

ANGLO-NETHERLANDS SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 68, UNILEVER HOUSE, LONDON, EC4P 4BQ . TEL 020-7353 5729 (Thursdays only) FAX 020-7822 6400

SUMMER 2001

Patron: H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands
Administrator: Marleen Stad

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Vice-President: H.E. The Netherlands Ambassador

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Honorary Editor: Mr H. A. Neher



Portrait of Máxima Zorreguieta and Prins Willem-Alexander after their engagement on 30 march 2001. Pending Parliamentary consent, the wedding is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2 February 2002. In their meeting of Tuesday 3 April the Council of the Society sent their congratulations on behalf of the Society to His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange and his charming Argentinean bride to be.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 11 July

Painshill Park, a re-created eighteenth century landscape garden, with optional lunch. An application form is enclosed.

Tuesday 24 July

a Thames riverboat trip on the 'Salient', organised by the British-German Association, to which members of the Anglo-Netherlands Society are warmly invited. An application form is enclosed.

12-16 September

"Discovering the Delta", tour of the south-west Netherlands. Further information will be sent out to participants.

Tuesday 16 October

Visit to the British Library, in particular it's large Dutch collection, guided by Dr. Jaap Harskamp. An application form will be sent out with the next Newsletter.

Friday 2 November

Private lecture, "Rembrandts Women" at the Royal Academy followed by a visit to the exhibition. An application form will be sent out with the next Newsletter.

Tuesday 13 November

Annual Dinner at Drapers Hall, guest speaker: Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Chief of the Defence Staff. An application form will be sent out with the next Newsletter.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Algra Miss J E
Blackwell Ms S A
Claessens Mr F
Meijs Dr W J
Pontier Mr J H and Mrs E
Roberts Mr B W and
Miss A D Homan
Schlick Miss G E
Sleurink Mr P H
Spencer Dame Rosemary DCMG
Sumner-Djie Mrs B M IDM B Sc

Max Euwe: the biography

Including 50 games of chess with the original analysis by the Dutch World Champion

Daring, patience, vision and strategy - there are many similarities between diplomacy and chess, and it was therefore fitting that the Netherlands Ambassador should be the first to receive a copy of the recently translated biography of Dr Max Euwe. In the autumn of 1935, a relatively unknown Dutch primary school teacher and chess amateur played a series of 30 chess matches as challenger to the then World Master Alekhine. Although initially played in the back-room of a café or a school auditorium and perhaps only of interest to avid chess players, the series gradually evolved into a formidable tug-of-war that held the country (and going by the flood of telegrams and letters, much of the world) in its grip.

Much has happened in the chess world since the publication of this book in Dutch a quarter of a century ago. When written in 1976, Max Euwe, the then FIDE President (Fédération Internationale des Echecs), undoubtedly cherished the illusion that the world chess federation would continue to be the normative authority for all things chess. But the tide was turning against him, for World Champion Robert Fisher had tabled a list of demands for a title match that was as non-negotiable as it was unrealisable, leaving Euwe with no other choice than to declare challenger Anatoly Karpov the twelfth World Champion by default. But even after this disappointing event FIDE, in accordance with Euwe's ideas, continued to control the organisation of chess for many years.

It was only after Garry Kasparov secured the title (long after Euwe's death in 1981), that a variety of sponsors entered the world championship and the chess world generally, computers made their appearance, various professional interest groups were established, and at one stage no fewer than four chess players were calling themselves World Champion.

This book wants to bring back the memory of the (good old) days when the ambitions of the top chess players were perhaps no different from what they are now, but when the title match was a totally feudal affair. Lasker, Capablanca and Alekhine regarded the title as a personal property and acted accordingly.

