

wives or benefactors, but others joined societies independently from their husbands.

Uw sekse en de onze expands upon the knowledge about Dutch sociability and civil society contributed by Wijnand Mijnhardt, Dorothée Sturkenboom, Rudolf Dekker and myself, while complimenting the writings of Darlene Levy, Harriet Applewhite, and Margaret Hunt, among others. The impulse to compare is to be applauded but more research and theorizing needs to be done before it is possible to assess the relative position in society enjoyed by Dutch women as opposed to German, French or English. Aristocrats within monarchical societies arguably had more leeway than Dutch elites, however wealthy they may have been. More comparison, based on the structure of various old regimes, would enhance the perspective. When not engaged in comparisons, *Uw sekse en de onze* places Dutch female sociability within a spectrum of European behavior that admitted women to civic life in unprecedented numbers. That change, while it has ebbed and flowed in different periods, set a trend distinctive to Western modernity. It also preceded the stereotypical domesticity of the nineteenth century and in the process calls that image into question.

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Winter, Anne, *Migrants and Urban Change: Newcomers to Antwerp, 1760-1860* (Perspectives in Economic and Social History 1; London: Pickering & Chatto, 2009, x + 318 pp., ISBN 978 1 8519 6646 2).

This is a valuable and interesting book which sheds wide-ranging light on the changing patterns and processes of urban migration in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Anne Winter takes as the focus of her study, which is based on her doctoral dissertation, the city of Antwerp as it moved from being a rather stagnant textile city

under Austrian rule (locked out from international trade by the Dutch closure of the river Scheldt) to a burgeoning naval port during the French occupation, and thence to a rapidly expanding international entrepot after 1815, benefiting first from access to Dutch colonial commerce and later from Belgian Independence (1830), its population rising from 50,000 (1815) to 72,000 (1830) and 101,000 (1856). After a long, critical review of the recent literature – too often concentrated, Winter indicates, either on macro-studies of the timing, intensity and direction of migration flows, or on migration experiences (social networks, information circuits and the like) – she argues for a more integrated approach, relating migration flows to processes of social integration (or otherwise). She is concerned with how economic and social conditions at the macro-level set out the limits in patterns of movement and levels of integration. There is much of significance in this introduction which migration experts will relish, but general readers may find the rest of the book more accessible.

There is an excellent wide-ranging chapter explaining general trends in migration during ‘the urban transition’ of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries stressing that natural population increase was more significant for urban growth than was once thought and that the balance with net migration fluctuated considerably over time; that gross mobility was massively higher than net migration – ‘the city was a terminus for only a small number of migrants’; that integration patterns exhibited strong marks of continuity; and that newcomers had a major social and economic impact on cities. Focussing her bright spotlight on Antwerp Anne Winter demonstrates that the city’s economic stagnation in the late eighteenth century led to a localised migration field – mainly from poorer districts to the city’s east – with other more dynamic centres out-bidding Antwerp for immigrants. Once in the city newcomers were effectively excluded from the core textile sector and channelled into service trades. By contrast, in the early nineteenth century as Antwerp

boomed migration flows were increasingly large-scale and complex with traditional local rural immigration complemented by longer distance, better-off movement from other Belgian cities and from abroad – including France and later the Netherlands and Belgium. During this period newcomers came to dominate the new sectors of the economy either as casual workers in the port or as entrepreneurs. Thus the post-Napoleonic influx of foreign businessmen and merchants laid the foundations for some of the port's leading trading companies. Newcomers – mostly young, single individuals – found it easy to integrate through family or occupational networks (regional connections less important): and there was reduced outmigration. However, in the 1840s rising rural distress in Belgium often spawned family and older age mobility which swamped the reception mechanisms and provoked a terrible crisis of unemployment, poverty, housing shortages and immiseration, so brilliantly described some years ago by Catharina Lis. For the early nineteenth century Winter's study carefully delineates – often through case histories – the different mobility profiles of the main categories of immigrants.

There is much then to admire in this book which is clearly presented, heavily documented, and rigorously argued, often with useful comparative evidence. Personally, I would quibble at Winter's criticism of the concepts of *subsistence* and *betterment* migrants (which I proposed in 1972). It was never intended that they should be seen as exclusive categories, and the idea did at least make some attempt to link migration flows to integration processes on the lines Winter herself pursues so effectively in this volume. I would also have liked her to discuss rather more the new processes of integration mechanism emerging from the eighteenth century. There are good accounts of the family, occupations and lodging houses, but more could have been said about public drinking houses, new commercial labour exchanges, voluntary associations such as the freemasons and mutual aid clubs, the Church and philanthropic organisations.

If there had been space, the theme of competing migration fields raised for the late eighteenth century could have been followed up in the early nineteenth century: was Antwerp's gain, Gent's loss? Nonetheless, this is a major study which all European urban historians as well as migration specialists, will need to read and ponder.

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Veltman-van den Bos, Ans J., Vet, Jan de, **Par Amitié. De Vriendenrol van Petronella Moens** (Nijmegen: Vantilt, 2009, 479 blz., ISBN 978 94 6004 014 6).

Alba amicorum, vriendenboeken, zijn vaak rijke bronnen voor netwerkonderzoek, zeker als de bezitter zelf belang hechtte aan het verzamelen van inscripties van vrienden, bekenden en familie. De schrijfster Petronella Moens (1762-1843), een van de boegbeelden van de late Nederlandse Verlichting, was zo'n fanatiek verzamelaarster van gedenktentjes van contacten. Bekend was althans dat ze een album bijhield, getiteld *Vriendenrol*. In 1989 dook dit manuscript op in een archief van de familie Moens. Het was in zeer goede staat en werd via de Stichting Petronella Moens ter beschikking gesteld aan de Koninklijke Bibliotheek in Den Haag, die het in facsimile op haar website publiceerde (zie: <http://www.petronella-moens.nl/vriendenrol.htm>). Intussen maakten twee Moens-deskundigen, Ans J. Veltman-van den Bos en Jan de Vet, studie van de tekst en zijn context, onder meer met steun van de Maatschappij der Nederlandse Letterkunde. Het resultaat is een zorgvuldig getranscribeerde en becommentarieerde uitgave van de vriendenlijst, met als titel zijn motto, *Par Amitié*.

Moens' album omspannt maar liefst 54 jaar, van 1786 tot 1840, en geeft daardoor een goede indruk van haar voornaamste drijfveer: geduldig voortbouwen aan een zo groot mogelijk netwerk. De in-