AMERICANISM IN HOLLAND

BY

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"There are no Americanists in Holland". So an American Professor, admittedly an able man, seems to have said in 1922 at Rio de Janeiro, in a discussion about the invitation to the Twentieth International Congress of Americanists, given at that city by the Netherlands Minister, dr. Th. Pleyte, to hold the next Congress in 1924 at the Hague.

We hope that this scientist will prove to be a much better man than his advice, that he will do us the favour to come over, to be present at the meeting, and to be convinced that he has not judged us well.

Every Dutchman is from his very first childhood an Americanist, we could retort, as he begins to stammer at least the first letter of "Americanism", as soon as he opens his mouth. But we have still better arguments. The preliminary programme of the session points out that an excursion to Leyden will take place, on Wednesday, August 13, afternoon, and there dr. F. C. Wieder, director of the Library of Leyden University, will show us ¹⁾ what has been done in the domain of American knowledge and civilization by our countrymen, here and in the American parts of our country, Surinam and Curaçao.

The first book that may strike us in the exposition, may well be, we presume, the magnificent work of Barlaeus, *Netherlands Brazil under the Government of John Maurice, Count of Nassau*, 1637—1644, historical, geographical, ethnographical, composed, according to the Latin edition of 1647, by S. P. l'Honoré Naber, 1923, 444 pages, on specially hand-made paper, with portrait of Maurits of Nassau (founder of the Mauritshuis, the national picture-gallery just near the Hall of the Knights at the Hague, where the Congress will take place), with 67 maps and plates,

¹⁾ The exposition could not take place.

large folio. „Only a translation”, Mr. Nurks might say. Well it is not exactly so; this history of the Dutch in Brazil is not only a copy from the Latin version, but augmented with unpublished documents and hitherto unknown maps.

Near to it we hope to see a work by dr. Wieder himself: *The voyage of Mahu and de Cordes through the Magalhães-strait to South-America and Japan*, 1598—1600, 3 volumes; volume I republishing the very rare journal, Original relation of the voyage through the Strait, of which only one complete copy is known, and the documents relating to the adventures of the explorers in S. A. and on Tidor, 1923, XVI, 318 p. with 22 plates and 3 maps, roy 8vo; volume II, Description of the Strait by Jan Outghers, 8 maps, 48 illustrations and a large tableau; volume III, the voyage of one ship to Japan, Index and Bibliography. The description is given of about 150 maps of the Strait of the 16th century and the tableau indicates clearly the great part the Dutch explorer Oliver van Noort (1600) took in the knowledge of the Strait.

These three volumes (the last one will be published in the course of this year) form volumes XXI and XXII of the Publications of the „Linschoten-Vereeniging”. This society is of the same character as the Hakluyt-Society and publishes, since 1909, a series of old Dutch voyages, all annotated by competent men ¹⁾.

We need not say that this stately row of volumes has relation to America, we may mention for exemple *May's Voyage to the American Coast*, 1611—1612 (S. Muller, 1909), *Henry Hudson in Holland* (H. C. Murphy, Wouter Nijhoff, 1909), *Voyage by de Vries* (dr. H. F. Colenbrander, 1911), *Pomp's voyage to and sojourn in South-America* (dr. J. W. IJzerman ²⁾, 1915, *Hudson's voyage under Dutch flag from Amsterdam to Nova Zembla and America* (S. P. L'Honoré Naber, 1921).

We have named the two American possessions of the Netherlands. Have they been explored by Dutch enterprise and energy, by men of the mother-country and the colonies? Yes, indeed, it is so.

K. Martin on his voyages in 1885 and 1886 laid the foundation of our knowledge of the geological formation of Surinam and Cu-

¹⁾ These particulars are derived from a list and description made by the publisher, fa. M. Nyhoff, the Hague. Mr. W. Nyhoff is himself the secretary of the „Linschoten-Vereeniging”.