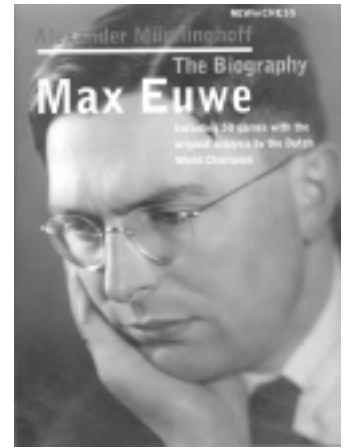
Euwe, after belying all expectations by winning an exhausting world championship match against Alekhine in 1935, is credited with immediately instigating democratic reforms. From the very start the 'genius of order', as Hans Kmoch called him, started working towards a transparent world championship system. The crucial test for this aspiration was the FIDE congress of Winterthur 1946, where Euwe tabled a proposal to 'expropriate' the title and allow chess players to contest it through a step-by-step system of qualifying rounds leading to a Candidates' Tournament and culminating in a match between title-holder and challenger. All of this under the aegis of FIDE. This system survived for 40 years

before collapsing under the weight of greed and ambition, after which the doors to chaos in the chess world were thrown wide open. One could imagine that under more Euwe-like successors FIDE would have been spared this catastrophe, but after his death there simply weren't any left. Euwe was a man of the old school, whose persona did not at all fit the mixed bag of profiles presented by the then top players. He was no showman like Capablanca, no universal genius like Lasker, no fanatic like Alekhine and no prophet serving a new order like Botvinnik.

Surrounded by the bohemians of chess that populated the tournaments in his time, Euwe is the embodiment of solid middle-class values, law and order, and a levelheaded, scientific approach. A man with a respectable job who became World Champion in his spare time. The fact that Euwe wrote more chess books than all other World Champions combined failed to change the general perception held by some in the world of chess of a rank amateur (the amateur world title Euwe won in 1928) who just happened, briefly, to appropriate the real title, but ought not really to be counted amongst the World Champions. The writer (an accomplished amateur chess player himself) sets out to correct this misconception.

I, for one, found this an enlightening book, which placed many of the events that I had heard about from my grandparents in a wider context. It is written in an easy flowing style, with the typical chess minded parts in easy to ignore paragraphs at the end of each chapter. An interesting point is that Corus, the British-Dutch steel group, have for many years sponsored one of the Netherlands' principal chess tournaments.

Max Euwe, the biography, written by Alexander Munninghoff 1976 and updated 2000 to reflect the latter years. Translated by Piet Verhagen, and published by New in Chess, Alkmaar, the Netherlands. ISBN 90-5691-079-5



Portrait of a Young Man with a Glove, Frans Hals, c.1640. 'Visiting Masterpiece' from the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, at the Hermitage Rooms in Somerset House, from 30 June.

National Architecture Week

22 June-1 July, www.architectureweek.org.uk

A large number of events underline the role of architecture in our everyday perception of the built environment. We select:

Dulwich Picture Gallery, who have organised a panel discussion with participants Peter Davey, Editor of the Architectural Review, Rick Mather, architect of the Dulwich and Wallace extensions, Rowan Moore of the Evening Standard and Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery on Wednesday 27 June at 7.30 pm, preceded by a tour. Also at the Dulwich a talk and discussion with architect David Adjaye who designed radical houses for artists Chris Ofili and Jake Chapman, and actor Ewan MacGregor on Friday 22 June at 7.30pm. Telephone 020 8693 5254 for Dulwich.

Painshill Park, Cobham, Surrey

Wednesday 11 July 2001

Walks, views and surprises in an 18th century paradise. The extensive landscape garden which we propose to visit was held to be one of Europe's finest 18th century landscape gardens. A contemporary of Stourhead and Stowe, this garden was created by Charles Hamilton between 1738 and 1773. It is therefore among the earliest in the naturalistic style. He transformed heathland into ornamental pleasure grounds and parkland, dominated by a 14-acre serpentine lake. It is a landscape of different moods, with features that appear and reappear as the walk unfolds. Well maintained for two centuries, the park was neglected after the war and eventually sank into dereliction. In 1981 the Painshill Park Trust was formed to try and restore more than 150 acres to match their original splendour.

