

Editorial

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I am very happy to be able to open this issue of *Dutch Crossing: Journal of Low Countries Studies* with the announcement of the fourteenth biennial ALCS Conference, which will be held in Edinburgh from 10–12 July 2022. We are excited to be in Scotland for the first time and grateful to the University of Edinburgh for hosting it. Under the motto *Homing in* the conference will focus “on the reality and the concept of ‘home’ in Low Countries contexts, and in particular on understanding, remembering, (re)creating, searching for, (re)finding, (re)discovering, challenging, celebrating, home as an idea(l) and as a physical place”. For more details, please see the full Call for Papers on the conference homepage.¹

On to the contributions of this issue. Thomas Brochard (Aberdeen) investigates Scotto-Dutch relations as seen through *alba amicorum* from the 1540s to the 1720s. By browsing through these autograph albums, he unveils networks of travellers between the two countries that expand our understanding of these mobile and endeavouring individuals. Apart from better understanding the *peregrinatio scotica* to the Low Countries, Brochard also makes the case for a greater consideration of the genre of *alba amicorum* for historical research in general.

Adam Sammut (York) looks at Maarten van Heemskerck's *Eight Wonders of the Ancient World*, a little-studied print series published in the late sixteenth century in Amsterdam. Viewed as visual dialogues in Renaissance humanism against the existential crisis that was posed by the iconoclastic riots, the prints are compendia of antiquarian knowledge which sermonize Christian righteousness. As Sammut demonstrates, Heemskerck sought to vindicate his *raison d'être* as a virtuous artist by advocating a ‘third way’ between idolatry and iconoclasm.

Irving Wolters (UCL) turns his attention to the role of the translator in the literary field, studying the English versions of Gerard Walschap's work *Marriage/Ordeal* (1963) that Alex Brotherton produced for the *Stichting tot Bevordering van de Vertaling van Nederlands Letterkundig Werk* (‘The Foundation for the Promotion of the Translation of Dutch Literary Works’), a state-funded, *de facto* governmental organization that from 1954 to 1989 oversaw the translation of Dutch literature into other languages and their distribution abroad. Part of one of the organization's key projects, a series of Dutch works translated into English called the *Bibliotheca Neerlandica*, Wolters compares Brotherton's translations with Walschap's source texts and teases out the literary challenges that presented themselves to Brotherton as well as the translator's key role in the literary field, in between other players like the copy editors and press reviewers.

Bram Lambrecht (Leuven), investigates the contemporary Dutch-Flemish literary project *De eenzame uitvaart* ('The lonely funeral'), which composes and performs poems at funerals of people who die lonely or anonymously. A revival of the genre of occasional poetry, as Lambrecht shows, borrowing a term from Thomas Vaessens, can also be seen as an exponent of the 'revenge' of lyric in the twenty-first century, which implies that contemporary poetry no longer functions as a marginal and elitist genre but has reconquered its popular status and societal value – in short, its heteronomous function.

Lastly, Michał Wenderski (Poznań) considers the influence that the Polish avantgarde sculptor Katarzyna Kobro (1898–1951) had on the Belgian artist and co-founder of the *De Stijl* movement Georges Vantongerloo (1886–1965). While in modern art history numerous cases of influence that artists from so-called 'Western' centres had on their 'Eastern' counterparts are known, reverse examples are rarely recognised. By analysing Kobro's influence on Vantongerloo, Wenderski shows that two-way artistic influences and mobility that took place within the supranational network of the avantgarde, transcend the classic 'centre-periphery' paradigm or the East-West dichotomization.

As always, best wishes for good reading.

¹ 14th Biennial ALCS Conference 10–12 July 2022 <<https://bit.ly/346h7uO>> [accessed: 26 Jan. 2022].