²⁾ Member of the 21st Int. Congr. of Am. at the Hague.

ração. Dr. H. ten Kate ¹⁾ made in the same years his explorations (anthropological, ethnographical and zoölogical) in British Guiana and in Surinam (and he published in 1885 his *Voyages and Researches in North-America* (464 p. and an addition, 14 p. in 1889). In 1898 however there was still a large part of Surinam unknown. The expeditions of dr. H. van Cappel and especially the series sent out by the „Vereeniging voor Suriname”, the Company for research of the Neth. Colonies, and the Royal Geographical Society, unveiled the mysterious parts by scientific excursions, which began in 1901 and ended in 1911, the last expedition costing the life of the Leader, naval Lieut. Eilerts de Haan. Not only the narratives and reports of all those expeditions in the Review of the Geogr. Society, but also different works which proceeded in relation to them, will probably be shown in our small exposition. The special attention of ethnologists is merited by Mr. C. H. de Goeje ²⁾'s publications as: *Beiträge zur Völkerkunde von Surinam*, Int. Arch. f. Ethn. 1908, offered as a present to the Americanists at Vienna, (at the same time with dr. Schmeltz' *Mitteilungen aus dem N. Reichsmuseum f. Völk.*, *Beiträge zur Anthropol. Ethnogr. und Archaeol. of the N. West-Indies*, 1904), and his excellent, *Etudes Linguistiques Caraïbes* (1910). Great charts of Surinam and Curaçao, recently made, will exhibit the result of the *topographical surveys* in both colonies.

Mr. Polak, Government-surveyor in Surinam, published a book about *the history of Surinam gold-digging*; in 1908 the mining-engineer Middelberg, Government-Director of the Geological survey of a part of Surinam, gave his *Geological and Technical notes* on the same industry. The brothers Penard wrote about the same time their works on the *Birds of Guiana* and on Surinam Indians; Pater C. van Coll on the last subject. Meteorological and (deep-) sea observations were noted about the same years, and geological researches were extended by Mr. Duyfjes, mining-engineer, to Curaçao. Dr. Boeke gave two important and very interesting reports on fishery and sea-products in Curaçao; Mr. Hamelberg wrote on the history of Curaçao. On botany were published e. g. dr. Pulle's *Pocket-flora for Surinam*, and his *Enumeration of vascular plants*, Plasschaert's *Forstbetrieb in Surinam*, dr. Boldingh's *Flora of the Dutch W. Indian Islands*; the *Recueil*

¹⁾ Member of the 21st Int. Congr. of Am. at the Hague, but actually residing in Italy. He has continued to this time to publish articles relating to America.

²⁾ Member of the 21st Am. Congr. of A. at the Hague.

des travaux botaniques néerlandais will prove that many species unknown in Surinam and even quite new to science in general have been discovered in this century, partly as a result of the financial aid given by the van Eeden-fonds (fund).

We may quote still on the dominion of zoölogy, the excursions of Jonkheer van Heurn; on that of medicine, the studies of Prof. Flu on malaria and filariose.

Our attention may now be caught by the *Encyclopaedia of the Netherlands West-Indies* 1914—1917, edited by dr. H. D. Benjamins ¹⁾ and Mr. Snelleman, who found nearly eighty persons as cooperators, for this volume in roy. 8vo. containing 782 p. in two columns in small print and 3 maps. That this book could be published in such difficult times unfit for quiet work, is a remarkable fact. The book contains all information known at that time about both colonies and we may say that the *West-Indische Gids*, with its six volumes is the continuation of the *Encyclopaedia*. A glance at the „Contents” of this last publication will show that the review is also a contribution to history, geography, ethnology, archeology and medicine of a part of the New-World viz, Surinam and Curaçao.

