

Vogelvlucht

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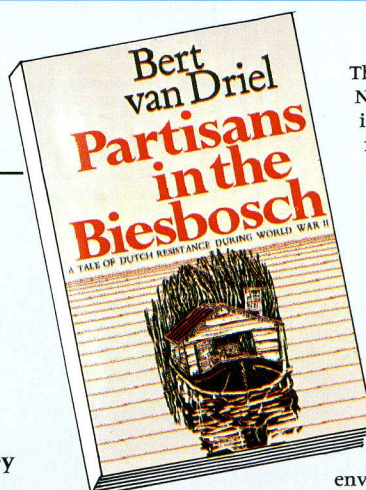
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This book was originally published in the Netherlands in 1945 and reprints appeared in 1947, 1983 and 1987. It is not a work of fiction, because the author himself was one of the partisans referred to in the title and participated in the events described. He now lives in Australia and rewrote the book in English when Australian friends encouraged him to do so.

Dutch resistance against the Nazis is practically a closed book to non Dutch-speaking people because English books on the subject are very scarce. In general, the Netherlands resistance movement (unlike the French) could not exploit the terrain and had to operate in an urbanized

environment. The Biesbosch at that time was the exception: a tidal area of reedflats and dense thicket. This is where a group of young partisans hid to avoid deportation — finally to capture 75 German soldiers. Especially for the younger generation this book offers a valuable insight into the sort of decisions ordinary people had to make, sometimes hardly out of their teens.

D.I. Bookshop (72E Maroondah Highway, Croydon, Vic. 3136).
143 p., \$14.95

ONCE MORE “VRIENDEN OP DE FIETS”

Last year we drew your attention to “Vrienden op de Fiets”, an organisation which offers 550 private bed-and-breakfast-addresses to bikers for as little as Dfl. 15. — to Dfl. 20. — per night.

So many people reacted that it might be a good idea to publish the address once more: Mrs. P. de Blécourt, Brahmstraat 19, 6904 DA Zevenaar.

For Dfl. 8,25 + postage she sends a booklet with addresses and tips (in Dutch). To avoid delay and extra cost we advise you to ask friends or relatives in Holland to order the guide and remit the money for you.

The woods and the moorlands around Epe (Gelderland) are so popular among cyclists that this sportsgirl was chosen as a symbol for the village. A local artist, Greet Jaspers, modelled her, an insurance company paid for her and 600.000 tourists a year love her.



Brielle's Annual Festival

"I love being ravished" says the virgin, taking a good swig of her Genever, "and after some practice I've developed a really convincing scream too!" Obviously something's amiss here, for this is not the way chaste maidens are supposed to behave. But the place is Den Briel or Brielle, the date is All Fools Day and that means anything goes so long as it's historical. For each year on April 1st the good burghers of the city commemorate the capture of Brielle by the Sea Beggars some four centuries ago by donning 16th-century garb and collectively re-enacting the drama. It's a combined market Day, Carnival, Kermis and open air theatre in which anybody can participate and after having spent a day amidst the population we've concluded that this is one of the best festivals in the country.



FACTS AND FANTASY

Many older Dutch will think of April 1st, 1572 as the beginning of a patriotic War of Independence, with the Watergeuzen or Sea Beggars as romantic Freedom Fighters gladly welcomed by the population. However, the people of that time saw it a bit differently ... Although it is generally agreed that independence of the modern lands that were to form the Dutch Republic from the archaic Spanish rule was long overdue, historians also agree that William of Orange could have had better allies than the Watergeuzen. Their patriotism mainly consisted of their own pockets and they were certainly not hailed by the population. This, of course, gives modern inhabitants of Brielle an excellent excuse to daub their faces with some smudges of burnt cork and play the villain!

The bare facts, then: on April 1st, 1572, ferryman Jan Pietersz Koppelstock contacted the fleet that could be seen from Brielle. Returning, he told the authorities that these were indeed Sea Beggars demanding surrender of the city. Panic reigned because the Spanish garrison had departed months ago. A gate was rammed and plunder began. The

pirates' intention was to move on, but at the last moment one of the commanders proposed to claim the city in the name of the Prince of Orange. Slowly the revolution spread: Flushing on April 22nd, Veere May 4th, Enkhuizen May 21st, Medemblik May 28th. Eighty years later the war ended and the Dutch Republic became independent.

RECREATING HISTORY?

Now if you visit Brielle on April 1st, do not expect a dull and dreadfully accurate recreation of history. The principal events are presented in four scenes at various locations in the scenic city: Koppelstock spreads panic, the mayor meets Lumey and a saucy row develops, the gate is rammed (including the ravishing and a pre-historic gun being fired with a Big Bang) and finally the mayor (wearing a modern wetsuit underneath his costume) is keelhauled.

But this basic scenario is merely the framework. The locals (and lots of "aliens") add about every bit of folklore they can think of and this is the best part of the fun. Dressing

up itself is great, and the total effect is best described by the following scene:

Imagine sitting in a tavern (the name "restaurant" is definitely out for the day) filled to the rafters with people in all sorts of costumes. The nun is there, the mayor — soon to be keelhauled — is having a beer with his future executioner. The next table seats a Black Magician and several beggars in sackcloth with artistically painted disfigurements, crutches and as far as can be seen highly recommendable female attributes. The menu is in "stuivers" (5 cent pieces) throughout: coffee and Sea Beggars cake 92 stuivers, Coppelstocklunch 190 stuivers, Spanish venison dish 370 stuivers.

Some Spanish soldiers enter, provocatively greeting the company with "Olé" and "Viva España". Immediately, patriots respond with "Oranje boven" and "Hup, Holland, hup" (a soccer song) and the confrontation soon dissolves in general laughter and drinks all around.

Now the interesting thing is that the tavern is called De Zalm, and was already there when the events really occurred, for it goes back to AD 1500!



PERFECT BACKGROUND

Brielle is a perfect setting, because its historical city centre is largely intact. That's why the private play-acting looks so convincing. Grandma Schats looks authentic selling ice-cream — which she will continue to do throughout the day despite being 80. The magician presents his credentials: he has been weighed and is not lacking weight to claim being a real witchmaster. Quacks sell cosmetics, Brethren of some undefined order (Templars?) sell waffles, Coluptuous Gipsies tell your fortune.

