

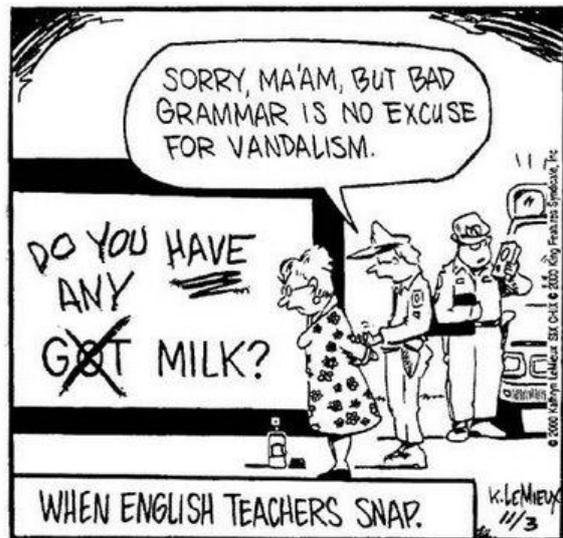


Magazine by and for Students of English at Leiden University

Interview with Professor Liebregts: "I really hate hobbits."

Reviews of *Sweeney Todd* and 'Doctor Who'

Recipes, stories and much, much more!



EDITORIAL
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Dear you

We, the editors of *The Angler*, proudly present this year's very first issue.

As the magazine written by and for everyone who is in any way associated with the English department in Leiden, it is filled with info, entertainment and other silliness. Whether you like cooking, reading, laughing with (or at) lecturers; whether you hate hobbits with a passion; or want to get to know your fellow students a bit better, you'll find it all in here.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

With love from your editors,

Charlotte Liebelt

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What is your name?

Dewi van Soest.

Why did you choose to study English?

It's actually a bit silly; the language suits me very well and I love reading immensely. I'd also attended a *kennismakingsdag* and what I heard there sounded great.

How was your 'career' with English in Leiden? When did you start, when did you graduate, have you done additional activities?

I've started studying as a newbie in Leiden in 2005 and graduated at the end of 2010 with a Master's Philology/Literature. After my Bachelor's, I've studied for one year at the Free University in Amsterdam, but I just couldn't find my feet there. I missed the *gezelligheid* in Leiden, hated the time it took to get there, missed affinity with the modules I was taking and above all, I missed the English department, its lecturers and modules, in Leiden.

What were your favourite modules?

Easy! 'An Introduction to Anglo-American Film 1940-1990' from Dr. (Michael ☺) Newton and the Master's modules 'Arthur of Britain' from Drs. Veldhoen and 'Ode to Fear' from Dr. Van Leeuwen.

Do you have any experience going abroad? What did you do (studying, placement, something else)? Where did you go? For how long?

Not directly related to English in Leiden. I didn't go abroad until after graduating. I wanted to get away for a bit; I had the 'itch' after hearing all the great stories from my friends. I was also a bit bummed that I had so little practical experience regarding work, but definitely also regarding speaking English on a daily basis. I decided to go to a country where no-one else would go to and I succeeded in doing that: I went to Dhaka, Bangladesh. I was there for almost five months to do a placement with an NGO School (English Medium level).



I taught English there, focussing on the pronunciation of English. It was a bit of a dive into the deep end which provided me with an unforgettable time and friends for life.

