



DUTCH-AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY GROUP

NEWSLETTER May 2022

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Dutch Australian Genealogy Group for May 2022.

After the disruptions Covid-19 has brought to life it's tempting to wonder when things will return to normal. We may say when we are all vaccinated and restrictions have ended, normality will return, but the fact is that they won't – not the old normal anyway. But we can achieve a new kind of normality, things are starting to go back to normal. ... and toilet paper and pasta is back on our store shelves.

Best of all, our meetings are back at the Abel Tasman Village.

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FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was well attended and it was great to see members that had not been able to attend for more than 2 years.

.And what a great meeting it was.

Yvonne Reitsma started our discussions by telling us about a Professional Photo Organiser who currently has a Workshop happening for those doing Family History on how to do organise your photo's, story and link them all in together for our Legacy and/or Photo Books.

Her name "Caroline Guntur (The Swedish Organizer)" is a Certified Photo Organizer, and a Certified Home Movie Specialist. Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Visual Communication from Hawaii Pacific University, a Master of Arts Degree in Arts, Entertainment & Media Management from Columbia, as well as an ESL certificate from Cambridge University.

Millions of digital photos are lost every year due to lack of organization. Phones are lost, computers crash, and natural disasters tear memories away from their owners.

On top of that, thousands of outdated prints, slides, and negatives are sitting in sad little boxes around the world, waiting to be digitized.

Caroline offers several courses and online classes, as well as some free tutorials

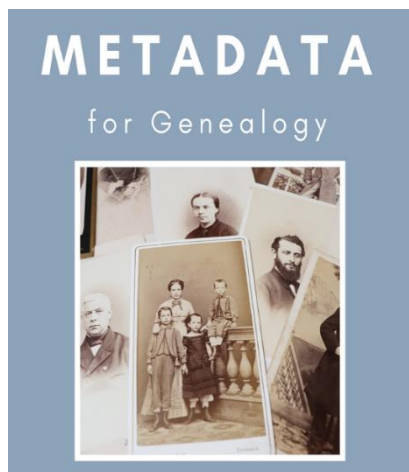
***Courses by Caroline Guntur
The Swedish Organizer***

Part 1. METADATA for Genealogy: October 8, 2022. 2pm Central US Time

Part 2. METADATA for Genealogy: October 15, 2022. 2 pm Central US Time

Check out the website;

<https://www.organizingphotos.net/caroline-guntur-photo-organizer/>



Yvonne also recommended we check ‘Memento’ books, as used and recommended by Ken Duncan (Aust. Professional, highly acclaimed, Photographer) at his Workshops at his Erina Studio, as well as being presented at two Photography Conferences

Coby Black had a question about ‘My Heritage’ as a place to inquire about Dutch DNA testing and the following discussion prompted Bob Gauke to bring up a documentary currently showing on Netflix “Our Father”, about the crimes of Dr. Donald Cline, a fertility specialist in Indiana, who during the 1970s and ‘80s inseminated dozens of patients with his own sperm, without their knowledge or consent. The movie tells the stories of some of these women and the (at least) 94 biological children of Cline.

There have been similar cases over the years, creating a nightmare for future genealogists, as well as real-life tragedies should some of these siblings unknowingly meet not knowing their parentage, nor relationship then marry.

Here are some links;

<https://www.geneticsandsociety.org/article/british-man-fathered-600-children-own-fertility-clinic>

Bertold Wiesner a British Man 'Fathered 600 Children' at Own Fertility Clinic

<https://time.com/6176310/our-father-true-story-netflix/>

Dr. Donald Cline

<https://nypost.com/2020/12/15/doctor-used-his-sperm-to-father-hundreds-of-babies-with-patients-some-of-these-siblings-over-four-decades/>

Dr. Philip Peven, A revered family doctor may have fathered hundreds of children using his own sperm – sometimes without the parents’ knowledge – over four decades.

For the finale Marius Coomans gave a presentation of his Family History website. Having tried traditional family tree software and found it insufficient for his large collection of Family mementos, including about 800 handwritten letters, He set about inventing a system that suited him better.

With the help of “Flicker” and “Picstory” he created an impressive website that allowed him to store and give easy access to his treasure trove of correspondence, photographs and more, as well as scans of his Father’s artwork, with links for easy navigation. This is still a work in progress as Marius scans each letter, links it to the writer, and then translates it with the help of “Google translate”. Each letter needs to be typed into the translator manually, and Marius said He “ONLY” gets to do about 25 letters a month.

Anyone wanting to have a look at Marius’s site,

It is normally password protected but you can access it by clicking:

<https://new:zealand@picstory.net/> or www.coomans.com

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DID YOU KNOW?

On 1st April 2002 At The Stroke Of Midnight, The Mayor Of Amsterdam Married 4 Gay Couples As The Netherlands Became The First Country In The World To Legalize Same-Sex Marriage

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BOOK FROM 1909 EXPLAINS WHY PHOTOS FROM THE PAST LOOK FLAWLESS

By Liucija Adomaite and Denis Tymulis

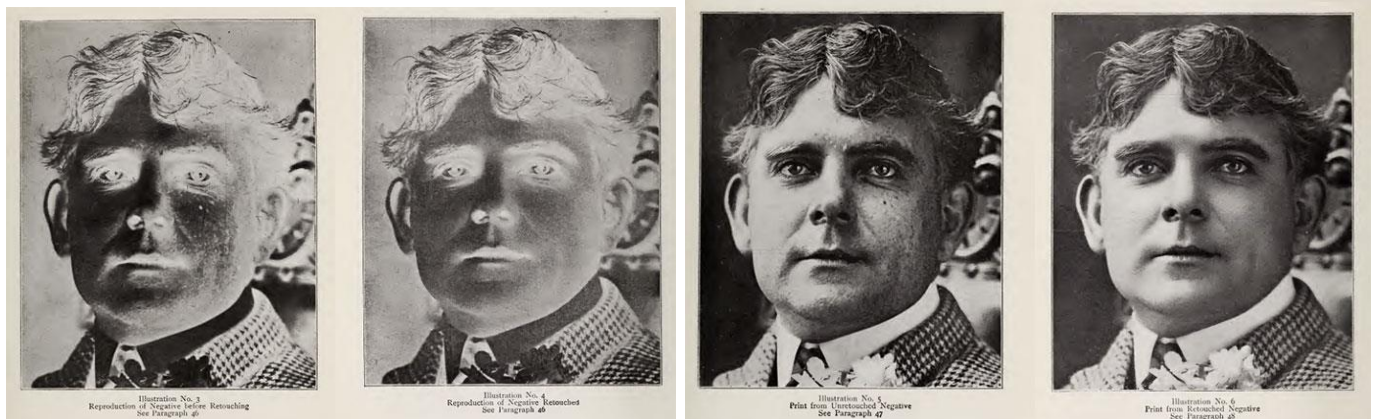
We like to think of image altering, whether it's Facetune or Photoshop, as the curse of our times. With social media promoting unattainable beauty standards, regardless of the backlash it constantly receives, demand for plastic surgery is on the rise along with identity and mental health issues.

This recently resurfaced instructional photography book from 1909 shows how retouching was already a thing before Instagram.

This black and white instructional photography book that was first published in 1868, which is part of a large 10-volume collection, was made to instruct photographers on how to shoot, retouch and 'eliminate imperfections' on their photography subjects.

Below we selected some of the most interesting before-and-after examples of 'Victorian influencers' that show how humans have always been drawn to flawlessness. Although, as you can see, it used to be all more subtle and natural.

According to the 1909 edition of the book, "in delivering finished work to your customers, you do not hand them the photographic negatives, but the prints made from these negatives." It explained that in "the early days of photography prints were made directly from the negative without any alteration."



That was because "the wet-plate rendered softer effects than are obtainable with the ready prepared dry-plate." As a result, the book says, "The imperfections were less visible, and at that time the general public were satisfied with an exact likeness of themselves."

The photographers used knives or pencils to etch and retouch negatives so that they made "thick necks made thin, excessive drapery removed, crooked noses straightened, hair added, backgrounds altered," the book said



After the dry-plate was invented and replaced the wet plate technology, "the defects in the human face became more apparent on the negative, and there arose a demand for a greater softening of the lines

and a removal of the more objectionable imperfections.” The photographers would remove imperfections or blemishes with brush and color from every individual print.

And here are some examples made before and after retouching shared in the book



“So numerous, however, were these imperfections, and so irksome became the labor of eliminating them from the print, that the photographer was compelled to devise some means whereby he could apply these remedies direct to his negative so that each print made from the negative would have these blemishes eliminated,” the book explained and

added that “The results of these endeavors led to retouching the negative.”

When it comes to retouching techniques, photographers used tools that were very different from the apps we use today.





They included: easel, magnifying glass, lead holder, lead, etching knife, spotting brush, retouching fluid, negative varnish, and etching paste.

Moreover, pencils would help to erase imperfections and blend highlights, shadows and halftones, while etching knives reduced highlights and removed the unwanted areas in the photo. Some of the retouching guidelines included things like ‘reducing size of stout subjects’

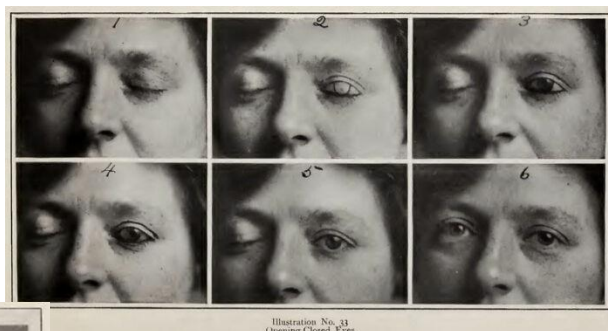
‘Removal of freckles’ was also a thing to be edited out



Photographers were even able to straighten crossed eyes

The “Complete self-instructing library of practical photography” argues that “by the combination of etching and retouching—i.e., by the use of the knife and pencil—you etch and model, and with these two instruments you can make any alteration you desire on the negative.”

Incredibly, opening closed eyes was also something that could be altered in a negative



There’s also an instruction on how to reduce thick neck

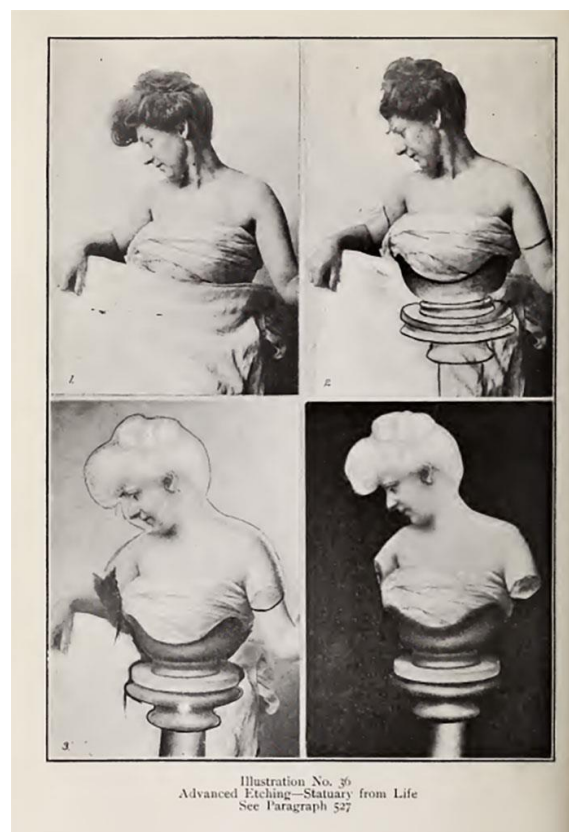
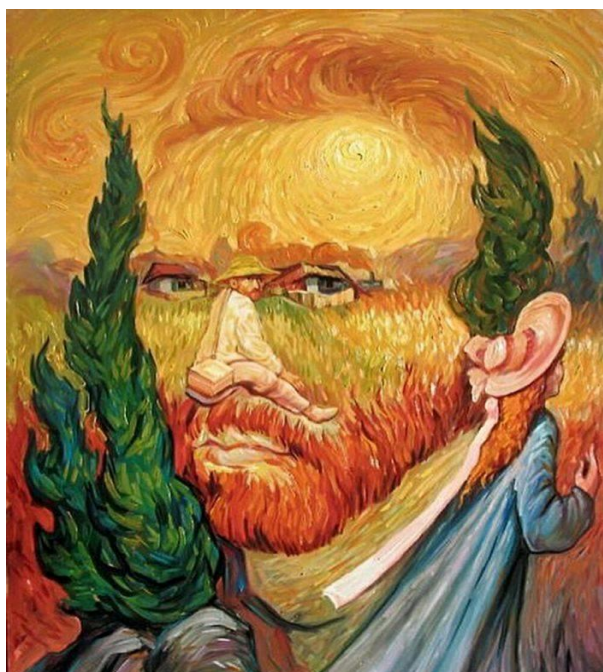
Removing a child from the picture was also possible with retouching and etching techniques



Such desired alterations were thick necks made thinner, excessive drapery removed, crooked noses straightened, shadows accentuated, hair added, backgrounds altered, objectionable portions removed, figures taken from groups, etc.