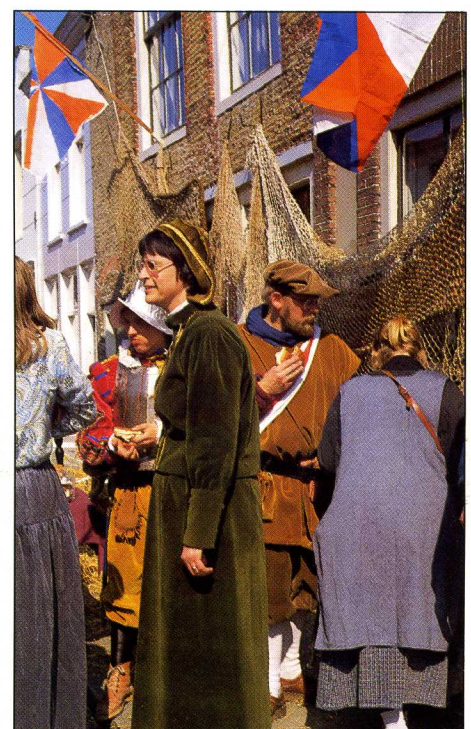
Two groups of participants in the action deserve special mention. The first is a company of Plague Doctors. The costumes are like those worn in the Plague Epidemics by doctors to avoid infection: long bird-like beaks (originally filled with "medicinal herbs")

permitting only a sort of quaking speech. The effect is gruesome and especially kids think it's fantastic. The Plague epidemics were some 250 years earlier, but never mind! The second group consists of street musicians and these are really top-notch. A not very ascetic-looking ascetic called Music Meindert handles guitar and mouth-organ (which he calls the Amazing Smoelschui!) with complete mastery and two orchestras called De Speellie-den van Voorne and Met Zak en As perform authentic 16th-century music, songs and dances. They told us there are 3 bagpipe builders in Holland and Flanders, who have their hands full.

That is just a small selection of what you can expect. A beautiful small Renaissance city where the whole population is having fun and you can be anything you want for a day, plus a relaxed and highly informal atmosphere — what more could you ask?

A word of warning: when we first came outside at about 8.00 a.m. after having spent the night in an hotel (we strongly recommend a very early start!) we were aghast to discover that nearly all the windows of shops and houses were sprayed with slogans in white paint. Graffiti? vandalism? hooligans spoiling the fun? Not at all: it's just a piece of Brielle customs as a special gang "paints the town" with highly personalized comments on the owners of the premises. It's whitewash and comes off in a few seconds...

Other events in Brielle: town walks mid-May to end of August; "City Centre Days" end August; sailing/surfing weekend in June. Enquiries: VVV, Venkelstraat 3, 3231XT Brielle. ◆



BOARDSAILING

WORLD CUP FESTIVAL

For the third time in succession, Zandvoort was the setting for the World Boardsailing Association's World Cup series. Over seventy female and male participants from the U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Australia and a dozen European countries — together forming the top of the professional league — met for a week-long series of contests.



"Windsurfing" is immensely popular in Holland, the home country of Olympic champion Stephan van den Berg, but in 1988 the fickle winds formed a difficult problem and dominated the events in the Wave Performance, Slalom and Course Racing disciplines. Nevertheless, the event was a memorable one — if only because two trawlers at one stage of the proceedings threatened to catch 70 boardsailers instead of fish...

The event takes place during the October autumn holiday and at the moment of writing both Scheveningen and

Zandvoort are in the race for 1989. If you are interested, the VVV is the place to call later in the season. The Pro World Cup not only offers boardsailing, but a wide range of additional attractions. A small selection from the 1988 programme: demonstrations in parasailing, skateboard freestyle, jetski championships, helicopter rescue work (Royal Netherlands Navy) and a spectacular descent of Royal Marines from a hotel (on the outside!). Plus lots of shows, music...in brief: entertainment for everybody. Busy as he was, top-

scoring Australian Phil McGain from Sydney had time for a brief talk. "I may have a reputation of being the Cool Calculating Brain, but let me tell you it's mainly a question of sheer hard work! This is the third time I'm here in Zandvoort and the conditions here on the North Sea Coast are a real challenge because they can change so rapidly. You're right, if this is my third visit I must like Zandvoort. I do, for two reasons: it's the biggest event in the world and the public is simply super!" ♦



LOVABLE LIMBURG

The province called Limburg differs from the rest of the country. Not only is the language different, the landscape is not what people usually associate with the Netherlands. Rolling hills dominate the view and the unwary biker may encounter gradients too steep for comfort! Limburg's history has been different also: in fact, the province celebrates its 150th anniversary as a part of the Netherlands this year. The different origins are reflected in Limburg's culture, architecture and cuisine. Reasons enough, then, to settle down there for some time and explore its many attractions!

CHOOSING A BASE

The first thing you'll want to do for your Limburg trip is to choose a base to operate from. The box "Accommodation" may serve as a guide here and we've included a variety of options.

For our own Limburg expedition, we selected the small village of Slenaken in the South, where the hotel called "La bonne Auberge" offered a perfect blend of Limburg's cooking, service and hospitality. It forms part of the "Romantische Restaurants" association, a group of quality restaurants/hotels. Definitely for those looking for something special and yet not too expensive. Value for money, in brief! Once you've decided on accommodation, the next step will be transport. You'll definitely want to tour the area and another reason why Limburg is so popular is the immediate vicinity of Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany. In the box "Touring" we've given some suggestions; you might wish to combine walks through the countryside with biking and longer trips — either with your own car or as arranged tours.

THE TASTE OF THE COUNTRY

To get the taste of Limburg's South — its most characteristic area — you might make a trip that takes you from one frontier to the next, with a good chance of crossing frontiers unwittingly several times on the way. At least, that's what we did! Of course you can make the trip the other way round and a two days' programme is best. We'll avoid the main roads,

so you'd better buy a good map before you begin.