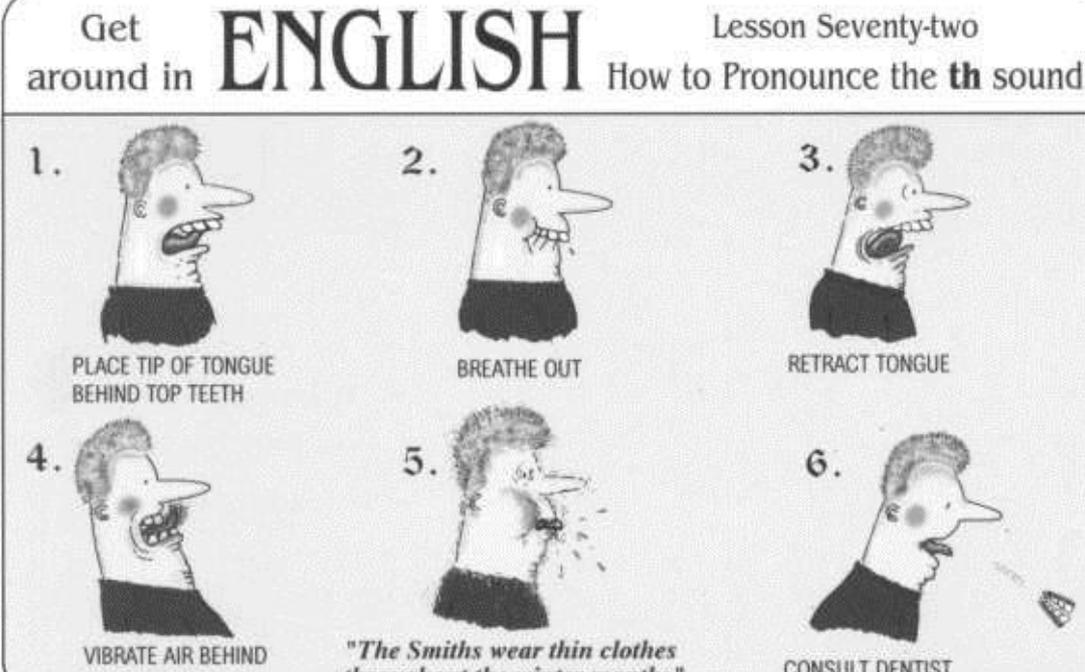
Did you go to any Albion activities? If yes, which did you like best? If no, why not?

I didn't go very often because in my second year, I became a member of a *studievereniging* which took up a lot of my time (and I've enjoyed every minute of it!). Hahaha, I mean, I was in a lot of committees, of course! I've attended a High-Tea, which was very *gezellig*. I would have liked to go to London, but you know, students can be a bit low on cash...

What kind of a job do you have now? How did you end up there?

I'm still wandering around a bit. The job market is scarce and demands relevant work experience which unfortunately, I really do not have. I've worked at Rabobank where I worked on a temporary project dealing with foreign students who come to study at Leiden University. At the moment I'm doing a placement with Persgroep Nederland, the collective name of the publishers of Trouw, AD, Het Parool and de Volkskrant. Here, I'm working on a project concerning job descriptions.

Get around in **ENGLISH** Lesson Seventy-two
How to Pronounce the **th** sound



1. PLACE TIP OF TONGUE BEHIND TOP TEETH
2. BREATHE OUT
3. RETRACT TONGUE
4. VIBRATE AIR BEHIND TONGUE AND SAY:
5. "The Smiths wear thin clothes throughout the winter months"
6. CONSULT DENTIST

'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea' – John Donne

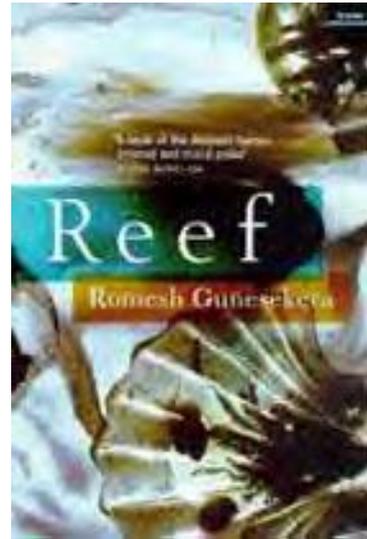
LESSER KNOWN WORKS

By Minke Jonk

In this item, we want to highlight some of the wonderful novels English literature has to offer, but which are sadly underappreciated by or unknown to the general public.

