

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2019-2020

President: Sir Michael Perry GBE

Vice-President: The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Hon. Newsletter Editor: Mr Hans Neher

Chairman: Mr Dick van den Broek

Administrator: Mrs Carine Williams



The subject of the 2020 Unilever Lecture will be the international version of Dutch hit musical *Soldaat van Oranje*, which premiered October 2010 in the 'theater hangaar' at decommissioned Valkenburg naval air station. The UK production is expected to open in autumn 2020. Eric Hazelhoff Roelfzema's book, published in 1970 as 'Cave of the Rattlesnake', was republished the following year as 'Soldaat van Oranje'. Paul Verhoeven created the film version in 1977 with Rutger Hauer playing Erik Lanshoff, a character modelled on the resistance hero.

Forthcoming Events

Waiting list : "Top Secret – From Ciphers to Cyber Security"

Announcement was sent by e-mail, closing date was 2 January. The event is oversubscribed.

Thursday 16 January at 2pm, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD, preceded by an optional lunch.

Waiting list: visit to "Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh"

Announcement was sent by e-mail, closing date was 20 November. The event is oversubscribed.

Thursday 6 February at 2pm, Saatchi Gallery, London SW3 4RY, preceded by an optional lunch.

Centenary Reception

Our long-awaited very special event! Members are requested to indicate their interest to attend, as soon as possible, see page 2 for details.

Tuesday 17 March at 6 or 6.30pm, location t.b.a.

Unilever Lecture

Guest speaker will be Jeremy Brock, screenwriter, playwright and film director for UK version of long-running Dutch musical 'Soldaat van Oranje'. Thursday 16 April at 6 for 6.30pm, 'Unilever House'.

Newsletter by e-mail?

Please let us know if you'd be interested

A number of Members have expressed a preference to receive our quarterly newsletter via e-mail. If you would like to follow this route, please advise and make sure we have an up-to-date e-mail address for you.

Carine Williams, Administrator

New Members

We welcome:

Ms Marlies van den B
Mr Adam H
Viscount H (Robin) and
Viscountess H (Louisa)
Dr Paul K and
Mrs Kathryn K

Mr Mark K and
Mrs Marleen K - B
Mr Andrew MacT and
Mrs Anneke MacT
Mr Peter M
Mr Dick P and

Mrs Meritha P - van V
Mr Mark R and
Mrs Alexa R
Sir Stephen W and
Lady W (Abbey)
Mrs Elizabeth Y

Chairman's New Year Message for 2020

Incorporating main points from the Annual Report at our recent AGM

I hope that you have enjoyed some peaceful days during the Christmas period and are looking forward to a more settled year that has just started. Notwithstanding these somewhat turbulent times, our Society has continued with its many activities, with an increasing number of participants.

First I would like to thank our Honorary Editor, Hans Neher, for all his dedication and efforts to make our quarterly newsletter such a success. It is much appreciated by our members (and beyond) for its quality and content. Every quarter he has the challenging task of bringing together inputs from a wide range of sources and this against strict deadlines. He does this with considerable skill and professionalism and I can only hope that he will continue in this masterful role for many years to come. He is also keeping a close eye on our website where you can find old newsletters, details of future activities, and various application forms. Just use the Username and Password you will usually find on page 8 of the newsletter. Notwithstanding this, any suggestions to improve the user-friendliness or content of our website would be most welcome!

Secondly, I would like to record my sincere thanks to the members of our Events Committee, led by Connie Sangster. All are volunteers who are working hard to put together a programme of events which will offer a wide choice for our membership. They continue to make tremendous contributions in organising events, arranging reports on these, and being on stand-by for any last minute applications and cancellations. In spite of these excellent efforts, we would welcome any suggestions and offers of help. As we mentioned in our Autumn newsletter we are always looking for new volunteers, so please come forward.

Thirdly, our Advisory Committee met twice during 2019, providing much appreciated advice and input to Council's deliberations. This Committee represents various streams within the Society, both Patrons and individual members. At our recent AGM we thanked some longstanding members of this Committee who would be leaving us for all their contributions over the years, and welcomed new members who will no doubt bring new ideas for the activities of our Society.

Last but not least I would like to express my great thanks to our Administrator, Carine Williams, who diligently and with much enthusiasm worked her way through all the administrative intricacies and imperatives which come with a very active Society.