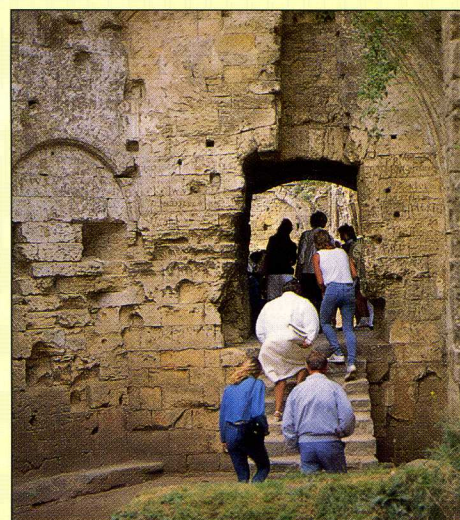
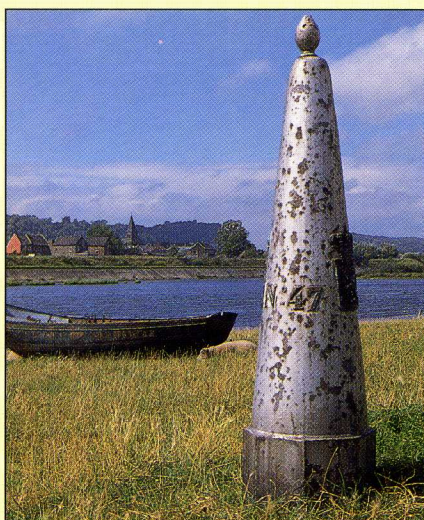
Let's start in Eijsden, a picturesque small town situated on the river Meuse and surrounded on three sides by our Belgian neighbours. The steep Diepstraat shows the use of the cobblestones so abundant in the area and at the lower end offers a nice view of the river. The beautiful 17th-century castle is not open to the public, but the gardens are.

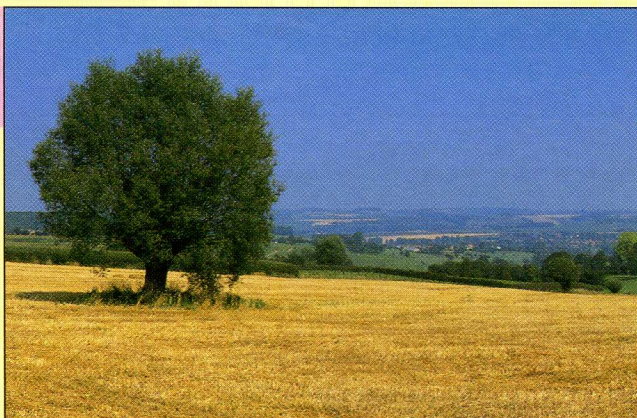
Then we'll go east along the scenic road to Sint Geertruid. To your left you'll see the woods called Savelsbos and this area is probably the oldest industrial centre in the country. Some 5000 years ago the flint — then used for tools — was mined on an industrial scale and the mine shafts have been studied archaeologically. The Savelsbos flints were exported far into Germany!

ESSENCE OF LIMBURG

Through Mheer — with an impressive castle, again not open to the public — follow the road to Noorbeek. On the way you'll have ample opportunity to buy fruit and vegetables from the farmers.

Noorbeek is perhaps the essence of Limburg because it has about everything people associate with the province and modern times seem to have gained only a small foothold. There are several large farmhouses with the typical inner courtyard. As most farmers leave the door wide open, you'll have a nice view of whitewashed walls, oak beams and lots of potted flowers.





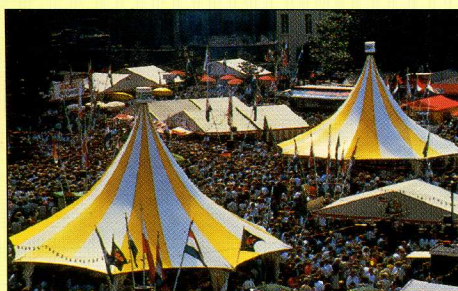
What makes Noorbeek special is its church, with the giant dead fir tree in front. Each year a tree is cut in the woods nearby and solemnly erected in the village, all in honour of St. Brigida and the end of an

epidemic in the Middle Ages. The church goes back to the 13th century.

From Noorbeek travel more or less along the frontier in an easterly direction to Epen. The small villages in that area, like Terziet, Camerig or Cottessen, are very typical and offer several large picturesque farmhouses. The landscape is just as nice to look at. Continuing east, you'll end up in Vaals, for many senior Dutch associated with childhood memories of a schooltrip. The "Drielandenpunt", where Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands meet, is still attracting crowds!

TWO HIGHLIGHTS

Two cities in Limburg can be justly called highlights of a visit. Maastricht is well-known, of course and it would be almost superfluous to mention its beautiful historic city centre



(Vrijthof, Stokstraatkwartier), its Roman relics, the two medieval cathedrals with their fabulous treasures, the Bonnefanten Museum and its bewildering choice of shops and pubs. Valkenburg is the other highlight and was a pleasant surprise when we revisited it. Of course it's a tourist centre, but it seems that most tourists wake up after 10.00 a.m. so if you're early it's pleasantly quiet. It's not a resort for the elderly either, because an astonishing percentage of the visitors are youngsters.

The caves, like the Fluwelengrot, and the ruins of the castle (built in the 11th century, blown sky-high in the 17th) are still going strong. But personally speaking we found the medieval garden of castle Schaloen one of the most pleasant "discoveries" in Lovable Limburg! ♦

ACCOMMODATION

Valkenburg is where the priceless asset called VVV originated — about a century ago. And the regional VVV (Stichting VVV Limburg, Postbus 811, 6300AV Valkenburg) is where you can get an amazing amount of information. As regards accommodation, the following brochures are recommended:

- Hotel arrangementen: suggestions and prices for short stays
- Limburgse Lente campings: all data on spring-time camping
- Bungalows, vakantiehuisjes, appartementen: full data and prices
- Limburgse familiehotels: old-fashioned family hotels are still going strong indeed!

