Aerd van Nes' which shipwrecked in April 1854 in the Torres Straits between Australia and New Guinea, on its journey from Sydney to the Indies. With all its reefs and shoals, the Torres Strait was notorious as a ship's graveyard—more than 1200 ships wrecked there, 40 of them in 1854. The crew of 24 men of the 'Aerd van Nes' barely survived its ordeal, and with two saved life-boats set out to find safe ground in the eastern part of the Indies, a territory hardly touched by Dutch colonial authority. It was a long and arduous journey, plagued by hunger and thirst, storms and heat. Moreover, when the crew at last met other people, they robbed them of their few remaining belongings. Only after 37 days did they land on Sulawesi. It took them another half a year to reach Ternate: after 176 days they met a compatriot. 22 crew members survived. The captain, F.M. Carsjens, sailed home to the Netherlands in 1855, never to venture again outside his country. He recorded his experiences right away. These were published that same year, and were reprinted in 1878, 1889, and 1923. Now the Foundation has published the original text (in its old spelling), comprising pp. 12–59. It is mainly a matter of factual history, with a number of emotional outbursts. For a contemporary readership it is quite readable. Half the book is devoted to short essays by eight authors on the background of sailing ships, with particular detail on the 'Aerd van Nes' and its crew during their journey. The history of shipping through Torres Strait is also narrated in this book, which makes the story of a forgotten shipwreck again available in a fine edition.

W.F.J. Mörzer Bruyns (ed.), *Met de Triton en Iris naar Nieuw-Guinea: De reisverhalen van Justin Modera en Arnoldus Johannes van Delden uit 1828*. Zutphen: WalburgPers [Werken uitgegeven door de Linschoten-Vereeniging 117], 2018, 383 pp. ISBN: 9789462493087, price: EUR 47.74 (hardback).

Since 1908 the Linschoten-Vereeniging has published the impressive total of 117 books in its series of works, containing travelogues of journeys made by Dutchmen. Understandably, most of them are accounts of sea expeditions, many related to the exploits of VOC and WIC (West Indies Company). Invariably, they are all up to the highest standards as to their presentation. This new volume brings together two descriptions of the expedition of the ships 'Triton' and 'Iris' who set out east from Ambon on a mission from April until September 1828 under the auspices of the Dutch colonial government. Their official and secret mission was to claim Southwest New Guinea as territory belonging to the Dutch East Indies. Contacts with local Papuans were to reinforce the claim as well as the building of a fort and settlement. The motive behind this flag-showing was the fear that the British would occupy the territory. This fear was unfounded, and later the Dutch and British agreed on a division of the island, with a frontier far more to the east than the 1828 expedition ventured. The aim of the expedition was also to collect material on zoology, botany, and natural history, on the ethnography of the Papuans, and to engage in hydrographic surveys. In this respect the expedition was a success. Dutch museums still hold its artifacts. In massive books, profusely illustrated in color, the scholars on board of 'Triton' and 'Iris' made their findings public. Indeed, a fort and settlement were built on the shore of the Triton Bay. The fort was named Du Bus after the governor-general, the settlement Merkus-oord after the governor of Ambon. Merkus-oord is now the village of Lobo in the Kaimana region. Merkus-oord proved to be a disaster. Its occupants, indigenous VOC soldiers and their families, died by the dozens. Regularly, new soldiers had to be sent to replenish the garrison. The climate, illnesses, attacks by Papuans and its remoteness made Merkus-oord a useless and costly enterprise. In 1836 it was dismantled. It took decades before a new settlement was founded. Among the crew of the 'Triton' was lieutenant commander Justin Modera (1803–1866). In 1830 he published a book relating his impressions based on his diary while in Holland. Arnoldus Johannes van Delden (1804–1885), the government official specifically charged by King Willem I with the task of claiming Southwest New Guinea, also kept a diary, which was donated to the Dutch National Archive only in 2016. Now both accounts are published together, nicely complementing each other. Both are about a hundred pages in this edition. Both are sometimes very detailed and enumerative, but in general these are lively reports,

in accessible Dutch. W.F.J. Mörzer Bruyns (1943), retired curator of the Netherlands Scheepvaart Museum, and a well-known author on maritime history, has undertaken the task of making these two journals ready for the press. His introduction comprises 130 pages, with a survey of western shipping in the New Guinea region. Here, in a rare error, Isaac le Maire and Jacob le Maire are confounded. Next the preparations and the actual trip of 1828, ships are discussed, as well as the sad fate of Merkus-oord. A lot of attention is devoted to the scholarly activities and its follow-up. Notes, bibliography, illustrations (partly in color), maps, indexes, and more material are included in this commendable book.