We organised 15 events for our members during 2019 with well over 500 participants, again more than in previous years. Quite often over-subscribed, some attracted large numbers, such as our annual Unilever Lecture (generously supported again by our Patron Unilever), and our now well-established annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club. An extensive schedule of events is being planned for 2020, our Centenary year. Celebrations started with a special private viewing of the Rembrandt's Light exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery at the end of October. More events will soon be upon us - see for a special Reception the article on this page. It is heartening that a Society formally established early in 1920 is still so active and actually growing in membership and activities.

The Anglo-Netherlands Awards to undergraduates in Dutch studies at Sheffield University and at UCL were successfully continued during 2019. This initiative is greatly appreciated by both students and faculties. Under the chairmanship of our Hon Secretary, Paul Dimond, the essays were judged by our Panel of volunteers. The winning essays were published in our Summer and Autumn newsletters. We will continue with this scheme during 2020 and are always looking for new judges.

A fair number of our members attended the AGM on November 25, but I would like to provide you all with some information which was reported to members present as part of the formal discussions:

- The financial health of the Society remains strong. There was again a surplus for the year with a pleasing increase in subscription income and costs being kept under control. This surplus is added to our Reserves. A Designated Reserve has already been set up for our Centenary events and for our Centenary book which we plan to present and offer to our Members at the Centenary Reception.

- Council has decided to keep subscription fees unchanged for the thirteenth year running. These fees cover our basic expenses, including those for the Administrator, newsletter printing and Awards. Events are charged separately, priced to cover costs and include a small contribution to administration costs.

- Individual membership numbers showed a healthy net increase of about 30 during 2019. I am pleased to report that a fair number of younger members joined the Society. A special event was organised in September to attract potential new members; several have joined the Society since. Our existing Patrons continue their substantial support in various ways. We offer a special thanks to H.E. the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands again who provided us with much appreciated hospitality at the Embassy.

- At our 2018 AGM I reported on a governance review which Council had undertaken during that year. As the present legal status was formally established in 2001, Council considered it appropriate to review the Aims and Object(ive)s of the Society (see back page newsletter) and the organisational structure to achieve these. It was felt that there was no obvious need to change our Aims and Object(ive)s, nor our organisational structure. However, some changes in operations, including a move to a variety of new communications with our Members, have started and further moves are under consideration.

Looking ahead:

New members will keep the Society vibrant, as it is now. There is always a natural attrition in membership. There are, however, many potential members around, including family members and friends with interests in Anglo-Netherlands matters. Please do not hesitate to extol our virtues when meeting them. Special subscription rates for younger members have been introduced which may be of particular interest to children of Members. We shall be happy to send a sample newsletter. There is also the possibility of the gift of membership, already being used by some members.

I would like to thank colleagues in Council for their great support and many contributions. We meet in Council, on average, every two months, but individually more often. All in high spirits with plenty of ideas. We took note, with great regret, that Jacqueline Tammenoms Bakker had expressed the wish to resign from Council on the grounds of her many other senior commitments. Her constantly wise contributions and involvement with Council deliberations have been of great value. We are very pleased that she has agreed to join the Advisory Committee.

Finally, whatever may be happening on the political front, our Society will remain non-party-political in its Aims and Objects. Our countries have been celebrating a unique bilateral relationship and broad-based likemindedness as North Sea neighbours for many years if not centuries. Many examples will be expanded on in our forthcoming Centenary Book.

On behalf of Council I would like to wish all members the best possible year ahead in health, safety and fulfilment, and thank them for their ongoing support of the Society.

Dick van den Broek, Chairman

Centenary Reception

Tuesday 17 March, location to be advised

Following the update in the autumn Newsletter, we can report that our preparation of the Centenary Book is now close to its final stage of printing. We plan to present the book at a special occasion, most likely at a Centenary Reception now being planned for Tuesday 17 March. This book will be available free of charge to Members (one copy per membership). More recently joined Members may like to know that this anthology of essays about what the Dutch and the British have done together since 1920 has been in preparation by our volunteers, assisted by some professionals, for some two years and is designed to appeal widely across our membership.

This will be a very special Reception which will be held at an appropriately prestigious venue in Central London, most likely starting at around 6pm. To assist us with the planning, including the size of venue (we have various options), we would like to obtain as soon as possible a good feel for the number of Members interested in attending. A form to indicate such interest is included with this newsletter, together with other application forms. Please return this form for the Centenary Reception quickly, to make sure a place can be reserved for you. By all means send it by e-mail if you can, addressed to administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk.