TOURING

For ideas on where to go and stay: VVV brochure Zuid Limburg gives general information, list of attractions and hotels, addresses for rental bikes etc.

Rederij Stiphout, Maastricht, offers a variety of boat cruises on the river Meuse. Brochure available from VVV.

Biking: bike through the province for 5 days with hotels and transport of baggage arranged. Detailed map and information of itinerary included in package.

Hiking: similar arrangements for hikers. Trips of 3 or 5 days, daily distance 15-20 kms.

Information on these attractive arrangements: VVV. The ANWB tourist route through the Geuldal is recommended for nature-lovers.

"Wandelen door Zuid-Limburg" (I. and E. Zwolle, Prisma pocket book) is an excellent and nicely illustrated guide with clear maps. In this series other areas are also covered in separate volumes. Warmly recommended.

PARK ROSENDAEL AND

THE PRESENT IS BETTER THAN THE MEMORY

Generations of schoolkids have paid a visit to Park Rosendael and its famous “Bedriegertjes”. The vast majority of first-generation Dutch emigrants will begin to smile and lose themselves in childhood memories when the Bedriegertjes are mentioned.

It's not often that a visit to a childhood scene will leave the memory untarnished, but for Park Rosendael the opposite is true: it looks much better now than it probably did if you visited it before the Eighties. And if you belong to the younger generation, the park is just the thing for you: it's not only beautiful, it's fun too.

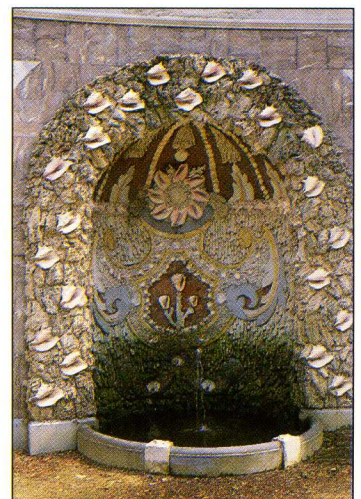


BEST-PRESERVED PARK

Park Rosendael is the best-preserved example of garden architecture in the Italian-French taste of the 17th century in the Netherlands. And besides, its location gave the designers unique opportunities. The park lies on the edge of the Veluwe — a moraine left by the glaciers of some 120,000 years ago. That means the

presence of springs and brooks and these have been cleverly used in the landscaping. One of the more spectacular applications is called the Bedriegertjes and as the picture shows this is still greatly appreciated. However, the main point about this practical joke is that the designer was the famous architect Daniel Marot, who also built Palace het Loo in

the 17th century. Imagine the effect on the stately hoop-skirted damsels of that time... But there's more to admire. The “tea-cupola” is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the country, there's an exotic shell-gallery, a cascade with statues, ponds and a chain-bridge. The sound of kids running over it is a permanent memory once you know it.



THE "BEDRIEGERTJES"

RESTORATION PROJECT

The cost of upkeep of the park and castle had become so immense that neglect had been unavoidable after the war. In the Seventies, the foundation Geldersch Landschap (which together with the foundation Geldersche Kastelen manages no less than 20 castles in the province) acquired Rosendael. Since then, an exemplary restoration project has been in full swing. Buildings and "garden-furniture" have been restored, springs and brooks have been cleaned (they had almost completely silted up), trees and plants are now carefully tended and the rose-garden has been reconstructed using

ancient photographs.

When the ponds were cleaned, some of the varied history of Rosendael was revealed. On the one hand, a WWII ammunition dump was discovered, on the other, lots of 14th-century pottery was found. The greatest surprise was uncovering the foundations of 14-century walls belonging to the castle.

The castle itself is now being restored and it is expected that in 1990 it will be opened to the public. But even if your view is restricted to the exterior, the castle is interesting. Obviously it represents several centuries of architecture and the enormous round tower (16 metres in

diameter, walls of 4 metres) is the oldest part — early 14th century. It is the most formidable of its kind in the country and shows that Rosendael was the prime residence of fairly formidable nobles too: the Dukes of Gelderland gained a reputation for being "difficult customers"!

Rosendael: north of Velp near Arnhem. Open from Ascension Day through October. To June 30th: daily except Monday; July and August: daily; Sept. and Oct.: Sundays only. On weekdays between 10.00 and 18.00, Sundays between 11.00 and 18.00 hrs. ♦

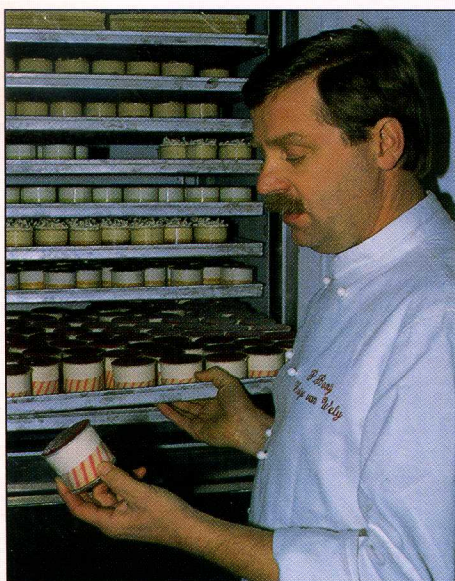


OF ANGELS, SACHER CAKE

A VISIT TO THE ARTISAN'S SWEET WORLD

From relatives we had heard about the high-class confectioner in the small seaside resort of Noordwijk aan Zee. The shop's name "Huize Van Wely, since 1922" stuck in our minds and during the last few years we spotted these watchwords increasingly often in the glossies and the daily papers.

Could it be that a shop in a small village had acquired national, perhaps even international fame?



Pieter Booy shows a new product

More female recruits to the profession



A WALKING DYNAMO

We got hold of proprietor Pieter Booy just before he was off to Japan so there was no need to ask about his international reputation. A Japanese firm, judiciously settled in the Amsterdam World Trade Centre, is reconnoitring in high-up regions of the European culinary world: Peltier in Paris, Fortnum and Mason in London, Van Wely in Noordwijk... need we say more?

But international acclaim is not won in a day. How does one move up the ladder and stay safely at the top among other high-flying competitors?