Romesh Guneseekara – *Reef*

Described as a twentieth-century version of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', *Reef* is a must-read for all of you who like narratives that overflow with exoticness and sensuality. Its protagonist is a young boy named Triton, who gets a job working for Mr Salgado, a Sri Lankan marine biologist. The novel is essentially a *Bildungsroman*, a coming-of-age story set in hot, humid Sri Lanka. It tells the story of how Triton, starting out as a bullied eleven-year-old, grows up by mirroring himself to his master. This becomes clear when Mr Salgado brings home Nili, a woman who has a powerful sway over both Salgado and Triton and they both become slightly obsessed with her. The story tells us a servant's life; Triton starts out as one of three, but soon he replaces the other two and becomes Mr Salgado's only employee. The wonderful descriptions of Triton's preparation of food for his master are mouth watering and adds to the novel a sense of the foreign, unknown and exotic. The development of Triton's cooking and housekeeping skills not only mark his path towards adulthood, but also towards independence from Mr Salgado. The Sri Lankan narrative is quite literally an island, as the novel begins and ends in England – both Triton's and the author's adopted home. This is not the only island metaphor – they are scattered throughout the novel. The inherent island-ness of Sri Lanka is important for the novel's political background. While that keeps a low profile throughout the narrative, it is there always and a driving force for some of the action. Western influence on the island is a theme that is discussed several times in the novel.



Read this if:

- you like novels set in exotic foreign places;
- you have an eye for symbolism and metaphors, especially those related to the ocean;
- you like rich and sensual descriptions of food, people and the ocean's biology.

Don't read this if:

- you don't have any patience reading long, descriptive passages;
- you don't like by coming-of-age stories;
- you don't like reading, full-stop.

The hard facts

Title: *Reef*

Author: Romesh Guneseekara

Number of pages: 192

Year of publication: 1994

Where can I buy it?: bol.com has it, search for 'Romesh Guneseekara' (€9,99)

TV SHOW REVIEW – DOCTOR WHO (BBC)

By Shannon Ernst

Doctor Who is a popular British science fiction related TV show created and aired by the BBC. It's about a few different races of Aliens, though the most important one of this show is of course the Time lord from planet Gallifrey, the Doctor. The first series of Doctor Who was in 1963. There are 26 season in the older series and already six in the new ones.



The Doctor time travels in his special Time machine called 'the Tardis'. With this extraordinary machine he is not only able to travel through time, but also through different universes. This allows the viewer, along with the doctor, to explore newly invented planets and see beyond the surface of the earth. He almost always has a companion to travel with him and accompany him to defend him and explore different strange sightings or problems.

Acting: The acting in this show is diverse. Some people in this show are great actors, for example doctor 10 (David Tennant) and doctor 11 (Matt Smith) are one of those worth to watch. You really see the character of the odd 900 year old Doctor coming forward and he certainly is a great character. One you can laugh about. On the other hand, there's Amy Pond (Karen Gillan), one of the doctor's companions, whose acting skills might require a little help. She lacks realism, with that I mean that she can't show emotions rather well. Or at least, she doesn't perform the right emotions on the right time.

Special Effects: The special effects in this show are amazing and realistic as well. There are a lot of them and you can really see that producers have worked hard on this. For example, there are lasers and twirls of light and different kinds of monsters (Aliens of course) that are made with those effects and great costume design. For example, there are the Cybermen and the Daleks, but also the costumes of the doctors self are well made and cool done.

Story lines: Every episode something new happens, but of course there's a main story line as well. But if I just focus on the little stories inside every episode, I must say I am quite impressed. In most TV series there's a moment where you get slightly bored with the story line. But Doctor Who keeps your attention throughout the whole season and that's definitely a good thing. Also, some episodes have a cliffhanger which is also quite pleasant. Every episode is worthy to watch and some great authors (like Neil Gaiman) have worked on separate episodes.

Rating



NINE UNSETTLING YET INTERESTING BOOK QUESTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Professor Liebrechts Provides the Answers: “I really hate hobbits”

1. A book that made you fall in love with reading

It's impossible for me to point to one book in particular that turned me into an avid reader when I was still young. As a young boy I would go to the local library and get six books per week, and it still would not be enough. However, if there is one book or author which more or less made me choose for a professional life of reading and writing, and brought me at the point where I am now, then I'd have to mention Homer. I first read a retelling of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* when I was about eight or nine, and reading it really made me want to know more about mythology and history and culture. One of my greatest joys as a student of classics in Utrecht was reading the whole of Homer in the original for two of my university exams. And having read much and widely through various literatures, past and present, I'd still take a copy of Homer with me to the proverbial desert island.

