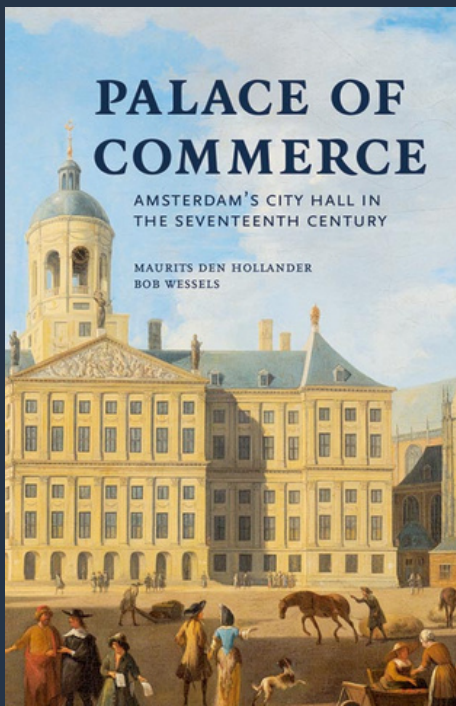




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PALACE OF COMMERCE

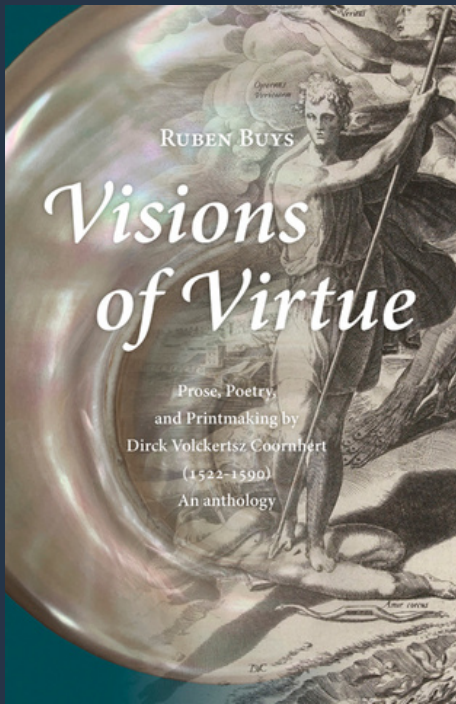
BY MAURITS DEN HOLLANDER & BOB WESSELS

Palace of Commerce invites you to discover the hidden past of Amsterdam's Royal Palace. It reveals this magnificent buildings' origin as Amsterdam's City Hall in the seventeenth century, the 'Dutch Golden Age'.

Contemporaries praised the building for its beauty. Its size and splendour reflect the city's prime position in international trade across the globe, as well as the dignity of its urban regents and administrative officials. Those who enter the Royal Palace today can hardly imagine that this building was once a bustling collection of offices and courtrooms. It even included a prison! What originally happened in its now so serene marble halls? Who could be found in its rooms full of paintings and sculpture on a daily basis, when the building's corridors were still swarming with citizens and businessmen from all corners of the world?

Using the art and architecture visible today as our point of departure, the authors shed light on the history of early modern Amsterdam through the eyes of those who ruled and dispensed justice. The regents and administrative officials who frequented the floors of Amsterdam's global centre of commerce, finance, law, and governance are introduced in a compelling selection of short and richly illustrated stories.

- The hidden history of Amsterdam's Royal Palace, once the world's largest City Hall and hub of trade, law, and power
- Step into 17th-century Amsterdam with vivid stories and stunning illustrations
- Fresh insights from a legal scholar and historian, uncovering how commerce shaped Europe's leading city



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VISIONS OF VIRTUE

BY RUBEN BUYS

Prose, Poetry, and Printmaking by Dirck Volckertsz Coornhert (1522-1590). An Anthology.

In both word and image, Dirck Volckertsz Coornhert (1522-1590) was a pioneer. For instance, he wrote the very first ethics in a European vernacular, a groundbreaking treatise on the treatment of criminals and a unique language booklet for “ionghers ende maechdekens” (boys and girls). Besides many prose texts, he wrote poems, songs and plays. As an artist, Coornhert designed and “carved” hundreds of top-quality engravings, with which he could also reach illiterate people with his ideas on tolerance, freedom of speech and the importance of correct knowledge for a good life.