Initially the answer lies in the mental make-up of Pieter Booy himself: a dynamic, ambitious and able man, physically, mentally and emotionally involved with his job. An inveterate achiever — not of personal fame but of laurels for his products and for his profession.

Never willing to compromise, either on quality or on his staff of 30, he had a very stiff job calculating his prices. Unlike the French, Dutch people are reluctant to pay the price top-quality luxury food deserves. The solution had to be found elsewhere: ultimate economy of movement, time and space in the Van Wely kitchens.

STAINLESS STEEL, SYSTEM BUILT

The super clean kitchens, entirely fitted out in stainless steel, show that it is all a matter of logic, modern technology and logistics, to use a military term. In his custom-built kitchen, Pieter Booy used the same basic sizes for all the various units so that everything fits everywhere, ingredients are stored where they are needed in drawers of the same capacity as the standard packing. Work-saving gadgets such as an ingeniously simple egg-separator abound.

CO-WORKERS

Heading the kitchen staff is Adriaan van Haarlem, a quick and charming man, one of Huize Van Wely's sustaining pillars. Surprisingly enough he counts four girls in his brigade, a high score in a profession where men still make up the majority of the workforce. Like his boss, Adriaan van Haarlem is very busy. Apart from producing large quantities of mouthwatering fare, he organises the work and coaches new generations of "pâtissiers". For lack of a vocational schooling on the university level, the secondary school in Wageningen sends its three best pupils from the third (final) year to Huize van Wely for additional training. Not without success, for Adriaan van Haarlem as "fathered" one European and 3 national champions in the last couple of years. One of these, Rudolph van Veen, now runs a new Van Wely-shop in Breda single-handed. You may have met him as he was sent out to Sydney last January, and you may also have met Pieter Booy himself. He travelled extensively in Australia and New Zealand, contemplating emigration some years ago. One of his best memories is meeting a colleague in Wellington — a Dutch one, that is!



AND PROFITEROLES



Last check by Adriaan van Haarlem

Handle with care



CLIENTS AND PRODUCTS

The diversity of Van Wely's output is astounding: 20 different kinds of bonbons (called *bouchées* in more elegant French), another 20 of the related "*truffels*" in a tempting variety of taste and texture, 12 different rectangular cakes, 30 larger round ones, their noble curves not cluttered with dollops of cream but adorned with a single *rose*, a slender butterfly, or the thinnest of pleated collars in chocolate. These "*taarten*" and their ice cream runners-up are not meant to be washed down with the traditional cup of coffee, no, they are "*grand desserts*", savoured with a glass of wine or champagne after a dinner in style. Small

savouries called "*petit salés*" also form part of the assortment which all in all consists of an amazing 600 to 700 items.

It is quite clear now that the smallness of the village has nothing to do with the total turnover. People come from all over the country, royal customers among them, and top restaurants and catering firms are regular clients.

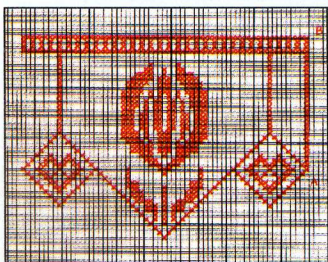
KLM's Royal Class and Party Service are featherers in Pieter Booy's cap: those are the kind of people he enjoys working for. And, of course, for you... if you want to splash out a bit and let a pure, unashamed greed get hold of you, you know now where to go. ♦



COMMUNICATIE PER GORDIJN

Er zijn in Nederland misschien wel net zoveel verschillende gordijnen als er huisgezinnen zijn. Vitrage in allerlei gedrapeerde vormen, kant, boerenbont, macramé en vooral filethaakwerk in stroken en deurbrede banen.

Engelen en pauwen zijn en blijven populair maar de laatste tijd zien we het gehaakte gordijn ook in gebruik als visitekaartje. Het beroep is erin verwerkt of de namen van de bewoners: **HIER WONEN ELS EN HANS VISSER** lezen we door een deur met behoorlijk glasoppervlak.



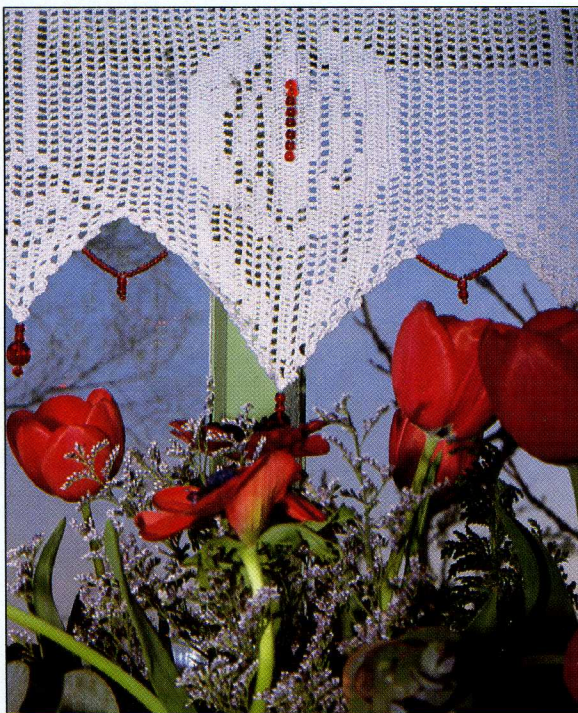
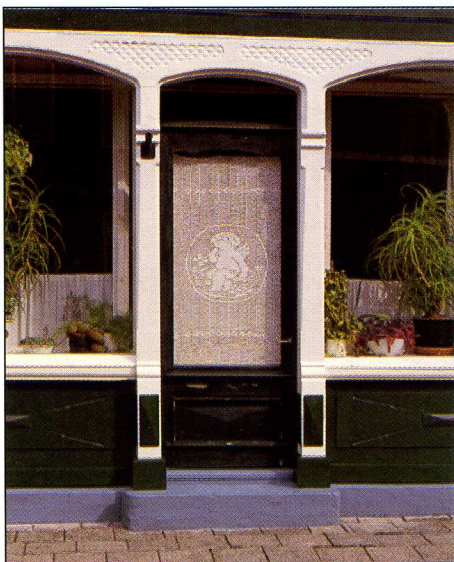
VAN NEDERLANDSE AFKOMST

Een tulpenmotief leek ons geschikt om de relatie met het land van de bollenvelden aan te geven. Het wordt uitgevoerd in filethaakwerk, een eenvoudige combinatie van stokjes en lossen. Door herhaling van het motief kunt u zelf de breedte van de strook bepalen maar ook de hoogte is flexibel doordat u het aantal steken boven de tulp groter kunt nemen dan op de teltekening. Bovendien kunt u met grover of fijner garen werken, met wit, ecru of in kleur, kortom, u kunt er alle kanten mee uit.