Charles Hamilton was a man of great talent in many respects, plantsman, painter and a brilliant designer, so there are bound to be frequent surprises sprinkled around the grounds, among these a waterwheel, a Gothic temple, a Turkish tent, a Chinese bridge, a crystal grotto and some magnificent rockwork.

There will be coffee and an introductory talk on arrival and then a guided walk which, taken at a moderate pace and with stops for the guide to describe the scene, will take 1½ to 2 hours. You can, if you prefer, go off on your own at any point to restrict the distance covered. The new visitors' centre now under construction will open early in the summer and an optional lunch will be available there.

After lunch members are free to wander further, or go to other attractions nearby, including the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley or the grounds of Hampton Court Palace. Painshill is near the junction of the M25 and the A3, and there are several railway stations within approximately 3 miles.

Admission, coffee, introductory talk and guided tour are included in the price, but lunch arrangements need to be made separately. Please refer to the application form for details.

Sussex Branch Activities

At their Annual General Meeting at a member's home, the members of the Society's active regional branch reviewed the past year's activities and adopted the following programme for the year. All events on the programme are open to all members of the Society, although the listing is published only once.

The matinee performance of 'Song of Singapore' (an adaptation of the 1998 production) in Chichester will have taken place by the time this Newsletter reaches our members.

Nymans, a Sussex Weald garden near Handcross on the A23. Sunday 22 July at 12.30 for lunch at the pub (Victory) in nearby Staplefield, then a visit to the National Trust property. Begun in 1895, it encompasses richly varied styles and types of gardening and an extraordinary wide range of plants in a magnificent slightly hilly setting, assembled in over three-quarters of a century.

Parham House, near Storrington, proposed to meet at lunchtime on Sunday 5 August for a visit at 2pm, dependent on foot-and-mouth restrictions in the area, which are currently lifted.

Vineyard, late September, date and location to be confirmed, either Nyetimber or Nutbourne near West Chiltington.

Glyndebourne, Marriage of Figaro. Thursday 18 October at 7.0 pm, by the Glyndebourne Touring Company.

Christmas Luncheon date and location to be confirmed, likely venue will be a historic steam traction train on the Bluebell line alternatively at the Old Tollgate Restaurant at Bramber.

Vermeer and the Delft School

National Gallery, London, 20 June till 16 September

Vermeer lived only 43 years, from 1632 to 1675. Even in his lifetime his paintings were limited and expensive. Today 35 survive, representing only a proportion of his known output. This exhibition provides an opportunity to see 13 major works, ones that are rarely lent, ranging across his entire career.

In all, the exhibition comprises 75 paintings by 28 artists as well as a small but choice selection of gilded silver and Delftware faience. What makes it stand out is that it shows Vermeer in the context of Delft, a city which in the 17th Century sustained a thriving community of artists and luxury trades. It will reveal how artistic developments from the early 17th century as well as the role of Delft's sophisticated patrons and the court at the Hague paved the way for the flowering of art in Delft, culminating in the work of Vermeer and his colleagues in the mid seventeenth century.

Amongst his contemporaries is Pieter de Hoogh, who pioneered the subject of every day sunlit courtyards and domestic scenes. Vermeer followed his example, but soon surpassed him in subtlety of his compositions and light effects. Perhaps the most unexpected will be the work of Carel Fabritius, Rembrandt's most talented pupil, and at times considered the missing link between Rembrandt and Vermeer.



Artemesia (1634) by Rembrandt © Museo Nacional del Prado - Madrid

Rembrandt's Women

National Gallery of Scotland, 8 June till 2 September

Royal Academy of Art, 22 September till 16 December

This exhibition focuses on how Rembrandt portrays women in his art, with works borrowed from collections around the world.

Many of these works were almost certainly based on the key women in Rembrandt's life: his wife Saskia, his son's nursemaid Geertje Dirckx and his mistress Hendrickje Stoffels.