They could even bring statues to life!

Image credits: American school of art and photography

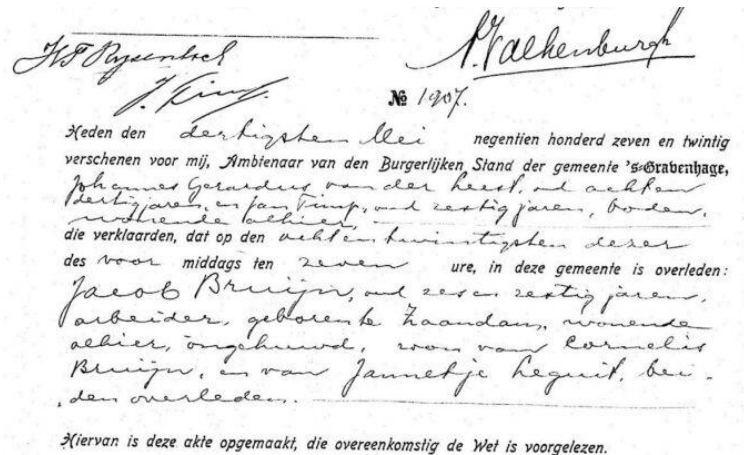


illusion painting - vincent van gogh
by Artist Oleg Shuplyak - Find Hidden Figures

ASK YVETTE – HOW TO FIND A DUTCH WILL

By Yvette Hoitink

One of our Twitter followers, Karen de Bruyne, asked on Twitter how to find the will of her great-grandfather-in-law Jacob Bruijn, who died in The Hague on 28 May 1927. Since there are several ways to go about it, I thought I would write a blog post about it.



Death record of Jacob Bruijn, as provided by Karen de Bruyne

Most people in the Netherlands did not have wills, either because there was not much to inherit, or because they were happy with the default way their estate would be inherited. Since 1811, wills were recorded by notaries. Before 1811, it depends on whether there was a notary in the area; otherwise, the will would be recorded by the lower court in the series of voluntary records.

Find out if there was a will

To find a will, you will have to know the date of the will and the name of the notary or court who recorded it. Here are several ways to find out if there was a will. This is easiest if you know when they were born and when and where they died. Consult their birth record and death record first.

CENTRAL LAST WILLS REGISTER (wills created since 1890)

In 1890, the government started a central register of last wills. Notaries were required to register their wills. The register is organized by birth year of the testator and gives the name of the testator, the name of the notary, the place where the notary was located, the date, and the number of the will. This allows you to look up the will (see below).

For the period 1890-1973, the Central Last Wills Register is available via FamilySearch. For wills created after 1973, you will have to contact the Central Last Wills Register. They will require you to submit proof of death.

DEATH DUTIES FILES (deaths between 1811 and 1928)

After a person died, their heirs had to submit a declaration to the death duties office to determine whether they had to pay death duties, estate tax. The death duties file will mention whether the deceased had a will, and if so it will mention the name of the notary, and the date and place the will was created.

Death duties files are kept in the archives in the provincial capitals. Some archives have created online indexes of death duties files, which makes them easy to find. Other archives have not done this. The death duties files have contemporary indexes since 1856 (called table V-bis). You can consult these in the archives, or as scans online if they have been digitized. The death duties file had to be submitted within six months of the death, so can be in the year after the death occurred.

DIGITAL INDEXES

Several archives have indexed notarial records. You can search websites of archives or national genealogical databases to see if you can find the will.

CONTEMPORARY INDEXES

Notaries often created handwritten indexes called “repertorium” for the records they created. These repertoria are increasingly being scanned and available online. If your ancestor died in a smaller town, you can check the contemporary indexes to see if you can find the will.

REFERENCE IN OTHER RECORDS

Sometimes, you find a reference to a will in other records, for example in a sale of inherited property or in an estate division.

MANUAL BROWSING

If all these methods fail, the only option is to manually browse the notarial records for the town where the ancestor left. Wills were typically either drawn up toward the end of a person's life, but could be drawn up at any point during an adult's life. I typically only do this after I have exhausted all the other avenues.

CONSULTING THE WILL

Once you know the name of the notary, the place where the notary had his business, and the date of the will, you can find the actual will. Notarial records become public after 75 years, have to be transferred to government archives at that time though sometimes this can be delayed.

WILLS THAT ARE NOT IN AN ARCHIVE YET

If the will is not in an archive yet, you can contact the Central Last Wills Register to find the name of the current notary that keeps the records of the notary that created the record. You can then contact the notarial office to request a copy. Copies are typically only provided to next-of-kin unless the will is more than 75 years old.

WILLS THAT ARE IN AN ARCHIVE

Wills that are older than 75 years are typically found in government archives. They are increasingly being scanned. You can check the website [Archieven.nl](http://archieven.nl), a website used by many archives, to search for the name of the notary. Otherwise, you will have to go to the website of the local or regional archive in the area where the notary had his business.

If you are lucky, the notarial records will be indexed, and you can click through to the scans. Sometimes the wills are indexed but the index is attached to the whole call number (typically a whole year or longer period) rather than the individual will. In that case you must use the information in the index, like the date or record number, to browse the digital images.

If the notarial record is not indexed, you will have to find the archive that keeps the notarial records, and then search their finding aids for the name of the notary. You can then browse the finding aids to find the series of wills ("testamenten"), or they may be in the general series of notarial records. If the records have been digitized, you can browse the images to find the will based on the date. If the records have not been digitized, you may be able to order them via scanning-on-demand, or you may have to contact the archives to see if they will look it up for you. This is usually a paid service.

EXAMPLE: Jacob Bruijn

Back to Karen's original question: did Jacob de Bruijn have a will, and if so, where can we find it?

DIGITAL INDEX

The Hague has its own archive, the *Haags Gemeentearchief*, where notarial records for The Hague are kept for the period 1597-1935. The records for 1843-1935 are partially indexed, so that is where we start. When we search the *Personen* database for Jacob Bruijn and filter for "notariële akte" [notarial record], we do not find his last will. This is inconclusive since the index is incomplete. We do find a reference to a conveyance of a house in Scheveningen to Jacob Bruijn dated 2 April 1891, but that is not a last will. The original record will have more details and may show if this record is for Karen's great-grandfather-in-law or a namesake.

CENTRAL LAST WILLS REGISTER

Since Jacob died in 1927, chances are that any will he wrote would have been created after 1890, so the Central Wills Register is the next place to check, but for that we need to know his year of birth. The death record says he was 66 years old and born in Zaandam, so he was born in 1860 or 1861. A

quick search at Archieven.nl, which indexes several Zaandam records shows he was born on 12 February 1861.

When we check the Central Last Wills Register at FamilySearch for 1861 and then search for Bruijn, we find a few cards for a Johannes Bruijn but none for a Jacob Bruijn. This suggests there was no last will.

DEATH DUTIES FILE

Since it is possible Jacob Bruijn wrote a will before 1890, we try to find his death duties file. Death duties files for the province of South Holland are kept at the National Archives in The Hague in record group 3.06.05. There were three offices in The Hague at the time. Unfortunately, the index tables for 1927 have not been scanned yet. These can be ordered via scanning-on-demand, a paid service, where you can indicate what names you are interested in. They can be found in call number 7117 (office 1), 7135 (office 2), or 7139 (office 3). Ordering the scans of these indexes should show the number of the death duties file. This can be used to find the call number that has that number in the finding aid for 3.06.05, and then the death duties file can again be ordered via scanning-on-demand.

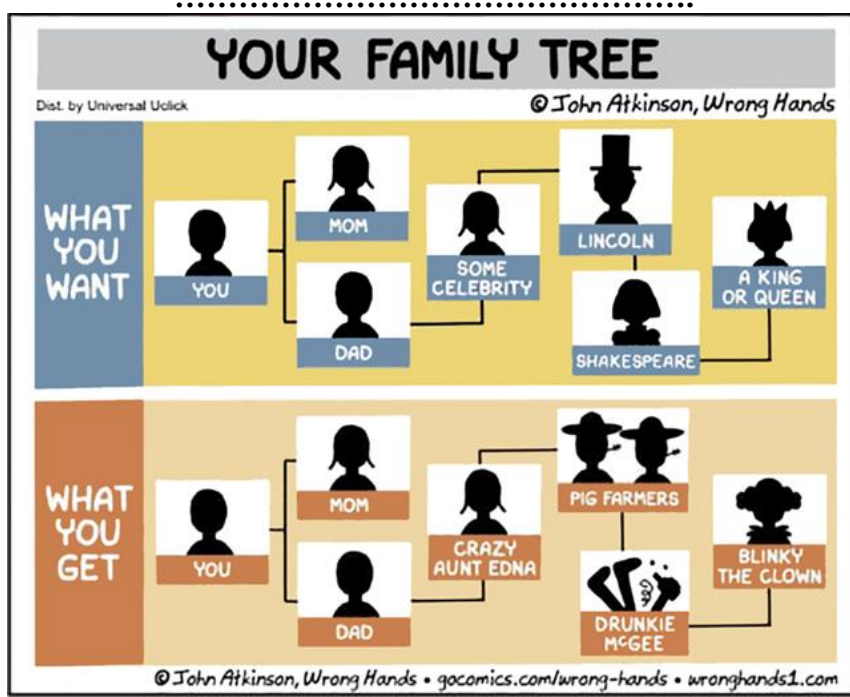
CONTEMPORARY INDEXES

The notarial records of The Hague are kept at the Haags Gemeentearchief in record group 0373-01. The online finding aid has the archival descriptions, organized per notary. The contemporary indexes (“repertoria”) have been scanned, and many of the records themselves have been scanned as well. The Hague was a large city so there were many notaries working in parallel, so this would be very time-consuming, but this is another way to try and find the last will.

WHAT next?

I think there probably was no last will, since a man born in 1861 probably did not have a will drawn up before 1890. It will be up to Karen to decide how to proceed. If she wants to try and find it, the route via the death duties files is probably more efficient but will require ordering four records at 16.75 each. The route via the contemporary indexes in the finding aid of the notarial archives at the Haags Gemeentearchief will be very time-consuming.

Personally, I would pursue the death duties file since even without a will, that will be an interesting document to have since it will show whether Jacob Bruijn owned any real estate, which can open a whole new avenue of research even if he did not have a will. And I would follow up on that conveyance record to see if he was the man who purchased the house in Scheveningen in 1891





MY PHOTO ALBUMS ARE DAMP – CAN I SAVE THEM?

With the recent heavy rains and disastrous flooding many of us have had devastating losses. However not all is lost. Prioritise the photos you wish to salvage, starting with those that don't have negatives or digital copies and cannot be replaced, says Prolab digital services manager Brian Peel.

Gently remove the photos from their album or frame, being careful not to

disturb the emulsion (image surface). If photos are stuck together, or framed photos are stuck to the inside glass, rinse them with clean water until they separate.

Rinse both sides of the photo with cold water to remove any dirt or contaminants, then dry them image side up on a clean paper towel. Don't use newspaper or similar printed paper as the print may transfer to the photo, says Brian.

Alternatively, place the photos between sheets of greaseproof paper, seal them in an airtight bag and freeze them to prevent mould growth. Later, a hairdryer can be used to carefully dry each photo.

Drying photos in direct sunlight, or in wind and high temperatures, is not recommended as it can cause fading and curling.

"As soon as you can commence with the drying process the better, but please do not leave it for more than two days as the longer the images are left unattended the more likely they will be stuck together, which can make them unsalvageable," Brian says.

"When coming into direct contact with the print, the best practice is to handle it with gloves to reduce any unnecessary contaminations, tearing or staining to the surface."

If in doubt, take your photographs to a professional conservator.

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ON THE PRACTICE OF PRAKKEN....

Table manners are an important reflection of upbringing and common courtesy.

Both hands above the table, no leaning on your elbows, no talking and chewing at the same time, no stuffing your mouth full or taking a sip while you still have food in your mouth....for those of us that were raised in Holland, these rules for polite behavior probably sound very familiar.

Not all eating etiquette, however, transposes well into other cultures. Whereas in America most foods are served to be consumed with only a fork, the Dutch use both a fork and a knife to eat: the fork firmly lodged in the left hand, the knife in the right. The fork (vork) is used to spear the food and bring it to the mouth, the

knife (mes) cuts a piece of meat, vegetable or potato as needed. Open-faced sandwiches are cut into neat little squares, fruit is skillfully severed into edible pieces. It's all very polite and educated and, we Dutch innerly scoff a little bit at those people that still eat sandwiches with their hands, peel oranges with their fingers and scoop up rice with a fork.