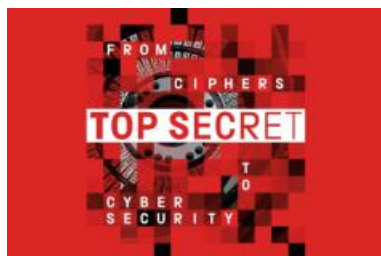
When details of the Reception are known we will contact Members, including an indication of a per capita contribution to the cost, which we shall keep as low as possible. Members would then still be able to withdraw their interest.

Top Secret, 100 years of codebreaking

Science Museum, curator-led tour, Thursday 16 January (waiting list)

For the first time the public will be given a glimpse into a secret history of amazing intelligence, world-leading innovation, and most of all brilliant people. The Top Secret – From Ciphers to Cyber Security exhibition, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen, marks the centenary of GCHQ, the UK's Intelligence, Security and Cyber agency which was first acknowledged in law in 1994. Through never-before-seen objects, interactive puzzles and first-person interviews, the exhibition explores the challenges of maintaining digital security in the 21st century and the unique technologies used throughout the history of one of the UK's intelligence agencies.

Among over 100 objects in the exhibition, that reveal fascinating stories of communications intelligence and cyber security from the last century,



Our curator-led tour (which was initially announced by e-mail) is already fully booked, but please contact the office for last-minute cancellations.

are cipher machines used during the Second World War, secure telephones of the type used by British Prime Ministers and an encryption key used by Her Majesty The Queen. Explore the story of Alan Turing and the team of Bletchley Park codebreakers who broke the Enigma code in 1941.

Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh

Saatchi Gallery, Thursday 6 February (waiting list)

In this exhibition, put on to celebrate 100 years of the discovery of Tutankhamun, more than 150 original artefacts from the pharaoh's tomb are on display, including a golden canopic coffinet, which held the king's internal organs, and his wishing cup, which was carved from a single piece of translucent alabaster and engraved with a wish for eternal life. What is so impressive in the exhibition is the incredible craftsmanship by Egypt's top artists of more than 3,300 years ago, who created all the equipment the young pharaoh, who was only 19 when he died, would need in the afterlife; from exquisite translucent bowls, jewellery of unbelievable precision and beauty, model boats, beetles and sandals to rough-hewn boxes to contain food for his afterlife voyage and masterpieces like the gilded wooden statue shrine.



Our visit on 6 February (which was initially announced by e-mail) is already fully booked, but if you would like your name to be added to the waiting list, please contact the office.

Please, update your e-mail address for example to announce late-breaking events and late changes

Recently we have had to announce new events at fairly short notice, therefore having to use your e-mail address as recorded in our Data Base. Unfortunately, quite a few "rejects" were received which may have resulted in your having missed out on certain events. We cannot justify sending these messages via the Royal Mail as this is costly in view of our large membership and would still be rather slow.

We would therefore be most grateful if you would reconfirm your e-mail address or advise us of any new e-mail address. Just send it to: administrator@anglo-netherlands.org.uk *Carine Williams, Administrator*

"Soldier of Orange" for a British audience

Unilever Lecture by Jeremy Brock on Thursday 16 April, at 6 for 6.30pm

When we approached Jeremy Brock to be our guest speaker at the Unilever Lecture in 2020, he positively responded by writing the following:

"Back in 2014, I and my UK agent were invited to attend a performance of the Netherlands most successful musical, SOLDIER OF ORANGE – the story of the



Second World War, Dutch Freedom Fighter, Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema.

The idea was that I might become involved in helping take the show to London and beyond.

Nothing I had ever seen before had prepared me for the 360 degree, immersive experience of watching this show. Its impact on the Dutch audience was immediate and visceral. By the final curtain, every single member of the audience was on their feet and applauding like their life depended on it! I could see, immediately, why SOLDIER OF ORANGE was such a huge hit. No show I have ever seen is as daring, as bold and as multi-dimensional as this one. Theu Boerman's visionary direction has created an entertainment that defies easy description – part musical, part play, part history lesson, part celebration, part expiation, it includes real

boats on real water, real sand dunes, real motorbikes, real aeroplanes and a son-et-lumière of dance and music that envelopes its audience in a non-stop aural-visual feast.

In my lecture I will discuss the challenges of re-framing this amazing story for an international audience. I will look at the broad, cultural differences that make SOLDIER OF ORANGE so unique and I will home in on some of the more script-specific tests that the Dutch language and its argot throw up for a UK audience.

Every Dutch person I have ever met, young or old, knows the story of Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema. All the historical references in the show are automatically understood by Dutch audiences, such as the Netherlands five day



invasion by the Germans and the relationship between Erik with their redoubtable Queen Wilhelmina. An international audience knows none of these details.