2. A book so emotionally draining you couldn't complete it or had to set it aside for a bit

If I may interpret 'emotionally draining' as 'extremely annoying', then the choice is easy: Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. I tried to read it three times, but always got stuck at the same point (somewhere in the first chapters of Volume II); and this at a time when I was still somewhat receptive to fantasy (which nowadays really is a genre I avoid at all costs). It is badly written, predictable, has long stretches giving a new meaning to the word 'longueurs', and has all sorts of grotesque characters; I really hate hobbits (and I felt so sorry during my short career as a secondary school teacher for a pupil in my class whose parents had ruined his life by naming him Frodo.) I did watch the film versions, but was very thankful for the speed forward button on my remote (and was not pleased when an ex-hobbit turned up as Charlie in "Lost"; then again, Peter Jackson's project still has its moments in comparison to "Star Wars", the most childish and annoying film ever made; but I digress...)

3. Favourite book turned movie

That's a hard choice between two favourite books and thus two favourite movies. The first one is Francis Ford Coppola's film *Apocalypse Now*, loosely based on Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, a short but complex and richly suggestive text about the dark sides of human existence and civilization, turned into a visual opera of horrific beauty; the second one is Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's novel *Il Gattopardo* (*The Leopard*), a epic-lyrical meditation on change and nostalgia, set in 19th-century Sicily, and very stylishly and lovingly adapted by Luchino Visconti in 1963. And although it is not a movie, John Mortimer's television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* is a landmark production.

4. Book turned movie and completely desecrated

As my examples above may show, I am not the kind of person who as a rule will claim that the book is better than the movie, and 'completely desecrated' is a rather extreme evaluation. Thus Steve Jacob's adaptation of J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace* was excellent, but the explicit ending ruined it somewhat for me. If there is one book which has been poorly served by filmmakers, it is Boris

Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*, both in the David Lean version which focused fully on the romantic love triangle and underplayed too much the enormous social and political difficulties of Russia before, during, and after the Revolution, and in a recent ITV TV version with Keira Knightley as Lara, which simply changed major parts of the novel. And, okay, if you really want me to use the term 'completely desecrated', it can be applied to Neil LaBute's 2002 version of A.S. Byatt's *Possession*. Yuck!

5. Favourite romance novel

Hmmmm..... Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*? *Emma*? Emily Brönte's *Wuthering Heights*? (as opposed to her sister Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*, which I do not really like) John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*? A.S. Byatt's *Possession*? Or perhaps the saddest of romance novels, Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*? (Jury is still out on this one, sometimes distracted by the sound of Lady GaGa's "Bad Romance")

6. A book you would write if you had all the resources

I once wrote a novel when I still was in secondary school; but then I read more and more really good novels, and I realized I simply could not compete with people who have real talent (and I wish more so-called authors had gone through the same experience). So a book in my case means an academic study. I am still struggling with a book on Ezra Pound and Greek literature, which I need to get out of my system first. If 'all the resources' mean time, money and no pressure whatsoever, I'd love to do a book on religion, morality and art in the work of certain film directors I admire, such as Ingmar Bergman, Andrei Tarkovsky, Martin Scorsese, Terrence Malick, and Pavel Lungin.

7. An author you completely avoid/hate/won't read

Just one?

Kluun.

8. An author that you will read whatever they put out

J.M. Coetzee, perhaps not stylistically the best of contemporary authors, but the writer of an oeuvre which not only reflects critically and subtly on global issues as well as personal relationships, and on the importance of art in the modern world, but also does this in a manner which has pushed the development of the possibilities of fictional writing forward. Every new text is an exciting new adventurous reading experience. And I still regard *Disgrace* (1999) as the best novel of the last twenty-odd years.

9. An unpopular/unknown book that you believe should be a bestseller

Still not known enough: Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman*, outrageously funny and unsettling; the work of William Maxwell, for the precision of his prose, and his short stories deserve a greater readership; with regard to poetry, Anne Carson's *NOX* should have received much, much more critical attention, as it is a text of mourning as well as a reflection on it, and also poetically questions the notion of what poetry is, and what translation is (And Alan Hollinghurst's *The Stranger's Child* should have been this year's Booker Prize winner!)

