

## **Journal of Low Countries and South African Studies Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse en Zuid-Afrikaanse Studies Tydskrif vir Nederlandse en Suid-Afrikaanse Studies**

The year 2014 was an important one in the history of *Werkwinkel*. It marked the ninth year of our existence, so in 2015 we will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of this journal. Nevertheless, this past year has already proven to be a turning point for us.

**WERKWINKEL IN THE OPEN ACCESS SYSTEM.** In 2014 *Werkwinkel* became available in the Open Access system for the first time as a result of our cooperation with [De Gruyter Open](#), a leading academic publisher in the Open Access system. This company, previously known as Versita, is part of the De Gruyter Group. Previously we were only present on the Internet via our own website, on which we did not place articles until a one-year embargo had passed. Now, once an issue is ready, it is immediately published on the Internet. As a result, the first edition of the journal is the on-line edition, which we can then promote thanks to the financial support of the Faculty of English and the President of Adam Mickiewicz University.

Archival issues can still be accessed on the [website](#) of our journal. We are also successively adding to the archives of the [University Repository](#). It is worth mentioning that AMUR (Adam Mickiewicz University Repository) is the best university repository in Poland and is among the 300 best repositories in the world.

**THE PUBLISHED VERSION OF WERKWINKEL.** For practical as well as reasons of prestige we will continue to publish the print edition even though it is secondary to the electronic one. The limited circulation of the print edition of *Werkwinkel* is addressed to our regular subscribers, both individual readers and libraries. For them we would like to maintain the traditional way of distributing the periodical. Print editions will also be given to the authors of the articles and members of the Editorial Board. In addition, they may be [purchased](#) by anyone who wishes to read *Werkwinkel* on paper.

**EDITORIAL WORK.** Last year was the first full year in which Katarzyna Wiercińska, PhD, supervised all the editorial work. As the new Editorial Secretary she put in a great deal of effort to prepare the launch of the journal in the Open Access system, which required a great deal of administrative work. Thanks to Dr. Wiercińska's cooperation with the authors and with De Gruyter Open both issues

published in 2014 went very smoothly. As the Editor-in-Chief, I am satisfied that, although we started collaborating with a new publisher and changed the manner in which editorial work is now done (including major internal transformations), both issues planned for 2014 appeared on time: the first one half way through the year and the second at the end of it.

**EDITORIAL POLICY OF WERKWINKEL.** The content of both issues of the ninth year illustrates the editorial policy quite well. The first issue included a few articles submitted to the Editorial Board by individual authors, of whom the majority are associated with Polish educational institutions. The issue also included articles which were the outcome of an international conference organized by the Department of Dutch and South African Studies of the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University - [Colloquium Neerlandicum](#). The second issue is a thematic one, devoted to the South African poet Olga Kirsch. It includes the work of specific authors, who as experts in the field were asked to contribute.

I hope that through our editorial policy we will continue to give voice to researchers from Poland and Central Europe whose work concerns the Netherlands and South Africa, experts in literature and culture, history and linguistics. However, we do not wish to limit ourselves to this environment. Conscious of the local specificity of our region and our culture, in which specific scientific problems and research demands arise, we actively participate in the international market of scientific journals, co-shaping academic discourse. Following our tradition, the articles that appeared in both issues in 2014 were written in English, Dutch and Afrikaans. The subject areas addressed in them covered our interests expressed in the subtitle: *Journal of Low Countries and South African Studies*. Last year, just like in the previous years, we consistently adopted our *double blind peer-review* policy. Hopefully in this way, we offer our readers articles of a high scientific standard.

**WERKWINKEL'S LIBRARY.** The Editorial Board is planning to publish further titles as part of our *Werkwinkel Library* book series. At the beginning of 2014 we published a monograph by Anna Sikora-Sabat, PhD, entitled *Teksty kultury niderlandzkiej w Polsce. Przekłady literackie, polityka wystawiennicza i kulturalna 1945–1989* (Poznań 2013, pp. 136) [*Dutch cultural texts in Poland. Literary translations, publishing and cultural policies 1945-1989*]. This year we are planning to publish a book by Marta Kargól, PhD, entitled *Moda na tradycję. Holenderskie stroje regionalne w różnych kontekstach współczesnej kultury*. [*Fashion for tradition. Dutch regional costume in various contexts of contemporary culture*].

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have published in *Werkwinkel* during the past nine years as well as to those who have contributed in some way, either directly or indirectly, to the position our journal enjoys today. We thank our readers for the interest they

have taken in our journal. We believe their number will increase as a result of digitization, which will raise the visibility of the articles that we publish. Finally, we hope to satisfy our readers' expectations also in this the tenth year of *Werkwinkel*.

Editor-in-Chief

Jerzy Koch

## **Werkwinkel 9(2)**

The Editorial Board of *Werkwinkel* cordially invites you to familiarize yourself with the latest issue of our journal. Through a collection of thematic articles, *Werkwinkel* would like to contribute to the current debate on the work of Olga Kirsch and her place in South African literature.

It is also the second issue of *Werkwinkel* made available open access on the De Gruyter Open platform. The full-text articles can be found on <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/werk>

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