Cor Scholten, *Zeilrederij Van Starckenborg van Straten: Herstel in de Amsterdamse scheepvaart en scheepsbouw, 1815–1865*. Zutphen: WalburgPers, 2018, 352 pp. ISBN: 9789462492684, price: EUR 29.50 (hardback).

In Dutch maritime literature, the period between 1830 and 1870 is largely unexplored territory in terms of the activities of the shipping companies. Even basic information is not available in present-day monographs. It takes an expert, first to unearth the sources, scattered in many archives, and next to interpret and organize these data, and to turn these into a comprehensible format. Author Cor Scholten (1946) spent years in archives to prepare a manuscript on the Amsterdam shipping companies, with an emphasis on the Van Starckenborg van Straten company, which operated with sailing ships. In his quest he was inspired by his forebear Klaas Latjes (1805–1881), who was captain of ten journeys for the firm. He produced a manuscript of 450,000 words, which was reduced to 100,000 words. This must have been a difficult task, and one effect was that the book is so overwhelmingly packed with information (including 687 references) that readability suffers somewhat. The shipping activities after the French occupation were minimal. Only slowly has the shipping branch recovered, at first by transporting products to and from Suriname, supplanted in due time by East Indies products. The preferential treatment by the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (NHM), founded in 1824, helped a lot in the recovery. Until 1855 there was steady growth, and thereafter sail transport was overtaken by steam boats. After 1841 the biggest five sailing companies operated with in total (only) between 40 and 50 ships. Among these five, Van Starckenborg ranked second or third. Fragmentation thus was a common feature, in Amsterdam, but also in Rotterdam. Scholten analyzes the shipbuilding by type, cost, and financing. He also gives extensive biographies of the four shipowners competing with Van Starckenborg. Even

their handwriting is the subject of a graphologist's analysis. The next subject is Van Starckenborg van Straten—having made 166 journeys with 20 ships and 27 captains during its existence. Its success was due in no small part to its founder Barend Willem van Starckenborg (1804–1846), of moderate background, who was ambitious, innovative, and managed to become part of the Amsterdam elite. In that respect he could also profit from a six year stay in the Indies (1822–1828). His interests were manifold. He was active as a merchant, shipowner, sea trader, and underwriter. His untimely death was a serious blow to the company. His heirs quarrelled amongst each other, and did not possess enough stature to stop the decline, ultimately ending in liquidation in 1867. With a lot of inventiveness, Scholten even succeeded in computing the profit Van Starckenborg made from 1835 until 1867: 1.9 million guilders, or in today's currency 26.7 million Euros. The author also raises some doubts regarding the NHM's role, generally considered positive. He points out some measures that seriously hampered the development of a modern Dutch fleet. Some chapters are less technical. These describe the daily work of a shipowner, the preparation of a ship for departure and the role of a captain. In a last chapter, Captain Latjes, who in 1855 shipwrecked near Calcutta, gets his biography. The whole crew survived, but the ship was lost. This book is important in competently sketching the developments of shipping in Amsterdam, on the eve of the steam revolution. The book is well-illustrated and contains two indexes.

Jan-Karel Kwisthout, *De Mardijkers van Tugu en Depok: Vrijmaking, bevrijding en merdeka*. Zoetermeer: Lecturium, 2018, 166 pp. No ISBN, price: EUR 15.00 (paperback) (to order from depok1@planet.nl).