Perhaps one of the most controversial aspects of Rembrandt's work is his realistic depiction of women's bodies, complete with lumps, bumps, cellulite and garter-marks. A bit too realistic for some, like art critic Andries van der Pelt who in 1681 commented: "He choose no Greek Venus as his model but rather a washerwoman or a peat trader from a barn ... and he called this whim 'imitation of nature'". Kenneth Clark is quoted as having described one of Rembrandt's women as "monstrously fat". But it is this uncompromising depiction of real women which makes Rembrandt's work so fresh and uncontrived that they are still universal in their appeal, even today.

'Aanraken'

Review of a 'Collection of Poems'
written by Kees Blokland

Writing poetry is not a hobby one takes up one afternoon. It is oft kindled by a good language teacher, then developed 'on the fly' - often literally. Kees, like so many who enjoy writing, finds that the best lines come to you when going somewhere or preparing for a presentation. When very busy, perhaps on the verge of being rushed, writing poetry helps him to reflect.

His style in this collection is described as 'trying to capture an image with the bare minimum of words'. In the choice of subjects and in the poems we often notice two worlds touching each other, the poetic dream world of the mind, and the real world of the human character.

Kees Blokland was born in 1947 in Schiedam and studied Social Psychology in Amsterdam. It is perhaps telling that to date five other pupils from his eindexamenjaar at the Groen van Prinsterer school in Vlaardingen - a secondary school - have also had their poetry published. Kees works in London as a director of personnel at Corus Group PLC.

To give a flavour of Kees' style we quote the following poem, which was chosen by our member Daphne Thissen.

Member of the Board

so many years
of play, and work, and game
with smiles and tears
success and shame

the roads they gave
you took the other one
they said: behave
you were already gone

it will not stop
the rules and other trash
but for the top
old man, stay fresh

His first book of poems *Al dat ik ben* 'All that I am' was published in 1998. *Aanraken* 'touching' is his second book. Some of the poems were translated into, others originally written in English, an all-English version is currently 'in the works'.

Introduction of the Euro in the Netherlands

The Dutch ministry of foreign affairs has published a folder with information for Dutch nationals living abroad. Copies can be requested from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, 'afdeling PCZ', 38 Hyde Park Gate, London SW7 5DP. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Related websites are: www.netherlandsembassy.co.uk, www.euro.nl, www.minfin.nl, www.dnb.nl and www.ecb.nl.

The main point to keep in mind is that the Guilder can not be used from 28 January 2002 onwards. Coins can be exchanged at *De Nederlandse Bank* for 5 years, banknotes for thirty.

From the Netherlands

A group of ten Dutch Americans have made the journey back to the Netherlands this year - in order to learn how to operate the reconstructed Dutch windmill in their town, after new banks were built to contain the Mississippi following floods in 1965.

Amsterdam's municipal police force use a new feature to combat a new crime: they have programmed a computer to send electronically generated text messages to mobile phones that are reported as stolen. The results were revealing: one suspect's phone kept going off during questioning, and more than one parent found out why their offspring's fancy mobile cost them so little.

Always wanted to know how Queen's Birthday Honours are decided in the Netherlands? Surf to www.lintjes.nl.

"The Pride of Rotterdam", currently the world's largest car ferry, can take some 650 vehicles and double that number of passengers from Rotterdam to Hull v.v. with P&O North Sea Ferries.

One unexpected consequence of the Dutch legislation is that it would also legalise euthanasia on board any Dutch registered ship. A doctor in Australia has already announced the intention to exploit this loophole on a vessel off the Australian coast.

Dutch public opinion seems divided evenly on the issue of the 'pil van Drion', so called after the past vice-president of the *Hoge Raad* (supreme court), who suggested further liberalising Dutch practice in this respect. People over the age of 60 are less keen.

Police patrolling the Brabant village of Engelen ('Angels') one evening found what seemed like a six-foot bear soundly asleep on the verge. Closer inspection revealed an intoxicated man who had dozed off on his way home from a party. A sensible alternative to drink-driving perhaps?

