Once more the manuscripts of Stein monastery and the copyists of the Erasmiana manuscripts

In a contribution to this journal in 1988 I dealt with the two Erasmiana manuscripts at Gouda (Gouda, Streekarchief Hollands Midden [Regional Archives of Central Holland] (henceforth SAHM), Librije coll. 1323 and 1324.1 MS 1323 was written by two copyists at two quite different times. One copyist (called A) wrote the first 60 leaves around 1590; the other copyist (B) wrote the remaining 121 leaves in about 1590. MS 1324 has entirely been written bij copyist A in about 1524.

The hitherto hypothetical localisation of both manuscripts could be determined with the help of a diurnale preserved in the Royal Library, The Hague (MS 71 J 67). This manuscript contains some additions in hand A. Since the diurnale is explicitly localised we now know that copyist A lived and worked in the monastery of Stein.2

Because of the dating, the identification of the writer as a monk of Stein and a slight similarity in the handwriting I cautiously suggested that copyist A might be identifiable as Erasmus’s friend Servatius Rogerius.3 This was how matters stood in 1988. Not long ago Dr K. Goudriaan has published new evidence on these and other Stein manuscripts, again in this journal.4 Among other things he there expresses his doubt about the identification of A with Servatius.5 I can now state that these doubts are indeed well founded.

For my research into institutional book ownership at Gouda (up to 1645) I have for some time been collecting data on manuscripts and printed books with a Gouda provenance. I also count Stein among the monasteries of Gouda. The hamlet of Stein in which the monastery was situated and from which it took its name came at least in part under the jurisdiction of the town of Gouda.6 In his article (which, by the way, is excellent) Goudriaan provides

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3 Klein, art. cit. (n. 1), p. 93.


a list of manuscripts which belonged to, or are attributed to, the library of the monastery.\(^7\) This list (of 15 items in all) requires however some revision. The numeration followed here agrees with that of Goudriaan:

To be corrected:

No. 8: Gouda, sahm. MS Librije 932:\(^8\) admittedly the necrology (fos. 129r.-138v.) is written mainly by Wouter Maas (in several stages), but earlier starts had been made by two other Stein fathers. The clearly recognisable hand of one of them is to be seen on the first leaf of the necrology (fo. 129r.). In my view it is the hand of Harmen Jacobsz Blij who also noted the death of Wouter Maas (on fo. 131r.: 27 February 1595).\(^9\) All the entries made by the other have been erased by Wouter Maas and replaced (presumably because the original copyist needed rather a lot of space for his reports: as far as can be judged the substituted texts of Wouter Maas are the same as the scratched out passages). The erased pieces of text were probably written by Cornelis Adriaensz Diephorst. At any rate, as the last surviving monk of Stein he noted Blij's death on 12 September 1599.

No. 10: Gouda, sahm. MS Librije 103: the two-volume Bible was given on loan to the monks of Stein by the Brothers of the Common Life. At Stein part of it was substituted.\(^10\) That it was a loan is proved by the lending inscription in both volumes: _Ad usum Regularium in Gouda._

No. 14: Another loan was probably a manuscript of the Rule of St Augustin which originally belonged to the Amsterdam convent of St Mary Magdalen, now preserved in Amsterdam Municipal Archives, St Jorishof (No. 369), No. 503A. According to Ypma this manuscript bore the inscription 'Regula sancti Augustini ad usum monasterii in de Stein prope Gaudam'.\(^11\) Although Goudriaan wants to reject this manuscript as the property of Stein I still want...

\(^{\text{7}}\) Goudriaan, art. cit. (n. 4), pp. 241-4. He makes no difference between 'book'-manuscripts and administrative manuscripts (his Nos. 4, 5, 7 and 9). In my own investigation I leave the purely administrative manuscripts out of consideration.

\(^{\text{8}}\) Observe the arrangement: Gouda, sahm, MS Librije 932, and not Gouda, sahm, Librije MS 932, as printed books and manuscripts are not separately numbered.

\(^{\text{9}}\) Blij’s hand is also known from a signature under an (unnumbered) item in Gouda, sahm, O.A., inv. No. 689.
