Editorial

The early history of this journal dates back to the first decades of the nineteenth century. In Autumn 1823, two newly appointed Dutch professors travelled by a towed passenger boat through the center of the Netherlands. It was probably during that trip that they, N.C. Kist (1793–1859) from Leiden University and his nephew H.J. Royaards (1794–1854) from Utrecht University, forged their first plans to start a church history journal. In 1829, their initiative yielded a remarkable result: the establishment of the first scientific journal in the Netherlands, *Archief voor kerkelijke geschiedenis, inzonderheid van Nederland* [Archive for church history, especially of the Netherlands]. Inspired by a typical nineteenth-century passion for making available original sources, Kist in particular became one of the founding fathers of the Dutch historical school. Remarkably enough, Kist already realized that the concept of Christianity was a broader one than that of the Church.

Ever since its founding in 1829 the journal has been published every year with only a few interruptions, albeit starting with new numbering now and then. Perhaps to the dismay of many bibliographers, during its long history its name has occasionally been changed slightly as well.¹

One of these minor changes occurred as of the first volume of the current series. But even as this ‘volume 100’ might seem a bit arbitrary, it obviously is a remarkable landmark and it is with joy that we commemorate this milestone.

The current “new series” of journal volumes started in 1900, with volume one of the *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis*. The editors at the time were Hendrik Cornelius Rogge and Fredrik Pijper. The Remonstrant theologian Rogge (1831–1905), who was a professor of history at the University of Amsterdam from 1890 until his retirement in 1901, served from 1884 onwards as an editor of the *Archief voor Nederlandsche Kerkgeschiedenis* and subsequently the *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis*, until his death in 1905.² Fredrik

1 For a convenient survey of the different names up to 1929, see e.g. A. Eekhof, “De geschiedenis van het ‘Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis,’” *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis* 22 (1929), 153–198, there 153.

2 S.B.J. Zilverberg, “Rogge, Hendrik Cornelius,” *Biografisch Lexicon voor de Geschiedenis van het Nederlandse Protestantisme*, ed. D. Nauta et al., 6 vols. (Kampen, 1978–2006) (henceforth cited as *BLGNP*), 2: 379–381.

Pijper (1859–1926) was a former pupil of the church historian J.G.R. Acquoy and Acquoy's successor, from 1897, on the Chair of the History of Church and Dogma at Leiden University. He was the doctoral supervisor of several subsequent editors of our journal: J. Lindeboom,³ A. Eekhof,⁴ and J.N. Bakhuizen van den Brink.⁵ When the change in the journal's name was announced in 1900, Pijper had been an editor of the *Archief voor Nederlandsche Kerkgeschiedenis* for just a few years, having taken up this work in 1897.⁶

In 1900, when they started a new series of volumes under a new title, Rogge and Pijper wrote a brief preface explaining the change that they intended. The English text of the preface given here is a slightly modified version of the translation made by Tessel Jonquière, acquisitions editor with Brill, which she kindly permitted us to use:⁷

[1] A Word in Advance

The name of our journal underwent a small change. Since the year 1884, when the journal first appeared under editorship of J.G.R. Acquoy,⁸ Aem. W. Wybrands,⁹ and the first of the undersigned, its name was *Archief*

- 3 Johannes Lindeboom (1882–1958), who wrote under Pijper a dissertation on the theology of Erasmus (1909), was a professor of the history of Christianity and of Christian doctrines in Groningen from 1914–1952. He was an editor of the journal from 1912–1957. W.F. Dankbaar, "Lindeboom, Johannes," *BLGNP* 1: 120–123; A.L. Molendijk, "That Most Important Science: The Study of Church History in the Netherlands in the Nineteenth Century," *Dutch Review of Church History* 84 (2004), 358–387; A. Eekhof and J. Lindeboom, "Professor Dr. Fredrik Pijper," *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis* 19 (1926), 1–2.
- 4 Albert Eekhof (1884–1933), who wrote under Pijper's guidance a dissertation on the indulgences in the northern Low Countries (1909), became extraordinary professor of the history of Reformed Protestantism in Leiden in 1914, and ordinary professor in the history of Christianity in Leiden from 1924–1933. He was an editor of the journal from 1912–1933. A. de Groot, "Eekhof, Albert," *BLGNP* 1: 74–76; Molendijk, "Most Important Science" (see above, n. 3); Eekhof/Lindeboom, "Pijper" (see above, n. 3).
- 5 Jan Nicolaas Bakhuizen van den Brink (1896–1987), who wrote under Pijper a dissertation on the Early Christian monuments in Ephesus, was professor of the history of Christianity and of Christian doctrines in Leiden from 1934–1966. He served as an editor of the journal from 1936–1976. G.H.M. Posthumus Meyjes, "Bakhuizen van den Brink, Jan Nicolaas," *BLGNP* 5: 30–33; W. Janse, "A Century of Historiography: The *Nederlands Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis*, 1900–2000," *CHRC* 90 (2010), 651–674, there 664.
- 6 S.B.J. Zilverberg, "Pijper, Fredrik," *BLGNP* 1: 268–269.
- 7 The Dutch text was published in *Nederlandsch Archief voor Kerkgeschiedenis* 1 (1900), 1–2.
- 8 J.G.R. Acquoy (1829–1896) was a professor of the history of Christianity at Leiden University from 1881–1896, a distant successor of N.C. Kist. D. Nauta, "Acquoy, Johannes Gerhardus Rijk," *BLGNP* 2: 11–13.
- 9 A.M. Wybrands (1838–1886), Mennonite minister and church historian. S.B.J. Zilverberg, "Wybrands, Aemilius Willem," *BLGNP* 1: 437–439.