(source: <http://bookluv.tumblr.com/post/554260199/30-day-book-challenge-is-here-please-reblog>)

JAMIE RAMSEY-LAWSON'S MASTERCHEF KITCHEN

‘An Englishman teaching an American about food is like the blind leading the one-eyed.’ – A.J. Liebling

Episode 1: Cornish Pasties

Serves 4 // Ready in 1 hour 15 minutes, plus resting time

| | |
|--|---|
| 400g plain flour | 1 medium potato, cut into small cubes |
| Pinch of salt | 125g swede, cut into small cubes (‘koolraap’) |
| 200g butter, chilled and cut into small pieces | 400g rump steak, trimmed of fat and cut into 1cm pieces |
| 1 medium onion, thinly sliced | 1 medium egg, slightly beaten |

(1) Preheat the oven to 200°C. Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Add 5-6 tablespoons cold water, then mix until clumps are formed. Gather the mixture together with your hands to make a firm dough. If you have time, wrap the dough in clingfilm and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes before rolling out.

(2) Divide the dough into four even-sized pieces. On a lightly floured surface, roll each one out so that it's as thick as a £1 coin (for all you Dutchies, that's about as thick as 1 ½ euro coins).

(3) Place a 19cm plate on top of one of the dough pieces and cut around it using a sharp knife to make a circle. Repeat with the other pieces

(4) Place the dough circles on a baking sheet and put the vegetables and steak on one half of each circle. Brush the edges with water.

(5) Fold the other half of the dough over and press the edges together with your fingers. Starting on the right side, fold over one corner using your first finger and thumb, to form a crease. Continue to crease all the way along the edge of the pastry, making sure you seal the edges as you fold.

(6) Brush the pasties with the beaten egg and bake in the oven for 15 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C and cook for another 45-55 minutes. Serve immediately or leave to cool before eating.



(source: *Asda Magazine*, June 2011, p. 45-46)

- Advertorial -



PRODUCT OF PRISON

"From Rehabilitation to Reintegration"

“By acquiring professional skills, knowledge, experience and funds in prison, prisoners are better equipped to re-enter society after release.”

Who are they and what is their mission?

“Product of Prison (POP) is a non-profit organisation, registered in the Netherlands and working in prisons in Uganda. The aim of Product of Prison is to contribute towards the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in developing countries through vocational skills training, work, art and social activities. By acquiring professional skills, knowledge, experience and funds during their time in prison, prisoners are better equipped to re-enter society and to avoid recidivism after release. POP aspires to empower prisoners, to restore a sense of humanity and to build self-esteem and self-confidence.”

What are their methods to help the prisoners in Uganda?

“Unemployment is a serious problem in Uganda, and even more so for former prisoners, which is why it is one of the aims of POP to teach prisoners (vocational) skills that they can easily use after their release to set up their own income generating activities. POP looks for activities that do not require high start up costs and that involve products or services that can easily be sold in the local communities. This means that released prisoners will not have to rely on family, friends, potential employers or even crime to survive after release, thereby increasing their chances of successful reintegration into their community.”

So what can you do to help?

Many of the prisoners have been cast out by their communities and are lonely. Therefore, POP is looking for pen pals for Ugandan prisoners. You can send your letters to the POP emailaddress and they will make sure your letters get printed and reach the prisoner. POP would also like to ask the pen pals for a 10 euro donation (yearly) so that POP can provide the prisoners with writing necessities. For more information have a look at

www.productofprison.org the facebook page www.facebook.com/productofprison

If you are interested in becoming a pen pal please send an email to Celesta Duivenvoorde. She is a Dutch criminologist who, after working in prisons in Burundi and Uganda, decided to set up this project: celesta@productofprison.org.

If you are unable to help by writing to a prisoner, please consider supporting POP's projects financially with a (monthly) contribution through their website.

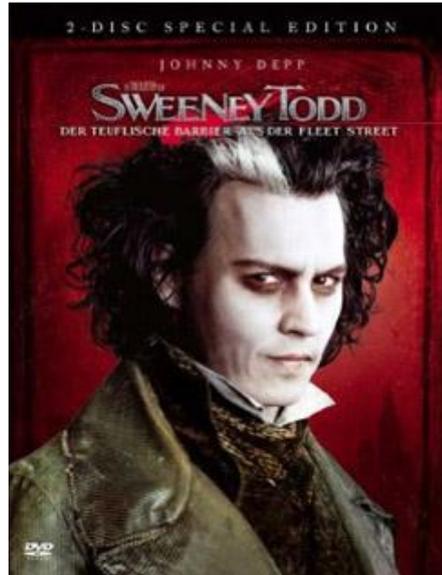
Thank you very much!

