

die planning bijvoorbeeld reduceren tot een disciplinerende, op controle gerichte praktijk of die bevindingen uit empirisch onderzoek ondergeschikt maken aan theoretische concepten. De voorzichtige suggestie van Colombijn dat de in deze studie gepresenteerde bevindingen mogelijk ook kunnen worden uitgebreid tot andere koloniale samenlevingen verdient zeker gehoor. Door het voorbeeldig bronnenonderzoek en de zorgvuldige methodologische aanpak vormt zijn boek ontgensprekelijk een werk dat iedereen kan inspireren die geïnteresseerd is in de studie van stedelijke samenlevingen in voormalig koloniale gebieden.

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Andriessse, Cornelis D., *Dutch Messengers: A History of Science Publishing, 1930-1980* (Library of the Written Word 7, The Industrial World 1; Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2008, x + 281 pp., ISBN 978 90 04 17084 1).

Cornelis D. Andriessse, a physicist and biographer of the early modern scientist Christiaan Huygens, begins the book *Dutch Messengers* with the question of how a small Dutch company grew into the world's largest science publishing house. The company is Elsevier, founded by Jacob Robbers in 1880, but the book valuably looks at the intertwined histories of science publishing companies including Springer-Verlag and Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft in Germany; Academic Press, Interscience, and Wiley in the United States; Pergamon Press in the United Kingdom, and Martinus Nijhoff, North-Holland, Reidel, Brill, and Kluwer in the Netherlands. Although Andriessse explicitly declines to write an economic history, choosing instead a personal and biographical history of publishing, some of his economic facts tell a remarkable story. Andriessse estimates that there now are over 100,000 scientific journals, ten

percent of them of high quality using peer review, half of which are marketed by no more than ten publishers. Reed Elsevier (which includes Elsevier) is the largest with 1900 journals and with offices in Amsterdam, New York, and London. When North-Holland and Elsevier merged in 1970, North-Holland had 34 science journals and Elsevier 54. By the time of Elsevier's purchase of Pergamon in 1991 for 730 million dollars, Elsevier already had a staff of 6,000 employees and a yearly turnover of 750 million dollars (one and a half billion guilders). In 1992 Elsevier merged with the British publisher Reed, originally a publisher of business magazines, which by this time had acquired medical and scientific presses including Academic Press. According to Andriessse, one volume of Elsevier's prime journal *Nuclear Physics* increased in price from 60 guilders in 1970 to 1004 guilders in 1998 (before the introduction of the euro), at a rate of increase of ten-twelve percent per year.

The late twentieth-century part of this history is one of mergers, but the earlier story is one of publishing families and research scientists. Andriessse uses interviews, correspondence, archives, and scholarly literature in order to reconstruct this history. His thesis, which undergirds the structure for the book, is that successful firms resulted from the collaboration of publisher entrepreneurs with scientists (constituting what he calls 'doubles'). Among the scientists were notables such as Adriaan Fokker, Léon Rosenfeld, Kai Siegbahn, Hermann Mark, and Wim Wimmers and among the publishers Wouter Nijhoff, Johannes Pieter (Ted) Klautz (at Elsevier), and Daan Frank (at North-Holland). Some scientists, such as Erich Proskauer and Maurits Dekker, helped found publishing firms (Interscience in New York). Others, such as Paul Rosbaud, worked for publishers as invaluable intermediaries to scientists, with Rosbaud a special case as an undercover political agent for the British against the German Nazis.

Supplying American university libraries with European books provided initial contacts in

the United States for bookstore and publisher entrepreneurs such as Wouter Nijhoff. Following the rise of National Socialism, the flight of many German scientists, and expropriations of firms from German publishers of Jewish origins, the period of the 1930s sadly gave Dutch scientific publishers new opportunities. Among those who fled Germany were Walter Jolowicz and Kurt Jacoby, who ran Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, the second largest publisher of scientific books and journals in Germany after Springer-Verlag. They escaped to New York and founded Academic Press. Building on earlier American and British contacts and on the circumstance that Springer-Verlag published only in German until the mid-1960s, Dutch publishers cultivated the English-speaking market and central European refugees by a willingness to publish scientific papers and books in English as well as in German and French. By 1939, 85 percent of articles in Nijhoff's journal *Physica*, edited by Fokker, were in English, in strong competition with the German *Annalen der Physik* and *Zeitschrift für Physik*. During German wartime occupation of the Netherlands, Dutch firms sometimes were able to circumvent pressure against publishing in English. Some publishers, such as Wouter Pzn. Nijhoff, Klautz and Frank, were arrested or had to hide or evade German authorities during this period because of their activities in the Resistance or their Jewish origins.

At the mid-twentieth century, Dutch publishers tended to divide up specialties in their searches for markets. One of Elsevier's early journal successes was *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* (BBA), edited by H.G.K. Westenbrink, who was one of the first editors to open up a journal section (in 1951) for short reports and provisional results. The journal made huge profits by the 1970s. While Elsevier was particularly known in the 1930s for its chemical and biochemical lists and Nijhoff for physics, North-Holland began publishing in physics in the 1940s under the leadership of Frank in collaboration with Rosenfeld and later with Wimmers and Siegbahn. *Nuclear Physics* was one

of its great successes, branching off with *Physics Letters*, which according to Andriess was the first 'quickie' journal in Europe.

In moving his book's narrative into the 1970s, Andriess develops a thesis about science publishing and the saturation of the market. Perhaps controversially, Andriess argues that the only two truly novel scientific concepts in the twentieth century were the quantum and the gene. Variations in scientific growth, as well as the saturation of the publication market, are explained by the exhaustion of the novelty of fruitful concepts, an idea that can be found more generally in the writings on scientific research programs by the philosopher Imre Lakatos, whom Andriess twice mentions in the book. In Andriess's view, none of the new journals added by the merged North-Holland and Elsevier firm, other than the weekly magazine *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*, was of great size or particularly profitable. New journals had only limited interest because they were not rooted in new insights or concepts. Andriess also notes the impact of electronic publishing and the internet on the publishing houses and the huge increases in prices, particularly in journals. Science publishers are unlikely to disappear, he concludes, because of the archival and bibliographical services that they provide. Andriess's history is lively and compelling, perhaps surprisingly so for a history of scientific publishing, and he provides the reader with valuable information and provocative insights.

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Absillis, Kevin, ***Vechten tegen de bierkaai. Over het uitgevershuis van Angèle Manteau (1932-1970)*** (Amsterdam: Meulenhoff, Antwerpen: Manteau, 2009, 688 blz., ISBN 978 90 8542 162 7).

Met zijn lijkige studie over uitgeverij Manteau (een grondige bewerking van zijn dissertatie) heeft Kevin Absillis het onderzoek naar literaire