

# HINTRO

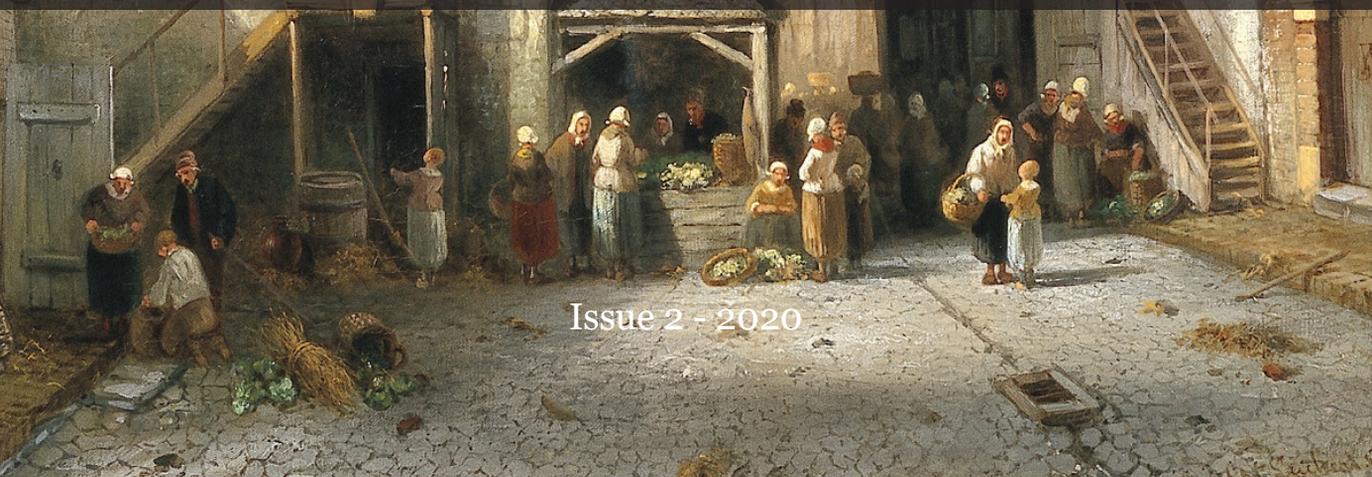
Historisch Institutioneel Tijdschrift



Swanknights and  
fratricide

Committees  
of the GSV

Memoirs of a  
long time student



Issue 2 - 2020

# EDITORIAL

Dear Comparative European History student!

Welcome to Nijmegen, to Radboud University, and to History! The booklet you're currently reading is the English version of the introduction special of the student-magazine HInT. The editorial staff of HInT consists of History students from all years, who together write and design the content of this 32-page magazine five times a year.

A HInTro is made every year especially for the introduction. Due to a well-known virus to which we will not pay much attention, your introduction has been unmistakably different from introductions in previous years. I hope you have had a good introduction nonetheless! That brings me to another point: the introduction has been three weeks ago, an only now are you receiving your HInT. The reason for this, is that HInT has only been published in Dutch in previous years, and it took us a while to translate it. All the coming editions of HInT, however, will be translated and sent to you at about the same time as the Dutch version comes out! We don't quite know how we will be organizing this yet, so if you have ideas, or if, after reading this magazine, think, 'I want to write for HInT too!' we would love to hear from you! You are very welcome to join our committee or to give one-time input. Technical stuff aside, I hope you enjoy this late-introduction special of HInT! It contains, among other things, tips about the best places in Nijmegen, a historic map of the campus and information about possible jobs and associations to fill up your student days!

Happy reading and warm greetings,  
Ellen  
Editor in chief 2020-2021

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The 37th board of GSV Excalibur  
and its committees

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Charles Leickert (1816-1907),  
*Gezicht op Nijmegen* (1891)

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Write for the HInT yourself?  
One-off or in the editorial? You can!  
Mail to [hintredactie@gmail.com](mailto:hintredactie@gmail.com).

## THE 37TH BOARD OF GSV EXCALIBUR INTRODUCES ITSELF



### Jochem Kruit (chairman)

Dear new HInT reader, It is a real pleasure to welcome you to this beautiful bachelor's programme and (hopefully) to our even more beautiful, but above all *gezellige* study association.

My name is Jochem Kruit and in your first year of classes I will hold the position of chairman. I am starting my third year as a history student myself but have been on our campus since 2015, be it at different faculties. Apart from my involvement with the GSV, I am also connected to the university in other ways: I work as a writing tutor at the Radboud Writing Lab and for the year of 2020-2021 I will be the official campus poet of the university. In my spare time I also like to keep busy with writing, reading, cooking, drawing, music and of course a pint every now and then.

I hope to see you all at our activities the coming year and wish you a prosperous start of the year!

### Thom Tolboom (treasurer)

Hello everyone! My name is Thom Tolboom. Originally, I come from the city of Oss, and with only 20 years I am the youngster within this board. After three very fun and interesting years at the university and with the study association, I have decided to do a board year and become treasurer for the GSV. I am someone who likes to be active; I love going



outside for a walking or biking trip and despite my small stature I play basketball. Within the GSV I had a lot of fun the last few years organizing interesting lectures and being an editor of this magazine. I am looking forward to meeting you all during one of our activities or drinks. If you want to know more about me already, I can refer you to the 'Thom Tolboom fanclub' on Facebook, where some GSV'ers report about my life.

