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Lexicografie in Nederland

Posthumus, J.

2010

document version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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citation for published version (APA)

Posthumus, J. (2010). *Lexicografie in Nederland: Peilingen in de negentiende en twintigste eeuw.* [, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam]. Stichting Neerlandistiek VU & Nodus Publikationen.

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Summary

Under the title *Lexicography in the Netherlands. Soundings in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, this volume offers a number of case studies depicting certain aspects of the world of lexicographical publishing in that era. With one exception they all deal with the origin and development of Dutch bilingual dictionaries, a field that hitherto has received little attention. The final article shows in what manner a well-known Dutch monolingual dictionary has been kept going for over a century.

In these studies specific attention is paid to the role of the dictionary maker and its publisher. Comments are also made on the usefulness of the dictionary for its intended users. In all cases the successive editions of the dictionaries have been carefully looked at, so that reliable statements could be made about their contents and the changes brought about in them.

After the introductory chapter, chapters two to seven present the texts of the studies here collected. Details of their first publication are given in the third section of Chapter One.

In Chapter One, 'Introduction', the present study is placed in its wider context. First of all an overview is given of the existing surveys of Dutch lexicography. This is followed by a discussion of the contents of the *Bibliography of Dutch Dictionaries* (1995) by Frans Claes and Peter Bakema. Next a summary is given of the contents of the studies contained in this volume. This will give a first impression of their particular contribution to the general lexicographical discourse. The important role of the publisher is then illustrated in a survey of the firms that at one time or another set up a notable assortment of dictionaries. Finally it is noted how certain of the renowned bilingual dictionaries here discussed now seem to have come to the end of their useful life. This may be a signal that we have reached the end of a particular era.

Chapter Two, 'The lexicographical activities of the Calisch family', carries us farthest back in time. After father Marcus Isaac (1778-1842) had set the example with his *Nouveau Dictionnaire Français-Hollandais et Hollandais-Français* (1830), his son Isaac Marcus (1808-1884) and son-in-law Nathan Salomon Calisch (1819-1891) spread their wings more widely. Not only did they bring out further editions of this early work of their father's, they also produced bilingual dictionaries for German and English and a monolingual one of Dutch.

Isaac Marcus, a prominent figure in the Amsterdam Jewish community, founder and headmaster of a Jewish school of good reputation, wrote his dictionaries

in his function of educationalist. Nathan Salomon, journalist by profession and secretary to the Amsterdam Exchange, often worked in conjunction with him.

The description of their works, which were brought out by a variety of publishers, furnishes an interesting insight into the state and workings of lexicographical publishing in the second half of the nineteenth century. Very intriguing in this respect are the vicissitudes of a huge quadrilingual dictionary, produced in 1848 for international use by the visionary publisher Koenraad Fuhri (1814-1858). It was written by a 'A Society of Learned Men', whose identities, however, were not revealed. It later turned out that father Marcus Isaac had been one of the original authors, and the younger Calisches were later brought in to see subsequent editions through the press. Of the original edition in four parts, with respectively French, German, English and Dutch entry words, followed in each case by the translation equivalents in the three other languages, only the last part, which supplied the needs of the Dutch public, turned out to be marketable. Subsequently dismantled into a number of bilingual dictionaries of the more traditional kind, its separate parts were kept artificially alive by an unscrupulous publisher, who managed to put the by now antiquated volumes in low-priced editions on the market well into the first decade of the twentieth century.

Decidedly unfortunate was the fate of the *Nieuw Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal*, which Isaac Marcus and Nathan Salomon put together. It was published in 1864 by H.C.A. Campagne, at the time when a new spelling system was being introduced that soon became widely accepted. Published in the old spelling, it failed to sell. It was given a new lease of life, however, by the renowned publishing trio of Martinus Nijhoff, A.W. Sijthoff and D.A. Thieme. Having secured the rights, they put Johan Hendrik van Dale (1828-1872) to work on a revised second edition. When completed in 1874, two years after van Dale's untimely death, a new title page put it before the public as the latter's independent work. This edition formed the starting point of what later became known as the *Van Dale Groot Woordenboek der Nederlandse Taal*, now in its fourteenth edition (2005).