Leaving now the American part of our country aside, we wish to point out that, after the death of dr. Schmeltz in 1909, the task of reviewing works on American ethnology was energetically taken up by its chief editor, Prof. Nieuwenhuis ¹⁾ who received about the same time very valuable help from two other scientists, Prof. Uhlenbeck ¹⁾ and Prof. de Josselin de Jong ¹⁾. It is by the work of these three ethnologists that this International Review may be proud of having carefully announced and amply criticized a great many works on American Ethnology. In the year 1922 (volume XXIV), which was a record year, we find not less than forty articles concerning such works, moreover studies by Prof. de Josselin de Jong on the *Praecolumbian and Early Postcolumbian Aboriginal Population of Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire*, and on *A new ethnological method*. Having collected in the summer of 1910 information about the Blackfoot Indians on the spot, both the last named scientists were able to publish between 1910 and 1917 an astounding number of communications in the Proceedings of the Royal Academy of Sciences. („Verslagen en Mededeelingen”,

¹⁾ Member of the 21st A. C. at the Hague. Prof. Uhlenbeck had already published in 1912 a comparative morphology of the Eskimo-languages. 1908.

en „Handelingen” of said Academy). We name e. g. *Comparative morphology of some Algonquin-languages* 1910 ; *Original Blackfoot texts from the South Peigan Blackfoot Reservation* 1911 ; Item, New series 1913, *Some aspects of Bl. morphology* 1914, *Grammatical distinctions in Algonquin, principally demonstrated on the Otchipwe-dialect* 1911, *Names of families and persons among the Peigans* 1912, *The conjunctive-like modi of Blackfoot* 1914, *Flexion of substantives in B.* 1914, *The passive character of the verbum transitionum or the verbum actionis in languages of North-America* 1917, *A survey of the nonpronominal and non-formative affixes of the Bl. verb., a contribution to the knowledge of Algonquian word-formation*, 1920, all by Prof. Uhlenbeck, and *Blackfoot texts* by Prof. d. J. d. J. In 1913 the last named published a study about. *The difference of the appreciation of the words „living” and „lifeless” in Indo-Germanic, compared with the same phenomenon in a few Algonquin languages*, and in 1922 *The Cowade*, with many references to America, and he went last year on an expedition for archeological research in the Antilles, together with dr. Gudmund Hatt of Denmark.

We find in our notes, that the *Journal of the Geographical Society*, as well as that for *Economic Geography*, have special columns for America, that dr. Blink wrote in the last review extensive articles e. g. on *The Economic Geography of the U. S. A.* (1915), and on *The Pacific Ocean and surrounding countries* 1922; that Mr. de Leeuw published a book on *Brazil* in 1909, that Mr. Sibenga Mulder gave articles on the *Panama-canal* and on *British Honduras* (1915). We put forward that Prof. Huizinga wrote his admirable *Men and Multitude* (in America), and in 1908, in „de Gids”, *An historical contrast in American history*, that he lectured in the Academy of Sciences on *Individualism and Association in American History*, and published in 1921, *Sense for Government and Knowledge of business-matters in America* ; we remember that the late dr. A. Kuyper, formerly Minister-President, and who had already in 1910 declared his readiness to accept the President-ship of the International Congress of Americanists, if it came here, published his „*Varia Americana*”, that one of his daughters writes books on the United States, that dr. te Lintum gave us a geographical and historical essay, that we got books from Mr. Knobel, and from Mr. Tutein Nolthenius on the land of Roosevelt, that Prof. de Vries and dr. Lotsy wrote their valuable books, more especially in the domain of American botany, that dr. Krauss ¹⁾, engineer, for-

¹⁾ Member of the 21st Am. Congr. of A. the Hague.

mer Minister of Waterstaat and several other Dutch engineers (e. g. ten mining eng. in Bolivia) made studies and worked or work still in one or both hemispheres, and we perceive that it is not easy to keep this little essay within narrow limits.

It may be possible that the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which has to govern, to study and to lead in Eastern Asia a dominion extending over a surface which would reach from the outer W. point of Ireland into Asia, with a population of more then 50 million souls has had to direct too much its attention to that part of the earth, and has not been able to spare time to observe what is going on in the New World. But we believe that our conclusion may be that it is not so, and that there is really such a thing as a spiritual relation with that New World, and perhaps also a little between our small old country and our very big nephew, who chose to have his stars and stripes embroidered and shining on the red white blue of the Netherlands flag.

The Hague, 1924.