### Anne-Jet Bults (board member media)

Hi, I'm Anne-Jet! Your media board member for the coming year and someone who is way too happy

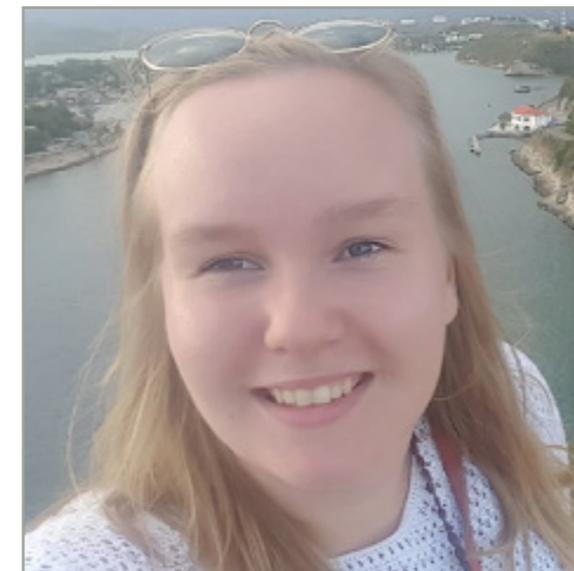


with her food in this photo. Almelo is my hometown, but I have been living in the most beautiful city in the Netherlands, Nijmegen, for four years now. Besides history, of course, my favorite pastimes are visiting concerts and festivals, reading, going to the pub and working behind the bar on weekends. You will see me a lot during the activities of the GSV this year. Not only because they are fun, but also because I will run around there with a photo camera to capture your beautiful moments. I hope to see you soon during the members hours in the GSV room or at an activity!

PS: Are you a freshman and do you have any questions? I've been studying for a while and my door is always open!

### Jara van Schijndel (board member internal affairs)

Hello everyone, my name is Jara van Schijndel and I am 21 years old. This year I will be the General Boardmember Internal Relation within the GSV. In my spare time I like to play badminton, visit music festivals and play board games. I'm really excited about this year and I can't wait to finally meet you all at one of our activities.



### Kim Lempereur (board member external affairs)

Hello lovely people!

My name is Kim Lempereur and this year I will be the general board member of external relations of our study association GSV Excalibur. For everyone that doesn't know me (yet), let me introduce myself.



This year will be my fourth year at the study History at Radboud University. I was always very involved with our study association, namely in our Party committee (free translation of the Feest- en Borrelcommissie), with whom I had the pleasure to organize and promote some awesome parties and galas.

Besides being a history enthusiast, I love to snowboard and (now my nerdy side may come up) game. So if you are looking for a new guild on World of Warcraft as well, dm me! I also love to meet up with my friends for a drink or to play a game, watch a movie or cook culinary masterpieces together. When we're out for a drink in town, the evening can't end without a visit to karaoke bar Roxy's to sing all the golden oldies.

The last few years I really enjoyed all the activities of the GSV and I am so honored to have met so many people that I can consider my best friends. I can't wait to meet you all!

## OF SWANKNIGHTS AND FRATRICIDE

### Two tragic love stories from Nijmegen (kind of)

By Ellen Theuws

**Last year I wrote a piece for the HInTro called “Sort of history” in which I briefly described a number of myths about Nijmegen. This year I once again decided to ignore everything I learned in the previous two years of my bachelor’s degree and tell some seemingly-historical tales in which the truth has been distorted somewhat (and in some cases, it’s been completely neglected). Historically inaccurate, but hopefully entertaining, and this time with a theme: tragic love.**

The first myth takes place in Ooij, a village located just a stone’s throw away from Nijmegen. Nowadays, Ooij is best known for the nearby *Ooijpolder*: a beautiful nature reserve near the Waal. At the time this story takes place, however, there was no village in the *Ooijpolder*. The history of Ooij is one of knights, castles and secrets. Two of those knights were Waleram and Reginald, sons of the lord of Ooij. The boys, although different in character, got along well and trusted each other completely. However, this loving relationship came to a sudden end when the brothers visited the Count of Valkenburg on a midsummer day. The Count’s daughter, the beautiful Alixe, effortlessly captured the hearts of both Reginald and Waleram. They both proposed to her that same day. Alixe rejected Reginald, who seemed coercive to her, and chose the timid Waleram over him. In the fall that followed, Waleram and Alixe got married. The jealous Reginald, however, couldn’t accept his brother’s happiness. After a few months, his jealousy got the better of him: on a dark winter night, he went mad with grief and, a knife in hand, crept into the bedroom of his brother and his wife.

He bowed over the bed, waking up Alixe. “Murderer!” she managed to shout before he plunged the knife into her chest. Waleram shot up, woken up by the shouting of his wife. In the silhouette hanging over him he recognized his brother. “Reginald?” Waleram whispered, not shocked, nor accusingly, merely inquisitive, after which his brother took his life. In the darkness of night, Reginald quickly moved away from the scene of the crime. For days on end he wandered through the forests around the castle. Every night, as soon as the sun went down, he heard voices whispering in the bushes and trees around him, until he was so full of remorse for his actions that he wanted nothing more than to be forgiven. Days, months, years, Reginald wandered through forests and over mountains in search of redemption. Seven centuries have passed since the tragedy of Reginald, Waleram and Alixe is said to have taken place near Ooij. No one, living or dead, knows whether Reginald ever found forgiveness for his deeds. What we do know is that anyone who wanders through the *Ooijpolder* at night can see four lights glow in the deep shadows and hear two voices whispering. First, a female voice, scared, “murderer” she whispers. Shortly after which the voice of a man is heard: “Reginald?” It is not scared, it is forgiving.