Kwisthout (1964) has previously published on Depok (*Sporen uit het verleden van Depok*, 2007). The fact that some of his ancestors were Depok inhabitants stimulated his interest in the subject. Depok and Tugu, both near Batavia and both home to Mardijkers (freed slaves who had become Christians), are not to be equated. The author makes clear that, for instance, in background, establishment, homogeneity, origin, and occupation the villages differed considerably. Tugu grew slowly, while Depok was founded in 1714, when Cornelis Chastelein granted freedom to 150 of his slaves and land to be cultivated. Both villages maintained their identity in an unobtrusive history, until 1945 when war and revolution claimed their toll. Sympathy for the Dutch, reinforced by their Christian belief, made them suspect in the eyes of unruly armed groups who roamed the countryside outside Batavia and directed their violence to everyone sus-

pected of Dutch sympathies. This period, the *bersiap* of Dutch historiography, had dire consequences for Tugu and Depok. The Tugu inhabitants fled their village, and were for the most part never to return. The postcolonial developments brought them to settle in New Guinea and Suriname, and ultimately to the Netherlands, where a foundation commemorates their origins. Depok was hit even worse. Dozens of its inhabitants were killed in an atrocious way and their village was burned down. They barely escaped, thanks to an evacuation operation by British and Dutch military. Depok's fate became well-known when journalist Johan Fabricius and photographer Willem van de Poll reported about it. It was the effective end of autonomous Depok. In diaspora, the Depok citizens also try to uphold their past. Kwisthout's book is a contribution to the memory of Tugu and Depok that is well-documented, including fifty illustrations.

Robert-Jan Wille, *Mannen van de microscoop: De laboratoriumbiologie op veldtocht in Nederland en Indië, 1840–1910*. Nijmegen: Vantilt, 2019, 365 pp. ISBN: 9789460043796, price: EUR 29.95 (paperback).

This study contains the slightly revised text of Wille's PhD, titled *De stationisten: Laboratoriumbiologie, imperialisme en de lobby voor nationale wetenschaps-politiek, 1871–1909*, defended in Nijmegen in 2015. It gives a detailed history of the development of laboratory biology, which was considered by its scholars to be the most progressive branch of science and the harbinger of progress. Its proponents succeeded in convincing the government of its importance, not only in terms of pure science, but in the application of its findings in the national and colonial politics and practice. This story is told by narrating the biographies of four biologists, whose life-stories fill in the history of biology research over fifty years. Pioneer was Pieter Harting (1812–1885), in whose footsteps Ambrosius Hubrecht (1853–1915), Paulus Hoek (1851–1914) and Melchior Treub (1851–1910) followed. For Harting, interest in the colonies was ephemeral, while Hubrecht and Hoek, also on the basis of visits to the Indies, were staunch supporters of an extensive tropical research agenda. It was Melchior Treub who realized these proposals. In almost a hundred pages, Wille details the biography of Treub, which is inextricably intertwined with the development of scientific studies in the Indies. As academic positions in the Netherlands were not available, Treub in 1880 accepted the position of director of the Botanical Gardens in Buitenzorg (Bogor) as a second choice. His solitary position, without colleagues, with a small budget, with a lack of governmental interest, gradually changed. Treub's scientific interest was supplemented only

slowly by practical research on plant diseases, supported and co-subsidized by private enterprise. He aptly used the opportunities thus offered, framed also in the changes in colonial thought, which emphasized nationalist objectives and 'ethical' obligations toward the indigenous Indonesians. Treub's Gardens experienced spectacular growth within a few decades. It now combined pure and applied research, with the latter becoming more and more important. In close cooperation with the trade and industry, which covered a third of the costs, more than ten scientific stations were opened. These employed hundreds of people, Dutch and Indonesian. It was the second largest institute in its field of expertise in the world, and a world in itself, on a par with the Dutch Agriculture Department. This development was institutionalized with the establishment in 1904 of an autonomous agricultural department within the Indies governmental structure. Treub became its director, and for all practical purposes he functioned as a minister of agriculture. His first love with pure research had to accommodate with the daily task as an administrator, for which he was probably not optimally suited. Wille's study contributes substantially to knowledge and insight of the role of biology and biologists in the development of pure and applied science in the Netherlands and Indonesia. This fine and admirable exploration is supplied with a thousand notes, illustrations, bibliographies and index.

