

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

c/o Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 38 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5DP

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Spring 2020

President: Sir Michael Perry GBE

Hon. Newsletter Editor: Mr Hans Neher

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

Chairman: Mr Dick van den Broek

Administrator: Mrs Carine Williams

As it is unlikely that we will be in a position to mail the Spring newsletter in the usual way, Council has decided to publish this shortened, electronic, version.

Forthcoming Events

It is now clear the country has come to some sort of a stand still. Many venues are closed and people are staying home. It is obvious that quite a few events can now not happen as planned. Having weighed the options, Council decided that the following planned ANS events **will be postponed, and some may be cancelled.**

Unilever Lecture, originally planned for 16 April

Walk London Mayflower Descendent with optional lunch, originally planned for 15 May

Centenary Concert in the Library at the Reform Club, originally planned for 11 June, with young British and Dutch musicians

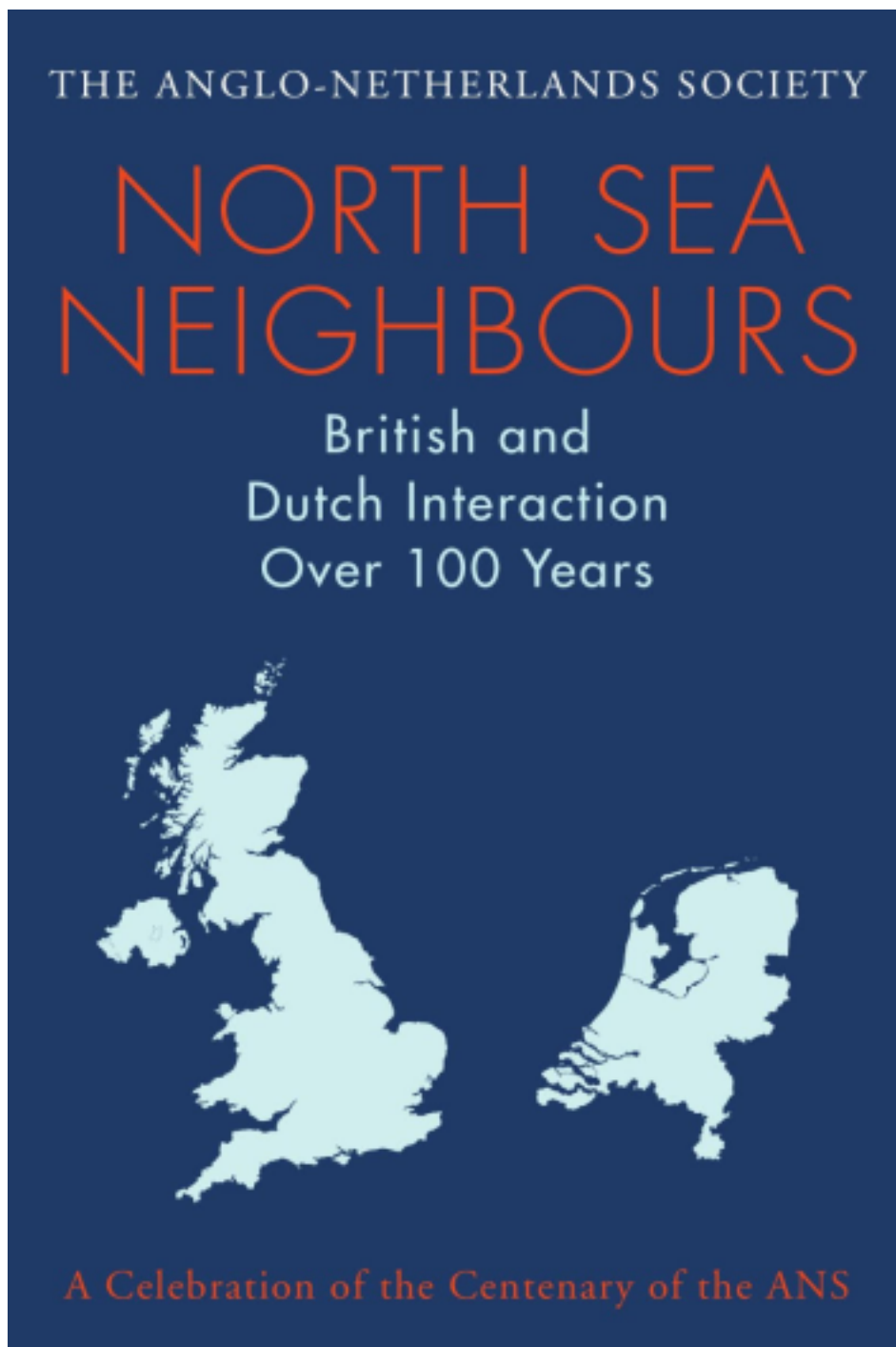
London Canal Museum & Canal boat trip, with optional lunch, originally planned for 16 July