The second legend takes place in a spot which you will likely visit quite often in the coming three years: the University campus. However, when the events I am going to tell you about took place, there was not yet a Erasmus- or Grotiusbuilding. At the time, the area surrounding the campus was a large estate owned by a Count named Diederik of

Cleve. Diederik had left on a crusade at a young age and the castle had been inhabited ever since merely by his daughter Beatrix and her servants. Once upon a summer evening, an unknown nobleman paid a visit to the castle: he was introduced to Beatrix as Elius, lord of the Swantower. The Swan knight told Beatrix that he had fought with Count Diederik in Antioch for five years, and brought her a letter from her father, it read as follow: “If the knight who brings this may gain you favor, I will gladly give him to you as a consort.” The knight indeed won over Beatrix’s heart in the days that followed, and the pair got engaged. Before they got married, however, Elius asked of his wife-to-be the following: ‘My name is not Elius, but promise me that you will never attempt to find out my true name. If you do, we will part ways forever.’ Beatrix did not hesitate to make this promise, and in the years that followed she and the knight were happily married. The secret did not bother Beatrix at all. But as time passed she slowly became curious: she wanted to know every detail about her beloved husband, and could not bare not to know his name. After many years of futilely searching for an answer, a minstrel from the Holy Land passed by the castle. At that moment Elius was out on a hunt. Beatrix decided to ask the minstrel for the name of the man called the Swan Knight, as she had asked many others before him. The minstrel thought for a moment, then it occurred to him, “Wolfgang is his name.” That same evening, the Swan Knight returned to the castle. As he embraced his wife, she told him softly, “I love you, Wolfgang.” The knight froze. He did not speak, slowly broke away from his wife’s embrace, turned his back to her and left

the fortress. With his small vessel, in which he had moored years before, he sailed down the Waal, into the distance. The following morning, Beatrix’s lifeless body was found spread out on the large table in the dining room. The mighty castle fell into ruins in the years that followed. On the spot where the castle once stood, now stands Heyendaal Mansion, a building you will likely pass many times on your way to class. Remains of a statue were found during the construction of Heyendaal, some said it represented an eagle, others said a swan. If you look closely, you will see various statues of large birds on top of Heyendaal Mansion. Whether they are eagles or swans I will leave open for your interpretation.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Fun facts about the history of Nijmegen

By Emma Ruiter

**As History students, we must always have an endless amount of historical knowledge ready at almost any moment of the day. Whenever an ahistorical roommate or conservative uncle asks you about anything that has to do with history, it is important to be well-prepared and have an extensive catalogue of knowledge. But what do you actually know about the history of Nijmegen? Are you capable of filling several minutes by rambling about Charlemagne or *Mariken van Nimweghen*? No? No stress! Weep no more! The *Historical Institutional Magazine* has selected seven interesting facts about Nijmegen's history so you can appear extremely well-prepared. These fun facts will definitely amaze that conservative uncle during (digital) birthday parties!**

### Did you know trams ran through Nijmegen until the late 1950's?

From 1899, thanks to the *Nijmeegsche Tramweg-Maatschappij* (NmTM), multiple trams ran through and outside the city centre of Nijmegen. One could, for instance, travel to the exotic village Berg en Dal by tram! This specific tramline ran over the so-called 'Bergspoor' (roughly translated as the



Line 1 on the Berg en Dalseweg heading to Nijmegen

'Mountaintrail'), which was known as the steepest tram slope in the Netherlands at the time. Inhabitants of Nijmegen could travel the following routes: Nijmegen- Neerbosch, Nijmegen- Beek and Nijmegen- Sint Anna. The bombardment of 1944 sadly destroyed the tramrails for the most part and in '55 the municipality decided to transfer to trolleybuses. A substantial loss for the city, according to some Nijmegen residents. But perhaps they do not have to mourn much longer: since 2007 there have been plans to restore the tram service in all its glory.

### Did you know Karl Marx's mother has lived in Nijmegen?

Yes, our city has a link—even though it is hanging by a thread—with Karl Marx. His mother, Henriette Presburg (1788-1863), was born and raised in Nijmegen. After she was born in November 1788, she lived in the Nonnenstraat the first twenty years of her life. Thereafter she moved from this Jewish neighborhood in the lower city to the centrally located Grotestraat. The property where she lived—Grotestraat 33—was called '*Het Swerte Schild*' (The Black Shield) at the time. Even though it is somewhat misplaced as she never lived there as a younger child, the now newly built Grotestraat 33 is currently ornated with a memorial plaque stating: '*Hier stond het ouderlijk huis van Henriette Presburg, moeder van Karl Marx.*' which roughly translates to: 'Here stood the parental home of Henriette Presburg, mother of Karl Marx.' My apologies for the spoiler in case you wanted to visit the plaque.