As the international writer, my task was to home in on the universality of SOLDIER's central themes. At its heart, this show is about a group of young people faced with critical choices: to fight and risk their lives for their country or to give in to fear and loathing. Erik

and his friends are examples of the struggle every young person faces when asked to make such crucial choices. These elements of the story became my way into a version that could speak to audiences anywhere in the world. I had the added advantage of a wonderful mother-son relationship between Erik Hazelhoff Roelfzema and Queen Wilhelmina. The story of their bond, tested in the heat of battle and resolved by her letting him go, is universal story of all mothers and sons in wartime." *Jeremy Brock*

Jeremy Brock is a multi-BAFTA award winning English screenwriter and director, whose credits include MRS BROWN, CHARLOTTE GRAY, BRIDESHEAD REVISITED, DRIVING LESSONS, I AM SLAVE, THE EAGLE, and HOW I LIVE NOW.

Jeremy co-wrote the screenplay for THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND, adapted from the novel by Giles Foden. Winner of the 2007 BAFTA for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best British Film, it also won the BIFA for Best Independent Film 2006. In 2014 Jeremy was commissioned to write the English Stage version of the Dutch hit musical, SOLDIER OF ORANGE.



Rembrandt's Light at the Dulwich Picture Gallery

Report by Ludolph van Hasselt on the Reception, Curator's talk and Private evening viewing on Thursday 24 October

What a way to start the centenary celebrations of our Anglo-Netherlands Society! What an exclusive visit to the "Rembrandt's Light" exhibition, a landmark exhibition celebrating Rembrandt 350 years since his death! What a treat!

We all know Rembrandt, don't we; his iconic works, the self-portraits, the many drawing and etchings. We know how he uses light to enhance the stories he tells, strengthen our experience and pulls us in. What the Dulwich Picture Gallery has done is to focus on this aspect of light through the choice of works on display (brought together from many museums and galleries, including the Queen's Collection, the Rijksmuseum, and The National Gallery) and through a unique way of presenting these works.

This special experience, a private viewing led by curator Jennifer Scott (Sackler Director of the gallery since 2017) and the drinks reception before and after, was made possible with the generous support of Johnny van Haeften, a Trustee of the Dulwich Private Gallery and a member of our Society.

If this exhibition were simply a show of paintings, etchings and sketches it would still be a must-see. But what this show demonstrates is one of the most striking aspects of Rembrandt's art: his use of light to convey emotion, drama, mood. Arranged thematically, Rembrandt's Light takes us on a journey from high drama and theatricality to the contemplative and spiritual, showcasing his use of light.



Rembrandt van Rijn, The Denial of St Peter, 1660. © The Rijksmuseum

The exhibition focuses on the period from 1639–1658, when he lived in his ideal house at Jodenbreestraat in the heart of Amsterdam (today the Museum Het Rembrandthuis). This was arguably his most productive period. Jennifer gave us an extensive introduction and explanation to the exhibition. She did so in a highly engaging and very enthusiastic fashion so that we were fully prepared to look out for the various aspects of the exhibition and be focussed. The audio guide was valuable in providing explanation (of course), but also provided musical accents for the various rooms. On the first floor of this house he had his

striking, light-infused studio with large windows, which let in a cool, even light. There is one room in the show that replicates the one where Rembrandt worked, with the bottom part of the window blocked by the shutters and fabric hung above the upper part to direct and diffuse light. One etching shows precisely this arrangement with the model sitting for one of the paintings also shown.

This was where Rembrandt created his most exceptional work including The Denial of St Peter and The Artist's Studio. His pupils were



Jennifer Scott, the highly engaging and enthusiastic curator and Director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, beckoning Members to tear themselves away from the magnificent paintings in the previous room during our greatly appreciated visit and reception

taught here and Rembrandt, clearly a rather progressive teacher, set challenges for them in which they had to depict the effects of different light sources – firelight, candlelight, daylight, holy light. And he took part in the challenges himself.

In our electrified world, the shift from day to night seems rather less ineluctable, to which this exhibition offers something of a corrective. The transformative effects of light are impressively evident in the display of Christ and St Mary Magdalen at the Tomb, 1638. It is a painting that has darkened over time, but expertly lit, it becomes jewel-like. The lesson is a valuable one and is currently being put into practice at the Rijksmuseum, where analysis of the pigments present in The Night Watch will serve as a guide for the future lighting of the picture: a non-invasive and completely reversible approach to retrieving something of its 17th century condition.