The Royal Society of Sculptors' Summer Exhibition, with optional lunch, originally planned for 24 July

New Members

We welcome:

Mr Benjamin B. and
Mrs Nirit B.
Mr David C. and
Mrs Marina M.-C.
Mr Christopher M.
Ms Christine S.
Mr Cees S. and
Mrs S.
Mr Albertus T.
Ms Phyllis van der E.
Ms Sietske van der P.
Mr Hendrik van der V. and
Mrs Anne van der V.
Mr Peter W.
Miss Carlijn W.
Mr Jonathan W. and
Mrs Taruna N.-W.



Cover of the Society's Centenary Book which was to be launched during a reception at Kensington Palace on 17 March. A note from Council on page two dwells on the thinking behind the very sad decision to postpone this major event.

Message from Council

regarding the Society's Postponed Centenary Reception and Book Launch

The ANS Council decided on Friday 13 March, with a heavy heart, that for prudent health and safety protection of all participants, our Centenary reception and Book launch planned for 17 March at Kensington Palace should be postponed. This decision reflected our collective, precautionary judgement, taking full account of developments already known at the time regarding the COVID-19 virus, including Government statements. We had been in touch with the Royal Household at Kensington Palace and with the Netherlands ambassador when taking our decision. We apologise for any inconvenience to you caused by this decision, but trust you will understand why this was taken. Council is grateful for the many supportive responses received since. We can only express the hope that circumstances will allow us to celebrate our Centenary later this year. Discussions with our service suppliers for this event are on-going; some being more understanding than others about flexibility from rules at this extraordinary time.

One major part of our Centenary celebration was going to be the launch of our long-awaited Centenary book on which you had been

receiving some hints via earlier newsletters. The postponement of the reception on March 17 precluded us from formally launching this book in the presence of many members and guests. Your free copy of this very special book has now been sent to all members via surface mail with the help of the Patron partly sponsoring this book and we hope you will have received it by now. Enjoy reading it during these difficult times; the first responses have been very positive. Just to mention that this is a limited edition, which is not for sale commercially. However, we have some spare copies and in case you have an interest to pass some to family and friends, let us know. We would expect a contribution to our costs for this book of say £20 per copy plus postage where applicable, say a total of £25 in the UK.

As indicated on the front page, we had already planned the usual diversified range of events for the coming months. These have now been placed on "ice", but please be assured, some will be resurrected as soon as circumstances allow.

With our best wishes for you all during these difficult times,

Dick van den Broek, Chairman, on behalf of Council

Top Secret – From Ciphers to Cyber Security at the Science Museum

Report by Oscar van den Berg on the curator-led tour on Thursday 16 January

On January 16th, after a fortifying lunch at the local Casa Brindisa hosted by Connie Sangster, a group of ANS members visited the exhibition 'Top Secret - From Ciphers to Cyber Security' at the Science Museum in London. The exhibition's curator Dr. Elizabeth Bruton had kindly agreed to be our guide. Elizabeth explained that she had worked for two years to put this exhibition together, after which it would run for one year until February 2020, and her familiarity with the subject was evident from her insightful remarks.

The exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Government Communications Headquarters, perhaps better known by its acronym GCHQ. The show provides a review of highlights from that century, brought to life by the many displayed items from GCHQ's own archives. Our curator, being of Irish descent, wryly remarked that the secretive GCHQ must have felt some hesitation in letting her into their inner sanctum to pull this exhibition together.

