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AN EXTENDED BROAD SPECTRUM OF PAPERS
PRESENTED TO LEENDERT LOUWE KOOIJMANS

EDITED BY

HARRY FOKKENS, BRYONY J. COLES, ANNELOU L. VAN GIJN,
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Preface

Leendert Louwe Kooijmans is in the process of retiring. He has been retiring already for a few years and we hope he will be retiring for the next decennium as well.....without really becoming retired.

In 2003, at the age of 63, Leendert ended his administrative duties after being a dean of the Faculty of Archaeology for 20 years, a Faculty he created and let flourish. He ceased administration and education, but carried on his research on the neolithisation of north-western Europe. The large National Science Foundation grant that he obtained in 2003 for his project *From Hardinxveld to Noordhoorn, from forager to farmer* was a great reward for his work on the subject.

Neolithisation has been Leendert's research field since the nineteen-sixties, undoubtedly triggered partly because of his study in Physical Geography. His education in Prehistory in Leiden with P.J.R. Modderman must have influenced his interest in the Early Neolithic as well. One of his first important studies on the subject was his 1971 survey of *Bone and antler implements from the North Sea* in which we also find the first version of his sea level curve, which was published in the final version in his dissertation of 1974. This sea level curve in fact characterizes his style of work: meticulous command of data and innovative research. It is telling that Roeleveld, in his 1974 dissertation on the same subject, acknowledged Leendert's work with the statement "the data from the Groningen coastal area appear to correlate astonishingly well with Louwe Kooijmans' curve for the Western Netherlands, even though our curve does not provide the same degree of detail" (Roeleveld 1974, 116).¹ Apart from being a thorough scientist, Louwe Kooijmans is also a very experienced excavator and a real wizzard when it comes to documentation and conservation of the fragile wetland finds that he excavated. First in the Hazendonk, next in Berchsenhoek, in Hardinxveld-Giessendam and last but not least in Schipluiden. The report on the Schipluiden excavations, published as *Analecta Praehistorica Leidensia* 37/38, demonstrates all his skills in 516 pages: excavator, coordinator of research, model maker, critical and careful editor, care for high quality images and drawings.

It is almost impossible to sum up the enormous number of publications from his hand on the Meso-Neo transition in north-western Europe. It is also virtually impossible to match

his encyclopaedic knowledge of sites and finds, which was formed during his period as the keeper of the Dutch department of the National Museum at Leiden (1966-1982) and was extended by his teaching in Leiden (1982-2003). The enormous numbers of slides of sites and cultures which he used in teaching the first year students his European Prehistory lectures are by now legendary.

His knowledge and innovative views made him a respected teacher and colleague who still is one of the leading international figures in the field. This immediately became clear when we send out a call for papers in May 2007. The problem with people who are in the process of retiring is that it is difficult to find a suitable moment to commemorate their career. We are therefore grateful that Leendert helped us with the timing by announcing – in April 2007 – that his valedictory address had been set for June 13, 2008. That was the signal we had been waiting for. The enthusiastic reactions and high standard of contributions that we received has shown that most scholars not only consider Leendert Louwe Kooijmans a fine scientist but also a good friend.

The book could have been five times as thick if we had invited everyone who might have been interested to contribute something to honour Leendert. He has initiated so many projects and institutions, and educated so many students that the list is nearly endless. Instead we have chosen a subject that is dear to him, one on which he has focused his own research: the Meso-Neo transition. The title almost presented itself, based as it is on a combination of his most recent project and one of the lasting concepts that he added to the tools of archaeological interpretation: *the extended broad spectrum economy* (with thanks to Jos Kleijne).

Eventually twenty-three colleagues were able to contribute to this *liber amicorum* and another twenty to the conference that has been organised in advance of the valedictory address on June 13, 2008. It is interesting that the 'hard core' of this group was already present at the conference *Settlement Patterns around the Southern North Sea*, that was organised by Leendert himself in March 1982 on the occasion of Modderman's valediction as head of the Institute for Prehistory. This demonstrates that many of the scholars who contributed to Leendert's valediction are not only his friends, but also life-long valued guests and colleagues of the Faculty of Archaeology.