G.M.W. Acda, *Op de deining van de wetenschap: Leven en werk van Gustaaf Frederik Tydeman (1858–1939), zeeofficier en hydrograaf*. Franeker: Van Wijnen, 2019, 358 pp. ISBN: 9789051945577, price: EUR 39.50 (paperback).

Gerard Acda (1940), a retired navy commander with a late interest in navy history, wrote a biography of Gustaaf Frederik Tydeman (1858–1939), who coincidentally was his predecessor as commander of the Royal Navy Institute in Den Helder. Acda was awarded his Ph.D for the work. Tydeman's career was remarkable, as was already acknowledged during his lifetime. He was the only Navy officer ever who, while still alive in 1919, was honored with a ship named after him. The lasting appreciation was confirmed in 1976 when a survey vessel was again given his name. Tydeman's Navy career, lasting from 1873 until 1915, was faultless, and was concluded as a vice-admiral. Acda follows this career, situating it in an exhaustive and instructive sketch of the Navy world and culture. Thus, he also looks at the Navy organization, and the distinguishing features of the corps of officers. Tydeman, in accordance with Navy customs, served five terms in the Indies, for a total of eleven years. What made Tydeman a special officer worth a biography was his lifelong interest in natural

sciences. He volunteered to become involved in the hydrological mapping of Dutch seas and coasts, in the Netherlands and the Indies colony. This interest also made him the obvious choice to become captain of the Navy ship 'Siboga' which was sent on an expedition to East Indonesia to explore the deep seas (1900–1901). Only in 1929–1930 was a similar expedition organized, with the Navy ship 'Willibrord Snellius.' Both were the unique result of cooperation between the Navy, the national and colonial governments, and the scholarly world, achieved only after lengthy discussions regarding competencies and finance. The 'Siboga' expedition was a great success. Its results were made public in 150 publications, the last one of which dates from 1987! The expedition conducted hydrological dredgings, too—also to justify the Navy support—about which Tydeman wrote extensive reports. Acda details all this, and also points out the function of the Navy activities (for instance, relating to lighthouses and beacons) to underline Dutch colonial authority, vis-à-vis the colonial subjects and competing imperialist powers, greedily looking at the Dutch colony. Showing the flag also falls within this sphere. Late in his career, in 1909, Tydeman thus commanded a three-month visit to the Philippines, China, and Japan. The cooperation with scientists also had a favorable effect on the image of the Navy in Dutch society. One of his last official duties involved the membership of a prestigious committee, commissioned to write a report about the future policies concerning the role of the Navy in the Indies. After his retirement, Tydeman fulfilled a great number of voluntary assignments, as well as advising and writing on his favorite subjects in the field of applied science. Acda's study is an admirable effort, based on wide knowledge and personal experience, and a substantial addition to Dutch Navy history, as is also acknowledged by its publication under the auspices of the Netherlands Military History Institute. Along with the study of Wille (see above), the cooperation between the colonial government, Navy, and world of science is thus extensively documented and analyzed.

Marleen van den Berg and George Harinck (eds), *Voor de geest en het moreel van de troepen: De kerken en de oorlog in Indonesië, 1945–1950*. Hilversum: Verloren, 2018, 237 pp. ISBN: 9789087047221, price: EUR 25.00 (paperback).

This collection of essays is the result of a joint effort of research institutes, with a special focus on Protestants and Catholics in Indonesia. In a one-day seminar at the Free University Amsterdam in November 2016, nine lectures were presented. Next, the editors asked three more scholars for a contribution, which they indeed submitted. One, by Bart Wallet, on the Jewish chaplains,