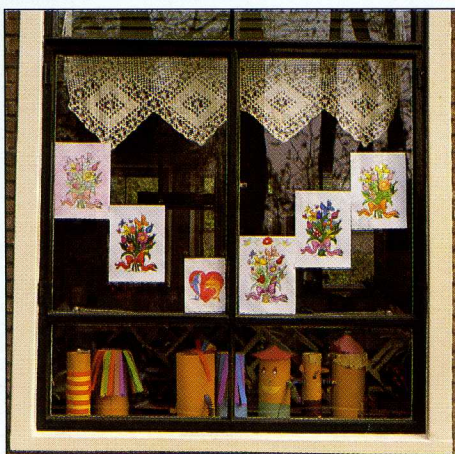
TECHNIEK

Voor de wat minder ervaren haaksters frissen we even de herinnering op. In tegenstelling tot een borduurpatroon is elk open vierkantje

Engeltjes zijn in



Tulpen uit Holland



Zelfs de dorpsschool is gezellig

Klokken voor de Beiaardschool



een gaatje van *twee* lossen plus een verbindend stokje, een kruis is een blokje van *twee* stokjes plus een verbindend stokje. Anders gezegd: een open hokje is 1 stokje, 2 lossen en 1 stokje, een dicht hokje is 4 stokjes, waarbij steeds het eerste stokje van elk hokje tegelijkertijd het laatste stokje van het vorige hokje is. Het maken van een proefstukje is handig om de hoogte te schatten.

U begint met een ketting van lossen. Voor het bepalen van het aantal telt u de hokjes van het patroon, plus eventueel een extra aantal als u de strook hoger wilt hebben. Dit totaal vermenigvuldigt u met drie, telt er één bij op, + nog eens drie lossen i.p.v. het eerste stokje. Voor de eerste toer (van A naar B op de tekening) maakt u 1 stokje op elke losse. Voor de teruggaande toer haakt u steeds na de eerste drie stokjes 6 lossen en slaat 6 stokjes over, dit worden de gaatjes voor de roe. Verder werkt u volgens het telpatroon.

Voor het meerderen aan het einde van een toer 1 dubbelstokje in dezelfde insteekplaats als het laatste stokje, voor elk verder te meerderen stokje 1 dubbelstokje in de onderste lus van het vorige dubbelstokje haken. Voor meerderen aan het begin van een toer voor elk te meerderen stokje 1 losse haken plus 3 losse extra, dan 1 stokje in elke losse, te beginnen in de 5e losse vanaf de haaknaald. De eerste vier lossen tellen als 1 stokje dus voor 3 te meerderen stokjes 6 lossen haken.

Het minderen is simpeler: aan het begin van een toer over elk te minderen stokje een halve vaste haken, aan het einde van een toer de stokjes onbewerkt laten.

Het gordijn als uithangbord



DE KNOOPENWINKEL:

BUTTON LOVERS' PARADISE

Whenever we visit the delightful town called Haarlem, situated between Amsterdam and the North Sea, we make unexpected discoveries. A cosy pub, an exciting exhibition, a new shop or a very old one...

This time it was the Knoopenwinkel in the Warmoesstraat that caught our eye. While a nearby carillon tinkled its tune, we surveyed a display of lacy gloves, flowery silk shawls, glittering buckles and, of course, buttons, little jewels to match the other elegant articles.



A BLACK, THREE-CORNERED BUTTON

On entering the shop I overheard a customer ask for a big, black, three-cornered button. Much to my surprise, at least a dozen different objects answering to that description were produced. But as the walls of the shop were entirely covered with little drawers containing buttons of all sizes, shapes, shades and substances, there were perhaps some 100,000 to choose from!

Siény Veltman, the enthusiastic owner of the shop, confirms my estimate or rather tops it with an even more staggering figure. Together with her private collection, dating back to 1890 when the shop was founded, and a stock of 1950 buttons, the old house accommodates perhaps a million buttons.

But one kind of button will never be allowed in either collection: the spray-painted plastic button, that abject specimen whose cheap gloss fades quickly in the sun. When not properly made of galalith with casein, a milk product its chief ingredient, a button is not worth its name.

This does not apply, of course, to all the other varieties: corded, leather, wooden, porcelain, strass and jewelled buttons. In this category

there is a large range of designs, marching in step with the main fashion trends. In addition to a basic collection of no-nonsense Dutch products in every conceivable colour and size, new, trendy buttons of Swiss, Italian and French manufacture are selected twice a year.

"After several decades of casualness, people are getting interested in chic again", Siény Veltman says, "they realise that a few smart buttons can make all the difference to home-made as well as mass-produced outfits."

MICE AND DUCKS

Stored appropriately low down to please roving little eyes, De Knoopenwinkel also displays hearts, flowers, apples, cherries, fish and bees, butterflies, ladybirds and lots of other little charmers.

One thing that has not changed since the shop was founded is the delight children take in



Most buttons are available in three different sizes, some with a buckle to match

choosing their own buttons. Creative mothers not only use them as fasteners but also for decoration. And one further step is to forget about clothes altogether and include these little items in wallpanels and other decorative objects. A child's name spelled out in tiny buttons will certainly score high as a very personal present.