The editors want to thank the contributors for their patience with us. You all delivered within a relatively short period of time and responded promptly and adequately to our editorial comments. The research students involved in the project, Hedwig Ponjee and Jos Kleijne, were very critical seconds and had a considerable contribution to the success of the project and the fact that we survived the 'race to the printer'. Corijanne Slappendel was the spider in the web of both the production of the book and the organisation of the conference. She was in fact the *sine qua non* of this book.

We hope, Leendert, that you appreciate our homage to your scientific career and that you will use the text as stimulus for the work that you undoubtedly will continue to do.

Harry Fokkens
Bryony Coles
Annelou van Gijn

note

1 Roeleveld, W. 1974. *The Holocene Evolution of the Groningen Marine-Clay District*. Amerstfoort (supplement Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek 24).

Contents

Preface IX

- 1 Jan Hendrik Holwerda and the adoption of the three-age system in the Netherlands 1**
Leo Verhart
- 2 The temporality of culture changes 15**
Harry Fokkens
- 3 Timing, tempo and temporalities in the early Neolithic of southern Britain 25**
Alex Bayliss
Alasdair Whittle
Frances Healy
- 4 The end of the beginning: changing configurations in the British and Irish Neolithic 43**
Richard Bradley
- 5 The Danubian-Baltic Borderland: Northern Poland in the fifth millennium BC 51**
Peter Bogucki
- 6 The Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Western Denmark seen from a kitchen midden perspective: a survey 67**
Søren H. Andersen
- 7 Tracing the Neolithic in the lowlands of Belgium: the evidence from Sandy Flanders 75**
Philippe Crombé
Joris Sergeant
- 8 A southern view on north-south interaction during the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the Lower Rhine Area 85**
Bart Vanmontfort
- 9 The foam that flies ahead of a wave of advance: thoughts on the early neolithisation of the Lower Rhine uplands 99**
Pieter van de Velde
- 10 Maastricht-Vogelzang, the Netherlands, a Michelsberg site in the valley of the Meuse seen from a botanical angle 111**
Corrie Bakels

- 11 Phosphate mapping of a Funnel Beaker Culture house from Flögeln-Eekhöltjen, district of Cuxhaven, Lower Saxony 123**
W. Haio Zimmermann
- 12 The Schipluiden pottery: mobility, exchange and mode of production 131**
Daan Raemaekers
- 13 Hazendonk layers over and over again 139**
Luc Amkreutz
Leo Verhart
Milco Wansleben
- 14 The scale of human impact at the Hazendonk, the Netherlands, during the Late Neolithic 153**
Welmoed Out
- 15 An eagle-eyed perspective. *Haliaeetus albicilla* in the Mesolithic and Neolithic of the Lower Rhine Area 167**
Luc Amkreutz
Raymond Corbey
- 16 Were beavers aware? A change of perspective on the neolithisation of Britain 181**
Bryony Coles
- 17 Exotic flint and the negotiation of a new identity in the ‘margins’ of the agricultural world: the case of the Rhine-Meuse delta 193**
Annelou van Gijn
- 18 Engaging with stone: Making the Neolithic in Ireland and Western Britain 203**
Gabriel Cooney
- 19 Points of contact. Reflections on Bandkeramik-Mesolithic interactions west of the Rhine 215**
Marjorie de Grooth
- 20 On the Production of Discoidal Flint Knives and Changing Patterns of Specialist Flint Procurement in the Neolithic on the South Downs, England 235**
Julie Gardiner
- 21 Upper Largie and Dutch-Scottish connections during the Beaker period 247**
Alison Sheridan

22 Neolithic Alpine axeheads, from the Continent to Great Britain, the Isle of Man and Ireland 261

Pierre Pétrequin

Alison Sheridan

Serge Cassen

Michel Errera

Estelle Gauthier

Lutz Klassen

Nicolas Le Maux

Yvan Pailler

23 A note on prehistoric routes on the Veluwe and near Uelzen 281

Jan Albert Bakker