

Other Relevant Works

Buddaeus, J.F., *Elementa philosophiae practicae* (Halle, 1703).

Clauberg, Johannes, *Logica vetus et nova* (Amsterdam, 1654; Franeker, 1692).

Descartes, René, *Principia Philosophiae* (Amsterdam, 1644).

Further Reading

Boeles, W.B.S., 'Levenschetsen der Groninger Hoogleraren', in W.J.A. Jonckbloet (ed.), *Gedenkboek der Hoogeschool te Groningen ter gelegenheid van haar vijfde halve eeuwfeest* (Groningen, 1864), p. 66.

HR

TIMMERMAN, Petronella Johanna de (1724–86)

Petronella Johanna de Timmerman was born on 2 February 1724 in Middelburg. She was the first child of Susanna van Oordt and Pieter de Timmerman, who was a merchant and a member of the city council. Having mathematics and philosophy as a hobby, he taught his daughter the principles of these sciences, and showed her how to use physical instruments. In 1749 Petronella married the lawyer Abraham Haverkamp, who died nine years later. During and after this marriage she built up an impressive collection of books and physical instruments. In 1769 she remarried Johann Friedrich HENNERT, professor in mathematics and philosophy at UTRECHT UNIVERSITY. A cerebral haemorrhage put an end to her life on 1 May 1786.

Already at the age of fourteen De Timmerman started writing poems. They were collected by Hennert and published posthumously in one volume, *Nagelaatene gedichten* (1786), with a biography. Her interest in astronomical events becomes apparent from a

poem about a comet that was observed in 1743 and 1744. Following the ideas of, amongst others, Balthasar BEKKER, she strongly disputes the idea that comets are signals from God to announce evil. She argues that mathematical calculations can describe and predict a comet's movements. In another poem she follows the popular tradition of physico-theology by using the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly as an argument for the existence of God.

De Timmerman had an extraordinary knowledge of the exact sciences and philosophy. She wrote many treatises on astronomical and geometrical subjects, but unfortunately none of these manuscripts have survived. According to Hennert's biography, in which she is described as the ideal enlightened woman who managed to combine household tasks with intellectual activities, she read Van MUSSCHENBROEK, Nollet, Reaumur, Leibniz, Mendelssohn, Reimarus and Bonnet. Her favourite philosopher was, however, Christian Wolff. She studied his works very intensively and made notes to grasp complicated passages. She shared this philosophical preference with Christina Leonora de NEUFVILLE, one of the few other eighteenth-century women who had an in-depth knowledge of contemporary philosophy. According to Hennert, De Timmerman's admiration for Wolff even went so far that she managed her household according to his principles: mathematically, economically, and with extreme precision. Hennert sometimes ridiculed her behaviour, but she responded by quoting specific sections from Wolff's writings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nagelaatene gedichten (Utrecht, 1786).

Further Reading

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LJ

TIRION, Isaak (1705–65)

Isaak Tirion, the second son of the medical doctor Christoffel Tirion and Dorothea Aldenhoven, grew up in a modern Mennonite family. His father, having first been a preacher of the Lamist congregation in Amsterdam (1700–03), where he was censured because of misconduct, was called to the ministry of the Mennonite congregation in Utrecht in 1704. When he encountered severe criticism for his liberal views, he resigned and returned to Amsterdam in 1710, where he died the following year. Nothing is known about Isaak's education, but he most likely attended the local Latin school. In 1727 he entered the booksellers' guild, founding a solid and renowned publishing house. In 1730 he married Johanna Abrahams Fries, who died in 1734. His two subsequent wives bore him twelve children between them, of which only four reached maturity. Isaak Tirion, testator of a substantial family and business capital, three premises, a flourishing printshop and a bookseller's firm, died on 7 October 1765. Being a church member of the Lamist congregation (baptized in 1728), he was also a warm friend of Collegiantism, not only serving as a trustee of 'De Oranjeappel', the Collegiant orphanage and local meeting place, but also as a board member of the 'Grote Huis', the national Collegiant centre at Rijnsburg.

As a bookseller, publisher and printer, first on the Nieuwendijk, and from 1742 in the Kalverstraat, under the sign of 'In Hugo Grotius', he produced at least 250 titles between

1728 and 1765, a modest average of 6.5 titles per year. Both in content and typographical design his production can be qualified as outstanding when compared to that of most of his contemporaries. His bookseller's mark, a portrait of GROTIUS, had the ambiguous device: 'Na Druk Volgt Vreugde' (After Printing/Pressure comes Rejoicing). He specialized in voluminous and high-standard titles, both of Dutch origin and in Dutch translation. His initiatives provided an important stimulus for the Dutch book trade, which by that time suffered from a collapsing export market. He specialized in the fields of history and geography, theology and philosophy, law and politics, and natural sciences. Of fundamental importance throughout his career was his close contact with the prolific historian Jan WAGENAAR, also a Collegiant board member of the 'Oranjeappel'. Wagenaar contributed to Tirion's renowned first series in nine volumes of Thomas Salmon on international contemporary history, *Hedendaagsche historie of tegenwoordige staat van alle volkeren* (1729–37), translated by the Remonstrant minister Matthias van Goch, to which Wagenaar added seven volumes dealing with the Dutch Republic, the *Tegenwoordige staat der Vereenigde Nederlanden* (1738–44 and 1758). Quite remarkably, one volume of the *Hedendaagsche historie* series, dealing with Poland, contained an apology for Socinianism, which was not to be found in Salmon's original text. Tirion also published the twenty-one volumes of Wagenaar's *opus magnum* on Dutch history, the *Vaderlandsche historie* (1749–59). Wagenaar was also the author of two political 'spectators', the *Koffy-huis-praatje* and *De Patriot* (1747), which caused a political, anti-Orangist controversy and a riot at Tirion's bookshop. In several lampoons Tirion was accused of commercial opportunism; whatever the truth may be, he sold a few thousand copies of the *Koffy-huis-praatje* within a fortnight. Another characteristic of Tirion's publisher's list are the great number of maps and atlases, most notably the *Nieuwe en beknopte handatlas* (c. 1740, and with many reprints),