Now that Crown-Prince Willem-Alexander and Máxima Zorreguieta are engaged to be married, a national committee has been formed to contemplate a *nationaal cadeau*. One part will be a personal present, the other funding for a good cause. Suggestions are welcome at: www.nationaaloranjecomite.nl

A special committee of the European Parliament advises both citizens and companies to be careful with electronic communications, pending clarification of the aims and extent of the 'Echelon' intelligence gathering operation, and for now use encryption techniques when commercially sensitive information is transmitted.

At the end of the football season, the hallowed grass of Amsterdam's ArenA football ground has yet again gained centre stage. The grass seems to be greener almost everywhere else. Engineers from Nijmegen predict that huge aluminium sails to be installed will reflect an adequate amount of sunlight to make the grass grow.

Prins Constantijn and Laurentien Brinkhorst, who entered into matrimony in The Hague in the middle of May, intend to follow Prins Johan-Friso, and will come to live and work in London.

Web surfers can visit both Queen Beatrix' residence 'Paleis Huis ten Bosch' and a police detention centre in Amsterdam. Virtual reality allows unexpected visitors to walk around at all times www.koninklijkhuis.nl and at www.politie-amsterdam-amstelland.nl.

In this column, the editor recounts some of the most memorable bits of news the past quarter, both as an *aide memoire*, and to help keep up with developments in the Netherlands. The initial source of these items often lies with family and friends, although radio and newspapers play a role as well. In general, an item is included if it could be found on the website of the purported source, or alternatively in the daily e-mail news bulletin published by Radio Netherlands World service, at: www.rnw.nl

Unilever House Lecture 24 April

“Queen Wilhelmina, her exile in England, and the British”

Professor Cees Fasseur was the Society’s Guest of Honour and principal Speaker on this well attended lecture.

In his introduction, Professor Fasseur reminded us of David Cannadine’s characterisation of the Royal Biographer as a gifted amateur, a sycophant who produces dull, deferential and discreet biographies of royal life, largely oblivious to broader historical trends and meanings.

Professor Fasseur regards the five years in exile as her ‘Finest Hour’, a forceful personality, unfettered by the protocol of the royal court, battling to shape the future of the occupied Netherlands according to what the young people who fled to England, the *Engelandvaarders*, told her were their ideals.

For the words often attributed to Winston Churchill: “She is the only man in the Dutch Government”, unfortunately no written evidence can be found. The subtitle of the book, ‘A Martial Figure, in a shapeless raincoat’, comes from a poem by Ida Gerhard.

Our speaker is outspoken on the subject of her going into exile: staying behind would presuppose that the Nazi-regime were sensitive to arguments of international law. That was not Hitler’s style, to say the least of it. It would not have been possible to continue the struggle without a free government, she had no choice but to accept passage on board a British ship. Chess players will agree that the King and the Queen must indeed be protected in a safe location, not be captured or be on the run.

Cees holds himself fortunate that mother and daughter were separated by the Atlantic in an era when electronic communication was well nigh impossible. Princess Juliana read fragments from her mother’s letters and sent him a box with no fewer than 26 tapes in her own voice, after Queen Beatrix’s intervention to overcome her initial reluctance to disclose.

After a very interesting and enjoyable lecture, one can only concur with David Jones of Unilever (a member of the Society and in a way was our host for the evening) that one could hardly have thought of a better subject for this lecture. Having ‘a temperamental Iron Lady’ ‘with some Russian blood in her veins’, ‘a female Yeltsin without the bouts of drunkenness’, as the subject for his study undoubtedly helped.

The sit-down supper afterwards was a fitting finale of yet another enjoyable evening, for which everyone’s thanks are due to Unilever in providing the venue and the excellent food and wine, to the Royal Netherlands Embassy for assisting in the arrangements, and to the Society’s Events Group.



The photo shows Queen Wilhelmina inspecting the troops near the Grebbelinie in 1940. It summarises the impression given of the Monarch: A Martial Figure, in a shapeless raincoat.

