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Review of Nelles, P.; Salzberg, R. (2023) Connected mobilities in the Early Modern World: the practice and experience of movement

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Paul Nelles and Rosa Salzberg (eds), *Connected Mobilities in the Early Modern World. The Practice and Experience of Movement* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2023). 279 p. ISBN 978 94 6372 923 9.

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This edited volume, consisting of nine chapters and an introduction by the editors, demonstrates the potential of the new mobilities paradigm for research on the early modern period. Rooted in the social sciences, this paradigm sees movement and mobility as an essential and integral element of human society, rather than as an exceptional, incidental activity. It wishes to take into account all aspects of mobility: mobility of persons and things; the practicalities of movement; the objects, practices, and fixed spaces that make mobility possible and regulate it. Through a series of case studies, this volume shows the connectedness of the actors, actions, objects, and spaces that marked mobility in the early modern world.

The introductory chapter by Nelles and Salzberg offers an inestimable overview of recent trends in mobility studies, useful theoretical concepts, and the possibilities they offer for early modernists. Rather than a simple presentation of the chapters united in the volume, the introduction has the potential to function as an insightful standalone piece for both experienced researchers in the field of early modern movement and mobility as well as for students. Its usefulness in a classroom setting is ensured by the various concrete examples given by the authors, from an early modern treatise on acrobatics and the movement of the human body to the physical object of the city gate as an inert object that enables the movement of people and goods. The introduction comes with an extensive and very valuable bibliography from which students and experts alike will benefit.

The nine chapters of the volume are very diverse in approach and nature, presenting a broad and inspirational array of potential approaches and source materials for the study of early modern mobility, ranging from practices of quarantine in the Adriatic (Bilić) to the spread of information through handwritten newsletters (Molino). They are divided into three parts: 'Moving Bodies', 'Crossing Borders', and 'Global Networks'. Although not all chapters deal with global networks, they do all contain moving bodies that cross borders, which makes the structure of the volume less clear. The internal cohesion of the book is ensured, rather, by the shared theoretical framework that is strongly presented

in the introduction, and which resonates firmly in some contributions, such as that by Verhoeven on the practical and sensorial aspects of the Grand Tour, though less in others.

While most contributions are firmly rooted in a European context, the three chapters of the final section, 'Global Networks', venture more into the 'early modern world', albeit from a European starting point. Paul Nelles traces the global distribution of the devotional 'agnus dei' through Jesuit networks. Felicita Tramontana describes Franciscan experiences in the Holy Land. The final chapter by Sebouh David Aslanian follows the complex itinerary of a Catholic fundraiser to religious centers in Moscow, Baghdad, and Madras. Together, the chapters cover the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries through a broad variety of sources: letters (Verhoeven); travel journals (Gallagher); newsletters (Molino); judicial, religious, and economic archival records (Fosi, Schmitz, Tramontana, and Aslanian); as well as physical objects (Nelles) and fixed spaces that enable and impact movement (Bilić). They address various types of travelers, from the elite using mobility as a rite of passage (Verhoeven) to the poor traveling on foot to seek healing in another town (Schmitz).

The first section, 'Moving Bodies', clearly shows the inspirational diversity that characterizes the volume as a whole. John Gallagher carefully studies Fynes Moryson's *Itinerary* (1617) for the insight it provides into the linguistic experiences of early modern travelers. By contrasting it with other contemporary travel writings, Gallagher demonstrates which different linguistic practices and experiences individuals from different walks of life could face in various parts of Europe and, importantly, how it impacted their travels. Gerrit Verhoeven gives a very insightful overview of the often ignored practical sides of the Grand Tour that many young men in the early modern era undertook. He makes perceptive remarks on the sensory experiences of travelers and the influence of various modes of transportation on not only comfort but also flexibility. Carolin Schmitz subsequently draws attention to mobility on a smaller scale, though with no less impact on the lives of those involved. She studies archival records revealing that in rural parts of Spain, individuals often traveled for health reasons: to seek a change of air, or to consult a healer for oneself or for a family member. These journeys were often undertaken on foot and within the same day.

The contributions to this volume thus perfectly illustrate its central premise that mobility was omnipresent in early modern Europe, even where it was least expected (such as in rural communities where no means of transportation were available). The combination of a strong

theoretical introduction and a rich series of highly diverse case studies make it an inspirational read for anyone interested in early modern connectivity and movement.

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Marc van Alphen, Jan Hoffenaar, Alan Lemmers, Christiaan van der Spek. *Military Power and the Dutch Republic. War, Trade and the Balance of Power in Europe, 1648-1813*. Transl. [from Dutch] by P. Arblaster and L. Preedy (Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2021). 549 p. ISBN 9789087283650.

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This book is the third in the imposing *Military History of the Netherlands* series, and the second to be translated into English. All four authors are currently researchers at the Netherlands Institute of Military History, and their specialist expertise is reflected not only in the quality and sophistication of the text but also in the remarkable range and quality of images that complement the discussion throughout the volume. These range from unfamiliar topographical depictions of sieges and fortifications, through an impressive range of land and naval battles, as well as images of model ships and of the material culture of soldiering and naval service. Full-dress portraits of key military and naval officers vie with garrison or village genre scenes and drawings or watercolors of ordinary soldiers or sailors on and off duty.

The volume is divided into two sections: a detailed narrative of the military history of the Dutch Republic is then followed by chapters examining the organization of the military, its financing, war-fighting capabilities, the social background and lives of soldiers and sailors, and finally civil-military relations. Throughout, the discussion is divided equally between armies and navies and benefits substantially from the numerous opportunities for close comparison between the two.

The first four chapters provide a well-structured account of the military history of the Republic. The narrative moves from the triumphant success of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 through the naval conflicts of the mid- and later seventeenth century, when the Dutch navies still showed impressive powers of adaptation to changing military technology, tactics, and scale, while benefiting from impressive