But do not be deceived by such haute haughtiness. Because behind closed doors, when we are alone, we subject the food on our plate to a practice so



abhorrent, so abominable that even the most barbarous barbaric would drop its jaw in disgust. This is the practice of prakken. If you are familiar with Dutch cuisine, you know that it suggested to always have "jus", pan gravy, with the meat when you serve potatoes. Why? Because this fatty fluid is the key to prakken.

Now what the heck is prakken? Prakken is having a beautiful plate of steaming, perfect globes of crumbly boiled potatoes, over which you drizzle hot, greasy pan juice and then brutally attack with a fork, mashing the potatoes, sometimes even mixing in the vegetables, and reducing it to a soft pulpy state. Why do we do this? I have no clue. But it tastes good.

As young children, when we just start to eat solids, our food is often prakked for us, sometimes with sweet applesauce mixed in to mask the taste of liver, Brussels sprouts or whatever else we tend to



dislike at that age, and to make it more palatable. Perhaps that's why we still prak, I don't know. But mashing your boiled potatoes, mixing it with the gravy of the meat and having the slightly sweet, savory flavor of those mashed potatoes is a whole new experience. A more grown-up, and socially acceptable prakked food would be a stampot, of which we have many varieties. But the home-made, plate-local prak is practically, no pun intended, illegal, forbidden and most certainly "not done". And that is what makes it so sweet.....

So prak away. At home, that is. Just not when you've been invited to dinner at some new friend's home. Or if a potential new employer invites you to a lunch interview. I know you'll be tempted when you see the gravy from the meat dripping onto the plate and slowly making its way towards the potatoes, but prakken is just not done. At least not in public.

Source; The Dutch Table

QUICK TIP – DID THEY KNOW THE WITNESS?

By Yvette Hoitink

You may encounter witnesses in several types of records:

- Baptismal records
- Church marriage records
- Aldermen's court marriage records
- Civil registration records of births, marriages, and deaths
- Notarial records.

When you come across witnesses, ask yourself: would this be the type of event a random person would witness? Or is the person likely to have been a close connection to the person of interest?

For example, a notary may have asked a neighbor to witness a will, but the witness may not have known the parties in the record. Civil registration records may have been witnessed by a clerk at town hall. But parents would not just pluck someone off the street to become a godparent of their child.

Some records will list how the witness is related to the main parties in the record.

I have solved several cases by looking closely at the witnesses, and seeing whether their presence could indicate a close relationship. They often provide a link to the families of the parties, and may help to determine which of two or more same-named people we are looking for.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

These are remastered and coloured clips of old film stock of Amsterdam etc. taken as far back as the late 1890s'.

There are many such clips on YouTube so I shall keep going through them and if you are lucky I might find some more Dutch ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tykGHGhC00&t=37s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-d7cTZrcIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq-1ULNB4fQ>

Submitted by John Mills



VISIT A BEARD THAT KILLED ITS OWNER

By Eric Grundhauser

Over 450 years later, Hans Steininger's deadly facial hair is still on display.

Hans Steininger's Epitaph In Braunau Am Inn. Benutzer: M.M/Public Domain

Among the epitaphs displayed on the side of st.

Stephan's church in the town of Braunau am Inn on the Austrian-German border, there is a large stone relief of a man with an unusually long beard stretching down past his feet. At first glance it might seem a bit outlandish, but it's a fitting monument to an important man who was killed by his own facial hair.

The likeness is that of Hans Steininger, a 16th-century *burgomaster* (town mayor) of Braunau am Inn, who's since become somewhat of a folk figure. Much about his life and role as a leader have not survived the centuries since his death, but his incredible beard, which is said to have been over four and a half feet long, looms large in the town's cultural memory.

Steininger was a popular mayor, serving multiple terms, but in 1567, he met an ignominious end. On September 28 of that year, there was a large fire in the town that caused

a general panic. Steininger usually kept

his prodigious beard hair rolled up and stuffed in a pocket, but during the commotion he was running around with it hanging free. In the midst of the chaos, he managed to step on his own beard, sending him tumbling down a flight of stairs and breaking his neck. Killed by his own beard.

The full-body illustration at the church shows Steininger's beard bifurcated into two scraggly strands, stretching down past his feet.

And tucked away in the local district museum is the town's most hirsute artifact: the 450-year-old beard of Steininger.



MISSING FROM OUR RESOURCES.

The following books are missing from our resource library. If you have one of these, please let Paulus or me know.

Dutch roots – Finding your ancestors in the Netherlands

DNA for Genealogists 2nd edition

Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family

Compact Provincie Atlas 1:50 000 – Gelderland Historian

Indische Familienamen II

In Search of Your European Roots (3rd edition)

10 KICK-ASS DUTCH WOMEN YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

By Maria Smith (Dutch review)

The Netherlands has had countless incredible, powerful, and strong women throughout history.

Here are 10 kick-ass Dutch women whose legacies live on.



ANNA MARIA VAN SCHURMAN: first university student in Europe (1607-1678)

Anna Maria made waves as the first woman who attended university in the Netherlands — and potentially in Europe. However, it wasn't easy: at her lectures, she had to be hidden behind a curtain because lordy be, a female in the classroom may just distract the good male students.

All in all, it was worth it: Anna Maria became well-educated, could speak 14 languages, including Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Aramaic, and Ethiopic, as well as various contemporary European languages. She was also renowned as a scholar, poet, and painter. What a legend!

CORNELIA 'CORRIE' TEN BOOM: weapon of the Dutch Resistance (1892-1983)

Corrie ten Boom is credited with saving around 800 Jews during World War II through her work in the Dutch Resistance. Corrie and her family opened their home to refugees, hiding them behind a secret wall.

Corrie later worked to smuggle Jews to safety through underground networks. Unfortunately, Corrie and her family were caught, and she was arrested and sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

She was released in late December 1944 thanks to a clerical error — the other women in her camp were sent to the gas chambers a year later.



FANNY BLANKERS-KOEN: the flying housewife (1918-2004)

Fanny Blankers was a 30-year-old mother of two when she competed in the 1948 London Olympics. She became the most successful athlete at the event when she won four gold medals for the 100 m, 200 m, and 80 m hurdles plus the 4 x 100 m relay.

Fanny, nicknamed “the flying housewife,” didn't leave her success at the Olympics. She went on to win five European titles, set/tied for 12 world records, and won a whopping 58 Dutch championships.

In 1999, she was awarded the title “athlete of the century” by the International Association of Athletics Federation — flying champion seems like a more accurate description!

ELISABETH WANDSCHERER: the original “let them eat cake” (†1535)

A jump back in time takes us to Elisabeth Wandscherer, one of the 16 wives of the dictator Jan van Leiden. Van Leiden chose Elisabeth as one of his many spouses in the German city of Münster after he made polygamy compulsory — his convenient response to the fact that the number of women in the city outnumbered the number of men.

But Elisabeth wasn't a quiet wife: when the city was under siege during the Münster Rebellion, food shortages caused starvation. Elisabeth openly criticised Van Leiden for living a life of luxury while his people starved.

She returned the lavish gifts he had given her and requested to leave the city — but Van Leiden wasn't a particularly reasonable man and had her publically beheaded instead.



MATA HARI: a sex symbol who owned it (1886-1917)

Born in Leeuwarden as Margaretha Zelle, Mata Hari is one of history's best known courtesans. The Dutch dancer who lived in Holland, Indonesia, and France began her career after leaving her husband, Dutch Colonial Army Captain Rudolf MacLeod, due to his alcoholism and abusive nature.

Along with a track record of infidelity, she cut the ties of married life and took to the stage. She believed her “flawless body” was a gift from God, and that it was a crime not to flaunt it — so she did. You go, girl!

As a feminist ahead of her time, she pursued her dream unconventionally. But it was her travels between the UK, Germany, France, and the Netherlands that drew the attention of the Germans. The Germans believed she was working as a double agent for both Germany and France during World War I.

On February 13, 1917, Mata was arrested by the French on the grounds of being a secret agent. She was found guilty of espionage and executed by a firing squad on October 15, 1917.

SYLVIA KRISTEL: from a turbulent upbringing to silver screen star (1952-2012)

Born in Utrecht, Sylvia won Miss TV Europe in 1973 at just 21. Her linguistic talents opened doors for her into the film industry. Best known for her roles in the five Emmanuelle films, she was famed for bringing “softcore” pornography to mainstream cinema. Sylvia won critical acclaim for her title role — and Emmanuelle remains to this day the most iconic erotic French film ever made.





Clearly not averse to getting her kit off, Sylvia also starred in *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (the first "Fifty Shades" of its time) and even played Mata Hari in the nudity-filled WWI biopic.

However, Kristel had a turbulent upbringing. She was abandoned by her father, abused as a child, and was addicted to drugs and alcohol. It was no surprise that after 49 years of smoking, lung cancer finally took her life, aged just 60.

HANNIE SCHAFT: red-haired badass of the Dutch resistance (1920-1945)

Jannetje Johanna Schaft, or Hanneke Schaft, worked for the Dutch resistance during the German occupation of the Netherlands. She acted as an assassin and saboteur for the resistance and became known to the Germans as "the girl with the red hair" — a description that was placed on the Nazi's most-wanted list.

Schaft carried out many brave acts of resistance but sadly did not survive the German occupation. She was arrested at a military checkpoint in Haarlem on March 21, 1945, and was executed by Nazi officials on April 17, 1945.

She was shot at close range by two German soldiers, however, their first attempt only wounded her. She is said to have told them "*Ik schiet beter*," meaning "I shoot better" before receiving one last fatal shot.

FREDDIE OVERSTEEGEN: the teen Dutch resistance fighter (1925-2018)

Freddie Oversteegen was just 14-years-old when she became an assassin for the Dutch resistance during the German occupation of the Netherlands.

She belonged to a group of three young women (including her sister, Truus, and Hanneke Schaft) who would sabotage and assassinate German soldiers and traitors.



Freddie was quite small and wore her hair in two braids which made her look innocent and enabled her to get away easily. Her method of attack was often a drive-by — Truus would cycle a bike whilst Freddie sat on the back and shot.



However, Freddie is most famed for her second assassination technique. She would meet soldiers and collaborators in the taverns and ask them if they would like to go "for a stroll."

Upon accepting the offer, the targets would be led to the woods and shot in a surprise attack.

ALETTA JACOBS: suffragette and the first female Dutch doctor (1854-1929)

Aletta was a Dutch suffrage activist born in Sappemeer. As the daughter of a doctor, she knew from an early age the

future she wanted for herself. Aletta was taught many languages along with history and mathematics (all subjects saved for the boys).

Thanks to her father's encouragement after being denied access to secondary education in 1867, she fought for her rights later qualifying against the odds to become an assistant chemist.

Aletta obtained permission from the then First Minister of the Netherlands to attend a university where she became the first Dutch female to complete a degree in medicine and become a doctor.

Her work and championing of feminism filled her entire life. Aletta worked to protect women from trafficking and the impunity of prostitution. She helped to protect women from STIs, provided contraception, and offered free consultations to prostitutes, poor people, and children.

In 1903, Aletta became the leader of the International Women Suffrage Alliance — truly championing women's rights — and helped lead women to obtain the right to vote in 1919.

CORRY TENDELOO: champion for equality (1897-1956)

Born in Indonesia, Cornélie Tendeloo moved to Leiden before becoming a lawyer in Amsterdam. It was a love for parity, social movements, and justice that lead her into a life of public service and ultimately politics.

Beginning her political career as a councilor, she then obtained her seat in the House of Representatives after the war. Corry is the one women have to thank when it comes to having the right to work. It was Corry's efforts that helped to abolish the law that insisted only married women had the right to work.



Sadly, Corry died before seeing this emancipation for women which allowed them to legally obtain gainful employment. Her work in seeking equality between husband and wife and men and women is still referenced today — she, after all, helped to squash sexist rules that prevented women from thriving.

Editor's Note: Sarah O'Leary and Samantha Dixon also contributed to this article. This article was originally published in March 2018, but was fully updated in March 2022 for your reading pleasure.

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THE BATTLE OF ZEELAND

The Battle of Zeeland occurred on the Western Front during the early stages of the German assault on France and the Low Countries during World War II. Several

Dutch and French units attempted to hold off the German onslaught by making a determined defense of the Dutch province of Zeeland. The battle lasted eight days and was a defeat for the French and Dutch forces defending the province.

DEFENSES AND TROOPS IN THE PROVINCE

The province of Zeeland had received little attention from the Dutch government prior to the German invasion of the Low Countries in May 1940. On 10th May, the Germans launched their attack.