or rather religious counsellors, falls outside the scope of this collection when judged strictly, but is welcome as a pioneer sketch of the Jewish presence in Indonesia. Thus remain eleven essays, seven on Protestant, three on Catholic activities, and one by Gert Oostindie, introducing, summarizing, and concluding the collection. According to him, the central question to be answered is: What role did religion, and in particular its religious spokesmen play in the discussions and practical actions concerning war crimes? Specific answers are not always given. In general the complex questions concerning the functioning of chaplains are made clear, as well as the pressure put on them by the home front and the Dutch army wherein they acted. Jan Bank discusses the special position of the Jesuits, of whom quite a number were indigenous, and whose attitudes were ultimately dictated by the superiors of the order in Rome. Theo van Emstede, a Dutch official in Sulawesi, was active in the reconstitution of a Catholic Party. Tjalling Bouma describes his efforts in this respect, which were not altogether successful. Vefie Poels gives a survey of the difficult position Catholic missionaries and chaplains found themselves in, pressured from many sides. However, she slips in the chronology, as the Peremesta movement she refers to dates from the 1950s. The Protestant chaplains had to cope with a lot of conflicting positions as to their roles. The home front in general was conservative, but more liberal opinions were voiced by missionaries and clergymen in Indonesia, partly also prompted by their relations with Indonesian protestants. But the strict legalism of the Dutch churches prevailed, and as a consequence attention for war crimes was minor, and the rare cases that became public were covered up. The essays included deal with the activities of Dutch protestant progressives in Indonesia (by Hans van de Wal), with one of the rare cases of public discussion on Dutch war crimes instigated by Reverend H. Hildering (Marleen van den Berg) and with the specific role of chaplains on the front lines (Scott Kannekens). Christiaan Harinck and Bart Lutikhuis deal with the military spiritual care and the possible ecumenical developments the emergency circumstances caused, to the chagrin of the home churches. George Harinck details the activities of the newly constituted—in 1944—Gereformeerde Kerken (Vrijgemaakt), based on conservative and strict opinions. Of a more progressive mindset were the baptists, with their support of conscientious objectors (Alle Hoekema) and the protestant working group, part of the Partij van de Arbeid (Herman Noordegraaf). This results in a heterogeneous, and solidly researched collection, with lots of interesting information, leaving room for more to come, and pointing to new research subjects.

Harry A. Poeze, *Dominee Jac. Jonker, Job Sytzen en de soldaat in Indië*. Hilversum: Verloren, 2019, 119 pp. ISBN: 9789087047672, price: EUR 15.00 (paperback).

For obvious reasons I do not include a review of this book. A translation of the back cover gives some information on its contents.

In the 1950s Job Sytzen's fictional trilogy, *Soldaat—Ravijn—Landgenoten* about the experiences of Dutch soldiers in the decolonization war in Indonesia was an unprecedented sales success. About 200,000 copies were sold. This popularity may be explained by the 'realistic' depiction of the daily soldier's life, including erotic episodes. Job Sytzen was the pseudonym of the orthodox protestant Reverend Jac. Jonker (1904–1973), who was posted as a chaplain in Semarang from 1946 until 1948. Until long after his death this was only known in a small circle. Harry Poeze follows the life story of Jac. Jonker, with an emphasis on his years in Indonesia and related themes. He also goes deep into the mystifications Jonker created to protect his true identity. The book ends with a review of other fictional titles published in the 1950s on the soldier's fate in the Indies.

Annelies Oldeman, *Denken aan Bandoeng*. Soesterberg: Aspekt, 2018, 274 pp. ISBN: 9789463384995, price: EUR 19.95 (paperback).

Annelies Oldeman (1934) tells about the Indies experiences of three generations of her family. She bases herself on the written memoirs of her grandfather and father, a great number of letters sent by family members from the Indies, and her own memories as a child in the Japanese internment camps and during the unruly period after Japan's surrender, written down many decades after the events. Oldeman has chosen to adapt these texts and introduce fictional elements to make her book more accessible to a contemporary audience—as is becoming more in vogue now. For those interested in the basic text this is a pity. Oldeman does not answer questions as to what parts have been omitted and why. This is especially regrettable regarding the memoirs her grandfather H.P.G. Duyfjes (1878–1970), whose shining career brought him ultimately to the highest ranks in the Indies. He served as an attorney general (1926–1928) and member of the Raad van Indië, the advisory body of the governor general. In 1930 he returned to the Netherlands and was a Professor of Law in Leiden. In the book there is only scant information on the Duyfjes' years among the Batavia elite. Oldeman does not give detailed information nor explain this omission. Did the memoirs not include these years? If they did, this is potentially a source of great interest. Oldeman's father, Lex Oldeman (d. 1989) was

an engineer whose successful career for the most part was with the Sumatra Railways, and based in Lahat. In 1942 when Japan occupied Indonesia he was interned, after a year of relative freedom in Bandung. His wife and four children barely managed to survive in Banyubiru, suffering from lack of food and illnesses. Their ordeal did not end when Japan surrendered. For many more months their situation remained precarious, now under attack from Indonesian military units, fighting for Indonesian independence. The story of war and revolution is told by Oldeman, as experienced by a child, without drama and in a factual way, which makes it all the more impressive and convincing.

