

B U L L E T I N

GENOOTSCHAP NEDERLAND-ENGELAND

Eindhoven Branch



No 3 / Jan - Feb 2010



Dear All,

Wasn't this Christmas Party a great success? We were glad to see so many of you. By all appearances you enjoyed the most pleasant atmosphere mainly created by the lively performance and varied repertoire of the S.W.A.N. Ladies Barbershop Quartet. Didn't we all experience how the fascinating harmonies of four human voices used as musical instruments can give you goose pimples? The charming explanations and the enthusiasm of the ladies were quite contagious. The more they sang the merrier we got.

And there was another bit of surprise. Inspired by some songs and carols from the latest Sting CD, *If on a winter's night...*, and a good old *Wassail* by the Watsons our lovely audience was transported into a truly wintry, White Christmas atmosphere by marvellously flowing images of William Blake illustrations to his *Cradle Song*, *Ice Crystals* to Purcell's *Cold Song*, *Winter Garden* scenes to the poetic lines of *The Snow it melts the soonest when the winds begin to sing*, and strangely illustrative pictures of a remarkable role that Joseph seems to play in some nativity scenes and in the *Cherry Tree Carol*. With ticking fingers and tapping feet the virtual *Soulcakes* from the song were taken in almost as joyfully as the delicious real tarts and titbits that went down quite well, accompanied by lots of speechless 'yummy-yummy' gestures. And finally five lucky members went home cheerfully with a wonderful edition of historical Getty-images in *Een Millennium Groot-Brittannië* from our raffle.

As for 2010, we wish you and all those who are dear to you a Happy and Harmonious New Year with lots of inspiration drawn from, amongst many other sources, our GNE events. May one of your New Year's resolutions be, not to miss any of our activities in 2010, whatever the weather!



We are very much looking forward to another special lecture by Gerard van der Laan:

Date:	Tuesday 19 January, 20.00 hrs
Venue:	Agnus Dei, Kon. Julianalaan 12, Aalst/Waalre
Lecture:	Postmodernism by Gerard van der Laan

On previous occasions Gerard's lectures attracted extra attention from many members. So don't miss this special opening of the new year on a fascinating subject and by this excellent speaker.

Postmodernism

By now many people know that we are living in the postmodern. But what does this mean? The word suggests that it is a period that comes after Modernism, which means 'the recent period', so what to do then with a period that comes after now? And yet so many things around us seem to hang together and point to anti-racism and anti-elitism and seem to level us all as consumers and internet surfers. Is this a good or a bad development? When did this start and why? This evening we will try to find our way back to Vienna-1900, when the western world seemed to take a different course, cruelly interrupted by two devastating wars that left us totally disillusioned with all the values of more than two thousand years of western culture. What is there to pick up from the past? Do we start all over again? And if so, HOW?

The next speaker is also someone who has lectured at our branch a few times before:

Date:	Thursday 25 February, 20.00 hrs
Venue:	Agnus Dei, Kon. Julianalaan 12, Aalst/Waalre
Lecture:	'Paint me Warts and all': the Portraits of Oliver Cromwell by John Sutton

We are all familiar with the famous anecdote about Oliver Cromwell's advice to the artist Peter Lely, when commissioning him to paint his portrait in 1654: 'Mr Lely I desire you would use all your skill to paint my picture truly like me and not flatter me at all. But



(pointing to his own face) observe all these roughages, pimples, warts and everything as you see me. Otherwise I will not pay a farthing for it'. So were the portraits Oliver Cromwell truly like him? While one or two of the contemporary representations of Cromwell conform to his desire for modesty and simplicity like Edward Mascal's in 1657, they often elevate the subject through the use of armorial trappings and elegant clothing. The gaudy manifestations of power become even more apparent after Cromwell's installation as Lord Protector in December 1653 when there is an increasing deployment of royal iconography – especially that associated with Charles I – in his public image. As the only commoner to obtain the position of head of state in British history, a study of Cromwellian portraiture thus furnishes a unique insight into the turbulent life and times of a dynamically charismatic but ultimately enigmatic figure.

John Sutton was a Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Polytechnic University. He specialises in the history of Early Modern England and the English Renaissance, 1558-1640; the English Civil War; and the Jacobite cause. In 1983-84 he made a television series on Eastern England in the 1640s, entitled 'A War in the Kingdom' and screened on Anglia TV. He regularly hosts historical special interest gatherings on a wide range of subjects. He has previously talked to the GNE branches on topics such as Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh, Charles I and Elizabeth I.