She summarised GCHQ's mission as 'To Conceal and to Reveal'. That might seem paradoxical until one realises that GCHQ has different departments with different missions: As well as a mission to gather intelligence on foreign actors, GCHQ has a corresponding mission to assist in the protection of the British government's own communications. They aim to reveal the former and conceal the latter.

A notable Reveal was during the Great War, when Germany's 'silent killers', its Zeppelin airships, would sneak into British airspace at night and drop their bombs, killing over 500 British citizens during the course of the war. Compared to the staggering toll of the land war in France, the Zeppelin attacks were a drop in the bucket, but they caused great alarm and consternation. The exhibition explains that GCHQ figured out how to attack these airships by first triangulating their radio signals to locate them as they approached Great Britain, and subsequently scramble intercepting RAF airplanes to their locations to shoot them down.

Another example of the Revealing that was highlighted was GCHQ's role during the Cuban missile crisis. While many thought that the tracking of the Russian ships that carried the missiles towards Cuba was done by US aircraft, in reality the best information the US Government received was obtained and shared by GCHQ's Scarborough's operation where it had set up its maritime radio monitoring units.

A large part of the exhibition concerns GCHQ's exploits during the second World War, where it led the decoding of messages that the Germans encrypted using their Enigma machines and, more importantly if less well-known, their Lorenz machines. The Germans

used their Enigma machines for operational-level encryption and there were about 100,000 of these machines made. The German high command itself used a more powerful cryptor, the Lorenz machine, to conceal its strategic communications. There were only ever 200 Lorenz machines in use.

The Enigma code was broken by the Polish Cypher Bureau as early as 1932. In 1939 Poland passed on its techniques to GCHQ, which then set up its famous operations in Bletchley Park for the rest of the war.

The Lorenz messages were harder but more important to break. GCHQ built and successfully used at first so-called Robinson machines, which were electronic machines used to speed up message decryption. Subsequently GCHQ created the Colossus computers to decipher the messages automatically. It could be claimed that with the Colossus, GCHQ created the first or at least one of the first computers. The deciphered Lorenz messages made significant contributions to British military intelligence and to Allied victory in Europe, due to the high-level strategic nature of the information that was gained from Lorenz decrypts.

A cute example of GCHQ's Concealing mission was how it set up the UK Messenger Pigeon Service in 1917, apparently using borrowed French pigeons as the UK Government did not have a suitably trained cache of pigeons, to conceal the army's communications.

It was also pointed out that HRH Elizabeth II is GCHQ's longest standing continuous customer for Concealing services. Her communications have been managed by GCHQ since her birth. The exhibition showed an example of one of her secure telephones, as well as others that had belonged to Thatcher and Churchill. Also on display is a famous hotline red phone: from 1967, the UK followed the US in setting up a direct hotline from London to Moscow.

Towards the end of the guided tour we spent some time reflecting on the current debate regarding the tension between GCHQ's desire to gather information, and citizens rights to privacy. It appeared to many of us that both are necessary and a sensible balance ought to be struck, and tested from time to time.

All in all, it will not surprise that no GCHQ 'top secrets' were revealed during the exhibition. But the tour was informative about this slice of history and surely worth the visit.



A Sunny Pit Stop before the Tutankhamun Exhibition

Report by Tina Wilson of our lunch, prior to seeing the exhibition, on 6 February

The Manicomio Café was an ideal choice for lunch before visiting the Tutankhamun Exhibition. Located in a quiet oasis of eateries and boutique shops behind the commercial bustle of the King's Road, it was within a stone's throw of the imposing Saatchi Gallery overlooking the Duke of York's Square. Eight of us gathered round a table in a glassed-over courtyard to study a varied menu and enjoy

conversation that revealed a common experience of working for different oil companies and their related industries, and lives spent in far-flung postings in the Far East, Africa and the States.

