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Appendix 2

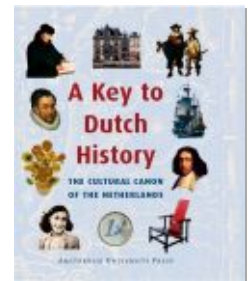
Published by

Slings, Hubert and Frits van Oostrom.

A Key to Dutch History: The Cultural Canon of the Netherlands.

Amsterdam University Press, 2007.

Project MUSE. <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/76693>.



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Composition of committee, description of working methods

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Chairman

Frits van Oostrom (1953) is a University Professor in Utrecht; as of May 2005 he has also been President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). His specialisation is Dutch Medieval literature, and has published books on the subject that are both scientifically oriented and aimed at a broad audience. He was awarded the Spinoza Award for his scientific work in 1995; his book *Maerlants wereld* received the AKO literary award in 1996. His latest book, *Stemmen op schrift: De Nederlandse literatuur vanaf het begin tot 1300* was published in February of 2006. This work is the first part of a major overview of Dutch literary history, written by nine experts.

Vice-chairman

Paul van Meenen (1956) is chairman of the board at Spinoza, a group of secondary schools in and around Leidschendam-Voorburg. After having studied mathematics at Leiden University, he worked as a teacher and manager in senior secondary and higher vocational education, and as a rector in secondary education. He is also chairman of the D66 party in the Municipal Council of Leiden.

Members

Herman Beliën (1946) works for the department of Recent History and American Studies at the Humanities Faculty of the UvA [Amsterdam University]. He specialises in Public History in the Netherlands and the US. Herman has published a number of books on this subject; *De Notendop van de vaderlandse geschiedenis* (2005 15th edition; in collaboration with M. van Hoogstraten) and *Geschiedenis op Straat, Wandelen door historisch Nederland* (2005; in collaboration with Paul Knevel and Ineke van Tol).

Marjolijn Drenth von Februar (1963) is an essayist. After having completed studies in philosophy, art history and law, she published her debut novel, *De zonen van het uitzicht*, which was awarded the Multatuli Prize in 1990. She has written a thesis on the problems surrounding academic specialisation *Een pruik van paardenhaar & Over het lezen van een boek* (2000) and has since focused on administrative and societal developments with regard to ethics, law and art. She writes a weekly column in de Volkskrant under the name Marjolijn Februari.

Frans Groot (1958) teaches history at the teachers training department of the Hogeschool Rotterdam, specialising in the period after 1500. He obtained a doctorate in 1992 after having published his thesis *Rooms en rechtzinnigen en nieuwlichters: Verzuiling in een Hollandse plattelandsgemeente. Naaldwijk 1850-1930*. He also published works on nation building in the Netherlands and helped develop the Sfinx. *Geschiedenis voor de tweede fase* teaching method. He is a member of the board at the *Koninklijk Nederlands Historisch Genootschap* [Royal Netherlands Historical Society].

Els Kloek (1952) is a senior professor/researcher at the history section of Utrecht University's Arts Faculty. She is currently working as project leader of the *Digitaal Vrouwenlexicon van Nederland* [Digital Women's Lexicon of the Netherlands] (www.vrouwenlexicon.nl), a joint project by the Research Institute for History and Culture (OGC) at Utrecht University and the Institute of Netherlands History (ING) in The Hague. She initiated and edited the popular science series *Verloren Verleden* (1998-2004, 24 volumes).

Susan Legêne (1955) is Head of Museums Affairs at the KIT Tropenmuseum. She also occupies an endowed chair in Cultural History of the Netherlands at the Universiteit van Amsterdam, specialising in the study of objects on behalf of the Royal Dutch Antiquarian Society. She is also a member of the National Unesco Committee. She publishes on the interface between (colonial) history and museology. Her thesis, *De bagage van Blomhoff en Van Breugel – Japan, Java, Tripoli en Suriname in de negentiende-eeuwse Nederlandse cultuur van het imperialisme* was published in 1998. She also wrote *Partij in het verzet: De CPN in de tweede wereldoorlog in 1986*, in collaboration with Hansje Galesloot.

Rob van der Vaart (1951) is professor of Regional and Educational Geography at Utrecht University. He was closely involved in the revision of exam curricula for geography at HAVO and VWO level. He coordinates the NCDO master class Wereldburgerschap en Onderwijs [Cosmopolitanism and Education]. He also supervised dissertation research on the contribution of geography to general education and on geography and heritage tourism.

Secretary

Hubert Slings (1967) works at the arts faculty of Leiden University, specialising in (educational) policy advice, literature teaching methods and cultural education. He is also editor of www.literatuurgeschiedenis.nl, www.bijbelencultuur.nl and the school edition series *Tekst in Context*. In 2000, he obtained a doctorate on the basis of his thesis *Toekomst voor de Middeleeuwen: Middelnederlandse literatuur in het voortgezet onderwijs*.

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Working method

The Committee for the Development of the Dutch Canon held fourteen plenary meetings over the course of the year. A number of smaller meetings were also held in order to prepare documents or consult with teachers. The committee also held a number of meetings on a plenary or *en petit comité* basis with various experts, interested parties and advisors (for an overview, see appendix 3).

At the start of its efforts, the committee launched the website www.canonvannederland.nl, which was visited well over 50,000 times during the past year, by more than 15,000 unique visitors. The focal point of the website was a revolving gallery of images and words that could be “rated” in terms of their canonical qualities. The site also featured information on the committee itself, its meeting schedule and a broad overview of its activities – this last facet was communicated through features such as a web log describing the committee members’ experiences. The discussion forum was graced with 260 responses, in 65 topics. The quality of the comments was generally high.

In aid of its own meetings, the committee also had access to an internal debate forum, which allowed for the exchange of documents. The frequent use of email substantially reduced the need for meetings.