### Did you know that Nijmegen has more than sixty war memorials?

There are no less than 63 memorials in Nijmegen that remind us of the Second World War, of which the monument '*De Schommel*' ('The Swing') is perhaps the most well-known. After all, this is where the annual commemoration of the bombardment of 22 February 1944 takes place, with both the mayor

and councilors present. Less well-known, however, are for instance the Jewish monument (1995) on the Kitty de Wijzeplaats or the Remembrance wall (2001) at the Raadhuisshof. A war memorial can also be found in the auditorium of Radboud University: a plaque with the names of 48 war victims was unveiled here shortly after the war. Do you want to know more about the 63 war Memorials in and around Nijmegen or do you simply want to make an inventory for a future visit? The monuments can be found online in the database of The National Committee for 4 and 5 May.

### Did you know Plein '44 functioned as a parking space from the reconstruction until the late 1980's?

The well-known square in the middle of the city centre has undergone quite a few metamorphoses since its existence. This current meeting place did not exist before the Second World War; the original square was only added to the new street plans during the reconstruction. It then fairly quickly started to function as a car parking space, to the irritation of many residents of the city centre. Near the end of the 1970's, cars were increasingly banned from the centre, causing the square to lose much of its parking function.

### Did you know *In de Blaauwe Hand* is the oldest surviving cafe in Nijmegen?

In one of the most beautiful corners in the center of Nijmegen, you will find the historic cafe *In de Blaauwe Hand*, where people have been consuming beer since the sixteenth century. Although the building is somewhat hidden in the left corner of the Grote Markt, it immediately stands out because of the dark wooden façade. In front of the façade are wooden benches and in the cafe there is a wooden staircase, a wooden cupboard and wooden interior. The beer tap seems to be the only object not made of wood. The building — currently a national

monument— was part of the *Lakenhal* (Cloth Hall, around 1320) on the Grote Markt. Naturally, the name of the cafe also has historical roots: this right-hand corner of the Lakenhal was renamed a drinking space in 1542 and was mainly visited by cloth dyers. These men often had a haze of indigo-colored paint on their hands.

### Did you know Nijmegen calls itself 'the oldest city of the Netherlands'?

It is generally known by now that Nijmegen presents itself as the oldest city of the Netherlands. Nijmegen carries this designation with pride, but it is not the only Dutch city that has appropriated this honorary title. Maastricht and Voorburg in South-Holland have also been calling themselves the oldest city in the Netherlands for years.

### Did you know that the educational buildings used to be spread across the city centre?

It is now perhaps somewhat difficult to imagine, but before the Second World War—when the Radboud University was still called the *Catholic University of Nijmegen*—the educational buildings were located in and around the centre of Nijmegen. Thus the university did not have a central campus! For instance, the main building was located at the current Keizer Karelplein and the former auditorium was located a few streets away at the Wilhelminasingel. The auditorium was the only university building unharmed by the bombardment of 1944. Do you want to know more about the former educational buildings of the Radboud University? On the occasion of the 90th birthday of the university in 2013, the House of Nijmegen History created a special online domain titled 'Radboud in the city', which includes an extensive map of former locations.

# THE COMMITTEES OF THE GSV

## Something for everyone!

### PR-Committee

All activities that are organized need PR. This committee supports the association and mainly the board member Media in the promotion of activities. This can be done by creative ideas for promotion, support by website or by taking pictures. For example, videos, sound clips, and beautiful banners can be made by you, and the whole association can see your work. Online you can help to improve the website, or if you are inclined, you could take photographs of activities and upload them to the website. The committee does not organize any activities, but is an important part of the association. This is the ideal committee for creative people who like to think outside the box.

### Party Committee

Do you like parties? Do you like organizing parties? Look no further and read about the Party Committee! As the name suggests, we are responsible for organizing the parties that are held throughout the year. This ranges from the ever-popular Proud2B-Fault (a party where you have to dress in the campiest, ugliest outfit you can think of – leopard print always works) to a party with a Roaring Twenties theme! We're also in charge of organizing the annual Christmas gala, where everyone gets dressed up in their best suits and dresses to take pictures and then dance and enjoy unlimited drinks. The Party Committee consists of members of the GSV from all years, from first-years to fourth-years, that all get along swimmingly. Some practical information: we have meetings once every few weeks, a little more when we're closing in on important deadlines. You will find that the workload of this committee is a lot lighter than that of other committees, which means it's perfectly compatible with the workload of your first year! We hope to meet a lot of fresh faces the coming year!

### Activity Committee

Since you are now officially a History student at our beautiful university, you probably can't wait to start enjoying the student life. All those courses, exams and study sessions could give you a bit of stress, but no panic here! The Activity Committee (commonly known as 'The ACCO' or 'GSV's coolest committee') has your back, because the ACCO organises lots of entertaining and relaxing activities which you can partake in. For example we may organise a beer-pong tournament, a Crazy 88 and our very famous GSV Member Weekend. During such activities you can easily meet up with your friends or get to know fellow students. These events do require a certain organization and creativity. That's where we need your help! As a member of the ACCO you'll join an active and social, but also accessible committee where you come across other students and explore the city of Nijmegen: ideal for if you would like to become slowly active in your first year. We meet up around every other week.

Whether you're active as a member of our committee or as a visitor of our activities, the ACCO hopes you'll find your spot here soon. We're ready for the new year! You too?

### First Years Committee

Hi there! The name of this amazing committee speaks for itself: this committee is dedicated to and run by first years. Together we organize activities for fellow first years in order to get to know each other and have fun. Having fun is the key point in our committee, but we do expect you to actively participate. We meet about once a week for around 1,5 hours. The meetings will be hosted by an experienced chairman and vice-chairman. If you are interested in participating in our committee, please send an e-mail to [eerstejaarsgsv@outlook.com](mailto:eerstejaarsgsv@outlook.com) and join us!