The anthology *Visions of Virtue* brings together for the first time a rich selection of Coornhert's work. The texts and engravings in this book offer a view of one of the first champions of tolerance and freedom of conscience. At the same time, they also throw a surprising light on such highly topical issues as truth versus lies, democracy versus autocracy and sober thinking versus gut feeling.

- Timeless ideas from a forgotten pioneer
- Rich, visual and literary content
- Striking relevance today



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AMSTERDAM WALKS ALONG HISTORIC BUILDING FACADES

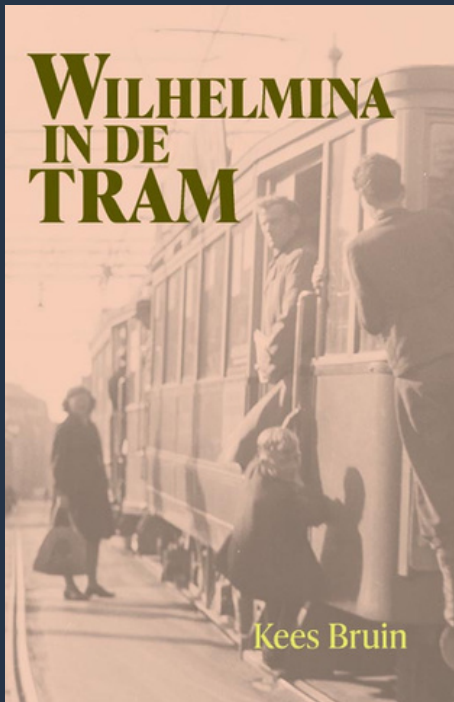
BY FRED GEUKES FOPPEN

Building facades reveal Amsterdam's past. At least, if you know what is meant.

Some are enigmatic, others distort reality, but all tell a history that often goes back hundreds of years. The oldest facade text is on the exterior wall of the Waag. The city council announced in 1488 that the first stone of St. Anthony's Gate was laid there. The stories behind the facade texts provide many intriguing facts. They provide insight into how Amsterdam grew socially and economically from fishing village to metropolis, put forgotten individuals in the spotlight and show the many political and religious upheavals.

Amsterdam Walks along Historic Building Facades includes six walks through the center of Amsterdam. Each walk of about 7 kilometers takes the reader past texts on buildings that have often been given a different function or that refer to a place that no longer exists. Either way, they still tell a lot of history, if only you look at them in the right way.

- A unique historical insight on Amsterdam
- Engaging cultural walking tours
- Universally relevant themes



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WILHELMINA TAKING THE TRAM

BY KEES BRUIN

After five years in exile, Wilhelmina returned for good to her war-torn homeland on 3 May 1945. She was full of ideals for renewal, both in politics and in her personal life. She wanted to put an end to the pre-war divisions and stagnation, and to break down the barriers between herself and her people. She moved into a modest terraced house, did her own grocery shopping, and took the tram. This attempt at being 'ordinary' lasted only briefly. It was not appreciated by the government, nor by her people. None of her political plans came to fruition. She abdicated and withdrew from public life, disappointed. From then on, the people around her were mostly limited to her tenants and staff. She was not defeated, however. She devoted herself to religious unity and the coming of the Kingdom of God, which once again brought disappointment: progress was far too slow.

Her reputation has seen highs and lows: in the first post-war decades she was celebrated, but nowadays she is increasingly criticized. This book describes her attempts at renewal, how they unfolded, and the reactions they provoked. It passes no judgement, but offers a sharp portrait of an eccentric queen and her handling of a dilemma that has become ever more difficult for royalty: the tension between keeping a distance from the people and seeking closeness, between being elevated and being ordinary.

- Vivid account of Queen Wilhelmina's post-WWII return and her failed renewal plans
- Explores the universal royal dilemma: distance vs. closeness to the people
- Balanced, engaging blend of political, personal, and cultural history

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