Echoing Rembrandt's power for storytelling, the exhibition's atmospheric lighting and design has been carefully curated. In-house curators Jennifer Scott and Helen Hillyard (whose accompanying catalogue is an academic work in its own right) have collaborated with the award-winning cinematographer, Peter Suschitzky (famed for his work on films such as Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back and Mars Attacks!) to create this unique experience.

In the final room, artist Stuart Semple has provided his Black 3.0 (the world's blackest black acrylic paint) to create a dramatic backdrop for some of Rembrandt's finest

portraits. It brings to the fore beautifully three of Rembrandt's most famous paintings of women: A Woman Bathing in a Stream, A Woman in Bed and the Gallery's Girl at a Window all hanging together.

A dramatic piece of St Peter denying Christ in the first room makes the point about drama – first, you only see St Peter's face illumined by the maidservant's lamp; only later are you conscious that there's another light source in the corner, showing Christ turning towards him. And you can see the story unfold from Peter's denial to realisation he has been found out.

That sense of gradual perception is the whole point of the most beautiful picture, from Dublin, the Rest on the Flight to Egypt. The tiny fire about which the figures cluster gradually reveals colour, while the moon overhead casts purple shadows. Another small light source is the single traveller with his small lantern approaching on the right.

Certainly, Rembrandt had a film-maker's feel for mise-en-scene. Sometimes he comes in close, cropping a scene to intensify its drama and draw us into the action (Main picture: The Denial of St Peter, 1660); sometimes he moves out, arousing our pity for The Woman Taken in Adultery, 1644, who is small and vulnerable against a massive architectural setting.

One remarkable drawing was the one he put into the Album Amicorum of Jan Six: Minerva in her Study. Apart from the work



Rembrandt van Rijn, Christ and St Mary Magdalene at the Tomb, 1638, Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019

itself, this tells us the story of the relationship between artist and patron.

This show doesn't only demonstrate how light matters to Rembrandt; it's the terrifying way in which our own perceptions are flattened and coarsened by universal bright artificial light or the flash from a smartphone. We can't see as he did. Our loss. But at least we had the privilege and luxury to see his work up close, with little distraction, almost alone with each picture.

North Sea Neighbour, looking back at four eventful years in the United Kingdom

Report by Robert Walvis on the Annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club on Friday 15 November

Entering the Reform Club that evening immediately enhanced the feeling that a special occasion was in store. The Reform Club is a beautiful, imposing, classically atmospheric and festive venue which made us all immediately feel welcome upon arrival. We were there for the



annual Members' Dinner of the Society, an event which has gained in popularity over the years, leading to a full house again on this occasion. The reception in the Strangers Room gave us the



chance to meet and mingle, say hello to friends and welcome to new members, a hubbub of conversation and laughter. And there were of course Bitterballen, plenty of them, a real treat as



a start to the dinner. Then up the majestic staircase to the Library where we laid eyes on the inviting table settings, eight tables to



accommodate the more than eighty guests.

A short welcome from the Chairman, Dick van den Broek, who specifically welcomed our guest speaker, H.E. Simon Smits, H.M.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James', and his wife Astrid. After a sumptuous two course feast H.E. took the mike to address us on: "North Sea Neighbour, looking back at four eventful years in the United Kingdom". Of course, these four years, shortly after H.E.'s arrival, were dominated by the B word and a note of sadness could not be overlooked. However, his speech focussed on the positives, the constants in European relations and particularly in Anglo-Dutch relations. The shared experience of defending freedom together, the long co-operation of our armed forces, like-mindedness about free trade and the shared experience of running large industrial companies together. We are each other's major trade and investment partners, good NATO allies and often on the same side of the barricades when it comes to peace, justice and the rule of law. Ambassador Simon Smits enhanced these thoughts with examples and anecdotes which captivated his audience. He closed his remarks expressing the conviction that Brexit will not change the core of the Anglo-Dutch friendship and whatever the future holds, there will always be a place for the Anglo-Netherlands Society. He looked forward to our one hundredth birthday and already wished us many happy returns. It was clear from the long applause that we had all enjoyed tremendously his thought-provoking presentation.

Ambassador Smits had mentioned that he was willing to take questions from the floor and many hands were raised to compete for the mike. There were questions on Dutch help on the flood defences in Yorkshire ("Yes, the Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management will be here next week") and on his memorable experiences during his tenure. He paid tribute to H.M. Queen Elizabeth and reflected on the time he spent with her. He will miss London, a city which is never boring and has a great heritage. He will not miss the traffic and the plumbing in his residence. He told us about the deeply moving experience of the "Spirit of Arnhem" as a symbol of the Anglo-Dutch relationship and the 102 year old veteran which he accompanied to Arnhem. He also shared some concerns about the future of the Nation State. The question and answer session left many hands in the air un-addressed but of course all of us enjoyed the openness and international diplomatic expertise we had just witnessed.