Wilhelmina, Krijgshaftig in een vormeloze jas, by Cees Fasseur, Uitgeverij Balans, ISBN 90 5018 452 9.

We would welcome an offer to review this book for the Newsletter.



Morning Light, 1850, Emanuel Larsen (1823-1859)

View from Langelinie towards the Royal Naval Dockyards, Copenhagen

Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen © DOWIC Fotografi, Statens Museum for Kunst

Two Golden Ages

The painters of Denmark’s Golden Age (1800-1850) were greatly influenced by the art of the Dutch Golden Age. This is particularly remarkable since the two periods are separated by nearly 200 years. This unusual influence will be explored for the first time in the major summer exhibition ‘Two Golden Ages’ at the Rijksmuseum. The project has been organised in close cooperation with the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen. The influence of 17th Century Dutch painting on countries in Europe has been researched by many; Curator Lene Bohg Rasmussen has now extended this to the influence on Danish painting. The many connections and correspondences in the fields of landscape, genre and portraiture are expected to be well represented in the exhibition. Van de Velde’s marine pieces have their Danish counterpart in the works of Eckersberg and Larsen.

16 June till 16 September, Rijksmuseum, Hobbemastraat, Amsterdam, telephone +31 20 6747 047 or www.rijksmuseum.nl.

Hieronymus Bosch

Just as little is known about Bosch's life as about the meaning of his paintings. Nevertheless, with his enigmatic scenes filled with devils, monsters and other peculiar creatures, Hieronymus Bosch enjoys worldwide fame for and has appealed to the imagination for generations. With this comprehensive exhibition, which is on show in Rotterdam only, the museum aims not just to assemble a great selection of works by this artist, but particularly to illuminate Boschs grandiose imaginary world marking the end of the dark Middle Ages. In addition there will be works by artists in Bosch's circle as well as special displays of badges. Visitors will also encounter paintings and sculpture by prominent modern and contemporary artists where the spirit of Bosch may be perceived.

1 September - 11 November at Museum Boijmans - van Beuningen, Museumpark 18, Rotterdam. Telephone +31 10 441 9400 or www.boijmans.rotterdam.nl and www.BoschUniverse.com



Hieronymus Bosch and/or studio (c.1450-1516) Central panel from 'The Garden of Earthly Delights' (c)Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid

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Tense Times with Verbs - revisited

quoted from 'Crazy English',
published by Pocket Books, 1998

Following on the poem submitted by Marleen Stad for the last issue, a short internet search led to the website of the author, Richard Lederer, an American Wordsmith. E-mail made enquiring about the correct attribution and checking the wording a chinch.

From the ensuing correspondence I gained the full text, including the stanzas, and "full permission and blessing to use it for your worthy cause". As an aside, Richard mentioned that his wife emigrated from Rotterdam at the age of four. The address for his entertaining and enlightening site is www.verbivore.com

The verbs in English are a fright.
How can we learn to read and write?
Today we speak, but first we spoke;
Some faucets leak, but never loke.
Today we write, but first we wrote;
We bite our tongues, but never bote.

Each day I teach, for years I taught,
And preachers preach, but never praught.
This tale I tell; this tale I told;
I smell the flowers, but never smold.

If knights still slay, as once they slew,
Then do we play, as once we plew?
If I still do as once I did,
Then do cows moo, as they once mid?

I love to win, and games I've won;
I seldom sin, and never son.
I hate to lose, and games I've lost;
I didn't choose, and never chost.

I love to sing, and songs I sang;
I fling a ball, but never flang.
I strike that ball, that ball I've struck;
This poem I like, but never luck.

I take a break; a break I took;
I bake a cake, but never book.
I eat that cake, that cake I ate;
I beat an egg, but never bate.

I often swim, as once I swam;
I skim some milk, but never skam.
I fly a kite that I once flew;
I tie a knot, but never tew.

