

B U L L E T I N

G E N O O T S C H A P N E D E R L A N D - E N G E L A N D



Deventer Branch
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SEASON 2009-2010 **BULLETIN No. 7 – May 2010**

Dear members,

This bulletin is already the last of the current season.

In it you will find information about the last talk until September and our **End-of-Season Event on Friday, 25 June.**

On **Friday, 21 May** *Michael Daley* will talk to us on *Holkham Hall*.

THE SUBJECT

The main subject of the talk is the history of Holkham Hall and its inhabitants from the builder of the house *Thomas Coke* (pronounced Cook) to the present generation. Holkham is one of England's finest Palladian houses with an outstanding art collection, designed by *William Kent* and built between 1734 and 1764. It is the perfect English house from the Golden Age of the Grand Tour, surviving intact in its original setting and with the founding family still in custodianship.

The talk also covers the founder of the family fortune Sir Edward Coke who was Elizabeth I's Attorney General and prosecutor of Sir Walter Raleigh and the Gunpowder plotters.

Part of the talk covers how the house is managed in the 21st century and its place in the Holkham Estate.
www.holkham.co.uk

THE SPEAKER

Michael Daley is the Administrator at Holkham Hall. Responsible not only for safety and security of the house, its chattels and its inhabitants, he also controls public access and undertakes specialist Private Guided Tours.

Michael Daley had served in the Royal Air Force since 1962 leaving in July 1993 having been awarded an MBE. After that he began work at Holkham Hall acting as the Fire and Security Officer. He was looking for a job with less responsibility but failed completely in that respect. Michael was responsible for designing and writing a disaster and salvage plan for the house and for a full review of security and electrical services. He took over as Administrator in July 1997.

Michael has lectured to a large number of groups over the years from Women's Institute to local Historical Societies.

Date: Friday 21 May, 8 pm
Subject: Holkham Hall
Speaker: Michael Daley
Venue: De Horst, Kerkstr. 5 Deventer
Admission: members free guests € 7.00 students € 3.00

LOOKING BACK

On 14 April we celebrated the return of spring in a fitting way: former curator of De Hortus Botanicus, Leiden *Carla Teune* talked to us on plants and history of these botanical gardens from individual plants to the restoration of some of the 16th and 17th century gardens. Carla also expressed her worries about the future as the government support is decreasing more and more. Not enough funding for proper upkeep is the result. On Carla's initiative a group of volunteer weeders are trying to do their bit in order to help preserve this important part of our history.

In her easy and witty way of speaking Carla Teune provided us with an entertaining evening.

END-OF-SEASON EVENT

This year's end-of-season event will take place on

Friday, 25 June

at Het Tinnen Figuren Museum, Ommen and De Tuinen van Mien Ruys, Dedemsvaart

Programme:

10.45 reception with coffee/tea at Het Tinnen Figuren Museum, Ommen
11.00 guided tour of the museum
12.30 lunch at the restaurant Mien Ruys
13.30 guided tour of the gardens
15.00 end of event,
get-together for coffee/tea
(optional, not included in the price)

Costs: €32.50 for members and guests

Please remit this amount to 3158375
Pen Genootschap Nederl-Engel Afd Deventer
(no dots or commas!)

Please enter your name no later than 17 June.

The entering form is included in /attached to this bulletin.

Het Tinnen Figuren Museum

Arts, crafts, history, collecting, war and children's toys. These are a few aspects of the museum. The world of the tin figures is quite

similar to our real world but only 30 mms tall. But not everything is so small: The museum boasts a wall painting as high as the staircase by *Matthijs Röling*, in which all the aspects of the world of tin figures are depicted.

Currently there is a special exhibition on **Alice in Wonderland**.

Address: Markt 1, 7733 DB Ommen
www.tinnenfigurenmuseum.nl

The Mien Ruys Gardens, Dedemsvaart

The Mien Ruys Gardens are a green monument of 25,000 m² created by the enthusiasm and expertise of one woman: Mien Ruys (1905-1999). Being the daughter of the owners of the world famous Moerheim Plant Nursery at Dedemsvaart, Mien Ruys' interest was more focused on plant design. As there was no institute where she could be trained in the Netherlands in the 1920s, she went to Berlin.