The President, Sir Michael Perry, thanked H.E. Simon Smits, bade him a fond farewell and expressed the sentiment that we will remain partners across the North Sea and "that friends like Simon will always be there, regardless of the outcome of Brexit".

Our Chairman ended this dinner with expressing his gratitude to H.E. Simon Smits, not only for his excellent speech, but also for all the co-operation the Society had received during his four years at the Netherlands Embassy in London. He also wanted to use this opportunity to mention the Centenary and use this occasion to thank the editorial team for their hard work on the compilation and production of the



Centenary Book which we will all receive in the early part of 2020, something to really look forward to.

What an evening! The wonderful venue, the memorable speech and Q&A, sharing the room



with a truly inspiring diplomat touching on sensitive issues in a non-confrontational and constructive manner and the warm UK-Netherlands relationship re-enforced, a relationship that will weather all storms and in



which the Anglo-Netherlands Society will play a key role. We all emerged in the wintry air of Pall Mall on our way home thinking: What an evening, and cannot wait for the Members' Dinner next year, our Centenary Year!



Linnean Society visit

Report by Robin Whittaker on the visit preceding the AGM on 25 November

This private visit to the Linnean Society (founded 1788) was arranged for members of the Anglo-Netherlands Society. The Netherlands are important in the story of Linnaeus – Carl von Linné ¹ - (1707- 1778) as he graduated from the University of Harderwijk ² in 1835 after studying medicine, including botany, in his home country Sweden.

The spell in the Netherlands was significant in that it brought him into contact with the general European scientific world, including English and French savants. These included a local English resident, George Clifford, for whom he wrote a garden catalogue (*Hortus Cliffortianus*) in 1737, plus the Dutch scientist Herman Boerhaave. Linnaeus visited London in 1736.

Born in Småland in South Sweden, he enrolled at the University of



Lund, before moving as a student to the University of Uppsala in 1727, where he became Professor of Medicine in 1741. His seminal work on taxonomy, the *Systema Naturae*, was first published in the Netherlands in 1735, when he was only 28 years old.

On arrival at the distinguished, purpose-built edifice of 1873, on the threshold of Burlington House, off Piccadilly, we were greeted by the charming Head of Collections, Dr Isabelle Charmantier, a graduate of Sheffield University and former Deputy Librarian. After an extensive introduction, covering history and methodology, we were taken upstairs to be shown the collection.

The original work of the *Systema Naturae* was just 11 pages long and covered plants, animals and minerals. The work was amazingly

concise yet comprehensive, and beautifully executed. Linnaeus built his plant classification around the concept of husbands (with stamens) and wives (with pistils); however today it is his later notion of a binary classification based on genus and species that



has survived. By 1758 the three tables had been expanded to three volumes incorporating the binomial nomenclature.

Linnaeus' collection came to England because the scientist Sir Joseph Banks had tried to acquire it but later recommended purchase to a 24 year old medical student James Edward Smith, when it was put up for sale by Linnaeus' widow in 1783. Smith bought the collection, which consisted of 14,000 plants, 3,198 insects, 158 fish, 1,564 shells, 1,600 books and about 3,000 letters and documents, for 1,000 guineas. Five years later, in 1788, Smith founded the Linnean



Society. We were told a story of how the Swedish state, which had missed buying the collection and suddenly realised its importance, despatched a vessel in hot pursuit. Given that a picture we were shown depicting this incident has the flag

on the vessel's stern blowing in the wrong direction for a sailing ship ³, the judgement that the story was contrived could well be correct.

The specimen collection has been added to over the years and we were shown some enormous ugly bugs as well as lovely specimens of pressed flowers and lepidoptera. Two thirds of the insect collection were added by Dr Smith.

In his later life, after settling back in Uppsala, Linnaeus did not travel abroad but sent out his 'apostles' – graduate students - who collected specimens and promulgated his classification system.



Within Sweden he encouraged the development of university economics departments. ⁴ He was ennobled in 1761.

The Linnean Society organises free public lectures but advance booking is necessary. The library is available for reference.

Thanks are due to Dr Isabelle Charmantier for hosting this interesting visit and to Chantal Tjon for organising the afternoon.

Notes : 1 Appropriately for a botanist the name is derived from that of the linden or lime tree – linde in Dutch, lind in Swedish.