I see the truth, the truth I saw;
I flee from falsehood, never flaw.
I stand for truth, as I once stood.
I land a fish, but never lood.

About these verbs I sit and think.
These verbs don't fit. They seem to wink
At me, who sat for years and thought
Of verbs that never fat or wrought.

In March of this year **Dame Rosemary Spencer DCMG** retired from the post of British Ambassador to the Netherlands. We are pleased to announce that Dame Rosemary has accepted our invitation to join the Council of the Society.

Pieter Breughel the Elder



Breughel: *Invidia*. Private Collection, Switzerland

Pieter Breughel the Elder was a consummate draughtsman. Yet his drawings are rarely exhibited, and some have indeed never been shown in public before. The exhibition comprises 57 of the 61 known drawings and almost his entire graphic oeuvre. This will be the first near-comprehensive showing of these works in Europe since the 1975 exhibition in Berlin. It is organised in cooperation with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Till 5 August, at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Museumpark 18, Rotterdam, tel: +31 10 44 19 400 or www.boijmans.rotterdam.nl. Visitors may also view the concurrent 'Rubens, Jordaens, van Dyck and contemporaries - Flemish drawings from the 17th Century' with a selection of 100 drawings from the museum.

Web access - Journey Planners

One application available free of charge on the World Wide Web that will appeal to many members - whom I hold to be intrepid voyagers in their own and each other's countries - is that which enables to plan journeys. Two of the most frequently used - in my experience, the Michelin and the Shell sites - each cover most of Europe in good detail.

www.Michelin-travel.com, indeed, by the tyre makers, complements the red and green guides well, but is no replacement. The paper version offers faster browsing, and handheld computers are still cumbersome. Where they do come on to their own is in the delivery of updated information. A drawback, I found, is that there is no obvious way to make this application remember one's usual starting point; one suggested route would take me through a frequently congested part of London.

www.ShellGeostar.com is Shell's offering. Registering allows the user to accurately define the starting point for a journey from the full postcode. The suggested route to a London destination is by my experience indeed fastest and free of congestion at all times but the rush hour. Places of interest are catered for, I drew a blank on e.g. the Elgar Birthplace Museum, but Lower Broadheath, the hamlet where the museum is located, was correctly identified. There is the option to print the route with a selection of maps, some covering just a roundabout, others a hundred mile stretch of motorway between relevant junctions.

Although neither offers a one-stop solution, used together these two sites seem to cover the most important aspects of travel.

European Year of Languages

The Council of Europe and the European Union have joined forces to organise the European Year of Languages 2001, and have expressed their absolute commitment to two key principles. First, that the Europe of the future, like that of the past and of the present, will be a Europe of linguistic diversity. That diversity is one of Europe's great strengths. Second, that everyone in Europe should have the opportunity, throughout their lifetime, to learn languages and thus benefit from the cultural and economic advantages language skills bring, and develop tolerance and understanding between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Everyone has a role to play in the European Year of Languages 2001. The organisers will do everything they can to make it a success. But by taking part in the Year and telling other people about it, you can make the most important contribution of all.

The first and best way is by beginning to learn a new foreign language or improving your existing knowledge! Otherwise, join in events and activities taking place in your country or region. Get together with other people nearby or in other countries to organise your own activities. Join in the interactive language exercises, games and chats accessible through the Internet site. As national coordinator for the United Kingdom has been appointed:

Dr Lid King, Director,
The Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research
20 Bedfordbury,
Covent Garden,
LONDON WC2N 4LB,
Tel: +44 207 379 5101 Ext. 233
e-mail: lid.king@cilt.org.uk
Web: www.cilt.org.uk/eyl2001
Or visit the following website: www.eurolang2001.org

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Announcements

Riverworks: life on the River Thames, till 8 July, at The River and Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames.