For me it was a restorative and sunny interlude between emerging from the nether regions of the Underground at Sloane Square and then plunging into the darkened

galleries of the exhibition to follow King Tut in his journey through the afterlife, battling the forces of chaos and darkness to win through to immortality with the Egyptian gods.

We are grateful to Marianne Denney for her meticulous organisation and for giving us this memorable experience.

Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh

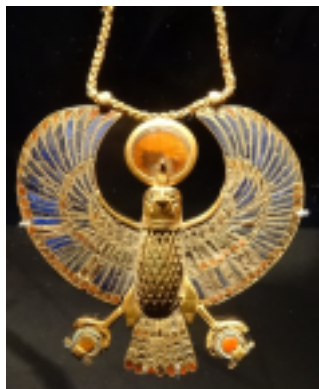
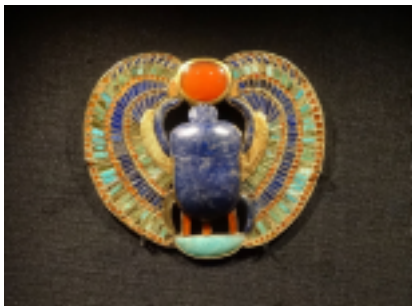
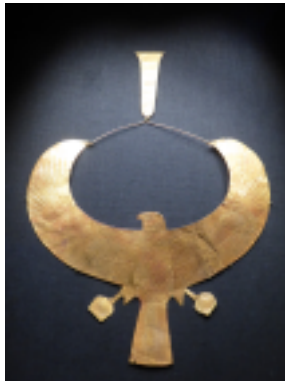
Report by John Shelton on the visit to the exhibition

On 6 February ANS members gathered at the Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea to see this exhibition, on its third stop in an international tour ending in 2022, which is the centenary of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. After 3 May 2020 it heads for Boston, and then Australia and Asia. Eventually the 150 objects in the exhibition, along with 5,000 or so other artifacts from the tomb, will all be on permanent display together for the first time in the new Grand Egyptian Museum, currently being built for opening in 2022. It is not expected that these objects will ever leave Egypt again.

Some of the more magnificent finds (such as the famous death mask) remain in Egypt, but the objects on display are nevertheless extraordinary. Despite being over three thousand years old, many of them look as if they could have been made yesterday. The skill and sophistication of the craftsmen who made them, and the wealth of the society that supported those arts and crafts, are evident from the beauty and intricacy of many of the objects and the richness of the materials used. Many of the exhibits gleam with gold, silver, ivory, lapis lazuli, carnelian and coloured glasses.

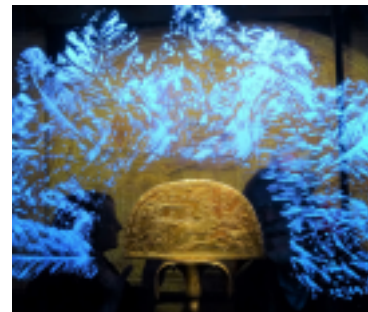
Beautiful as many of these items are, they are much more than works of art. Each of them has a function, whether practical, magical or religious, and is well presented and explained in the context of the ancient Egyptian belief in death as the beginning of a hazardous and difficult journey of the spirit to the netherworld.

For his spirit to get to the next world, and to enjoy it in appropriate royal style, the king's body had to be preserved (hence mummification) and he needed to take items necessary or desirable for the (after) lifestyle of a king of Egypt: ranging from food and drink, furniture, hunting bows, shields, walking sticks (the young king was lame),



household utensils, statuettes of gods, jewellery and many other treasures. The contents of the tomb thus gave an unprecedented insight into the life of a Pharaoh and the selection of those finds appearing in this exhibition paints a vivid picture too.

Many of the objects are capable of being used. To pick only one of many examples, you can admire a wooden composite bow ornamented



with gold and glass: one of thirty found in the tomb (along with 400 arrows). It is both beautiful and functional: the young king could have used it to bring down his prey. If that made him a little hot he could have been fanned with a large wooden ostrich "hunting fan", also on display, covered in gold leaf showing images of the king hunting from

his chariot. Other objects have a more symbolic function; the highlight here is perhaps one of the two iconic "guardian" statues which were found in front of the entrance to the burial chamber.