FILM REVIEW – *SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER FROM FLEET STREET*

By Shannon Ernst

Sweeney Todd is a film created by the famous director Tim Burton. Like as every film lover knows, Tim Burton tends to give his films a somewhat darker environment than other directors. That is something that really comes forward in this film. The story is quite famous as well. The film has some great actors like Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Alan Rickman.

The plot is about Benjamin Barker (Johnny Depp), a young barber living in Fleet Street in London. This young man meets some traumatic events due to a certain judge Turpin (Alan Rickman). His wife is taken from him and he is taken away from her. After fifteen years, Benjamin returns to Fleet Street. He comes to find the judge and take revenge on him, after he couldn't find his wife and lost daughter. He re-entered Fleet Street under a different alias, however; Sweeney Todd. Why he chose that new name is unclear in the film. Mrs. Lovett, a woman who owns a pie shop underneath the barber shop, convinced him to get back to business and re-open the shop. Sweeney is focused on revenge on the judge while Mrs. Lovett has other plans: her pie shop is running out of business due to a lack of meat and after an event in the film she has found the perfect way to provide her shop with meat.



Acting: immediately I can say that the acting in this film is extraordinary. That has nothing to do with the fact that most actors in the film are well known, no; the actors transform into actual characters with a story to tell. This means that the film is not just some story on screen, but it actually tells you something: the history of London wasn't just sunny and joyful, some times were hard and people really experienced bad situations. Johnny Depp really transforms into a broken man, who has an epiphany and realises that there's something to be done to satisfy him, to end his misery. Helena Bonham Carter also does a great job playing Mrs. Lovett; she's not only serious, she's also funny. The rest of the cast does a great job as a well and all together the film just fits together.

Special Effects: what me struck during the film were the effects of blood. Some may say it looks rather fake, but if you look at the original musical you'll find out that they used blood sacks to create the bloody effect there as well. The substance used in Tim Burton's film gives the whole scene a more musical like effect, which is highly appreciated when it's put in a modern cover like Tim Burton managed to do. The film itself is quite modern, even though Tim Burton tried to create an older world. It is clear that this film is made in modern times, also when you look at music techniques and filming techniques.

Rating



STUDYING ABROAD

Always been curious about what it is like to spend time studying abroad? We have asked two students to enlighten us about all the fun and the difficulties that are involved.



Name: Nicole van der Elst

Age: 25

From: Lisse, the Netherlands

Studied in: Galway, Ireland

Studied abroad from September 2010 to May 2011

Why did you want to study in that particular country or city?

I've been to Ireland several times before I chose to study there. It always feels like coming home. People are so welcoming and friendly so I was glad that I was able to live there for nine months.

Are there any surprising or major differences between studying abroad and here in Leiden?

I felt like a first year student again in my first month. You don't know anyone, have to find the classrooms and become familiar with a different educational system. In general the education level is less challenging than in Leiden, so I had a lot of spare time. The one thing I particularly liked about university life was that there were many societies. They are very informal and organise a bunch of different activities. It is a great way to meet new people and do things that you've never done before.

Which courses did you do whilst abroad and why?

Galway specializes in literature, so almost all my subjects were literature related. Literature was my favourite subject in Leiden so it didn't mind at all. On the side, I took Irish language lessons. I was always intrigued that Ireland is bilingual and all the signs are in English and Irish. The classes were four hours a week so quite intense. At the end of the year we went a weekend to an Irish speaking region of the country and I could practice my knowledge on natives.

What are you studying at the moment?

Research master Study of Art and Literature, track Literature in Leiden.

What did you have to do in order to study abroad? What was the process?

I was an Erasmus exchange student, so the procedures are pretty settled. There is an Erasmus coordinator in the Humanities department who helped me with my application and all other questions. I handed in my application and motivation letter in the first half of the second semester [of the academic year before leaving, *red.*]. In the end the coordinator decides whether you can go to your first choice university. I heard that I was admitted at the end of April. Then I started to plan all the practical things like housing etc. The international office in Galway was a great help as well. In my experience international students get a lot of help although there are always things you have to sort out yourself.

Did you enjoy studying abroad? Are there any things you wish you had done differently or had known beforehand?