### Conference Committee

Every year the GSV organizes a conference for its own members and external parties. Last year they collaborated for the first time with another study association, FC Sophia of Philosophy. The theme was remembrance culture, but unfortunately the conference was unable to proceed due to the Corona crisis. Fortunately, that does not stop us from organizing another conference next year, and we are looking for new committee members for this!

The committee members choose a theme together, which can be anything (such as "Russia", "cultural criticism" and "marginal history"). In addition, you also help with inviting speakers, arranging a location, etc. Together you work towards that one day of the conference. It is an instructive committee where you gain communication skills, both among themselves and with external parties, become more organisationally skilled and can learn a lot more. Everything with the aim of organizing a great academic conference.

### Travel Committee

In this committee we are involved in the two largest projects of the GSV: '*de Kleine Reis*' (short trip) and '*de Grote Reis*' (long trip)! During the small trip we go to an interesting historical city for a long weekend with the GSV. During our stay we visit museums, the committee gives presentations on the historical context of important places and we examine every alley. The nights are often eventful as well! Last year we enjoyed the forts and pubs in the city of Luxembourg. The long trip is of even longer duration. During the May holidays, the GSV will go abroad with two teachers. Monuments, museums, landscapes, pubs... Everything falls prey to the GSV! However, De long trip also has an important didactic goal: this time the travelers themselves give the presentations, and the accompanying teachers also

give marks for them. Well, the party did not take place this year, but next year counts double!

### Acquisition Committee

Do you plan to order more than 16 beers at Café de Fuik during the year? Well done, you have earned back your contribution money! This is the work of the Acquisition Committee, which ensures that members get their money's worth! The Acquisition Committee has ensured that the GSV receives a discount of no less than eighty cents on every beer ordered in the Fuik, on presentation of the purple pass.

The GSV merch is also the product of Acquisition Committee members. In that sense, the committee is also a place for the most creative members among us. For example, this year we have no fewer than three different items of clothing on offer for our members, for fairly competitive prices. So keep an eye on the PR, because in September you will have another chance to get hold of GSV merch!

### Archive Committee

A beautiful and old saying goes, "You can learn to archive." Like all old sayings, this one is true as well. GSV Excalibur has its very own archive, part of which is stored in the Catholic Documentation Center located at Radboud University and the other part can be found in one of our cabinets on the twelfth floor of the Erasmus building. The GSV-archive is managed by the Archive Committee and usually the secretary of the association. The committee reorganizes the documents and makes them accessible for all of our members. When being a part of this committee you will find out a lot of new things about our association and its history. So do you want to know how to work with an archive and discover and sift through the past of the association? Don't hesitate, join up now!

**Education and Lecture Committee**

The Education and Lecture Committee (also called the OnLeCo) is a committee that organizes informal activities, events, and excursions that have to do with education and your future career. An example of such an event is a Movie Lecture where we watch a movie together and a teacher provides a mini-lecture about its historical context. Another activity the OnLeCo organises is the annual Museum Day at which we visit an interesting Dutch museum. Moreover, we organize Careercafé at which we ask a few history-alumni to talk about their careers after they graduated. The committee is responsible for the Buddy System as well. This is a free service that provides extra support from history-seniors to students that struggle with their studies. So, would you like to organize activities that are formal and informal at the same time? Then the OnLeCo is the one to join!

**Internationalization Committee**

The Internationalization Committee (InterCom) is one of the newest committees of the GSV. It was founded in 2019 with the goal of furthering the cause of internationalization within the association. Because in that same year, international students began studying the new English bachelor track, Comparative European History (CEH), for the first time. The committee mainly functions as a braintrust of sorts that advises on associational policy regarding internationalization, it also reflects on this policy. Last year though, we also organized a fun international activity, where students from different places of origin gave a mini-lecture about the history of their home country/town. Our committee has plenty of room for more interesting new initiatives like this one. So are you someone with creative new ideas and do you want to contribute to a more inclusive study association, then you should join the InterCom!

**Sports Committee**

The Sports Committee is responsible for organising the many sports activities that the GSV offers. We organise lots of activities, from a beach volleyball tournament and football games between students and professors to the Olympic Beer Games and a pool competition. On top of this there is the Batavierenrace: the longest relay race in the world, which ends with the biggest party for students in the whole Benelux. You might be thinking: 'Huh, but the average history student and sports might not be the best combination?'. Well then you're sort of right, but this makes the Sports Committee a fun and easy going committee. So if you are into sports and organizing and want to participate in a fun committee, the Sports Committee is your calling

**Public History Committee**

The Public History Committee of GSV Excalibur strives for fun and interesting collaborations and contacts between history students and external cultural institutions. We organize several events every year, the biggest being the 024geschiedenis weekend that takes place annually in October. Here we work together with various institutions on a project that fits the theme of that year. This could be in the form of an exhibition, fun games, or, like this year, a documentary on the theme "East/West". The Public History Committee is a great way to convey your passion for history to the general public, while building a network with the leading historical institutions in our beautiful city. Have we piqued your interest? You are very welcome to participate in one of our meetings to see if it suits you. Please contact [pubieksgeschiedeniscommissie@gmail.com](mailto:pubieksgeschiedeniscommissie@gmail.com). Sidenote: the activities de PubCo organizes are generally in Dutch, so to join the committee, Dutch speaking- and writing skills are required.