2 The University of Harderwijk 1648-1811 was the fifth university to be established in the United Provinces. It sometimes awarded degrees on the basis of work done elsewhere. A record of having studied outside Sweden was necessary in Linnaeus' day to get a good position as a doctor in that country.

3 See numerous Dutch Seascapes – with the wind behind the ship, the flag would flutter forwards.

4 See internet biographies.

ANS Award to students of Dutch at UCL

The award was presented by Paul Dimond

The Society's Adjudication Panel reached an unanimous decision on the winner of our 2019 UCL Essay Competition: Lucelle Pardoe for her thoughtful and challenging essay on award-winning children's book author Bette Westera's *Doodgewoon*. The essay was published in the Autumn Newsletter.

Unfortunately the Award winner, Lucelle, couldn't be there at the Award presentation ceremony at ING Bank; she received the Certificate and the cheque later, at UCL, on 21 November, as shown in the accompanying photo.



The winner of the Society's Award for the 2019 UCL Essay Competition was Lucelle Pardoe for her essay on *Doodgewoon*. ANS Honorary Secretary and Adjudication Panel Chair Paul Dimond presented it to Lucelle at UCL on 21 November.

London's Christmas lights

Report by Adrienne Monteath - van Dok on the walk on Thursday 12 December

London is magical in the run up to Christmas and the best way to discover it is on foot. As it rained all day we were dreading an umbrella walk, but as we gathered in central London, the skies cleared and the rain stopped. For nearly two hours we explored the city under the expert guidance of Hazel from London Guided



Walks. She explained that the Strand was once the beach to the Thames and as such still carries that name today. We saw Christmas baubles four meters wide, lit up dolphins, wondrous trees and the biggest advent calendar in town.

Carnaby Street was most appreciated by the group and not just because of its topical Ocean



theme with the message to look after our planet better, but it truly felt like walking under the sea. Old Bond Street was also popular, where the peacock feathers lights were a hint to the old days when gentlemen with walking sticks



roamed the area to show off their good fortune on the first ever properly laid pavements. Whilst admiring the angel lights on St James, we learned that the statue on Piccadilly is made from aluminium and that it's not Eros, but his brother Anteros who towers above the previously fresh water fountain. Yet, the biggest and most pleasant surprise of the evening was the



spontaneous invitation by our member David Bieda to host all of us for drinks at his gorgeous house in Dean Street. We thank him for his warm welcome and hospitality.



Here some reflections from the group on the Christmas Lights Walk:

Hennie: "I'm happy I missed my flight! Such a great evening."

Ros about Carnaby Street: "Really quite fun, poignant and made of recycled materials with a clear message. Fab company as well."

Karen: "I've never seen such a big advent calendar and I'll definitely think of Scotch eggs when visiting Fortnum & Mason in the future." (We were told that Fortnum & Mason was the first shop to serve Scotch eggs, as well as a tin of Heinz baked beans)

Dina: "Undiscovered London!" (Dina has lived here for 59.5 years)

Marianne: "I'm going to come back and do it again. So wonderful."

Theo: "Why didn't I do this before!"

Mark: "The guide was fantastic blending the lights with all historical information. I would recommend it for next year!"

Subscriptions 2020

Council is pleased to announce that Subscription rates for 2020 will remain unchanged, for the 13th year running. Our subscription year is based on a calendar year and we would be most grateful for payments early in 2020 from those members who do not pay by standing order.

The latter is the most used method of payment and our preferred way for economic and administrative reasons. Standing orders can be set up easily through your bank account. The account number of the Anglo-Netherlands Society with NatWest is 05 40 98 45, the sort code 50-41-02.

Our membership level continues to increase and Council would like to see that trend grow further. Family members and friends with interest in Anglo-Dutch matters who can identify themselves in the Aims and Objectives of the Society (see back page) are most welcome. Just provide the Administrator with names (and addresses) and we will send a sample copy of our newsletter.

Subscription rates for 2020:	Greater London*	Country*
Joint membership **	£30	£25
Single membership	£23	£20

Members under 35 years old may apply to pay a reduced rate. Please contact the administrator.

* A Country rebate is available for members whose address is outside a radius of 50 miles from Hyde Park Corner

** Two members at a single address, receiving one copy of each mailing.

David Glassman, Hon. Treasurer

SIGNPOSTS

Selma was seventeen when WWII broke out. Until then, being Jewish had never played a large role in her life. However, it soon became a question of life or death. Though she was summoned to register for a work camp in 1942, she managed to evade it. She joined the resistance and under the pseudonym Margareta van der Kuit -Marga for short- forged documents and delivered them throughout the entire country. Selma escaped the Nazis on multiple occasions, but in July of 1944 was betrayed and transported via Camp Vught to Ravensbrück. Unlike her sister and parents, she survived the horrors of the camp. During that time no one knew that she was Jewish, and no one knew her real name. It was only after the war that she dared say it again: My name is Selma.