I absolute loved spending a year abroad. I've learnt a lot about myself and looked differently at my own country. I had an international group of friends and we all tried to make the most of our stay in Ireland. I've travelled a lot and took part in typical Irish traditions as St. Patricks day, watching rugby and drinking Guinness in the pub. I'm still in touch with most of the people I met in Galway and mostly we end up reminiscing about the great year we had.

Any tips for people who are thinking about studying abroad?

I can only say if you have to chance to go abroad do it! It was a great year for me and if I had to chance again I would do it again. It is a great experience to learn a lot about yourself and to indulge yourself in another culture.

CAMALUS

A STORY

By Jordi van de Weerd

In the Beginning...

“Enough!” spoke King Muscio. The murmurs of the court ceased immediately, and all focus lay on the king.

“I have decided.” said the cat-king, “and it shall be the Caelians who are to be sent to this new island.”

The badgers applauded their king's decision, and with a gesture of the hand the king dismissed his subjects. The dodo Camalus was not as pleased. He fidgeted with his black tie in discomfort. He had been trying to persuade the king of the irrationality of his decision, noting that his nation's people were not suited for the exploration of these foreign lands. Against him had been Dadahus, who had made every effort to see the dodos leave the kingdom, and had admittedly been quite successful.

“Damn those creatures.” Camalus said to himself.

He had not been able to understand what it was that Dadahus and the rest of the foxes had against him, but it had become more evident over the past few weeks that they wanted the dodos gone. As he watched the badgers and foxes leave the throne-room, he turned around and walked out. However, before he could reach the door, a barely audible whisper reached his ears. Curious, Camalus turned and moved in the direction of the sound. Following the whispers, he could see two bright eyes in the corner of the throne-room. He recognised those eyes anywhere, for it could be none other than Cerridwen the Wise. Her coat of black feathers barely visible against the darkness that surrounded her. He continued to move until he too was hidden in the dark in that very corner, and Cerridwen hooted and said:

“I have heard of your journey, and I come to offer assistance. You must seek the help of the Halcyon if you wish to reach the island, for without them, you will fail. They will not be easy to find, but their support is of undeniable importance to your quest. With these words I leave you, for you know now what to do.”

After Cerridwen finished speaking, she flew up and vanished from sight. Camalus was grateful for the advice, but secretly wished Cerridwen would not be so cryptic. But at least now he had a plan, where before there had been none. Being glad to leave the throne-room, he flew off towards Caelia, hoping to find some peace before the inevitable quest.

Caelia

Upon reaching the palace in Caelia, Camalus was greeted by his trusted advisor, the quail Coturnia. Coturnia, with her plump, motherly figure and brown vests, always managed to soothe his spirit, and this time was no exception.

“What news do you bring from Solum?” asked Coturnia.

Camalus knew well that Coturnia had already heard about the events, but felt pleased to know that she still wished to hear it from him.

“None good, I'm afraid,” said Camalus. “We are to depart for this new island and explore it, by order of the king.”

Coturnia nodded, never having been one for many questions. It was something Camalus liked about her; she knew what to say, but more importantly, what not to.

“When will we be leaving?” asked Coturnia.

“I do not yet know, for we have another task which we must attend to first. But let us not speak of this here,” said Camalus.

Camalus motioned for Coturnia to follow him into the more secluded chambers of the palace. Satisfied that they could not be heard, Camalus continued:

“Before leaving Solum, I was visited by Cerridwen the owl. She spoke of a species called the Halcyon, and said that they were the key to our passage across the ocean. I do not know of these Halcyon, or what they are, but I trust Cerridwen's judgment.”

Coturnia, with her immovable, unreadable expression, carefully listened to her leader's words. When he stopped speaking, she asked:

“Then we must find these Halcyon, if you truly believe them to be of help?”

Camalus appreciated the honesty in Coturnia; she would not simply accept Cerridwen's words merely because they came from her. She would learn, Camalus thought. Realizing he had been lost in thought, he returned to the present scene and spoke.

“Indeed we must, and indeed I do. We must consult the Caelian archives. If there ever were Halcyon, there must be records. Furthermore, bring me our master scouts, we will have need of their expertise soon enough.”

