

## Summaries

### *Prostitution, Venereal Disease and the Struggle for Morals*

Annet Mooij

At the end of the nineteenth century the question of prostitution and venereal disease in Holland as elsewhere became pressing social problems. This article deals with the growing public concern and debates on these topics. Doctors and sanitary reformers favoured the regulation of prostitution as a solution to the problem, but this came under severe attack from a heterogeneous group of abolitionists. Organized public agitation against the regulation of prostitution started around 1880, was led by a - albeit uneasy - coalition of Protestant vice hunters, feminists, middle-class reformers, politicians and a new generation of doctors. By drawing attention to the 'innocent victims' of venereal disease, i.e. the wives and children of men visiting prostitutes, and by a successful attack on the prevailing 'double standard of morals' the Dutch repeal campaign succeeded in discrediting the regulationists project. Based on all kinds of contemporary sources, this article convincingly pictures the public upheaval and the turn of the moral tide out of which it arose against the background of political and social changes which took place in late nineteenth century society.

### *Industrialisation and Technical Creativity. The lack of a Patent Act in The Netherlands between 1869-1910*

Ruud Stokvis

In the years 1869-1910 The Netherlands was one of the few European countries without a Patent Act. This act enables inventors to exploit their inventions commercially. Was Dutch technical creativity at the time so low that such an act was not necessary? This article explores this question on the basis of an analysis of the literature on Dutch engineers, Dutch physicists and the currently largest Dutch enterprises, Philips, Unilever, and Shell. Technical creativity proves indeed to have been low at the time. However, the 1910 adoption of the Patent Act turns out not to have been occasioned by an increase of technical creativity. The article looks into the meaning of this fact for the nature and 'timing' of industrialisation in The Netherlands.

### *The King and the Lady*

Caroline Hanken

This article describes the changing position of the French royal mistress between the fifteenth and the eighteenth century. In the fifteenth century the mistress was mostly known because of her sexual relationship with the king. In the seventeenth century when the court had evolved from a military

organisation into a strong government centre, the mistress became a very prominent figure with responsibility for different aspects of court life. In some respects she was more important than the queen.

Due to the formal court etiquette at the time, the king's public life and the fact that the king was to assure the courtiers that his power position would not change as a result of a possibly devious feminine influence, the king could not keep the relationship with his mistress concealed. The king's mistress was given a formal position at court. Aside from the king's personal wish for a mistress, she was especially useful to maintain the balance of power between court factions, thereby ensuring the king's own position. This is an example of the so-called 'royal mechanism', as described by Norbert Elias. In the eighteenth century the position of the royal mistress was no longer based on an incidental love affair. It had become an essential part of French court life.

### *Religious Authority and the Sworn Virgins of the Balkans*

René Grémaux

The Dinaric mountain range of the western Balkan harboured until recently a cross-gender role for women. Embedded in the patriarchal tribal cultures, cross-dressing was accepted for women bound to virginity. The viewpoints of the religious leaders (Roman Catholics, Serbian Orthodox and Sunnite Islam) reflect the inherent ambiguity and liminality of the 'social males'. Among them we detect a conflict between the wish to stick to regulations on the one hand, and the need to accommodate to local practice on the other. By allowing certain females to remain unwed and to dress as men, religious leaders tried to avoid violent clashes between the male groups involved.

### *Dutch Landlords around 1900*

Ineke Teijmant

In novels and political cartoons, Dutch landlords are invariably portrayed as powerful and merciless people. In the social sciences, the image of the landlord is just as unfavourable. Landlords are viewed as people who profited from the rapid urban growth during the last decades of the 19th century. Landlords collected exorbitant rents, kept back maintenance and enriched themselves in a short period of time.

However, from 1901 onwards the social position of landlords weakened due to housing laws and housing policies. Based on both secondary sources and contemporary periodicals, this article draws attention to the apparent contradiction between the alleged power of the landlords and their inability to offer resistance against reformist housing policies.