In an attempt to raise morale amongst the Allies and to stem the tide of the German onslaught, several Dutch battalions—most notably the 14th Border Infantry Battalion—rapidly constructed defensive lines in Zeeland. The first—the Bathline (named after the nearby medieval fortress of Bath)—was little more than a tank barrier, slightly reinforced with 12 concrete casements. The second—and more defensible line—was the Zanddijkline, approximately 15 km (9.3 mi) west of the Bathline. This position was actually two lines, (a frontline and a stopline). It was defended by just two infantry battalions, the 3rd Battalion of the 38th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion of the 40th Infantry Regiment, supported by limited and obsolete AA guns, a number of mortars and some light field artillery

10TH MAY - On the first day, neither side's troops engaged each other. The Germans were awaiting reinforcements from other sectors of their occupied territory, the Dutch were improving their defences and waiting for the arrival of a contingent of French troops. The only action that occurred was the repeated strafing of the Dutch positions by German planes.

11TH MAY - Early on the morning of 11th May, the first companies of the French detachment began to arrive. The French force consisted of five infantry regiments, (loosely compiled into the 68th Infantry Division), and three Reconnaissance Groups (the 59th, 60th, and 68th).[2]

In the early afternoon, two French mail-boats (Rouen and Cote d'Argent)—escorted by the French ships (Cyclone and Sirocco) and the British destroyers HMS Valentine and Winchester—arrived at Vlissingen. They were attacked by German bombers, but the aircraft were quickly driven away by AA guns. Another convoy arrived, and German aircraft attacked again, but were once more driven off although they did shoot down one French fighter.

Throughout the day, British Hurricanes had been seen over the province. They engaged the Luftwaffe many times, shooting down three German planes, losing six of their own in the process. German planes dropped a series of bombs on the junction of the Bathline and the Kreekrakdam. Both the road and the railroad were seriously damaged. Two of the army barracks were destroyed, and the local waterworks and telephone lines were temporarily disabled. Dutch soldiers soon repaired the damage.

During the day, the Dutch army in the south, which was in retreat after their defences at the Peel-Raamline had been broken, re-established their positions in the area of Bergen op Zoom.

12TH MAY -The port of Vlissingen was again targeted by the Germans in the early morning. As before, the bombers operated in so-called "Ketten", (a formation of three aircraft). Witnesses spoke of at least twenty bombers in many waves, so it was likely that at least two squadrons operated over Vlissingen during this raid, possibly three. The Allied ships in the port immediately opened fire on the German aircraft, as did Dutch and French AA guns. French aircraft began to get into the air. Four ships were sunk by direct hits. Much of the harbor and infrastructure was hit by bombs. Cranes, offloading systems, storage buildings and the office of the local ferry line were destroyed or damaged.

The railroad station was hit several times. Most houses in the harbor quarter did not have any windows left intact and torn-off roof tiles were all over the place. Other houses and a church well away from the harbor were destroyed or badly damaged. Five civilians were killed during the raid.

The Dutch troops at the Bathline witnessed an ever-growing flood of retreating Dutch soldiers that had once been the defending forces in the eastern part of North Brabant. The French supreme command had meanwhile realised that the operational plan for the 7th Army could not be executed as envisaged. The German advance through North Brabant prevented the French from forming a firm and well-prepared screen around Antwerp, on Dutch soil. Moreover, the Belgian first defence line along the Albert Canal had also given in under the pressure of two tank divisions and overwhelming air assaults. The Belgian army would soon retreat to the Dyle-line.

13TH MAY - In the southwest, the Germans had almost reached Zeeland. In the Bathline, which was the closest to North Brabant, the fourth day introduced the men to the rumbling sound of the ground war. The sound of German heavy artillery that would eventually reach Moerdijk caused the men of the Bathline to realize that their future opponents were closing in on their position. Frequent patrols were carried out; there was rising tension in the lines. A squad of railroad troops was given orders to destroy the track that crossed the Bathline. These were the same men that had worked to repair this same stretch of line after German bombs had damaged it a few days before.

German fighters attacked the Dutch airbase at Vlissingen, but an even bigger threat revealed itself. In the course of the day, panic broke out amongst the men when a rumor spread that German troops had reached the island and were heading for Vlissingen. People suddenly saw light signals from houses and secret marks were read from laundry that was waving on drying lines. It wasn't until the evening that these rumors lost their effect.

The Luftwaffe was less active on the 13th over Zeeland. This was mostly due to the fact that many squadrons were assigned to the fierce battle that was raging around the island of Dordrecht. The bombers that had been active over Zeeland, were now raiding Dutch artillery and infantry positions in the south front of "Fortress Holland". Direct support was also given to the tanks of the 9th Tank Division that were engaged on Dordrecht Island.

During this time, the morale of the troops—particularly the Dutch—had begun to drop. More and more Dutch troops were retreating from the east, and Queen Wilhelmina had fled to Britain (although she did it unwillingly).

14TH MAY - At Bergen op Zoom, units of the 12th were surrounded by two companies of a SS battalion. The French retreated from Woensdrecht, sealing the fate of their comrades at Bergen op Zoom. They left many tanks and supplies behind.

A Dutch force of about 200 men had taken control of the forest south of Bergen op Zoom, however they were forced to retreat when the French troops in the surrounding area were ordered to fall back.

The French launched a counterattack at Huijbergen. They had armoured cars and Hotchkiss H35 light tanks available but lost five Panhard 178 armoured cars and 200 men as prisoners. The Germans pushed on, taking hundreds more French and Dutch prisoners.

The occupants of the casement did not join the almost general retreat of the infantry. They stayed in their concrete and steel posts, and it was due to their efforts that the Bathline did not fall immediately.

When German patrols probed the line, they were met by fierce machine gun fire from the Dutch strongholds, and this was enough to deny the SS men any further access to the line. During the evening, the German artillery fire gradually decreased in intensity, and it eventually stopped. Except for a few sections in the central sector and the casement-crews, the Bathline had been deserted.

The Dutch army laid down their arms at 19:00, except for the armed forces on Zeeland. The formal capitulation agreement was signed the next day.

15TH MAY - In the late evening of the 14th, the Germans prepared a battle-plan for an assault against the remaining occupied sections of the Bathline. They planned to first send in a negotiator. A message was dictated in which the Germans demanded immediate and unconditional surrender of the line, or else the Germans would unleash an unprecedented assault. The threat was more of an attempt to trick the defenders, since the Germans did not have the resources for such a massive assault. The Dutch had withdrawn from the line during the night.

Early in the morning the men of the SS Deutschland Regiment cautiously approached the Bathline; when they found the trenches and fox-holes empty, they hurried through. A few Dutch defenders—who had not become aware of the retreat—were taken prisoner.

The Zanddijkline was the main defense line of the capital islands of Zeeland. Three casements at the sluice-complex in the south, and two casements on each side of the railroad bed were the only concrete positions. The balance of the line was formed by earth and timber reinforced constructions and trenches. Some minefields had been laid at certain strategic locations along the approaches.

The Germans soon began their assault on the Zanddijkline. As they approached, they came under Dutch machine gun fire. This resulted in many men diving down a slope and landing in the minefields that had been prepared just days before. Numerous detonations killed about 16 SS men. Pioneers were called forward and under cover of German machine guns they cleared the area of mines. After this hold-up, the signal to reassume the assault was given. Some four German batteries started pounding the Dutch line, especially around both sides of the Tholseindsdijk.

The Germans once again attacked the line, this time with air support. The Dutch naval artillery continued shelling their perimeter, forcing the Germans to keep their noses to the ground until the artillery gradually decreased its fire. It was enough time for the Dutch to evacuate their troops in the northern sector and cross the bridge over the Postbrug canal.

The only sector of the Zanddijkline that was not evacuated right away was the southern part. Here, the remaining battalion was spared the attention of the Luftwaffe. However, within a few hours they were forced to retreat as well.

THOLEN

Tholen, a natural island, formerly part of the North Brabant territory, was separated from the mainland by the Eendracht, a shallow and muddy natural waterway. The de facto capital on the island was a small town, also named Tholen, which had the only connection with the North Brabant mainland. The entire occupation of the island—which needed a little more than two companies—was concentrated along the Eendracht.

During the day, a German patrol approached, but was quickly driven off by Dutch machine-gun fire.

As a result, a German negotiator came out and demanded the surrender of the island; the Dutch commander refused. Soon afterward, German field artillery and mortars opened fire on the defenders. Other than a direct hit on a gas storage tank, little damage was inflicted by the German guns. The German infantry began to advance. The Dutch let them approach until they were close to a road-barrier; then mortars and machine guns opened fire, devastating the attackers. The Germans suffered heavy casualties, some men jumped into near-by pools of water to escape the shooting. The Germans were forced to retreat. Their reports spoke of 20 men killed in action. The Dutch defenders suffered two losses.

After realizing that they could not hold their positions much longer, the Dutch retreated further onto the island during the night.

16TH MAY - The SS units had halted at the canal through Zuid-Beveland after they had crossed the two defence-lines on the 15th. During the night, soldiers on rafts were able to cross the canal. The two French battalions that defended the canal—no more than 1,250 men—were forced to defend a front of 9 km (5.6 mi). The canal had a width of 50–90 m (160–300 ft), and as such, it formed a considerable obstacle for any attacker. Since all the bridges had been destroyed, an assault crossing had to be executed by making use of rafts or boats. The Luftwaffe continued its morale-sapping presence, forcing considerable numbers of French soldiers to flee their positions along the canal. The French defenders had requested fire-missions against the sectors where the Germans deployed. The French feared the lack of precision of their own artillery, many company commanders ordered their units a few hundred meters back from their positions along the canal.

Soon afterward, the entire French occupation of the canal defensive area in the northern sector gave way, resulting in a desperate dash for safety. At one location close to the Postbrug, a squad of French

colonial soldiers held out, but a storm-troop was quickly organized, and this position was soon abandoned. Meanwhile, the Germans had managed to repair the northernmost river crossing. Some light armoured cars and motorcycles were able to cross at this point and these units chased after the fleeing French. These motorized units reached the Sloedam early in the evening but avoided contact.

The majority of Dutch units around Goes had managed to cross the Sloedam or had taken the ferry to Noord-Beveland before the evening, many French units had been cut off. The Luftwaffe had driven off all Allied planes in the region, giving them free rein over the retreating defenders.

In the morning, the Germans again sent a negotiator to try to convince the Dutch to surrender. And again the Dutch rejected the offer. Two hours later, German artillery opened fire on the Dutch positions. During the barrage, a Dutch battalion commander contacted the TC in Middelburg and asked for instructions. Henrik Van der Stad—the Dutch commander—complimented him on the resistance his forces had shown the previous day and stated that the troops were to be allowed to evacuate the island and reinforce the island of Schouwen-Duiveland.

Later that day, Schouwen-Duiveland was assaulted by the Germans. The Dutch commander, as soon as his troops were attacked, gave orders to retreat, leaving the entire coastline open to the Germans.

17TH MAY - The Sloedam was a strategic point on Walcheren Island. Some mud flats on both sides of the 'dam' made it possible for light infantry to cross the Sloe, but it was a tricky business, some parts were very swampy, and one could easily sink and drown.

The French had considered sending more troops to Walcheren, but they did not. The defense of the Sloedam was considered to be the last bit of useful resistance. Should that position fall, a general retreat of the French troops would become inevitable. Since the objective of safeguarding Antwerp and the Scheld canal had not been achieved, the battles that continued at Zuid-Beveland and Walcheren had only one objective; to cover the north flank of the French forces north of Antwerp.

Early that morning, the Germans opened fire with their medium and heavy howitzers, which were all positioned near Lewedorp. The French artillery and the joint Allied navy units replied with a heavy barrage on the first German troops. The assault stalled immediately and for the first time in the Zeeland campaign the Germans faltered and withdrew, leaving a considerable number of dead and wounded behind. The Dutch offered their assistance, but the French Commander declined the offer.

The Germans then launched a massive assault onto the French defenses, by the end of the day Walcheren lay open to the SS.

The Germans then turned their attention on Vlissingen. They began to advance toward the city, they did not meet any resistance until they were at the outskirts. Many Dutch and French troops began to evacuate; however, the French commander—General Deslaurens—gathered the remaining troops and set up defensive positions. They were soon pushed back, and Deslaurens was killed. He would be the only general to die on Dutch soil in May 1940. During the night, the last pockets of resistance were cleared by the Germans. Here and there Dutch and French troops put up a brief fight, but before morning all resistance had faded away. The remaining troops on Walcheren—mostly Dutch—had surrendered.

BOMBING OF MIDDELBURG

17TH MAY - The Germans launched a massive raid on Middelburg, which would only to be surpassed for severity by the Rotterdam Blitz. Nearly 600 buildings were destroyed by the bombing and resulting fire. 800 people were made homeless.