Nodding at his decision, Coturnia left the room to do as was ordered. Finally being able to collect his thoughts, Camalus retired to his bedroom and sat down in his chair. Most of the palace was open to the public, many species in fact called it home. But this room was not home for him. Camalus had always preferred the openness of the lands outside. To him, it was ultimate freedom, but for now he was content to sit in his chair. His thoughts wandered to this new island which had been spoken of these past few weeks. It had started as nothing more than a fairy-tale, a promised land for the oppressed. Over time, its illustrious reputation had begun to spread like wildfire among the peasantry of the kingdoms of Solum, Caelia, and Incendia. Camalus had thought nothing of it, and paid no heed to the tale. Just a week ago, he had received a letter from the king of Solum. The letter held very little information, but it contained an order for Camalus to come before the king. This in itself did not surprise Camalus, for it was not rare for him to receive such an order. What struck him was that the letter contained no information on the matter to be discussed. By sending out his scouts, Camalus was able to discover that he was to discuss this new island.

“It is still hard to believe a king would put his faith in such strange tales of foreign lands,” he said to himself.

A soft knock on the door startled him, but he quickly regained his composure and stepped outside. It was Coturnia.

End of part I

‘Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.’ – Oscar Wilde

COLOURFUL QUOTES FROM THE LECTURE HALL

‘Can you accidentally poison someone? Well, yeah, you can; I was thinking of my sister’s cooking...’

‘Axiom number 1, everyone likes Orlando Bloom. Axiom number 2, likes is the same as loves. Therefore everybody loves Orlando Bloom.’

‘We can't all be perfect, except for Orlando Bloom of course... but most things have flaws.’

‘If you want to murder someone, I would advise you to go to Wisconsin. Or Hawaii. I would go to Hawaii, for the nice climate.’

‘We’ve got a professor in the department who mumbles and stumbles, and I could see him play the role of Dumbledore.’

‘Someone else read this out, I can't really stand the sound of my voice.’

‘...so I snuggle up with a dictionary...’

‘Human being are beings who are different because of reason. Except for Paris Hilton of course, she always seems like she's abducted.’

‘[At start of first Philo 3 tutorial] Hello and welcome to HEL!’

‘Syphilis is the most pleasant sounding word in the English language.’

‘Wordsworth said that poetry should be spontaneous, so perhaps we should write some poems about nature right now. Or perhaps not.’

Lecturer 1: ‘Are you coming to rescue them?’

Lecturer 2: ‘Yes, from the clutches of an evil teacher.’

Lecturer 1: ‘Well come on in then, you might learn something.’

USEFUL LINKS AND WEBSITES

www.bbc.co.uk/radio1

→ Here you can listen to BBC's Radio 1, a radio station with many different programmes and types of music. They do a lot of interviews with celebrities and musicians, and around noon they have a news programme called Newsbeat, in which they thoroughly discuss items from current affairs. Great for your English vocab and knowledge of English culture!

www.english-heritage.co.uk

→ If you are in the UK and love to visit historical sites, try to find local English Heritage sites through this website. The English Heritage programme is funded by the UK government. You'll find famous places you might have heard of during courses, and let's face it, the real deal is always better than on paper!

A similar organisation is the National Trust: www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

www.megabus.com

→ If you are visiting Great Britain for a few days and you want to make cheap day trips, book your coach tickets via Megabus and train tickets via Megatrain (through the Megabus website). You can save loads of pounds, because train tickets from National Rail are notoriously expensive, and even though National Express can get you around quite cheaply as well by coach if you book well in advance, Megabus is still cheaper.

www.shakespearesglobe.com

→ Definitely recommended for all you literature fans: to see a play in Shakespeare's Globe. You can check what plays are being performed (make sure you go during performance season, i.e. not in winter). You can get places in the yard (standing) for £8 already, which is very doable indeed. Make sure to read up on the play of your choice, it makes the whole experience much more enjoyable and understandable.

www.alt-usage-english.org

→ Want to hear and compare different accents of English from all around the world? This website contains many MP3 files of English speakers from all corners of the world and has tons of useful links on phonetics, speech and grammar.

<http://www.vertreknaarhetbuitenland.overheid.nl>

→ Are you going to study abroad? Make a checklist via this website to see what you have to keep in mind when you're going abroad. Not everything on the checklist may be of concern to you, but it never hurts to make sure whether or not you have to make changes to your insurance policy, student loan or education papers.