

From the editors

'The minimal ambition of any history of masculinity is to demonstrate that masculinity *has a history*'. So begins guest editor Stefan Dudink his introductory article in this special theme issue *Low Countries Histories of Masculinity* of *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review*. In fact Dudink and his fellow authors go a good deal further than this modest goal. Historians specialising in other fields might think that 'masculinity' is a fairly stable concept, something discussed chiefly in gender studies. Dudink and his colleagues show us rather how the concept of masculinity manifested itself in great number of areas. Matthijs Lok and Natalie Scholz describe how masculinity was used during the Restoration after the defeat of Napoleon. Dudink elaborates further on this theme by pointing out how the image of King William I, who was painted according to the conventions of idealised masculinity, legitimised the new regime after a long period of crisis. Even though the masculinity of the Belgian rebels did not impress the Dutch poet Immerzeel, Josephine Hoegaerts demonstrates that masculinity determined the power relations in the Belgian army during the nineteenth century. Masculinity was not only associated with the desire for power but also with virtue, as Gemma Blok shows in her contribution on the temperance movement in the nineteenth century. Despite our assumption that in modern times religion has been feminised, in her study of Belgian men who saw visions Tine Van Osselaer shows that masculinity emerged in new forms in the Catholic Church. The editors of *BMGN* thank Dudink as guest editor, and also him and his fellow authors for these stimulating contributions.

For readers and authors, in addition to the content, the status, availability and accessibility of an academic journal such as *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review* are important. The journal has an INT1 rating from the European Science Foundation (formerly known as A-status) and is included in Thomson Reuter's *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*. Articles are bibliographically categorised in *EBSCO Publishing's research databases*, including *Historical Abstracts*, and in *Scopus* (Elsevier). From this year issues of *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review* appear as a dual language journal (Dutch and English) in Open Access (OA). The aim of OA is to make academic publication freely available via internet. This makes the dissemination of research results much wider and the access to them much easier. With the move to OA the editors and publisher follow the policy of the NWO and KNAW. The journal can make claim to a three-year financial subsidy from the NWO Funds for the Stimulation

of Open Access. In the implementation we work with Igitur publishing (University of Utrecht Library) so that the digital access is guaranteed for the future.

In addition to the digital version to be found at www.bmg-n-lchr.nl, the printed version will continue. Each version is different. On-line publication offers the opportunity to stay closer to what is happening; readers and authors are better informed and can take an active part in the academic debate. From this number on, all reviews will appear continuously on the web. The reviews will also be published on the homepage of www.historici.nl (about 60.000 visits per month). This is the site that KNHG and Huygens ING launched in June 2011 and in 2012 will expand into a digital meeting place for professional historians in the Netherlands. Potential reviewers can choose from the offer of books for review at www.bmg-n-lchr.nl and apply to write a review. There is the possibility for readers and authors to write their comments *online*. The bibliographic data of the reviews will be added to the next issue (both printed and online) so that authors can indicate these easily and all readers will be well informed.

We would ask you on your first visit to the journal's website, which will be launched on March 30th 2012, to register as user (reader) so that we can inform you of new issues, reviews and discussions. To do so, use the button <log in> in the bar above the homepage of the journal and click on <Not a user? Register with this site>. After registration you will receive by email the list of contents of each new issue, a list of published reviews and other relevant information about *BMGN - Low Countries Historical Review*. A last notice about www.bmg-n-lchr.nl: all volumes from 1970 will also be available and searchable there.

Finally we must inform you that after many years of service Karel Davids is leaving the editorial board of which in recent years he was the chairperson. He played an important role in the realisation of the changes discussed above and we are very grateful for his contribution. His place will be taken by another social-economic historian, Joost Jonker, who is both a professor at the University of Amsterdam and senior lecturer at Utrecht. His knowledge of financial and business history of recent centuries will enrich the editorial board. We offer him a hearty welcome.

On behalf of the editors,

JAMES KENNEDY