voor Nederlandsche kerkgeschiedenis [Archive for Dutch Church History]. From now on the title will be: *Nederlandsch archief voor kerkgeschiedenis* [Dutch Archive for Church History]. What is the difference? The former title intended to stay within the borders of our fatherland. The second title means that the reader may expect to be placed outside our borders from time to time.

Our circle of contributors will be wider. For the church history of the Netherlands we desire to keep doing what we have been doing so far. The large interest in our own religious and ecclesiastical past, especially aroused so powerfully by Moll¹⁰ and kept alive by Acquoy and others, will continue to encourage multifaceted research. To all who wish to serve in this field of scholarly research we will eagerly offer space. But we have come to realize that there is no longer sufficient reason to exclude the fruits of historical research on a wider scale. Besides, in doing this our journal only returns to what it was at its very origin, when in the year 1829 it was baptized by the first editors |2| Kist and Royaards: “Archief voor kerkelijke geschiedenis, inzonderheid van Nederland” [Archive for Church History, especially of the Netherlands].

We have asked ourselves the question if it were necessary to replace the word ‘church history’ in the title with ‘history of Christianity.’ Had the journal been founded from scratch, we would have preferred the latter. But since it has been known as an Archive for ‘Church History’ for over seventy years, we did not feel to have the freedom to make the intended change.

Diversity is appealing. May the larger diversity in subjects which we envisage be more attractive to our readers and also expand their numbers.

Amsterdam
Leiden

H.C. ROGGE
F. PIJPER

Since Rogge and Pijper wanted the journal to accommodate research on non-Dutch topics, the existing title with its reference to “Dutch Church History” was an obvious formal barrier that needed to be removed. Nonetheless, the national emphasis continued to remain strong in subsequent years. As Wim Janse has shown in an analysis of the journal’s history from 1900 to 2000: “the journal’s

10 W. Moll (1812–1879), professor of church history at the Athenaeum Illustre and the University of Amsterdam from 1846–1879. Acquoy, Wybrands, and H.C. Rogge were among his students. S.B.J. Zilverberg, “Moll, Willem,” *BLGNP* 1: 188–190.

focus was on national Dutch church history; the main object of attention was the late Middle Ages and the early modern period, most of all the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation.”¹¹ Dutch Church History—the journal’s crucial interest from the very beginning¹²—was also a central focus of Rogge’s and Pijper’s own academic work: Rogge contributed significantly to the study of the Dutch Remonstrants, especially those of the early seventeenth century, and Pijper was a major specialist of the early Reformation in the Low Countries.

Rogge and Pijper preferred the term “History of Christianity” to “Church History” as a designation of the discipline, but opted nonetheless for retaining the name that the journal had used from its inception. In taking this position, Rogge and Pijper repeated in fact the view of previous editor Acquoy. In his 1882 inaugural lecture, Acquoy had expressed his preference for the term “History of Christianity,” which was also the term used in the Dutch law of 1876 on Higher Education. Acquoy argued that Christianity preceded the Church, that the singular “Church” was ill suited to the actual plurality of denominations, and that the discipline needed to include the study of heresy as well. Nonetheless, Acquoy, too, was willing to retain the classical name of “Church History,” a term that he considered more convenient in everyday usage.¹³ The term has remained part of our journal’s title.

In 2020, when our journal is clearly international in scope and focused on the whole field of *Church History and Religious Culture* in a broad sense, we commemorate the beginnings of the “new,” and still current, series with respect and gratitude.

Jan Wim Buisman, Aza Goudriaan and R. Ward Holder

¹¹ Janse, “A Century of Historiography” (see above, n. 5), 651.

¹² Cf. Molendijk, “Most Important Science” (see above, n. 3), 364.

¹³ Ibid., 383–384. J.G.R. Acquoy, *Kerkgeschiedenis en geschiedenis van het christendom* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1882).