Leiden booksellers - Leiden politics: Jan Jansz Orlers and Joost van Colster in 1618

In 1988 Dr Bert van Selm published his article on Orlers which, while concentrating on the auction of his stock in 1623, also provides such data on his life and work as were available to a scholar whose thoroughness is not to be disputed. Yet surprises can never be ruled out and a recent stroke of serendipity has now brought more information to light.

I had long been intrigued by the woodcut device employed on the title-page of a pamphlet of 1618, the *Cort verhael vande Ontschutteringe, gedaen aan eenige vrome ende gequalificeerde Borgers, binnen de Stadt Leyden, etc.* (illus. 1), which in its motto repeats the legend used for one of the emblematic engravings found in various states on the title-pages of a political pamphlet of 1598. The main character of the relevant image, both in 1598 and in 1618, is the Dutch Lion. In the earlier pamphlet he belongs to a contrasted pair
CORT VERHAEL
VANDE ONTSCHUTTERINGE/gedaan aan eenige brome ende gequalifi-
c eerde Bozgers/ binnen de Stade Leiden/ en van de
Procedureen aan sommighe van de Ontscherdergaengheste.

Ghelijkek het selve, by maniere van Remonstrantie, aende Ed
Mog. Heeren Staten van Hollandt ene VVest-Vrieslant, in der
selver vergaderinge is gepresenteert gheweest:
Ende met de Authentijcke slucken bevesticht.

Dienende tot Inlifificatie van de selve Schutters/ en die
noodighe onderrechtighhe van allerley personen/
hooghes ende leeges Stanths.

VVaar by oock is ghevoecht een kleyn verhael van sommighe
insolentien, by de Wercgelders aldaer ghepleeght.

GHE D R V C K T
By 't rechte voorstant van Oragnien;
Eer teghenstant van Spagnien. Ao. 1618.

1. Title-page of the Cort verhael (1618), reproduced from the copy at Amsterdam University Library