The Dutch press—one of the first official sources that had been "Nazified"—reported the devastation of Middelburg later that month and in early June. The massive fires in the town would continue to

grow until the evening of 18th May, when about 500 fire-fighters and volunteers, managed to control the fires and prevent further destruction. The last of the fires were not extinguished until some 40 days after the raid.

SURRENDER

By late afternoon on 17th May, it was clear that the Germans had conquered the whole of Zeeland apart from Zeelandic Flanders. The battle around the Sloedam was still raging, but Dutch units in western Walcheren were inquiring at the Dutch staff office whether or not capitulation was feasible. When many local commanders failed to reach the staff, which was indeed hard to do, especially due to the ongoing bombardment of Middelburg, local capitulation initiatives soon developed.

Van der Stad was repeatedly queried by his officers and the mayor of Middelburg about when the capitulation of Walcheren would be offered to the Germans. He made it perfectly clear that this could never be the case as long as French troops were still fighting the Germans.

Late in the evening, a radio transmission was broadcast stating that Dutch forces in Walcheren and Zuid-Beveland would surrender. Half an hour later, Lieutenant-Colonel Karel himself went to the road east of Middelburg along which German troops were heading southward. He was transported to a hotel near Vlissingen, close to the sluices, where he officially informed SS-Standartenführer Steiner—commander of the SS Regiment—of the capitulation of the Dutch forces on Walcheren and Zuid-Beveland.

Noord-Beveland was officially not part of the armistice, but on the morning of the 18th a German officer was sent over under a flag of truce, he brought the news of the Dutch surrender elsewhere. Upon this news the Dutch forces—isolated from all the rest—surrendered as well.

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THE THEFT OF ANNE FRANK'S BICYCLE

On 14 April 1942, at ten minutes past three, Anne Frank reported the theft of her bicycle, committed on the previous day between twelve and two o'clock.

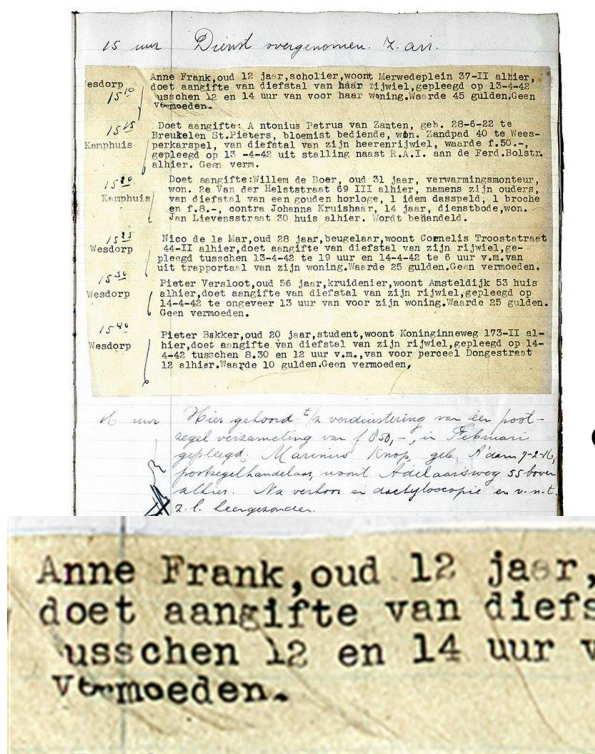
It was standing in front of her house at 37 Merwedeplein. With other reports – five of bicycle theft and one of theft of jewelry – Anne's declaration of the theft of her bicycle is on a sheet that the officer on duty has typed and pasted in the otherwise handwritten note. written report book of the Pieter Aertszstraat police station.

THE THEFT IN THE DIARY

On 24 June 1942, Anne complained in her diary that she had to walk in the summer heat because Jews are no longer allowed on the tram and her bicycle was stolen during the Easter holidays: 'I wish I didn't have to go to school, my bicycle was stolen in the Easter holidays and my mother's was given to Christian acquaintances for safekeeping by my father. But luckily the holiday is fast approaching, one more week and the suffering is over.'

GO INTO HIDING

On July 6, 1942, the Frank family has to go into hiding in the secret annex of the company belonging to father Otto Frank. Anne continues to write in her diary. In



August 1944 the people in hiding are arrested and deported. Anne Frank ends up in the Bergen-Belsen camp via the Westerbork and Auschwitz camps. There she dies, probably in February 1945.

DESTROY

About ninety percent of all documents that a government service produces or receives are destroyed after several years because they are not of legal or historical importance. National selection lists have been drawn up to decide what should and should not be kept from the government administration. The daily reports from the police stations are among the archival documents that are usually destroyed. But an exception has been made for pieces from the Second World War. Nothing from this period is destroyed.

<https://www.amsterdam.nl/stadsarchief/stukken/beroemd/fiets-anne-frank/>
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DUTCH CHEESE VARIETIES: THE COMPREHENSIVE (AND CHEESY) GUIDE

Katrien Nivera

Most people have heard the stereotype that the Netherlands is a land filled with cheese — and it's not entirely wrong.

Dutch cheese is famous and delicious, but ridiculously extensive.

Between:

- pasteurised to unpasteurised milk
- slices to wheels
- ageing times from just a few weeks to years
- and who knows how many flavour profiles

There is so much to consider when picking a Dutch cheese to eat!

If you have ever found yourself wondering what cheese you're eating or which cheese is which, this is your complete guide to Dutch cheese varieties.



GOUDSE KAAS: THE DUTCH STAPLE (GOUDA)

Ah yes, the classic Dutch cheese — and no, it doesn't refer to "golden" cheese (although if you love cheese as much as we do, you probably think it's a sort of gold.)

You probably know *Goudse kaas* by its English name: Gouda. This particular cheese comes from the city of the same name in South Holland.

Gouda has a mild nutty and almost tangy flavour, with a fudgy texture. The cheese pairs great with dessert wines and fruits, but it's also the standard cheese for a *boterham* (sandwich).

Historically, farmers and merchants traded the cheese in this region, but now, it's the catch-all phrase for Dutch cheese varieties made in a similar style.

Fun fact: this cheese was (and still is) so good French soldiers would steal it from Dutch farmers in the 19th century.

Pasteurised: Often, but can be made with unpasteurised

Texture: Semi-hard to hard

Aging time: One month to three years

BEEMSTER: CHEESE FROM BELOW SEA LEVEL

This cheese combines two undeniably Dutch things: the iconic dairy product and almost being underwater.



milk

Beemster kaas has a similar production style to Gouda, but the difference is in the milk. Specifically, beemster cheese is made from milk from cows who eat grass grown on a sea-clay polder four meters below sea level. Fancy, right?

Beemster cheese is hard to mistake with its bright packaging. Image: [Depositphotos](#)
Because of the cows' special diet, the cheese made from that milk has a unique flavour. The cheese has a particularly sharp, salty flavour because of its extensive ageing times. Talk about artisanal! You could slice beemster for a sandwich, cube it for crackers or by themselves, and it pairs nicely with ports and red wines.

Pasteurised: Yes

Texture: Hard

Aging time: Two months to two years



EDAM: THE INTERNATIONALLY BELOVED CHEESE

Named after the Dutch town north of Amsterdam, Edam cheese is known for its international reach. Edam ages well, and it doesn't spoil, making it the perfect cheese to pack up and send all over the world.

And it's not just the Dutch who love Edam cheese. From Indonesia and Belize to the Philippines and Scandinavia, people from all over the world serve Edam during parties, celebrations, or simply for an afternoon bite!

Unique in both shape and taste, Edam cheese is like none other!

Edam has a smooth texture and a nutty, salty flavour that gets sharper as it ages. Edam pairs particularly well with dark beers, making it a perfect match for a *borrel* snack.

Pasteurised: Yes

Texture: Semi-hard

Aging time: Four weeks to 10 months

BOERENKAAS: CHEESE STRAIGHT FROM THE FARMHOUSE

Boerenkaas translates to "farmer's cheese" — because it's straight from the farm! Only Dutch cheese produced on a cheese farm with traditional and controlled methods can be sold as *boerenkaas*.

This Dutch cheese is special because farmers often make it with milk from other farm animals, including goats, sheep, and even buffalos!

You'll never see real boerenkaas without its official stamp or seal like this one!

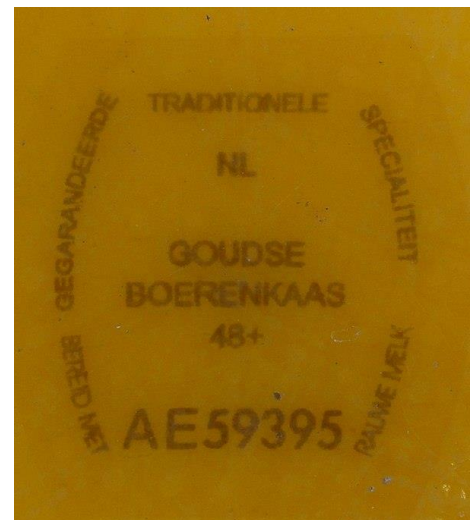
Some renditions of *boerenkaas* also have spices like cumin, or other seeds, herbs, and spices that a farm might grow onsite.

Boerenkaas has different tastes and textures depending on how long it ages for — from grassy, nutty notes, to a butterscotch sweetness and crunchiness from milk proteins, *boerenkaas* has a full range.

Similar to Edam, *boerenkaas* pairs well with full-bodied red wines or a classic Dutch beer — Dutch cheese for Dutch tastes.

Pasteurised: Possibly, can be made with unpasteurised milk
Texture: Semi-hard

Aging time: Typically one to two years, but as short as six months up to seven years.



LEYDEN: THE CLASSIC SPICED CHEESE

Also called *Leidse kaas*, this semi-hard cheese historically comes from the town of Leiden. Producers make this cheese with Dutch cow's milk and other herbs, usually cumin and caraway seeds. These herbs give it a little extra spicy kick, so you can eat it in pretty small servings (although we won't stop you if you want to eat more!)

It's not Leyden cheese without its iconic red rind and cumin and caraway spots
Leyden is the most common type of *komijnkaas*, which is cheese with cumin as an ingredient. It makes a delicious pairing with bread or beer if you're looking for something to eat at a *borrel*.

Pasteurised: Yes

Texture: Hard

Aging time: Around two years

NAGELKAAS: CLOVE CHEESE FROM THE DUTCH ISLANDS

You have Frisian people to thank for this delicacy. They developed this somewhat rare Dutch cheese all the way in the islands all the way north of the Netherlands!

Nagelkaas gets its unique name and flavour from this unique spice.

Nagelkaas translated to English means "nail cheese" — and no, that doesn't mean there are nails in it. This gouda-style cheese is made with skim pasteurised milk, cumin, and cloves that look



like construction (still no nails, we promise!), which is where this cheese variety gets its name.

This cheese is quite spicy (attributed to cloves and other spices), so a little slice on a cracker is enough to give you an idea of taste.

Pasteurised: Yes, with skim milk

Texture: Firm, similar to Goudse kaas

Aging time: Six months



LIMBURGER: AN UNMISTAKABLE CHEESE

Limburger cheese gets its name from the Duchy of Limburg, which is a historical area that's now part of Belgium. Yes, we know, scandalous.

But, that historical area also has parts in the Dutch province of Limburg. Of course, people still make the cheese in that area, so it's considered Dutch cheese. The Germans and Belgians also make their own version of Limburger.

Why is this an 'unmistakable' Dutch cheese variety? Well, once you smell it, it's a dead giveaway.

Limburger cheese is made with a particular bacterium that gives its special scent.

It might look like your usual Dutch cheese but you'll know it when you smell it.

Once you remove Limburger from its rind, the flavour becomes quite mild. It has a spicy-sweet flavour combination which goes well with fish, on crackers, and even a German or Belgian beer (we won't tell!).

Pasteurised: Yes

Texture: Semi-soft

Aging time: Two to three months

PARRANO: THE DUTCH-ITALIAN LOVECHILD

Don't let its looks or taste fool you, this fully Dutch cheese is similar to your typical Gouda. It's a harder cheese with a mild, nutty taste.

But it also shares a similar taste, texture, and ageing method to Parmigiano Reggiano from Italy — not quite Italian but not quite Dutch either.



Parrano is best served as a garnish or cooking ingredient for your dish — so if you're looking to give your food a little bit of a Dutch-Italian kick, Parrano cheese is a great option!

Pasteurised: Yes

Texture: Semi-hard

Aging time: Five months

Who knew there was so much to learn about when it came to Dutch cheese varieties?

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HOW TO CHOOSE A GREAT TITLE FOR YOUR GENEALOGY BOOK



You've written your family's history and now you need a title.