Several times the Calisch cousins were not well served by their publishers. Of the first dictionary with which the ambitious Isaac Marcus at the age of thirty-seven appeared before the footlights, the *Neues Vollständiges Deutsch-Holländisches und Holländisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch*, the German-Dutch volume saw the light in 1845 at the Amsterdam publishing house of W. de Grebber. When a conflict arose with this publisher, Isaac Marcus stopped work when only a third of the second volume had been completed. The uncompleted work was then sold on to another publisher, who contracted a different person to finish the work. The complete set then appeared somewhat belatedly in 1851.

Most successful proved the Dutch and French dictionary, set up in 1830 by father Marcus Isaac. Even though it changed publishers a few times, it went through five editions, the last appearing in 1887.

Isaac Marcus was determined also to produce a Dutch and English dictionary. Casting around for a publisher, he found H.C.A. Campagne willing to support the new venture. The two parts of the *Nieuw Volledig Engelsch-Nederlandsch en Nederlandsch-Engelsch Woordenboek* appeared in 1871 and 1875 respectively. That in those days the knowledge of English in comparison with that of French and German left something to be desired appears especially from the number of faulty pronunciation forms contained in this dictionary.

That the Calisch products are now practically forgotten seems due to a number of factors. For one thing they lacked the directing hand of an expert publisher. Their contents were also rooted too strongly in the past. Further, the desire to produce a 'complete' dictionary meant that no informed choice was made between what was essential and what was of at most marginal interest. Consequently their dictionaries were soon overshadowed by works of authors who, working for more renowned publishers, kept abreast of the living forms of the language in which they had specialised, and had a better eye for the needs of their intended public.

Chapter Three, 'From Jaeger to Kramers. The first half century of Kramers' bilingual dictionaries for French, German and English', traces the modest beginnings of the much used Kramers' dictionaries that acquired a prominent place in the twentieth century market. In this respect the article may be regarded as a prelude to the third part of the Prick van Wely series, here included as Chapter Seven, in which the later development of the Kramers series is described.

In contrast to the works produced by the Calisch family, which had lost their usefulness by the beginning of the twentieth century, the Kramers dictionaries were scrupulously kept up to date, so that they managed to retain their vigour to the end of the twentieth century.

The article describes how Gerrit Benjamin van Goor (1816-1871), founder of the publishing firm that carried his name, responded to the needs of foreign language instruction in schools by putting three bilingual pocket dictionaries on the market. These volumes with respectively French, German and English as their second language appeared in quick succession in the years 1857-1859. The new arrivals were not original products, but, so it has fairly recently been discovered, lightly adapted versions of existing Tauchnitz dictionaries. Van Goor had set Jacob Kramers, the capable lexicographer in his employ, to work them up. That they appeared under pseudonym as written by a certain A. Jaeger, may have had to do with their dubious provenance.

After they had been further developed, the dictionaries began to appear under Kramers' own name, and from then on, rather confusingly, parallel editions were brought out either as Kramers or Jaeger editions. It is further related in what manner their contents were revised by later editors and how by 1910 they

had outgrown their original status of 'pocket dictionaries', so that they could now be designated as 'dictionaries' proper.

Tracing the publication data of the several editions proved a fascinating puzzle. It is set out in detail what sources were used in order to solve it, and how their importance was weighed.

Chapters Four, Five and Six, under the covering title 'F.P.H. Prick van Wely (1867-1926): an impassioned lexicographer', describe the person, career and works of a remarkable man, whose life was to an extraordinary degree devoted to dictionary work. We here enter a different world from that of the Calisches. By now three main publishers had come to dominate the Dutch market for bilingual dictionaries, the firms of van Goor, Campagne and J.B.Wolters. During the latter part of his life Prick van Wely became the mainstay of van Goor's dictionary division. The description of his work for this publisher and of his various other contacts throw an interesting sidelight on the Dutch lexicographical publishing scene of the first quarter of the twentieth century.