**Concert Committee**

Many GSV-members like to go to festivals, but as a student this is very expensive. Often you have to pay a lot of money for an entrance ticket. But do not panic! With the GSV Concert Committee you can visit almost all major and smaller festivals in the Netherlands for free. In exchange for a few hours of volunteering work, for example working at a bar, you can enter the festival site and the campsite without paying for a ticket.

On Facebook, the Concert Committee announces which festivals will be visited. In recent years, the Concert Committee has worked at Lowlands, Pinkpop, Paaspop, Down the Rabbit Hole and many more festivals. Would you like to help the GSV organize these volunteer groups? The Concert Committee is always looking for enthusiastic GSV-members who love going to festivals. Please send an email to [concertcommissiegsv@gmail.com](mailto:concertcommissiegsv@gmail.com). Who knows, maybe next year you will be at our favorite festival for free!

**Historical Institutional Magazine**

The Historical Institutional Magazine (HInT) is the committee of the GSV that is responsible for the booklet you are currently holding! The HInTro as a final product will speak for itself and, together with four other editions, is what keeps our editorial team busy throughout the year: writing all sorts of articles. From interviews, to opinion pieces, to poetry! For this we are of course always looking for people who want to write something, as a permanent editorial member or a guest author. But there is a lot more to publishing such a magazine! In addition to writing, the committee also includes people who are engaged in, for example, graphic design, PR, and overseeing the various parts of the editorial process. So at HInT you can gain experience with writing and other skills, or you can get acquainted with completely new skills. Everybody is welcome! It is no problem if you don't speak Dutch: we would love to have people on our editorial board who want to write for the English edition of the HInT!

## DAYS GONE BY

### Memoirs of a long time student

By Huub Vilé

**While a new generation of history students ventures into the wonderful world of academic life in Nijmegen, I am already halfway through the exit. This opposite liminality leads me to reflect on the years I could call myself a history student.**

I was lucky enough to catch the first glimpses of my life-to-be even before I enrolled. It was the winter of 2012 in which I visited my first Christmas Gala of GSV Excalibur as the other half of a first year student. From a corner in *De Waagh* I shyly gazed at the colorful characters that seemed to have the night of their lives. The amicable atmosphere was without doubt a foreshadowing of what the student association would mean to me.

Not a year later a lively company welcomed me to the sunlit terrace of *Café Camelot*. The following seven days of chaos left me with countless impressions. Stories of older students, the many clubs and associations, and the abundance of new acquaintances filled me with unprecedented enthusiasm and high expectations.

Unfortunately, there is only so much time. As I experienced no troubles with my study progress, my first year remained relatively calm. This changed the moment I exchanged my six-and-a-half square meters in Lindenholt for a room in Hoogeveltdt, probably the most infamous student housing (or: ghetto) of Nijmegen.

Luck was obviously on my side, since the new room that the SSH& had bestowed upon me came with a jovial group of housemates. They have had an evident influence on my first student years. Providing a playful ambiance, organizing unforgettable parties, discussing until deep in the night, and providing support to anyone going through a rough time. Never underestimate the importance of a pleasant home base!

Other social needs and leisure activities were taken care of by the GSV. Already in my first year, my badminton practices lost their priority to the weekly gathering in *Camelot*. I grew to become a regular visitor of the GSV "room" and decided to go all-in in my second year. Wise move? Maybe not. Regrets? None. I simultaneously joined three committees to organize (study) trips, readings and film nights. I got to know many fellow students and several good friendships were made.

To become a board member was a logical continuation. In that turbulent year I got the chance to work on many new initiatives, only a few of which have survived until this day. I continued my commitment in the following years and can look back to five-and-a-half years of involvement with this lovely association. I got a lot in return and wish for the GSV to do the same for many students yet to start their studies in Nijmegen.

Now, I don't want to give you the idea my studies were of secondary interest. I was no exemplary student, but I have enjoyed the curriculum and used the free electives to their fullest. I broadened my education with courses from religious studies, philosophy and social sciences. I also visited the *Freie Universität* in Berlin for one semester. An experience during which I (unfortunately) mostly got to know myself.

One opportunity I would recommend to everybody is an internship. Even at the end of your study period it may be difficult to see what you can offer our society. You'll learn about the ways of the big bad world outside the safe environment of our university. Moreover, you'll already get to know some people in the industry.

I wish you all the best. Perhaps we'll meet one day!



# JOBS ON CAMPUS

## Logistical worker at the Radboudumc

By Thom Tolboom



Tim, Huub, Quint, Sem and Wessel

**Because of the corona crisis, Dutch hospitals have on many occasions reached the frontpage news. Medical personnel has been cheered on and virologists are the new rockstars. Behind the scenes of the Radboudumc (university hospital) though, you can find a lot more hardworking people that don't receive the same kind of attention: the logistical workers. This team counts multiple GSV-members among its ranks that make an extra buck in this hospital, which is unexplored terrain for most other history students. Sem van Helden was friendly enough to speak with the HInT about the fun, the educational and the lugubrious aspects of working in a hospital. We sat down for conversation in the digital Culture Café, on the Discord server of the GSV, while enjoying a digital cup of coffee.**

*What is it exactly that you do at the Radboudumc?*

'I work in the logistics department as a student-employee. I've been trained for shifts that revolve around textile and you can often find me in the bed centre. At weekends I do a bit of everything. The bed centre is where dirty beds come in. I then remove the sheets and put them through the washing process, after which I, or one of my colleagues, make

the beds with the clean sheets. Furthermore, I distribute cleaned laundry through the entire hospital and I collect the dirty laundry.