In this article, we'll share some tips to help you find a great title for your genealogy book. To develop a great title for your genealogy book, identify your central theme; start with your subtitle; keep your title short, evocative, and memorable; be relevant and specific; be descriptive; and make sure your title is search engine friendly.

IDENTIFY YOUR CENTRAL THEME

There's often a great title idea hidden in your book's central theme or narrative. Spend a few minutes thinking about how you might describe your book in a sentence or two to a friend. Was there a general theme that you noticed from generation to generation? Was there a remarkable story that has come to define your family? Or, how about an ancestor that the book focuses on? Distil your book's theme down to a sentence and see if that inspires title ideas. For example, you might distil your book down to the following theme: The Smith clan escapes the plague to become landowners in the New World. It's a nice, simple description of the story your book tells. Doing a little creative brainstorming might inspire a title like, "From Plagues to Riches".

START WITH YOUR SUBTITLE

Sometimes it's easier to start with your subtitle and if you've already distilled your book's theme into a sentence or two, as we suggested above, you're ahead of the game. A subtitle is an explanatory or alternate title. They tend to be more descriptive of the book's contents or purpose. Subtitles help support the title, by giving more information to the reader. To write a subtitle all you need to do is take your one-sentence statement from above and clean it up a bit. Once you've done that, you should be able to get some creative ideas for an accompanying title. The nice thing about this approach is it removes pressure from the title. Your title doesn't have to do all the work because you've got a great subtitle that gives your readers a description of what they can expect. Now your title can be used to create interest and intrigue.

Using our earlier example, you might end up with the following title and subtitle: "From Plagues to Riches: How the Smiths of Yorkshire escaped the plague and came to own half of Richmond, Virginia."

SHORT, EVOCATIVE, AND MEMORABLE

According to award-winning author Neil Gaiman, titles should be short, evocative, and memorable. Short titles are more impactful. They cut through the noise and are easier to remember. For this reason, try to avoid long, cumbersome titles. Let your subtitle do the lifting if you need to provide more info to your reader. Also, try to make your titles evocative. Create some intrigue by making your title a little mysterious. Or employ literary devices, like alliteration, or a play on words. Our example from above introduces some mystery: what does "plague to riches" mean? And, we have a little play on words, too. The classic cliché is "from rags to riches". We swapped out "rags" for "plagues", a

similar-sounding word, and voilà! If you keep it short and make your title evocative, it will be more memorable, and more successful in getting readers to give it a look.

BE RELEVANT AND SPECIFIC

One of the dangers of trying to be creative is choosing a title that's potentially confusing to your readers. This happens when an author chooses a title that has a special meaning to them but seems irrelevant to their audience. Inside jokes, personal experiences, or something related to the writing process may give you a chuckle, but if used as your title will leave your reader confused. To avoid confusion, make sure your title is relevant and that it is specific. You want it to reveal, or hint at, what lies within its covers. Remember, a confused reader is a lost reader. You've put too much work into your family's genealogy book to lose your readers. Of course, you can use inside jokes or personal affinities if they clearly tie to your book's contents. Just make sure to keep your readers in mind as you consider options and that your title communicates to your reader an idea what's in it for them if they read your book.

BE DESCRIPTIVE

Creativity is great, but sometimes it's better to go with a title that's more descriptive in nature. For example, "A mob family's story" is simple and descriptive. And it's intriguing at the same time, which means people will want to pick it up and read it. Of course, not every family will have something as sensational as our example. That's okay. Not every title has to be sensational to be interesting. Go back to your theme statement and think of ways to distill it down into simple and engaging title. The key is that you want it to create interest. If you end up with a four- or five-word description that's got some punch, you've likely found a great title.

SEARCH ENGINE FRIENDLY

Last of all, make sure your book's title is search engine friendly. You may not think this is important for a genealogy book but making your title searchable can help your readers (read: family members) find your work later. To be search engine friendly, follow these simple SEO rules:

Write for humans first

Your title should be short and to the point

Make your title catchy

Make sure your title is original

There is a host of information on how to optimize content for search engines. Most of it is free and can be accessed by a simple Google search. Just look for "search engine optimization" or "SEO". Take some time to read through what you find if you want your title to be SEO friendly.

CONCLUSION

And that's it! - identify your central theme - start with your subtitle - keep your title short, evocative, and memorable - be relevant and specific - be descriptive - make sure your title is search engine friendly. Follow these steps and you'll have a great title for your genealogy book in no time.



..... NEW ADDITION TO OUR RESOURCES.

I received the following email,

Hi Karma

You won't remember me, I came to some DAGG meetings a few years ago.

For the last six years, I've been writing a history of my family in the 20th century. I attach a copy of the book's cover, to give you an idea of what I'm talking about. My family was mostly Dutch, and some of them were quite interesting.

If you send me your postal address, I would be happy to send DAGG a *gratis* copy. Just in case some members of DAGG would like to know, my book is now available at several online book retailers, including Amazon, Kindle, Booktopia, Barnes & Noble, The Book Depository and AbeBooks. Not only does the book go into my family history, but I also describe my research methods. Maybe members of DAGG would be interested to read how I went about writing the book. By the way, the people on the cover of the book are my father, aged about 14, his mother and her sister. The picture was taken in the Dam Square in Amsterdam, in about 1936.

best wishes
(chris peters)

Chris's book has been added to our library and will be available to members as soon as I finish reading it.

.....

DUTCH EMIGRANTS SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE OCEAN. *Harm Timmerije*

All over the world, traces can be found of Dutch people who went to try their luck elsewhere in the 1950s. Why did they leave so en masse? And was their new homeland the best thing to do or were they happier in their familiar Holland?

HOPELESSNESS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

Between 1945 and 1954, one in twenty Dutch emigrated to countries such as South Africa, Canada or Australia. In

addition, 32 percent of the Dutch population seriously considered emigration in 1948. The sentiments to leave the mother country were fuelled by the high unemployment and housing shortage in the home country. The baby boom that started after the war, did not improve the prospects for a brighter future. Many Dutch were disappointed in the unchanged European politics. Moreover, the fear of a possible Third World War played tricks on many Dutchmen. Was there still a future in the Netherlands?



SCHEDULED MIGRATION

With a view to a better future, many Dutch people decided to get on the boat with the whole family and just a few suitcases. This exodus was warmly welcomed and even encouraged by the government. From 1949, the Dutch government actively planned and promoted the emigration of the Dutch. In his New Year's speech in 1950, PvdA Prime Minister Willem Drees said: "Some of our people must dare to look for their future in larger areas than their own country." And Queen Juliana had stated in her speech from the throne of 1950 that 'the rapid the limited area of available land requires a vigorous promotion of emigration.'

GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGNS

Various historians are of the opinion that most Dutch people who actually left had personal reasons for this and were not convinced by the government. For example, they knew the positive experiences of family or neighbors who had taken the plunge and followed them. Nevertheless, the Dutch government tried to promote this decision, for example by facilitating the emigration process. For example, it paid the crossing for people with a low self-income and the poor emigrant was given some money on arrival to start a new life on the other side of the ocean more easily.

EMIGRATION TREATIES

The Dutch government also concluded favourable agreements with the governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Often English language lessons were already provided in the Netherlands and future emigrants could have retrained in their home country. Although Canada was a very popular destination among the Dutch, the country had strict admission requirements. For example, families were only allowed to cross over to Canada if they were healthy. New Zealand and Australia, on the other hand, welcomed the Dutch with open arms. The Dutch looked a lot like the English, were often highly educated and assimilated quickly. In addition, the former English colonies needed a new Western population to inhabit the vast areas.

A NEW LIFE

Once arrived in the Promised Land, a new life began for the migrants, which was often less adventurous and rosy than imagined. Many migrants arrived in relief camps and had to deal with governments and loan payments for a long time. In addition, each new country had its own problems. For example, there was also a housing shortage in Australia and there was also poverty in Canada.

INTEGRATION

Despite this, the Dutch integrated quickly abroad. Within one generation, the Dutch mastered the English language and worked hard to build a new life as quickly as possible. The newly acquired homelands hammered on the rapid integration of their new inhabitants, not only to make their lives easier but also to make it clear that the emigration was permanent. This gave rise to the idea in the Netherlands that only the failures would remigrate.

TO EMIGRATE IS TO LACK

Integration proved difficult for many Dutch people and homesickness became a serious problem. Ultimately, one fifth of the emigrants returned to the Netherlands and many continued to regret the decision to emigrate throughout their lives. In fact, 30 percent of Dutch immigrants returned home from Australia. In the 1960s, Australian immigration policy was therefore adjusted, and the country invested more in English language lessons, translators and family migration.

HAPPINESS IN THE NETHERLANDS

When the reconstruction finally began to bear fruit in the Netherlands at the end of the 1950s, the need to emigrate diminished and the Dutch preferred to seek happiness in their own country. Under pressure from the liberals, the active emigration policy was abolished. Less than a decade later, that the Netherlands also had something beautiful to offer, became clear with the arrival of labor immigrants from Morocco and Turkey. The new generation of "fortune seekers", just like the Dutch emigrants to Canada and Australia, built a new life in a foreign country, hoping for a better future.

Source; My Dutch Heritage

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IT'S TRUE



In the late 1800s, masturbation was thought to cause everything from insanity to acne. So, it HAD to be deterred.

This should work.

THE GOVERNMENT WORK INSTITUTION

In 1859, the Colony of Benevolence in Veenhuizen, a project set up in 1818 to combat poverty among the population, was taken over by the government from the Society of Benevolence. Veenhuizen was then transformed into a government agency for prisoners and 'nurses', beggars and vagabonds who had not been convicted of a crime.

VAGRANCY AND BEGGING

Vagrancy – wandering around without demonstrable means of support – was included as a crime in the Criminal Code in 1809. In the 19th century many men were convicted of vagrancy and begging and 'sent' for a few months to three years to the Rijkswerkinstituut in Veenhuizen.

On July 12, 1902, the court in Breda convicted six men of vagrancy. All six were given five days' detention and sent to Veenhuizen. This was not the first time for any of the men.

*Fig. 1. Beggar on the street in Amsterdam, circa 1900.
Amsterdam City Archives Collection*



HEIKO VERVER

Fig. 2. Description card of Heiko Verver, registered on August 17, 1896 during his second period at the Rijkswerkinstituut Veenhuizen. Collection Drents Archive.

One of these six men was Heiko Verver, who was born in 1851 in Zuidbroek (Groningen). In 1893, Verver was mentioned as an 'identified person' in the *Algemeen Politieblad* for a conviction – twice – by the Cantonal Court in Groningen for public intoxication. Verver was fined f 1.50 for this and two days in prison. In 1894 he was sent to Veenhuizen for the first time by the court in Assen. After a stay of a year, he turned up in Amsterdam in May 1895 with the Salvation Army, where he stayed in the *Stuiverstovlucht* at the *Haarlemmer Houttuinen*. Here the less fortunate could get accommodation and a hot meal for 5 cents.

The rest of his life did not go smoothly either: in 1896 Verver was again sentenced in Assen to be sent to Veenhuizen, in 1897 he was given the same sentence in Utrecht and in 1902 the court of Breda sent him again for three years. Ultimately, Verver died at the age of 73 in the State Insane Asylum in Woensel.

NICHOLAS VAN ZWAM

Nicolaas van Zwam from Vught was also what today would be called a 'revolving door criminal'. In November 1899 he was sentenced for the first time by the court of Den Bosch to a stay of five months in Veenhuizen. Apparently Van Zwam was rather hard-headed: between 1899 and 1905 he was sent to Veenhuizen four times by the same court. In total he would stay here for more than eight years. He



was not released for a month between the various sentences. After his resignation on June 12, 1908, Van Zwam managed to change his life. Within a year he married and in eleven years the couple had nine children.

Fig. 3. Description card of Nicolaas van Zwam, registered on January 15, 1900 during his first posting at the Rijkswerkinstituut Veenhuizen. Collection Drents Archief.

READ FURTHER

More about the colonies of the Society of Benevolence and the Government Work

Institutions Veenhuizen and Ommerschans: All Colonists and the Drents Archief.

The Drents Archief makes its collection of description cards (1896-1901) of the forced inhabitants of the colony of Benevolence in Veenhuizen available via WieWasWie. The maps can be searched digitally via Organization 'Drents Archief', and Document type 'Settlement and Departure'

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THE CRAZY CRYSTAL METH ADVENTURE OF A FINNISH SOLDIER

Aimo Koivunen skied 250 miles while tripping on amphetamines

Imagine being a Finnish soldier, moving through the harsh Lapland wilderness on a frosty winter's day.

It's about 10 in the morning, your unit has been on the move almost non-stop for more than two days, skiing in knee-deep snow, and everyone's completely exhausted. The temperature is a crisp 15 degrees below zero — about 5° F — and it will only get colder when the sun goes down.