Selma van de Perre (b. 1922) was a member of the Dutch resistance organization TD Group during WWII. Shortly after the war she moved to London, where she worked for the BBC and met her future husband, the Belgian journalist Hugo van de Perre. For a number of years she also worked as foreign correspondent for a Dutch television station. In 1983 Selma van de Perre received the Dutch Resistance Commemoration Cross.

Selma is a member of the Anglo-Netherlands Society. Her book (cover illustration pictured above) was published at the Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam on 9 January, the publisher is Thomas Rap.

Nicolaes Maes: Dutch Master of the Golden Age, National Gallery, London ; 22 February-21 May ; www.nationalgallery.org.uk

This exhibition is the first devoted to Nicolaes Maes, a leading artist of the Dutch Golden Age and one of Rembrandt's most important pupils. Featuring over 35 paintings and drawings from collections across the world, the exhibition spans Maes's whole career, spent in Dordrecht and Amsterdam. Exhibition organised by the National Gallery, London and the Mauritshuis, The Hague.

Learn about the art of Nicolaes Maes in the context of life and art in 17th century Holland on Saturday 22, 29 February, 7 March 11am-1pm, Sainsbury Wing Theatre

"Meet Vincent van Gogh Experience" ; 7 February-21 May ; 99 Upper Ground, South Bank, London, SE1 (behind the National Theatre)

The Van Gogh Museum invites you to step into Vincent's incredible life story and get closer to the brilliant artist than ever before. Following record-setting attendances at Beijing, Seoul and Barcelona, this incredible cultural event is not to be missed! Touch, look and listen at Van Gogh's life and truly get inside the mind of the misunderstood genius. Meet Vincent is an entirely accessible experience, beautifully curated so that children, adults, artists, and those new to Van Gogh will be moved and inspired.

Death in Venice, International Theater Amsterdam ; Barbican, London Thursday 16 - Sunday 19 April at 7.45pm ; www.barbican.org.uk

This show -adapted by former Dutch poet laureate Ramsey Nasr and directed by Ivo van Hove- deftly combines theatre and music.

Celebrated author Thomas Mann is in crisis, struggling with writer's block and a forbidden attraction to a young boy. Secluded in his workshop, he creates 'Von Aschenbach', the man he dares not be in real life. A classical score (Strauss, Schoenberg) played live by Britten Sinfonia supports the ensuing whirl of emotions portrayed onstage as he sends his alter ego to Venice ; the drama also introduces the viewpoint of Mann's wife.

Wigmore Hall, London ; www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Lucie Horsch, recorder and Thomas Dunford, lute
Castello, Dowland, Dieupart and more ; **Monday 10 February at 1.00pm**

Janine Jansen, violin and Denis Kozhukhin, piano ;
Beethoven, Strauss and Grieg ; **Monday 13 April at 7.30pm**

Anglo-Netherlands Society

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AIMS and OBJECTS

The Anglo-Netherlands Society exists to promote the social, artistic, literary, educational, scientific, and other non party-political interests in common to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Apart from publishing this Newsletter, the Society reaches its members by organising social functions (including dinners, lectures and recitals) and by arranging visits to exhibitions, concerts, and places of interest. The Society relies on voluntary workers.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Any person or organisation desirous of promoting the objectives of the Society is eligible to apply for membership, subject to acceptance by the Society's Council. More information is available from the Administrator.

PRESIDENT

Sir Michael Perry, GBE

VICE-PRESIDENT

H.E. the Netherlands Ambassador

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Paul Dimond (Hon. Secretary)

David Glassman (Hon. Treasurer)

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Connie Sangster (Chairman)

Marianne Denney Marietta Freeman Evelien Hurst

Adrienne Monteath-van Dok Chantal Tjon

CORPORATE PATRONS

The Society has for years been fortunate in having the help of several organisations. To recognise this support, which has often been sustained for decades, the following organisations are termed Corporate Patrons:

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CORPORATE MEMBERS

Carpenters' Company

This form of membership can be tailored to your requirements.

**Members' page at www.anglo-netherlands.org.uk
username: removed password: removed**

Members can download duplicate event registration forms and various other papers via links on the Members' Page. Alternatively, please request a paper copy from the Administrator.

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