*For how long have you been working at the UMC and how did you get the job?*

'I've been working there for over two years now. Quint and Wessel, who studied history as well, worked there already, and Huub also worked there for a couple of months already at that time. Before this job I worked in catering. I did like the work there, but the working hours were very variable and communication towards employees was poorly executed. So I was already kind of looking for something else. Then Huub said to me "Yeah, jeez, why don't you apply?", and Quint and Wessel also told me "You should just do it!" So I followed their advice and was hired.'

*So you could say the GSV is taking over at the UMC?*

'Yes a little bit. Tim [another history student] also works there now.'

*What have you noticed of the corona crisis in the hospital? Has it altered your work routine?*

'It is indeed very different in the hospital: stickers

have been put on all the walls and we weren't allowed in certain areas. I've also had to bring some medicine to the IC. I really had to ring a bell before someone in a protective suit opened the door and rolled a little kart towards me, where I had to put the medicine on before rolling it back to him. So that was a pretty big deal. As for the rest, it was pretty quiet in the hospital, because all the care that wasn't urgent got cancelled.'

*A lot of intense things happen in a hospital of course. Do you experience any of that as a logistical worker?*

'Yeah, you see some really bleak stuff every once in a while. With the laundry you go past every department, including the first aid. When someone comes in who has just had a traffic accident, it obviously doesn't look pretty and that's pretty shocking to see. I also know where the morgue is located, so I know what's going on when someone covered under a sheet goes over there. That always sends some shivers down my spine. Once, I also had to bring clean laundry to the morgue, it were all little rompers. Then you really think like "Jeez, those little children die as well." That gives me the jitters. It's especially intense because the rest of the work is pretty shallow. A lot of the time, for example, you are messing around with colleagues. That's of course really fun, but sometimes the hard reality suddenly hits you in the face. You also witness some funny stuff however; not too long ago, two vibrators were found in a bed in the bed central. I thought "why the hell two?". Well, at least that person wasn't bored.'

*Did you learn any new skills in the hospital?*

'Well, I can make beds like a pro now! But seriously I mostly learned about dealing with people. At the hospital you encounter lots of different kinds of people, and you work with students as well as permanent employees of different ages and backgrounds. This helps you to step out of your university bubble, as it were. People of entirely different ages have entirely different problems. It's also kind

of funny that a group of people can be preoccupied with the local football league and with someone who plays in the B2 team of Groesbeek. It's also fun to just mess around with these colleagues, and they bring along a lot of precious life experience.'

*Talking about messing around: you already mentioned that there are more GSV members working at the UMC. Do you ever work shifts together with them? And if so, do you get any work done or are you just messing around the whole time?*

'Well I have to say that we all keep up a good working pace, but that also goes hand in hand with some shenanigans. For example, we have some tiny trucks on which we drive around, and in the past, when the weekends were organized a bit differently, we once put on a Mario Kart tune, which sounded as we drove through the halls of the hospital. But I get along nicely with colleagues from other studies as well.'

*Is there also a GSV member who does not work as hard and cuts some corners?*

'No, I don't think so. Secretly, there is a lot of messing around, most certainly by us. But I have to say that GSV members are really hard workers. I can't be negative about any one of my GSV colleagues. It's always great fun to work with them, because then I know that the 80s smash hits are regularly being put on and I can have a chat, but work hard at the same time.'

*Lastly, would you recommend your job on campus to other GSV members?*

'Yeah, for sure! It's great fun at the workplace and it pays reasonably well. Furthermore, you visit places you would normally never come, so that makes it quite interesting. You also gain more insight in how a hospital functions behind the scenes. Because when you visit the hospital as a patient, you don't really realize that there is a whole logistical operation going on as well.'

# TOP-5

## Picturesque places in downtown Nijmegen

By Steven Verhoeven

**Most new Nijmegen students will get to know the main streets for shopping and going out in no time – provided that the corona measures allow it. Historical buildings such as Saint Stephen’s Church, Saint John’s Commandery, and the buildings in the Valkhofpark will also become familiar to history students fairly quickly. But Nijmegen’s city center is home to many other picturesque places. Go beyond the market once, or descend the stairs next to De Hemel Brewery! HInT toured the lower parts of town and listed a number of these beautiful historic alleys, streets and courtyards.**

### 5. Steenstraat



One of the oldest streets in Nijmegen is located directly behind the restaurants and cafes on the *Waal-kade*. Excavations have even found remains of Roman foundations. Not much of the old streetscape is left: for a long time the *Steenstraat* was a poor and dilapidated part of Nijmegen, lacking proper hygienic conditions. After the Second World War, much of the street was demolished as part of the slum clearance project, but a number of historical gems

still remain. After all, the *Steenstraat* used to be a particularly stately street. Very prominent is the *Besiedershuis*, a late Gothic building dating from 1525. Its name comes from the ‘*besieder*’, who had to collect tolls from passing ships on the *Waal*. In reality, it was a patrician house where no *besieder* has ever lived, as the house didn’t even have a view on the *Waal* in the past. Today it serves as an exhibition space. A look through its windows shows the magnificent *Waal* bridge. Further down the street is the *Brouwershuis*, also from the sixteenth century, although the façade reads 1621. That year refers, however, to a later renovation. The brewers guild used the house as both residence and storehouse.