A comparison of the working life on the Thames in London from the 18th century to the present day. Combination of photographs by London-based photographer Jaap Oepkes and old prints from the archives of the Watermen's Company, in collaboration with artist-in-residence Jane Draycott. More information via www.rrm.co.uk or by telephone on 01491 415 600

Song of Singapore

1941. Singapore. A seedy waterfront nightclub. Enemy troops are baying on the border, precious gems have gone missing and the Malayan Melody Makers, the star turn at Freddy's café, want off the island - quick. Heading the cast as 'Rose of Rangoon', the sultry saloon singer, Issy van Randwyck 'struts her stuff' alongside a vibrant 7-piece band at the Greenwich Theatre from 12 to 23 June. Crooms Hill, London SE10 8ES. Telephone 020 8858 7755 or www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk. Also Mayfair Theatre from 28 June to 9 September, call Ticketmaster for bookings

Sweelinck Ensemble lunchtime concert

Sunday 17 June 12.45 Dutch Church, 7 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2HA
Debbie Hammond and Petra Kovacs, violin and Martin Knizia, organ.
Works by Bach, Dario Castello and Ignaz Heinrich Franz von Biber.

'Voices' at the Riverside Studios

Award winning Theatre Group Zuidelijk Toneel Hollandia perform a piece created out of the writings of Italian Pier Paolo Pasolini, from Monday 18 to Saturday 23 June at 7.45pm. Information and box office: 020 8237 1111

"Verder met Nederland"

Op woensdag 20 juni zal mr A.P. van Walsum, voormalig Permanent Ambassadeur bij de Verenigde Naties in New York de inleiding houden bij de NCL.

Howard Hodgkin at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, 26 June - 19 August

Howard Hodgkin's glowing paintings will hang with the pagan mythologies of Poussin; next to the shimmering skies of Cuyper; squaring up to the eroticism of Lely's slumbering nymphs and the delicacy of Watteau's idyllic *fête galante*: a great contemporary artist amongst the old masters.

Anglo-Netherlands Society

Established 1920

AIMS and OBJECTS

The Anglo-Netherlands Society, which is non-political, exists to promote the social, artistic, literary, educational, scientific, and other interests common to both the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Apart from publishing this Newsletter, the Society reaches its members by organising social functions (including dinners, lectures and recitals) and by arranging visits to exhibitions, concerts, and places of interest in Britain. It is run by voluntary work.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Any person or organisation desirous of promoting the objects of the Society is eligible to apply for membership, subject to acceptance by the Society's Council. More information is available from the Administrator, Mrs M. Stad (usually present on Thursdays) at: Anglo-Netherlands Society, PO Box 68, Unilever House, London EC4P 4BQ. Tel: 020 7353 5729.

ROYAL PATRON

HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

PRESIDENT

Sir Michael Perry CBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS

HE The Netherlands Ambassador

The Hon Sir Clive Bossom Bt

OFFICERS

Chairman: Mr Patrick Acheson-Gray

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Joop Krenning

Hon. Secretary: Mr Bill Zeveerijn

Hon. Editor of Newsletter: Mr Hans Neher

EVENTS GROUP

Mr Robert Borgerhoff-Mulder Mrs Sylvia Knight

Mrs Heleen Mendl-Schrama Mrs Marleen Stad

Mrs Yvonne Walker Mrs Rineke Weatherill

Mr Bill Zeveerijn Mr Patrick Acheson-Gray

CORPORATE PATRONS

The Society is fortunate to have the help of several large organisations for very many years, indeed with some for decades. To recognise this sustained pattern of support, these organisations are termed Corporate Patrons. They may nominate a representative on the Society's council. The present Corporate Patrons are:

Royal Netherlands Embassy

ABN-AMRO bank

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Philips

Reed Elsevier

Shell

Unilever

CORPORATE MEMBERS

CMG

Corus Group PLC

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The Society has recently opened a new category of membership that will allow it to form associations with other organisations and those who work within them. The precise form of the association can be tailored to each organisation's requirements, within a common format. The organisation nominating the members will be identified as a Corporate Member of the Society in the Newsletter, and in any occasional publication it may issue.