After her training she created gardens near her parents' nursery which were experimental in design and plant schemes. She continued with this until her death. These gardens give a chronological overview of garden design in the 20th century. The three oldest gardens were appointed *Rijksmonument* in 2004.

Currently the experimental gardens focus on roses and heleniums. There are also sculptures on show in the gardens. Visitors will find a source of inspiration for their own gardens.

Address: Moerheimstraat 84, Dedemsvaart
Route directions from Ommen to Dedemsvaart will be handed out on the day.
www.tuinenmienruys.nl

READING GROUP

Recently **Zoe Heller's** novel **The Believers** was discussed by members of our group.

This is a domestic drama of the Litvinoff family, living in Greenwich Village, whose members all seem to have some sort of psychological problem. It is hard to like the family: lawyer Joel, whose idealism has turned into smug self-satisfaction. Or Audrey, his coarse leftish wife from England, who is not able to keep up any emotional bonds with others. Or perhaps confused daughters Karla and Rose and drug-addicted adoptive son

Lenny. When Joel has a stroke and remains in hospital, all sorts of skeletons tumble out of the cupboard concerning his lifestyle.

Most of our group were not too enthusiastic about the book in spite of its good use of language. We wondered if the reader does not like the characters, is it still possible to like the book anyway? When does believing in something turn into fanaticism?

NEXT SEASON'S PROGRAMME

The committee is very pleased to be able to give you the list of speakers and subjects for the season 2010-2011. We think the national programme committee has done a great job again!

The following speakers will lecture at the Deventer branch:

Tuesday, 28 September 2010

John Gilroy – *Tyger, Tyger*,
A famous poem by William Blake

Wednesday, 13 October

Julian Paren – *Antarctica*
A photographic evening

Wednesday, 24 November

Andy Thomas – *Exploring unexplained mysteries*

Friday, 10 December

Christmas Event

January 2011, yet to be decided

Thursday, 17 February

Lawrence Goldman – *Dutch Lives in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*

Wednesday, 9 March

John Pilkington – *A Stroll through the Axis of Evil* (from Beirut to the Persian Gulf, seen from a different angle)

Thursday, 14 April

Christopher Ridgway – *Castle Howard and Brideshead*

Thursday, 19 May

Dr. Florian Schweitzer – *Museums and Galleries in London*

NATIONAL DAY APELDOORN 24 APRIL

After having enjoyed coffee and having met up with GNE members from all over the country (Deventer was represented by some ten members) the first lecture on Shakespeare was given by Malcolm McEwan.

His is the so-called Oxfordian way of thinking in which it is believed that Shakespeare's true identity is not the actor from Stratford upon Avon but the Earl of Oxford, a courtier of Elizabeth I using Shakespeare's name as pseudonym. McEwan showed a number of reasons to prove this. For instance, how was it possible for a country boy from Stratford to have such intimate knowledge of Elizabeth's court and life-style apparent in the Tragedies? This is only one of his arguments. Very interesting!

After this *Dr Paul Franssen* from Utrecht University spoke to us in order to counter McEwan's arguments. Dr Franssen is in favour of the so-called Stratfordian way of thinking, believing that *the highly talented young man from Stratford* was the real author of the works in his name. Would it be interesting to invite either of these lecturers to Deventer to talk about the subject?

After the talks there was lunch and a witty speech by the British ambassador Mr Paul Arkwright who congratulated us on GNE's 90th anniversary saying he was pleased having become its patron. He warned his audience that he would not commit himself to any opinion of the present political situation in Britain in order to strictly remain neutral. Instead he gave arguments for and against the introduction of the Euro in Britain.

With a guided tour of Het Loo Palace or the gardens and a concert of "Salonmuziek", this most enjoyable sunny day was rounded off with a drink.

We hope to see many of you on 21 May at De Horst. Do stock up on books for the summer at fancy prices!

THE COMMITTEE