Siény Veltman in front of her treasury

MULTIFUNCTIONAL FASTENERS

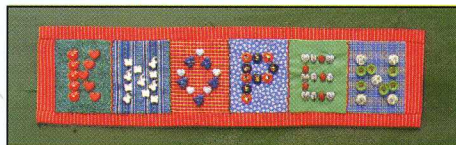
Using buttons for decoration is not a new idea at all. In the 19th century people used plain buttons to form religious texts. Framed on the wall they served as a daily reminder. We spotted a more playful application in a local museum: a large wallhanging proclaimed **UIT GROOTMOEDERS KNOOPENDOOS**, the bold lettering literally composed from that fascinating box full of treasures grandmothers used to keep.

So the use of buttons is and was many-sided. In my opinion, the official definition "A small knob or disk secured to an article and used as a fastener by passing it through a buttonhole or loop" is overdue for an update. Visit Veltman's Knoopenwinkel for an inspiring review. ♦



A case full of trimmings, a sideline of De Knoopenwinkel

From the beetle — and butterfly department



DE MOOIMAKERS VAN HOEVE "DE WAERT"

Officieel heette het dat we het Museum voor Merklappen en Volkskunstborduursels in St. Odiliënborg bezochten maar deze vlag dekte de lading bij lange na niet. De collectie omvatte veel meer dan allerlei vormen van naaldkunst, de sfeer was er zo huiselijk-gezellig dat we naar ons idee op de koffie waren bij een bereisde oom en tante die in hun boerderij alles op het gebied van volkskunst hadden uitgesteld waarnaar hun hart uitging.

INSPIRERENDE COLLECTIE

Een belangrijk deel van de stukken die het echtpaar Rogman in de loop der jaren verzamelde, bestaat inderdaad uit volksborduurkunst, vooral afkomstig uit de Balkanlanden. Er zijn unieke dingen bij zoals een "vreugde — en leeddoek", aan de ene kant opgewerkt met bonte kleuren, aan de andere kant somber zwart. Veel klederdrachtonderdelen, brei — en haakwerk, merk — en stoplappen uit verschillende landen. De herkomst van een set plankenrandjes is onmiskenbaar: "Een goede huisvrouw zorgt zoals het wezen moet dat knoop noch band ontbreekt aan 't linnengoed — geen stof erop komt — wilt daar vooral op passen dat alles netjes zij en helder wordt gewasschen". In de knusse keuken valt naast allerlei toepasselijks als traditionele broodvormen en koekplanken vooral de verzameling eieren op: beschilderd, gebatikt, met stro en met kraaltjes in was versierd, er zijn er geen twee gelijk.

De hele uitstelling werkt zo inspirerend dat je meteen zelf aan de slag wilt. Om de eerste hebzucht te stillen zijn er in het museumwinkeltje gelukkig

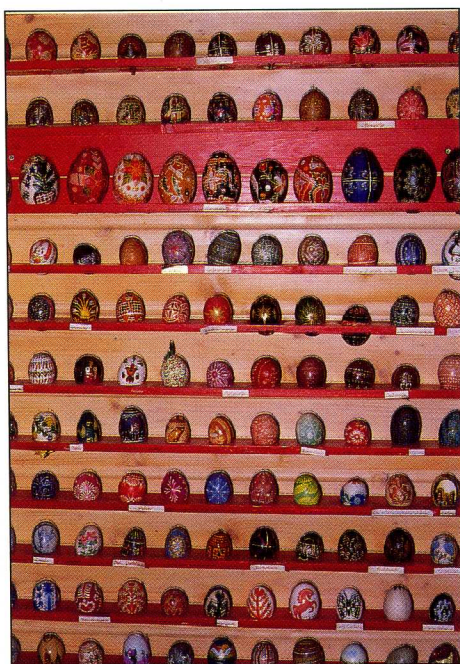


versierde eieren te koop. Ook knipsels, handwerkboeken, telepatronen, handbedrukt linnen en zelfs pompdoeken kunnen worden aangeschaft. Maar voor honger naar kennis en vaardigheid heeft het echtpaar Rogman andere pijlen op hun boog.

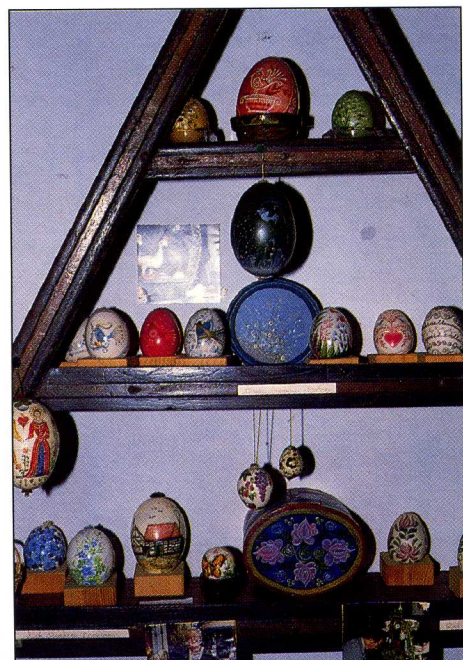
MOOIMAKERSWEKEN

Behalve mooie stukken werd er ook veel inzicht en kundigheid vergaard op het gebied van motieven en technieken. Gedurende vier weken per jaar geeft de familie Rogman die kennis door aan kleine groepjes cursisten. Borduren, papierknippen, schilderen en het versieren van eieren maar ook interesse wekken voor de volkskunst in het algemeen zijn de hoofdpunten van het programma.

De deelnemers logeren op de hoeve en zelfs de maaltijden zijn in stijl: een gediplomeerde kokkin bereidt oude gerechten en feestelijke koeken. Misschien een idee om een stukje vakantie in het oude vaderland gezellig en zinvol door te brengen?



Hoeve "De Waert", St. Odiliënborg, is per bus bereikbaar vanuit Roermond. Het museum is open van 1 mei tot 1 september, zondag t/m vrijdag van 10 tot 16.30 uur. Daarna op afspraak. Mooimakersweken: 4-10 en 11-17 juni. Prijs voor volledig pension + onderricht Dfl.500 — (1989) Op verzoek stuurt mevrouw Tine Rogman vollediger inlichtingen.