Bakker, Felix C., *Het zwijgen verbroken: Memoires van een oorlogsveteraan*. Edited by Lody Pieters. Zwiggelte: Bakker, 2018, 161 pp. ISBN: 9789082990607, price: EUR 17.50 (to order from pieters.lody@gmail.com) (paperback).

Born in 1925 to a Dutch father and Indo-Chinese mother, Felix Bakker was raised in a Sukabumi orphanage. At age 15, he signed up to become a marine and moved to Surabaya to be trained. He was involved in the unsuccessful resistance against the Japanese invaders in 1942, and interned as a prisoner of war. In January 1943 he was shipped to Singapore to become a forced laborer in the construction of the notorious Burma Railway. He survived this ordeal, and was liberated in August 1945. Moving to Bangkok, he was recruited again by the Dutch Marine Corps, and after three months training deployed back in Indonesia, in Bali and East Java, as a member of the Marine Brigade. He went to the Netherlands in 1948, and was an official in the Navy Intelligence Service, until his retirement in 1975. Gradually Bakker became more interested in the turbulent developments he had witnessed and taken part in. In about 2000 he started writing on his experiences, delivered speeches, and became a promoter of public commemorations. He sought contact with the former opponents, and was active in visits to primary and secondary schools to make the pupils aware of the past. His scattered biographical publications have now been edited and organized to become a coherent story of a remarkable decade (1940–1950) in his life story. This is supplemented by a 20-page enumeration of Bakker's activities as an indefatigable proponent of reconciliation.

Boeijen, J.D. van, *Zij werden geroepen: Het Indiëmonument in Andelst: De zes militairen uit de voormalige gemeente Valburg die niet terugkeerden uit Nederlands-Indië*. Helmond: Van Boeijen, 2018, 463 pp. ISBN: 9789081392907, price: EUR 49.95 (to order from janvanboeijen@onsbrabantnet.nl) (hardback).

In 2009, Jan van Boeijen published a big-format voluminous monograph on the Battalion, part of the 7 December Division, in which his uncle and namesake Jan van Boeijen served in a doomed effort of the Netherlands to resume its control after the Japanese occupation. His uncle died of illness in January 1948. *De jongens van 'Toedjoe Poeloe Doea.' Herinneringsalbum van het Bataljon 3-14 R.I.* is now followed by *Zij werden geroepen*, which employs another point of departure, which has lately become gradually more 'popular.' On the basis of their original place of residence, the military men who served in the Indies are followed through their Indies years, sometimes everyone, sometimes with a focus on the men who did not return, and died in action or as a result of illness. Jan van Boeijen began work in 2013 to compile a book that tells in great detail the life stories of the six soldiers, originating from the former community of Valburg, Gelderland Province, who did not survive the war between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic. Another 96 from Valburg did survive. In total, more than 200,000 military were deployed, of whom 6,200 died. In 1985 a monument was erected to remember the Valburg victims. Van Boeijens book erects another memorial. He tells about the war experiences of the sextet, who were part of the heavy fighting between the Germans and the Allies in 1944–1945, as is also described by Van Boeijen. On the basis of letters, diaries, and interviews, and supplemented by archival findings, the six are given contours, all embedded in extensive reporting on the deployment of the units they were part of. Thus a kaleidoscopic image is presented, with marines in action in East Java, involvement in the occupation of Yogyakarta in December 1948, and that of Banten in 1949. The 'afterlife' of the victims is also sketched, and the lasting impact of the loss, that will only disappear when the last veteran and family member has passed away. Author Van Boeijen has done a commendable job, which shows how curiosity, expertise, and perseverance may lead to the reconstruction of almost forgotten episodes. The book, in full color, contains hundreds of illustrations, mainly pictures, but also documents and objects like pins and emblems, which were largely confiscated from the Indonesian army.