You and your mates set up camp in the forest to take a small break, thaw out your hands on a small fire, and maybe get some much-needed sleep. You melt some snow in a pot to brew some tea and, in the meantime, you decide to apply some grease on your skis.



But your Soviet counterparts don't like your little tea party: before the water even starts to boil bullets begin to rain over you, and you need to quickly pick up your stuff. You put on your skis again and seek shelter in the woods.

You and the boys set up a few mines to try and slow the Russians, shooting at them at the same time. An intermittent firefight ensues, but there is a full platoon of well-rested, well-armed Russian soldiers in snowsuits, and they vastly outnumber your small group. Your only option is a very hasty retreat.

That's what happened to 27-years-old Finnish soldier Aimo Koivunen on the morning of March 18th, 1944.

To understand why he found himself in that less-than-ideal position, we need to remember that the small country of Finland had been to war with the Soviet Union since 1939, in what became known as The Winter War.

The mighty Soviet military machine was far superior to the Finnish army, and in 1940 Finland was forced to sign a peace treaty that handed more than 10% of Finnish territory to the Soviet Union.

But one year later, following *Operation Barbarossa*, Finland unofficially allied with Nazi Germany and started working to take back their lost regions.

By 1944 the Nazis were being beaten up pretty badly in Russia, and the Soviets saw the opportunity to launch round two of their seizure of Finnish territory.

Now, when he found himself under attack, Aimo was one of the many Finns who had continued to fight against the Red Army on the Finnish border.

To flee from the Russian offensive, Aimo tried to open up a ski track in the deep snow — but he was dead tired, and just couldn't keep up the pace.

He had only eaten a piece of bread early in the morning and had not slept properly in days: he was feeling weak and shaky, and soon started to drift.

The men behind him shouted at him that he needed to move faster: "Aimo, don't fall asleep!", one of his buddies yelled at him.

Aimo was drained, but he had a trick up his sleeve: his lieutenant had entrusted him with the unit supply of military-grade Pervitin.

Introduced in 1938 and marketed as a magic pill for alertness, Pervitin was widely used by the German soldiers to stay awake and to perform better under punishing conditions. It was basically crystal meth in the form of small, round white pills. The German soldiers, understandably, *loved* it.

Aimo was not a fan of it, but he realized he had to take some if he wanted to avoid collapsing in the snow.

The pill bottle was in the front pocket of his jacket: he tried to extract one pill from the container, but his heavy mittens made his movements clumsy, and he accidentally poured the whole thing out in his palm. In a panic and wanting to keep the manoeuvre hidden from the other soldiers, he just downed them all.

The safe dosage of Pervitin was one pill per day. Aimo Koivunen swallowed all 30 of them at once—without water.

Finnish soldiers moving through the arctic forest (Wikimedia Commons)



METH-FUELED RAMPAGE

A few minutes later, Aimo was a new man: he was no longer tired or weak. Actually, he was feeling just *great*.

He was now full of energy and strength and quickly picked up speed. Then, as the pills really kicked in, he started tripping out pretty badly: the surrounding landscape morphed before his eyes, he became increasingly paranoid and he started flashing in and out of consciousness while he skied.

At some point, the other guys had noticed good ol' Aimo didn't look all that well and took away his ammunition; his last rational thought before blacking out for good was that he had made a huge, *huge* mistake.

When he woke up, he had no food, no ammo, and no comrades with him. He had no idea where he was, how he got there, or how much time had passed. He also had no idea if he had drifted away from his buddies or if they had, in fact, decided to leave him behind.

From that moment on, he kept blacking out and snapping back to reality, finding himself in places he did not recognize at all, doing weird things he did not remember ever setting up to do.

GERMANS IN SIGHT (OR MAYBE NOT)

At some point, Aimo wound up on top of a hill and he spotted a fire burning in the distance with some men standing around it: convinced it must be a German camp, he decided it would be a great idea to crash-land right in the middle of it, so they could rescue him. He merrily skied down the hill at full speed, but when he found himself near enough he realized those weren't, in fact, German soldiers—

they were Russians.
Uh-oh.



Finnish machine gun nest in Russian territory in 1940 (Wikimedia Commons)

Luckily for Aimo, they were so bewildered to see a high-as-a-kite Finnish soldier darting straight through the camp at full pelt that they just stared at him open-mouthed: he was gone before they knew what hit them.

Some of the Soviet soldiers tried to follow him, but he was in the middle of a meth-fueled frenzy, and pretty much nothing could stop him. He left them for dust.

In the following days Aimo survived on just water, pine needles... and meth. That shit was far from being done with him.

He hallucinated some more, talked with a number of absent friends, and fought an imaginary wolverine (that turned out to be a tree branch), shattering his wrist compass and losing his backpack in the process.

At some point he somehow found himself in an abandoned cabin, and he decided to start a fire—on the wooden floor, in the middle of the room. Soon the whole cabin was on fire, with Aimo curled up on the ground, trying to sleep, and just wiggling further and further away from the flames every time they got too close.

Luckily for him, his meth-induced restlessness did not allow him to fall asleep, and when the cabin finally collapsed — because of course it did — he managed to escape, put on his skis, and hit the road again.

Still high out of his skull, he then spent most of the night trying very hard to reach a distant light coming from a farm window — only to realize, at dawn, that he had chased the North Star all along.

In the morning Aimo came across an abandoned German outpost. There he almost immediately set off an explosion: the Germans, thoughtful as always, had mined the place after leaving. When he looked down at his right foot, bone splinters poked through the grated flesh and, had he been a little *less* high, that would have probably worried him quite a bit.

Entrance to a German dugout (Wikimedia Commons)



But, not content to have mangled his foot pretty badly, Aimo then hopped about the German camp and tried to open the door of a dugout—just to promptly set off another explosive trap.

He found himself belly-up and nearly buried in snow about 30 meters from the dugout: his clothes and shoes had been torn to shreds in the explosion and he was still holding the doorknob in his hand, like a real-life version of a Looney Tunes character.

In addition to having no weapons, no food and no compass, now he was also seriously hurt, half-naked and *still tripping balls*. He decided to crawl into a ditch and sleep. He dreamt of food. Lots of it.

FINNS (AND A SIBERIAN JAY) TO THE RESCUE

A few days later a group of Finnish soldiers stumbled upon him.

They were quite startled to find a stoned, half-naked fellow-countryman in an abandoned German outpost turned minefield, and they promised him to send a rescue party. He was sure they would never come back for him, and he later became convinced he actually hallucinated the whole exchange.

He went back to his gourmet dreams.

While he waited—for the Russians to find and kill him, or the Finns to save him—he managed to capture a Siberian jay, which he proceeded to eat raw.

Finally, some good effing food!

To his utter surprise, a few days later the Finns *actually came to rescue him*. When he was finally brought to a field hospital, his heart rate was measured at 200 beats per minute, and he weighed a shocking 43 kilograms (94 pounds). The poor guy had basically turned into a hummingbird.

Aimo had been on the move for two weeks, and the distance he covered in his crystal-fueled solo trip was calculated at about 400 kilometers (250 miles). Surprisingly enough, Aimo Koivunen not only survived the ordeal but went on to live a long and happy life, dying in 1989 at the age of 71.

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VERSATILE VELUWE



Everyone knows the Veluwe, the large nature reserve in the middle of the Netherlands.

Dutch people voted the Veluwe region as the finest area of scenic beauty in the country. It is where forests, sand drifts, lichen steppes and heathlands form a splendid natural landscape. And where you can spot the Dutch ‘Big Five’: foxes, badgers, roe deer, wild boar and red deer, as well as Highland cattle, beavers and hundreds of other mammals, birds, reptiles and insects.

But the Veluwe region is even more than that.

It is home to the Hanseatic Towns of Harderwijk,

Elburg and Hattem, for example, which were already booming back when Amsterdam and Rotterdam were still only villages. Plus there’s Paleis Het Loo with palace gardens that rank amongst the most beautiful in Europe.

The Veluwe region is also where, right in the middle of De Hoge Veluwe National Park, Helene Kröller-Müller assembled her huge art collection which includes the second-largest collection of Van Gogh’s artworks in the world.

The Veluwe can even mean sun and beaches: it has over 100 pools and lakes, including the lakes bordering the Veluwe National Park – an Eldorado for recreation and water sports!

It is therefore not without reason that the Veluwezoom was the first to be declared a National Park in the Netherlands.

The size of the Veluwezoom is enormous by Dutch standards. The area consists of 5000 hectares of continuous nature and that is what makes the Veluwezoom so special. The large size of the



Veluwezoom makes the area so diverse. You will find forest, heath and sand drifts. In addition, the area has differences in height, which gives it a small foreign touch.

The second highest point in the Netherlands is located in the Veluwezoom. The National Park is originally a wooded area. In the southwest of the park is the Rozendaalse Zand, the largest sand drift in the park. The sand drift is maintained by the municipality of Rheden to maintain the unique landscape. If this were not to happen, the sandy landscape will slowly turn into forest. In



2009 the Rozendaalse Zand was extensively cleared of forest to allow the sand to drift. The remains of the forest are clearly visible when you stand in the landscape. Here and there you will find some stumps and lonely trees.

The sand drift is surrounded by the Rozendaalse Veld.

The highest point of the Veluwe is located in this heath landscape. Namely Signaal Imbosch, located about a twenty minute walk from the Rozendaalse Zand. Signal Imbosch is a hill of 109.9 meters high.

It is a former sand-drift area that is now forested with Scots pine.

The Posbank is also part of National Park Veluwezoom, the most famous part and therefore also the busiest part of the park. The hilly Posbank is beautiful, but if you want to experience the real tranquility of the Veluwezoom, you will find it around the heath at the Rozendaalse Veld and the nearby Rheder- and Worth-Rhederheide.

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DUTCH TERM – CONTACTADVERTENTIE

Yvette Hoitink



A *contactadvertentie* is a contact ad, an advertisement by a person looking for a spouse. The ads are almost always anonymous, but give you some idea what people found important in a spouse.

Example

This ad from the Rotterdamsch Nieuwsblad [Rotterdam Newspaper] of 14 January 1913 shows one woman using an ad to find a spouse.

Marriage

A capable young woman age 25, with a girl age 7, wishes to make her acquaintance with a widower, no older than 30 or 35, from the working class. Letters delivered free of charge are expected until Tuesday afternoon next at 1 PM under number 5402 office of v.d. Bl. [...]ken.

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YES, I DO! AND PREFERABLY A ONE-LEGGED BRIDE

Marilou Nillesen – bhic



Alfred Haighton

Alfred Haighton married four times at the beginning of the last century, three times with a woman with one leg. Who is this curious man who bears the dubious title of 'financier of fascism', and who is so frantic in search of one-legged brides?

Coenraad Alfred Augustus Haighton (26 October 1896 - 13 April 1943) owes his special surname to Scottish ancestors, but his cradle is in the heart of Rotterdam. There he grew up in a prosperous family. His father has a successful business, in which he insures people against the risk of loss when participating in the State Lottery. A lucrative business and young Alfred therefore already has huge amounts of money at his disposal.

Haighton has great admiration for fascism. He pumps a large part of his wealth into this strongly nationalist political movement. This earned him the nickname *financier of fascism*. But his influence goes beyond investing. He is also actively involved in organizations such as Zwart Front (the archive of which is at the BHIC) and is committed to shaping fascism with heart and soul.

Haighton is a vengeful, harsh man: when his brother kicks him out of the family business, Alfred hatches a plan to get rid of his brother.

ONE LEGGED BRIDES

Moreover, he - himself afflicted with a limp - has a special peculiarity. Of the four times he marries, it is three times with a one-legged bride. In order to find these women, he places personal ads, such as the above from Gooi- en Eemlander, 9 November 1936, via www.delpher.nl.

His wives die at a relatively young age, and it seems that Alfred does not give up for long. He quickly starts looking again: sometimes he remarries within a year, but sometimes also within three months. His last marriage did not last long because Haighton died unexpectedly on April 13, 1943, of a heart attack. He is then 47 years old.

Apart from this striking preference, he mainly leaves his mark in Dutch politics, because his many millions have lifted fascism to a higher level.

