

## Summaries

Benjo Maso

### *The Foundation of the Opera as Art Form*

The first operas in history were in fact merely applications of an intellectual reconstruction of the dramatical principles on which Greek tragedies were assumed to be based. This original form of opera did not exist long, but without being aware of it the founding fathers instigated a new genre which could serve important non-artistic purposes. However, this new form of opera was so remote from original ideals that it was constantly under attack for its absurdity and its lack of intellectual, musical, and artistic content.

This article examines how opera managed to become established as a serious art form despite all those attacks. Central theme is the development of the specific conventions on which opera is based and the ways in which they were accepted. The analysis of how Lully managed to create an art form in 17th century France that met the demands of the court, the bourgeoisie and the intellectuals, is the principle case study. Furthermore, the article pays attention to Wagners attempts to adapt the opera so that it would conform to prevailing new requirements of artistic autonomy. Finally, the article considers the problems confronting the opera due to the gradual rise of a dualistic structure in the artistic field with commercial art at one extreme of the continuum and avant-garde at the other; as well as the way in which the crumbling position of the opera as a serious art form was restored.

Evert Smit

### *The Mobilization Process in Wildcat Strikes in the Port of Rotterdam*

Olson's 'rational choice' account considers it highly unlikely that workers go on strike without any certainty about the outcomes or income compensation. Still, this is what happened in the port of Rotterdam, which is well-known for its 'wildcats' or unofficial strikes. This paper aims at answering this question. Several strike leaders have been interviewed in order to get a better understanding of the mobilization to strike. It appears that informal organization was crucial in this process. In this way strike leaders were able to exploit the conflictual working conditions in the docks. In addition, they could build upon a widespread-mentality of solidarity and an undisciplined 'casual frame of mind'. While theories of dockworker's subculture seem to underestimate the conflict-ridden nature of the labour process in the docks, they prove to be more instructive than the rational choice perspective when it comes to explaining wildcats in ports.

Lisette Bros & Jaap Dronkers

*Jencks in Twente. On the key importance of education and the labourmarket for women*

In this article an analysis is presented with a new longitudinal data-set of the educational and professional careers of pupils who entered primary school in 1964 in the city of Enschede: the Enschede-cohort. The analysis circles around the key-value of education for the course of life and is a replication of the so-called Jencks' model of the relationships between family background, cognitive skill (IQ-scores), educational attainment, occupational status and income. The results show that these relations are stronger in the Netherlands than in the USA and that there are significant differences between women and men in the effect of cognitive skills (but not of their educational level) on their professional careers.

Rob van Ginkel

*Image of an Island. Travellers reports on the mentality of the inhabitants of the isle of Texel (1750-1875)*

Early anthropologists often used the reports of travellers as a source of information to reconstruct certain aspects of the society and culture they studied. However, following the repatriation of anthropology and the concomitant rise of endogenous ethnography, scant use was made of travel reports. Using various examples of travel literature, this article illustrates how travellers perceived the society and culture of Texel, a Dutch island. *The aim of the paper is to throw light on the usefulness and limitations of travel literature in writing endo-ethnography.*