As his work to an important degree reflects his personality, Chapter Four devotes considerable space to his life story, including a description of his early interest in language and languages and of the deployment of his powers during his time in the East-Indies, where he filled a number of teaching posts after having emigrated there.

Having gone out to his new homeland with only lower grade teaching certificates in French, German and English, he greatly increased his knowledge of these languages by making careful notes to his reading. This also enabled him to draw up extensive lists of suggested improvements to existing bilingual dictionaries, which were subsequently put to good use. At the instigation of his mentor Bolland (1854-1922) he started studying Latin and Greek, languages which later he was able to read fluently. When on his appointment to the Leiden Chair of Philosophy Bolland returned to the Netherlands, Prick succeeded him in 1896 as teacher of English at the Batavia secondary school.

His overriding interest naturally remained with the living languages. In addition to his wide knowledge of English, French and German, he was also sufficiently at home in Spanish and Italian to render services of various kinds to his publisher van Goor. Neither did the Scandinavian languages appear to hold any secrets for him.

He took note of all language use that he encountered, both by observation of the living language spoken around him and by casting an attentive eye on written material. At first hand he studied the Maastricht dialect with which he grew up. In the same manner he described the East-Indies variety of Dutch with which he became acquainted in his new homeland.

He became known in linguistic circles in the Netherlands by his extensive comments on F.A. Stoett's *Nederlandsche Spreekwoorden, Spreekwijzen, Utdrukkingen*

en Gezegden (1901), in which the origin and meaning of Dutch proverbs and sayings were set forth. His articles on the subject were published in the periodical *Taal en Letteren*, which had been founded in 1891 to bring new life to linguistic and literary discussion. For a while this magazine became a favoured outlet for Prick van Wely's articles.

For several independent early publications he found a home with various East-Indies publishers. His first full-grown lexicographical effort, mainly a collection of words and concepts peculiar to the world of the East-Indies with their translation equivalents in English, French and German, received in its final version of 1910 the pretentious title *Aanvullend Hulpwoordenboek voor Groot-Nederland* ('Auxiliary Dictionary for Belgium and the Netherlands').

Chapter Five, 'Prick as the guardian of bilingual lexicography', relates how a few years earlier he had burst upon the Dutch lexicographical scene with his *Addenda en Corrigena*. Published in 1904 in the East-Indies, its 250 pages harboured an extensive collection of comments on the English-Dutch volume of K. ten Bruggencate's *Engelsch Woordenboek* (second edition 1898) published by J.B. Wolters. Their high quality brought him into contact with this publisher, but tentative plans to do work there came to nothing.

Relations became irreparably soured, when Prick van Wely discovered that in the fourth edition (1907) of the Wolters volume, L. van der Wal, who had temporarily taken over from Ten Bruggencate, had without acknowledgement made extensive use of the *Addenda en Corrigena*. For months on end Prick's accusation of plagiarism was fought over both in *Het Schoolblad*, a trade paper, and in *De Amsterdammer*, a weekly magazine for the general public. In the face of the facts van der Wal vehemently denied that he had been culpable and in the end no definite conclusion was reached. Greatly disappointed, Prick from that moment maintained a vendetta against the two authors and what he termed their worthless dictionary.

A quarrel also developed with C.R.C. Herckenrath, author of Wolters' *Fransch Woordenboek* (1907), who did not take kindly to certain fairly innocent critical remarks in Prick's review of his work. In further exchanges the matter went from bad to worse, and here too a normal working relationship became impossible.

Nevertheless Prick's comments were always worthy of serious consideration. Of enduring interest is his statement of the demands that a bilingual dictionary must satisfy, which is to be found towards the end of this chapter.

Chapter Six is devoted to the highly fruitful period of Prick's lexicographical activity when he entered the employ of publisher van Goor. Direct personal contact was established when he came on leave to Holland in the spring of 1914, after which the outbreak of the war prevented his return to the East-

Indies for several years. With a brief interruption (1919-1921), when he returned to Batavia to fulfill the requirements entitling him to receive his full teacher's pension, this intensive contact was maintained till his early death in 1926.