### 4. Ottengas and the Groene Balkon



From the *Besiedershuis* you can easily reach the *Lieve Vrouwentrappen* via the *Vleeshouwerstraat*. These stairs lead to the so-called *Groene Balkon* (‘green balcony’). This plateau was constructed after the Second World War. Originally the intention was to build a large retaining wall with a new residential district on it, while demolishing all medie-

val streets. After many protests, only part of it had been realized. The balcony now offers a beautiful view over the *Waal* from the roof of one of the ugliest buildings of the city: the *Holland Casino*. From the *Groene Balkon*, the *Ottengas* leads you towards the city center. This street, named after an unknown Johan Otten, used to run steeply down to the *Vleeshouwerstraat*, but since the construction of the *Groene Balkon* it has been considerably shortened. The ascending street is flanked on one side by a late medieval fortress wall and on the other side by several historical buildings, including an eighteenth-century house and the *Cellenbroederenhuis*. This is one of the oldest buildings in Nijmegen and used to be the property of the Nijmegen ecclesiastical brotherhoods. These charitable organizations were engaged in, among other things, the care for the insane and for plague sufferers.

### 3. Sint Anthoniusplaats



The *Cellenbroederenhuis* can also be viewed from the other side. Behind the houses in the *Ottengas* is the quiet *Sint Anthoniusplaats*, which is only accessible from the *Ridderstraat*. The fraternity house

can be entered through a small courtyard on the left side of this square. Although the entire square is surrounded by a series of buildings that are among the oldest in the city, the eye-catcher here is a stately eighteenth-century mansion at the back of the square. In the nineteenth century it was the home of the mayor of Nijmegen Dirk Reinhard Johan baron van Lynden and later served as a convent of the Deaconesses of the Blessed Sacrament. The name it was then given – *Huize Bethlehem* – can still be seen on the facade of the building, which today serves as a hospice. The *Sint Anthoniusplaats* often seems somewhat deserted, but there is also plenty of entertainment. You can regularly spot a rainbow flag here because the Pink House is also located on this street. Very old GSV-members will also remember the ‘Old Cave’. In a distant past, the study association organized a legendary gala in these wine cellars. Maybe again sometime soon?

### 2. Sint Stevenskerkhof



A little further is the eye-catcher of our city: Saint Stephen’s Church. Many of us will know the church and have also admired the beautiful *Kerkboog*

(‘church arch’) and the former Latin School opposite to the main entrance of the church. But have you ever walked around Saint Stephen’s? One of the most picturesque alleys in Nijmegen is located at the back of the church. Here is a row of former ‘canon houses’, which were of course inhabited by a canon. These clergymen were members of the chapter of Saint Stephen’s Church – an executive council responsible for the administration of the church. Saint Stephen’s Church became such a collegiate church in 1475 and lost that status in 1591, when the church fell to the Protestants. The famous Nijmegen canon Willem van Berchen (c. 1417-c. 1481), writer of the Chronicle of Guelders, lived in one of the houses. The canon houses form a sublime scene, that is used by Radboud University in her advertising. Nowadays there are several shops to be found in the canon houses. You can also have a great lunch there. A very nice place to spend an afternoon!

### 1. Glashuis/Papengas and Vogelhofje

It is only a short walk from the Saint Stephen’s Church via the *Zuider-* or *Noorderkerktrappen* to another lovely square in the lower town. Prominent on the *Glashuis* (‘glass house’) is the *Sint Jacobskapel*. This small chapel dates from the fifteenth century and was part of a much larger monastery complex, but it is the only part that still remains. After the siege of Nijmegen in 1591 the chapel lost its function and not much later glassblowers established their workshop in it. That is why the chapel itself is sometimes called ‘Glass House’. On the other side of the *Papengas* you will find the *Oude Weeshuis*. It was a Protestant orphanage that served as a beguine monastery until 1562. The main entrance is on the *Begijnenstraat*, but the facade on the *Papengas* is certainly worth seeing. Opposite the orphanage is a mysterious turquoise conservatory containing the Wheel of Fortune, as we know it from the Carmina Burana. If you turn left from the square behind the *Sint Jacobskapel*, you will come across the *Vogelhofje* (‘bird courtyard’) almost immediately on your

right. The residents have turned this at first sight everyday passageway into a remarkable destination. For more than forty years, dozens of birdhouses in many different colors can be found in this alley.



Many kinds of birds are to be seen in this picturesque spot. Although the survival of the courtyard has been at stake in the past due to renovation plans, you can still visit it in 2020. Worth a visit!

# In the student's den of... Yarno Rademakers



Yarno has two exceptionally large pieces of furniture in his little room at *Hoogveldt*: a corner sofa and a 60 inch (one and a half meters!!) TV. You should of course be able to chill properly behind such a huge TV, but for many students with a small room, a sofa is a luxury for which they unfortunately don't have the space. But Yarno is a problem solver! And so he has a sleeping sofa, which he converts into a bed every evening (except for after a few drinks). Well, he did so in the beginning... Nowadays he just keeps it as a bed, because: "You can also chill on a bed!!" Apart from a desk and refrigerator, the rest of his room is reserved for his great love: his vinyl collection. Since he was fourteen he works at "Didi Recordshop" the largest record store in the Netherlands!

*Photo and text by Ine de Win*