The exhibition tells the story well: unlike too many expensive ticketed exhibitions in London museums and art galleries, the captions are back lit, well placed and well written. It is well worth a visit, but go soon, unless you fancy a visit to Boston.



Dutch 'AOW' pension entitlements

Oproep om aanspraken kenbaar te maken aan de SVB

The Sociale Verzekerings Bank (the organisation which administers state pensions in the Netherlands), is trying to locate individuals who are entitled to receive a Dutch state pension but who do not currently claim their entitlement.

"Not everyone who has spent time living or working in the Netherlands receives the AOW pension they are entitled to, perhaps because they forgot to submit a claim or believe they are not entitled to a AOW pension because they do not live in the Netherlands or do not have Dutch nationality.

The SVB cannot find these people because they do not know who or where they are. But perhaps you do. If you know a person who lived or worked in the Netherlands in the past and who is over 65 and does not receive a Dutch AOW pension, please advise them to check whether they are entitled to an AOW pension. They can find more information at www.svb.nl/aow "

We offer this information as a service to our members and readers but please use the above link to learn more.

"The Remarkable Journey of Mr Prins"

WWII, Jewish Refugees and the Bath-Alkmaar Friendship

Book by Aletta Stevens

The greatest journeys are escapes. Night, suitcases of cash, chaos, the final burning of papers. 56 people flee in a small boat. As exiled Dutchman Eli Prins arrives at an English port and makes his way to Bath, he instigates a longer journey, one from uncertainty to safety.

Based on personal testimonies and unpublished sources in English and Dutch, this book vividly reconstructs the Second World War in both Alkmaar and Bath. It is a story told in full for the first time: how the Jews are expelled from Alkmaar to the Amsterdam ghetto; the fate of Eli's parents; the Bath Blitz; and then in 1945, after the Dutch Hunger Winter, how the people of Bath adopt Alkmaar and host its children.

War and persecution give way to solidarity and friendship lasting 75 years to the present day. This is both a local story and a European one, written not just to commemorate history, but also to remind ourselves that we still need such heroic and uplifting stories.

ALETTA STEVENS is the author of "Looking for Uncle Joop" (2017), published in Dutch as "Het tweede schot" (Noordboek, 2019). She was raised in Holland, studied in England, and works as a writer and professional translator. Aletta is a member of our Society.

"Mijn naam is Selma"

Selma van de Perre's WWII resistance and concentration camp story

In our Winter 2019/20 newsletter we mentioned under Signposts the launch of a book on WWII which took place at the Holocaust Museum, Amsterdam. This book "Mijn naam is Selma", written by our long-standing member Selma van de Perre, was formally launched in the UK with a presentation by Selma in London on 28 February.

The presentation was organised by Susanne Lap, Bertjan van de Lagemaat and Sandra Taekema van Tiggelen, with generous support from His Excellency Simon Smits.

Editor's note : this concerns the Dutch language edition, an English edition is reportedly on track to be published towards the end of the year 2020.



Selma van de Perre signing a copy of her book "Mijn naam is Selma" at the Netherlands' ambassador's Residence, translator Rebekka Bremmer on her left



Selma van de Perre flanked by the Netherlands Ambassador His Excellency Simon Smits

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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.

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Sir Michael Perry, GBE

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H.E. the Netherlands Ambassador

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David Glassman (Hon. Treasurer)

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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:

Royal Netherlands Embassy

ABN AMRO Bank

Heineken

ING Bank

Philips

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Rabobank

Royal Dutch Shell

Unilever

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, as follows: surf to the Members' page, click the link for the required document, then enter the username and password given above in the relevant boxes in the pop-up window. Alternatively, please request a paper copy from the Administrator.

that the contents are factually correct and do not contravene relevant Acts and Codes. The Society reserves the right to refuse or withdraw advertisements and other contributions at its discretion. The Honorary Editor structures and styles, may on occasion query consistency, grammar and usage, but does not vet or scrutinise the submitted content, and does not accept liability for errors or omissions, although reasonable care is taken to avoid mistakes.