Van Goor used Prick's broad knowledge to advise him on various matters. Of lasting importance was the work that Prick carried out in upgrading van Goor's French and English dictionaries. After they had been developed into two-volume Handbooks they were well able to hold their own against the competing works of the Wolters list. Furthermore van Goor gratefully involved Prick in updating three editions of *Kramers' Woordentolk*, his long-running pocket-sized dictionary of foreign words.

Based on van Goor's correspondence books, this chapter provides an insightful picture of how an important publishing firm was run, and by what means it tried at times to steal a march on its rivals. A fascinating picture is also drawn of the war that was sometimes waged between the author, who wanted to follow his high professional standards and receive what he considered adequate remuneration, and the publisher, who kept an eye on his commercial interests, and on occasion refused what he saw as unwarranted financial demands from his author.

The chapter ends with an account of how work left unfinished by Prick's early death was completed, a task in which his son Frank (1901-1980) was given a considerable part.

Chapter Seven, 'A survey of the changes in content and organization of Koenen's *Verklarend Handwoordenboek*', describes the history and development of a successful monolingual Dutch dictionary, which in 1997 celebrated its centenary.

A careful comparison of all twenty-nine editions over the period 1897-1997 made it possible to map the considerable number of changes, large and small, over the period. In accordance with what publisher and author considered desirable, the dictionary changed its character a few times.

Schoolmaster Koenen (1847-1920), who took care of the first twelve editions (1897-1919), saw the dictionary as a window on the world and consequently included a considerable amount of encyclopedic information, which over the years steadily grew in size. His linguistically schooled successor Endepols (1877-1962), who oversaw editions thirteen to nineteen (1921-1940), followed a different path. He wanted above all to increase the scholarly status of the dictionary. The expansion and proper structuring of the semantic profiles was now given priority over the encyclopedic content, which was ever further reduced. His faithful copying of the fine distinctions found in the successive instalments of the *Woordenboek der Nederlandse Taal* made certain of these profiles unnecessarily elaborate, however. They were rightly simplified by later editors. Part of Endepols' efforts to upgrade the contents of the dictionary was his addition of etymological data to the words of classical or otherwise foreign origin. These have since been removed.

To make headway in the Belgian market it was decided also to include the variety of Dutch used in that country. From 1926 the Flemish linguist Verdeyen (1883-1949) made his contributions to the dictionary. After his death no immediate successor was appointed. Editor Bezoen (1908-1953), who was then putting together his own carefully revised edition, complained that Verdeyen's work had been too idiosyncratic and that he had insufficient knowledge of what language use was specifically Belgian.

A surprising development took place when the 27th edition (1974) was increased in size by no fewer than three hundred pages. This created the necessary space for the newly appointed editor J.B. Drewes (1907-1994) to accommodate the extensive material he had collected from his everyday reading. The Koenen dictionary had now become an important repository of contemporary usage. For the first time room was also given to obscene words and swearwords, a category which had hitherto been excluded from the dictionary. A further extension, aptly named *Grote Koenen*, was published in 1986 in a larger format. A year later a much reduced version of this new venture was brought out in the old format, as the 28th edition of the original series.

The *Grote Koenen*, however, failed to sell in sufficient numbers and came to be discontinued. In 1992 and 1999 two new editions of the smaller volume were published under the editorship of Theo de Boer. Their strong point has remained their close attention to present-day language. In the 29th edition (1992) space was found once more for Belgian usage, this time in a more responsible manner. The emphasis is now on Belgian institutions, functions, everyday objects and phenomena that are differently named from their Netherlandic counterparts. In all cases the equivalent term used in the Netherlands is given.

The Koenen dictionary provides an example of how the guiding hand of a publisher, visible too in a responsible choice of editors, has been able to keep a dictionary in flourishing health for over a century. The changes that were made from time to time improved the quality of its contents and ensured its continuing appeal to successive generations of users.