



THE ANGLER

Magazine by and for Students of English at Leiden University

Interview with Ms Zeven: "I can't help thinking 'pompous so-and-so' whenever I read something by Harry Mulisch."

David Crystal's Leiden Lecture, Valentine's Day Scoop, Reviews, and much more!

Albion's London Trip: Photos, and Tips and Tricks for Your Own Visit.

EDITORIAL

Dear us

Well done on this second issue of 'The Angler'!
We love it and we are very proud, but then again, we are the ones who created this wonderful piece of journalism.

Hugs and kisses,

Us



Dear you

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we decided to spread the love – beginning with ourselves but spilling over with love for you too, dear reader.

We hope you will enjoy this issue as much as we do. We've made it with tender loving care.

With love from your editors,

Charlotte Liebelt

Liselore Goossens

Shannon Ernst

Minke Jonk

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

What is your name?

Eveline Scholtes

Why did you choose to study English?

I made the choice a lot harder than it could have been. England has always been a passion of mine and English was my best subject in secondary school. I just never thought of the fact that I could actually study it as well. My mind was always on other stuff. Not until my last year of secondary school did I seriously start considering English and I suddenly realised that if it was something I really liked, I might as well go and study it. For a while it was a close call between English and Italian, but in the end English came out on top. I really don't regret the choice. I'm very happy to be studying English and I'm enjoying it very much.

How do you see your future 'career' with this education? What do you expect afterwards?

I know that there are a lot of people that end up hardly using their study in their career. I really hope that when I finish my study, I will find some place to actually use what I've learned. Not just the academic skills, but the actual English. I'm not sure what I want to do yet. Maybe I'll end up doing a research master or maybe I'll become a teacher. I'm just going to see where it goes and which subjects I like best. I still have time enough to decide what I really want to do with it.

What are your favourite modules?

Actually, I liked most of the modules I've had so far. I like reading, so I liked Literature 1a. It was very interesting and I liked most of the books we had to read. Literature 1b was something I liked too. In secondary school, I had Latin as a subject, so I was already familiar with a lot of the material. We discussed a lot of myths and stories I really liked, so I quite enjoyed that. I also liked the Philology course we had. History is something that I've always liked, so I did not only enjoy reading the Canterbury Tales, I was also interested in the social aspects the module discussed. Language Acquisition and Linguistics were also quite nice, but they just didn't appeal to me as much as the other courses did.



Do you have any plans for going abroad? What would you want to do? (studying, placement, something else)? Where would you like to go? For how long?

I don't have any 'plans' yet, but I know that I definitely want to go abroad for some time during my study, if that's possible. I would like to go for a semester in my third year, wherever the English department allows me to go. In that case, I

would go as a student, but maybe I will be going abroad more often after that, if I have the opportunity. I haven't really looked into it yet, but I would prefer settling in England instead of America. It really depends on the universities that work together with Leiden and how many other students want to go as well. Secretly I'd love to go to Oxford, because of the history of those colleges, but if that's not possible I'm sure I'd be happy almost anywhere with a nice big university. Just the experience of studying in Britain would be fantastic for me. I feel right at home there, so I think I would enjoy it very much.

Did you go to any Albion activities? If yes, which did you like best? If not, why?

I went to some of the Albion tea parties, but apart from that, I haven't really done any Albion activities. I don't live in Leiden and travelling back to where I live isn't something easily done at night. Usually the activity doesn't weigh up to the travel time or the time I get home. That's why I usually don't do any of the Albion stuff. I did just return from a trip to London, which is almost the only activity I did that was Albion related. I had a lot of fun and I would definitely recommend it to the other students for next year. It was relatively cheap and for a student of English (or a fan of musicals or shopping) nothing beats being in London for a few days.

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

Right now, I work at a supermarket (C1000). Nothing fancy or anything. Maybe I'll go and do some tutoring, but I always feel like I'll probably not be a very good instructor (maybe don't become a teacher then, yeah...). It's too bad I can't really do anything study-related right now, but maybe I'll find something next year.

JAMIE RAMSEY-LAWSON'S MASTERCHEF KITCHEN

‘There is no love sincerer than the love of food.’ – George Bernard Shaw

Episode 2: Chocolate Tiffin

Serves 6-8 // Ready in 30 minutes, plus resting time.