HOLLAND TOYS — EEN ONTwapENENDE WERELD



Complete garderobes in mini-maatjes

Miniatuurmensen, gehuld in kant en satijn, kijken ons strak aan vanonder hun weelderige haardos, een uitgebreide berenfamilie houdt een reunie, een Bijenkorf-auto uit 1920 staat geparkeerd voor een romantisch stationnetje.

Met vele liefhebbers van oud speelgoed zijn we op één van de gezellige zondagse beurzen, georganiseerd door de Stichting Verzamelaars Oud en Antiek Speelgoed.



Annemieke van Leeuwen uit Diemen collectie met haar gevarieerde collectie

WASKNIJPERS OP MATT

Als vreemdeling in deze kleinschalige samenleving kijk je je ogen uit en ontdek je dingen waarvan je het bestaan nooit had vermoed. Tot in de kleinste details blijkt de grote-mensen-wereld gekopieerd te zijn: zonnebrillen voor beren, wasknijpers voor poppekleertjes, schoentjes in allerlei afmetingen, kleine tasjes, de mooiste pruiken en complete garderobes. Bij een grote stand hangen uitzonderlijk fraaie jurkjes die een van energie en ideeën overlopende poppengrootmoeder maakt van antieke stoffen. De bijpassende hoedjes van stro zijn zo elegant met bloemen versierd, dat je ze als kleine kunstwerkjes aan de muur zou willen hangen.

Bij een andere stand vind je de materialen wanneer je zelf aan de slag wilt gaan: oude bandjes en kantjes, kleine knoopjes, stoffen in bestorven kleuren.

MEDISCHE HULP

Op elke beurs van de VOAS is ook poppendokter aanwezig. In Nederland zijn er maar vier mensen die dit nuttige beroep uitoefenen.

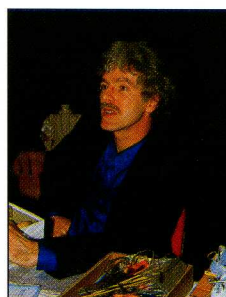
Henk Hemkes uit Winterswijk kreeg zijn opleiding bij de oude plaatselijke poppendokter en nam uiteindelijk zijn praktijk over. Een officiële cursus voor dit werk is hier niet maar ook zonder het "Doctor in doll technology" — certificaat zoals Amerika dat kent, blijkt Henk Hemkes een perfecte poppenarts met prettige bedside manners en gevoel voor zijn patiënten en hun naaste familie. Hij toont begrip voor de poppenmoeders die



Grootouders op strooptocht



Een sportieve schoonheid uit 1925



Poppendokter Henk Hemkes

voor geen prijs een nieuw kind willen ter vervanging van hun ernstig gekwetste lieveling. Maar ook voor de volwassen emigrante in Canada zoekt hij stad en land af naar een passend lijf voor haar authentieke Juliana-pop. Natuurlijk heeft hij zelf een grote voorraad onderdelen zoals celluloid ledematen, schoentjes, pruikjes en standaards voor poppen die te kostbaar zijn om mee te spelen.

Zelf vindt hij vooral poppen uit de jaren 50 interessant. Die periode is een grensgebied tussen oude stijlen en nieuwe materialen waardoor vaak unieke combinaties van deze beide ontstaan.

VROEG MECHANISCH SPEELGOED

Voor de Macho-figuur is op de beurzen van de VOAS overigens ook genoeg te beleven; naast het roze en hemelsblauw staan ook de camouflagekleuren van een Renault pantserwagen uit de jaren dertig, het messing van echt werkende stoommachines en het brandweerrood van een gestroomlijnde stoomlokomotief van voor de oorlog.

Zoals op alle gebieden van het antiek zijn de prijzen voor de argeloze buitenstaander soms verbijsterend, afhankelijk van de zeldzaamheid. Een Märklin trein kan

ergens in de buurt van de Dfl.20.000. moeten opbrengen — en zeker een afnemer vinden. Maar aan de andere kant zijn er ook fraaie stukken voor redelijke prijzen te koop. Hetzelfde geldt uiteraard ook voor de poppen. Vorig jaar werd een exemplaar voor meer dan Dfl.90.000. — geveild.

Maar ook voor de niet zo kapitaalkrachtige bezoeker is een van de VOAS-beurzen een echte "aanrader", al is het maar om je weer even kind te voelen...

De Stichting Verzamelaars Oud en Antiek Speelgoed organiseert jaarlijks verschillende nationale en internationale beurzen. Jeltina Riedstra-Wierda, Langhûstesrdyk 1, 9057 RJ Jelsum is de manager en beschikt over data en lijsten van poppenwinkels.

De grootste collectie boeken over poppen en speelgoed heeft boekhandelaar Van de Moosdijk, Wilhelminaplein 8, 5711 EK Someren.

Poppendokter Henk Hemkes is bereikbaar in de Jasmijnlaan 40, 7101 ZP Winterswijk.

Bij Loth Gijsselman, Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers since 1813 komen regelmatig poppen en speelgoed onder de hamer, zoals onlangs de beroemde collectie van het Amstelveense Poppenmuseum.

Voor inlichtingen wendt u zich tot Ina Bosschers, Drift 6, 1251 CC Laren.

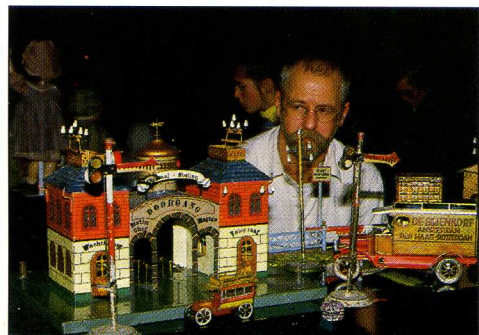
Het Toy-Toy Museum, Groene Wetering 41 in Rotterdam bezit een unieke collectie antiek speelgoed uit de periode 1700-1940. Ook poppenhuizen, miniaturen en mechanisch speelgoed. ♦

Een heerlijk stilleven

Lourens Bas uit Hoorn achter zijn romantische station

Hoedjes om aan de muur te hangen

De collectie De Goede uit Norg



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