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THE POISONOUS BEAUTY ADVICE COLUMNS OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND

By [Natalie Zarrelli](#)

*A woman applies lipstick in Joseph Carraud's La Toilette, 1858.
(Photo: [Public Domain/The Athenaeum](#))*

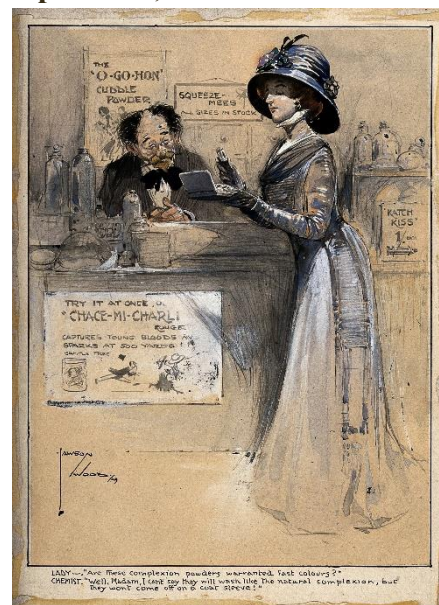
GLASS AND TIN BOTTLES HIDE snug in a case, waiting for a woman's daily ritual. She reaches for a bottle of ammonia and washes it over her face, careful to replace the delicate glass stopper. Next, she dips her fingertips into the creams and powders of her toilet table, gravitating toward a bright white paint, filled with lead, which she delicately paints over her features. It's important to avoid smiling; the paint will set, and any emotion will make it unattractively crack.

In Victorian England, these were some of the ways women began their daily beauty routines. Unfortunately, cosmetics of the era were plagued by caustic chemicals that could also cause bodily addiction. And, like today, the advice on how, if, and when to use these treatments came from the era's most popular beauty columns.

One such column, from *Harper's Bazaar*, was called "The Ugly Girl Papers: Or, Hints for the Toilet." It was written by a Mrs. S.D. Powers, a beauty expert of the time, and became so popular that it was re-published in 1874 as an anthology. The "Ugly Girl Papers" has the tone of a wise aunt with endless advice on how to solve your beauty woes.

In one-chapter Powers asks, "Is there such a being as a hopelessly homely woman?" It is a rhetorical question, and readers of the time would have known the author's firm belief that one could go from average to "charming" with just a few dress and makeup adjustments. Powers prized subtlety in makeup, though, and always included careful reminders to be sparse with powder and rouge.

*A woman queries the durability of cosmetics at a pharmacy.
(Photo: [Wellcome Images, London](#))*



According to Powers, women's beauty was an elaborate, skilled, and semi-secret performance. "Everybody knows they are inventions, and accepts them as such, like paste brilliants at a theatre," she wrote.

Victorian beauty ideals were unsurprisingly obsessed with pallor: upper class white women chased even whiter skin, a symbol that their privilege never left them working in the sun. "It was all about how to make your skin more translucent," says Alexis Karl, a perfumer and lecturer who has researched Victorian cosmetics extensively.

There were two dominant makeup styles in the 1800s: "natural" and "painted." The ideals of "natural" skin care conjured images of the "English Rose"; a wholesomely beautiful woman with good morals, but Karl notes "it was understood that there was a lot of artifice going on." The "painted" beauty regime was seen as a bit risqué; these women were not hiding their artifice nor their desire to be beautiful.

Similar to the "no-makeup makeup" trend that exists today, the natural look was often achieved through unnatural preparations, many of them homemade. Modern beauty practices belie the roots of current ideals: a chemical called Taraxacum is suggested as a sort of 1800s chemical peel by Powers, who says "the compress acts like a mild but imperceptible blister, and leaves a new skin, soft as an infants."



To keep the face fresh, she advises coating the face with opium overnight, followed by a brisk wash of ammonia in the morning. For the woman with sparse eyebrows and eyelashes, mercury was often recommended as a nightly eye treatment, eradicating the need to use heavy makeup. "The look of the consumptive was very desirable: the woman with the watery eyes and pale skin, which of course was from the cadaver in the throes of death," says Karl.

*An 1898 advertisement for Dr. Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers.
(Photo: [Jussi/flickr](#))*

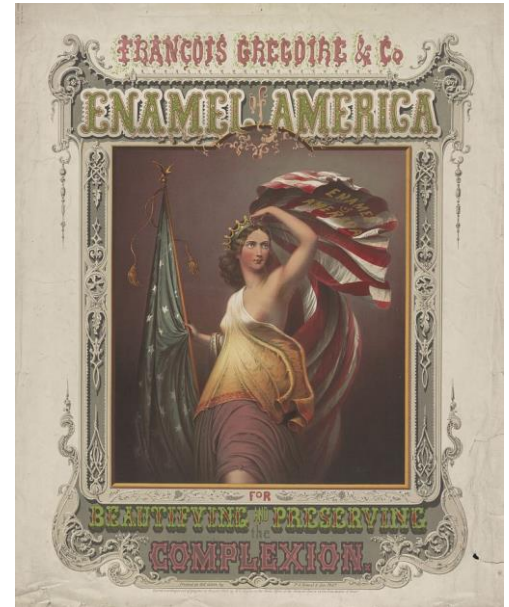
To get this near-death look, women would squeeze a few drops citrus juice or perfume into their eyes, or reach for some belladonna drops, which lasted longer, but also caused blindness. Pale skin was encouraged with veils, gloves and parasols, but could also be bought, Sears & Roebuck sold a popular product called Dr. Rose's Arsenic Complexion Wafers, which were just that—little white chalk wafers filled with arsenic for delicate nibbling. They were specifically advertised as "perfectly harmless."

Arsenic, a natural metalloid found in the earth's crust, is an extremely toxic compound that can be tolerated for a time when eaten in small amounts (and has occasionally been used in medicine). Long-term exposure, however, is extremely unpleasant: nervous system and kidney damage, hair loss, conjunctivitis and growths called arsenical keratoses plague the body along with, yes, vitiligo, which causes pigment loss in the skin. Arsenic, which became addictive as a person's tolerance built, was used in as many forms as possible.

Lola Montez, a Victorian actress and traveling beauty writer, wrote in her book *The Arts of Beauty* about how women in Bohemia (now a part of the Czech Republic) regularly bathed in arsenic springs, "which gave their skins a transparent whiteness." She also warned of the price: "once they habituate themselves to the practice, they are obliged to keep it up the rest of their days, or death would speedily follow."

Though beauty-related deaths were not always reported as arsenic poisoning, it wasn't that Victorian women didn't know arsenic was toxic or addictive. It was not uncommon for it to be used as a poison by murderesses of the era, and by the late 1800s arsenic was known to be a dangerous ingredient when used in dyes and wallpaper. The use of arsenic in small quantities for skin lightening was considered so effective that it continued for decades.

An advertisement from 1847, for François Gregoire & Co's "Enamel of America for beautifying and preserving the complexion". (Photo: [Library of Congress](#))



The mentality associated with using dangerous substances was possibly rooted in the era's culture. "Toxicity is one thing, but there was also a stream of mortality running through daily life," says Karl. Victorian life was full of everyday dangers beyond poisoned products; diseases, fires and electrical mishaps may have contributed to an obsession with death that made domestic dangers, like skin care, easier to overlook.



While the skin remedies geared toward a "natural" look were dangerous, the painted ladies were hardly better off. Women who used these products coated their faces and arms with white paints and enamels, in an effort to cover their natural skin tone and mimic an extremely pale complexion. These products were made from lead, which is corrosive—the more paint you wore, the more you needed to wear next time to cover your damaged skin. Vermillion, sometimes called "red mercury", was a known poison and lip tint.

Many advice columnists, including Montez, vehemently hated enamelling. "If Satan has ever had any direct agency in inducing woman to spoil or deform her own beauty, it must have been in tempting her to use paints and enamelling," Montez declared.

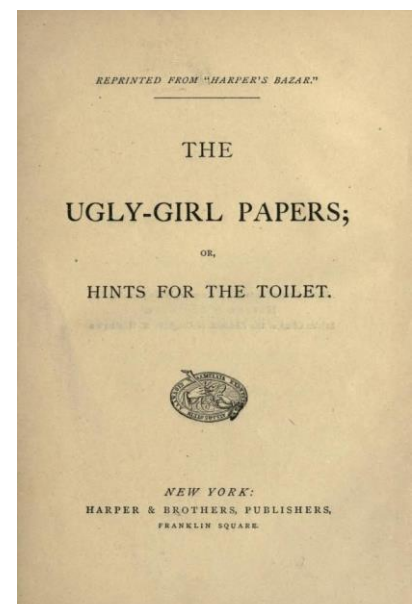
John Singer Sargent's painting Madame X. (Photo: Public Domain/WikiCommons)

One painted woman, Virginie Gautreau, depicted in a black dress in Sargent's famous portrait "Madame X", was admired and hated for the sensualization of her corpse-like skin. "Madame X would use indigo dye to paint veins on her arms, over the enamel. She was highly skilled—these women were literally living pieces of art," says Karl.

The frontispiece for The Ugly Girl Papers: Or, Hints for the Toilet. (Photo: Internet Archive)

While wearing the enamel, painted women had to keep a largely emotionless face, against the risk that the enamel would crack. According to Karl, they made a concerted decision to paint rather than employ "natural" cosmetics methods, which were used out of sight and at home. Once you began to paint, everyone knew you did so, and in a social sense you could never switch to a natural look.

When read as a collection, beauty columns like "The Ugly Girl Papers" have a strangely contradictory feel. In one instance, Powers claims that "ammonia is the most healthful and efficient



stimulus for the hair” and in another insists that to remove unwanted hair, all that is needed is a good application of ammonia.

Youthful grace was emphasized, until Powers herself aged, when she began talking of the beauty found in grey hair. There is a surprising amount of advice that seems comparable to beauty and health columns of today, including eating well, keeping fit, and developing mental health and a sense of self-worth. At the same time, none of the above were optional lifestyle choices in the eyes of many beauty mavens at the time: the word “duty” comes up in these columns a lot. Today’s consumers like to think they are savvier than the Victorians, of course, and there have indeed been some improvements. Ingredient lists are now a legal necessity, and contemporary wearers tend to approach makeup as a conscious method of self-expression and creativity rather than as a duty. In some senses, though, it’s hard to miss the parallels to contemporary beauty tips dispensed by Blogs and Vlogs and the potentially risky treatments that wax and wane in popularity and endorsements. “It’s kind of like how people say ‘Oh, Botox for your eye is probably not good’ while others say ‘but she looks so good now!’” says Karl. “So how far have we really come?”

Source; Atlas Obscura

LEAVE IT TO THE DUTCH

HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO? THE FIRST PREFAB HEMP HOUSE WAS BUILT IN THE NETHERLANDS!



The Dutch and innovative use of cannabis — they might not be the first or the only ones, but they are doing it well! The Dun Agro Hemp Group has come up with a way to use hemp to make a prefab for a hemp house. They claim this to be sturdier than traditional building materials (being able to withstand earthquakes), and more affordable! They make the houses using hemp to make “hemcrete”. It’s a strain of cannabis that is a whole lot tougher than we thought. It’s already used to make other things like clothes and bio-fuel, so why not a whole house? It is also a “carbon-negative” material: it absorbs 13,500 kilograms of CO2 while it

grows and does not emit even close to that number back into the atmosphere! This CO2 that is built up in the plant is then used to make the hemcrete. This would be sustainable development at its finest if these houses are made on a large scale.

But sorry to disappoint anyone who thought they could get a lifetime supply of weed — there’s no tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in hemp, the element in cannabis that gets you high. So how high can you actually go?

Not that high, I’m afraid.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 13th August 2022.....Meeting, Speaker TBA
- Saturday 12th August 2022.....Meeting, Show and Tell

YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH

Q: How many people does it take to change a lightbulb in a Facebook group?
1 to change the light bulb and to post that the light bulb has been changed.
14 to share similar experiences of changing light bulbs and how the light bulb could have been changed differently.
7 to caution about the dangers of changing light bulbs.
17 purists who use candles and are offended by light bulb discussions.
6 to argue over whether it's 'lightbulb' or 'light bulb'.
Another 6 to condemn those 6 as stupid.
22 to tell THOSE 6 to stop being jackasses.
2 industry professionals to inform the group that the proper term is 'lamp'.
15 know-it-alls who claim they were in the industry, and that 'light bulb' is perfectly correct.
249 to post meme's and gif's (several are of someone eating popcorn with the words added, "I'm just here for the comments.")
19 to post that this page is not about light bulbs and to please take this discussion to a light bulb page.
11 to defend the posting to this page saying that we all use light bulbs and therefore the posts are relevant here.
12 to post F.
8 to ask what F means.
16 to post 'Following' but there's 3 dots at the top right that means you don't have to.
3 to say "can't share"
2 to reply "can't share from a closed group"
36 People to post pics of their own light bulbs.
15 People to post "I can't see S\$%^!" and use their own light bulbs.
6 to report the post or PM an admin because someone said "f÷×\$"
4 to say "Didn't we go through this already a short time ago?".
13 to say "Do a search on light bulbs before posting questions about light bulbs".
1 to bring politics into the discussion by adding that (insert politician of choice) isn't the brightest bulb. This usually takes place within the first three comments.
50 more to get into personal attacks over their political views.
5 admins to ban the light bulb posters who took it all too seriously.
1 late arrival to comment on the original post 6 months later and start it all over again.

IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS LETTER PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO
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