



**Ezelsoor: Newsletter of the Department of
Book and Digital Media Studies**

Spring 2006

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Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the renewed Ezelsoor. Here we hope to provide you with the latest developments in the life and loves of the Leiden Book and Digital Media Studies programme. We have been busy travelling both in terms of locations and mental horizons. Extended excursions have been made by both students and staff. On the way we have picked up some new faces and unfortunately lost a few as well. We have welcomed Professor Paul Rutten and said goodbye to Eva Gressnich, last term's exchange student from Mainz. You can read about all of this and more within these twenty-four short pages.

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done, Pepys devoted a large part of his time to his love of books. In 1693 there were seven presses (about 1,750 books) and the remaining five presses were made and filled during his later life, amounting to 3,000 books now at Magdalene.

Arranging the collection became a great hobby, and in his retirement Pepys was able to employ library assistants, principally the translator Paul Lorrain and Pepys' nephew Jackson. Pepys, with the help of Jackson, devoted many hours towards the cataloguing and arranging of the books. They were shelved and numbered in order of ascending size, 1 being the smallest and 3,000 the largest. The final catalogue by his own hand dates from 1700 and lists 2,474 books. A year after the diarist's death in 1703 Jackson finished another catalogue, adding 526 more entries. A schedule on Pepys' library table, which holds the largest books on either end, directs a librarian to the correct press and shelf to locate a particular volume.

Disappointingly as it now seems, Pepys often discarded older books as new ones were acquired, or as space in the presses determined. Jackson was sent to France and Italy in particular to bring back further treasures for the library. In 1683 Pepys himself travelled to Tangier and Seville as a Navy officer where he managed to collect a chest full of printed Spanish plays and ephemeral literature. Pepys' collection became well known and was sought out by scholars, especially his books on naval matters. Pepys collected them not only for his work, but also because he had long planned to write a history of the English Navy. Although this never came to pass, his naval collection is still the largest surviving from the seventeenth century.

It was not only the arranging and collecting of the books that Pepys was engaged with. When inside the current building, one at once notices the beautiful appearance of the leather bindings, in a fascinating variety. Bound by the order of Pepys himself, there are bindings of a type called 'sombre': black with blind and gilt tooling. The music books especially are bound in beautifully coloured and designed paper bindings. Many books are bound in vellum and are in an excellent state of preservation. They are evidence of Pepys' and Jackson's exquisite care for the books. Pepys was also careful in marking the

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A portrait of Samuel Pepys

one-year Master program the Magister studies extend over several years. Most Master programs in Leiden are taught in English. In Mainz it is predominantly German. One effect of this is that Leiden University is much more internationally oriented.

The numbers of students in the two programs in Mainz and Leiden differ from each other significantly. At present Mainz has 596 students attending Book Studies as either major or minor subject. In Leiden however the number of Master students comes to 15. Therefore the conditions of both teaching and studying are different at the two universities. Certainly students in Mainz have more time in their studies to dive into the matter and depth of the subjects of studying. However, I had the impression that the one-year Master studies in Leiden are thematically balanced and well structured. Magister students often get bogged down in their studies because of the wide temporal scope they have.

The two study programs also do not focus exclusively on the same subjects. Leiden studies include digital media as a major component whereas in Mainz this aspect is not treated as intensively. The German program concentrates more on production relating to the history of printing and writing. In Leiden history and theory seem to be better connected. In Mainz courses are predominantly historically oriented. During my stay in Leiden I took part in the courses “History and Theory of Information Transmission” and “The Manuscript Book in the Islamic Tradition”. Although I followed only a small part of the entire Leiden Master I succeeded in extending my studies thematically and studying subjects I could not have studied in Mainz.

My time in Leiden has not only been affected by the participation in the courses. The excursions to the Frankfurt Book Fair and to Cambridge are two of the best experiences of my semester abroad. In particular I liked the meeting between Mainz and Leiden students of Book Studies during the trip to Frankfurt. In Cambridge I enjoyed both the exhibition of Medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the university library and the guided tour in the Trinity College library.

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A view of the Leiden Academy Building

COLOPHON

EDITING

Dayenne Bosveld
Arnaud van Cutsem
Berry Dongelmans
Paul Hoftijzer
Paul Mazurkiewicz
Adriaan van der Weel

DESIGN

Arnaud van Cutsem
Paul Mazurkiewicz
Nienke van Oeveren

CONTRIBUTORS

The 2005/2006 Book & Byte Class

Daphne Boeree
Arnaud van Cutsem
Eva Gressnich
Wendy van der Laan
Paul Hoftijzer
Paul Mazurkiewicz
Nienke van Oeveren
Sophie van den Oord
Adriaan van der Weel
Jan Just Witkam

PHOTOGRAPHS

Paul Mazurkiewicz
Julia Müller

Contributions can be sent to:

Ezelsoor
Opleiding Engels
Universiteit Leiden
Postbus 9515
2300 RA Leiden
apl@let.leidenuniv.nl

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**Boekwetenschap
Book & Publishing Studies
MA Book & Byte**

Alumni & Students Meeting 2006

This year's alumni meeting will be held on May 10th. The theme is digital developments in publishing and we have lined up some exciting speakers on a topical subject! Dr. Matthias Wahls, Business Development Manager at Brill Academic Publishers, Kurt De Belder MA MLIS, Librarian of Leiden University Library, and Drs Peter Verhaar, EAD project officer of Leiden University Library, will each give a talk on various aspects of the digital revolution in scholarly information transmission. There will of course be ample opportunity to catch up with old contacts and to make new ones. Both alumni and current students are most welcome and wholeheartedly invited. From 18.30 onwards there will be a chance to see the new pressroom of Academic Press Leiden in the Lipsius Building (1175) room 152. The presentations and talks will be from 19.00-20.30 in 1175-147. We will end the evening with drinks in the canteen of the Lipsius Building (1175). For more information on the evening or the alumni network, please contact: Liesbeth Kanis (kanis@brill.nl) or Wilbert van der Sluys (awvandersluijs@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you on the 10th!

DATE:

May 10th

WHERE:

Doors open to the pressroom (1175-152) at 18.30

Presentations (1175-147) at 19.00-20.30

Drinks in the canteen in Lipsius (1175) after 20.30

Contact: kanis@brill.nl or awvandersluijs@gmail.com