50gr butter
1 tbsp golden syrup (Lyle's Golden Syrup)
2 tbsp cocoa powder, sieved
A handful of raisins
50gr digestive biscuits/graham crackers, crushed
75gr dark chocolate, broken into pieces

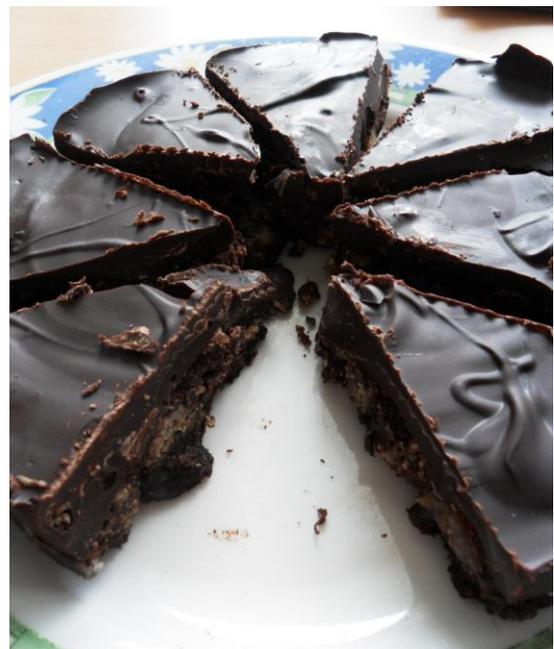
Melt the butter in a pan along with the golden syrup and cocoa powder, until amalgamated. Take off the heat and stir in the crushed biscuits until well-combined.

Pour the mixture into a small cake or brownie tin, which has been greased or lined. A very small springform pan would do the trick nicely. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.

Melt the chocolate in a bowl over simmering water. Make sure the base of the bowl doesn't touch the water. Once the chocolate has melted, pour it over the biscuit mix and smooth over.

Leave the mixture in the fridge to set, before cutting with a sharp knife. It's recommended to pre-cut the tiffin before letting it set completely, as the chocolate on top will become very hard and difficult to slice through. You will have to slice along the cuts again once completely set.

This chocolate tiffin may look very small but don't be alarmed; it's very rich and you will have enough for 6-8 people. You can always double the recipe if necessary.

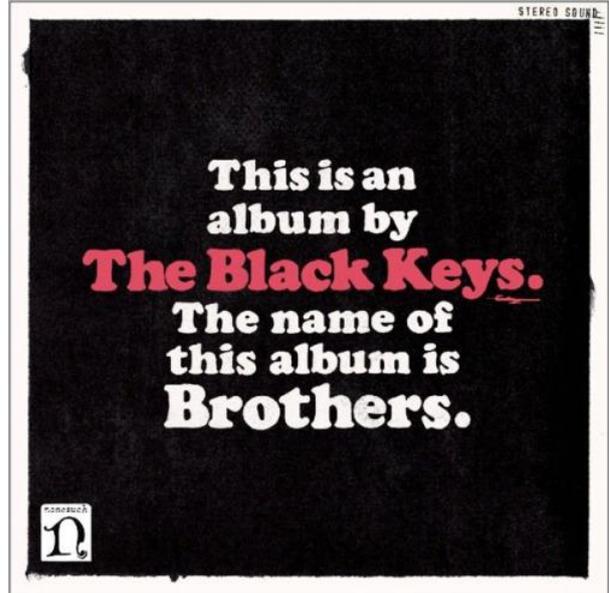


(source: <http://www.tinnedtomatoes.com/2009/10/chocolate-tiffin.html>)

REVIEW: THE BLACK KEYS – *BROTHERS*

By Minke Jonke

I came across this band when a friend of mine put their single “Tighten up” up on Facebook. Intrigued as I was by his comment ‘Buddy Holly and Ron Weasley with a beard make some good music. Who'd'a thunk it’, I decided to give it a listen and was very pleasantly surprised. It’s a very catchy song; heavy on the drums, great guitar licks and with slightly distorted vocals, it immediately reeled me in. So I decided to get the entire album. Now it’s always possible that a band has a great single, like “Tighten up”, and the rest of the album sounds very different. The Black Keys’ album suffers from this a bit; while the majority of the songs is equally catchy with major blues influences, there are a few songs that are too repetitive to be completely enjoyable. However, the good songs outrank the boring ones big time. It’s a great album, very blues rock-y – perfect if you love howling guitars – and very catchy. It’s not terribly loud, it’s more subtle and laid-back music with good but, it has to be said, repetitive lyrics. Not repetitive on Snow Patrol-level but it can lead to minor irritation. But I’d still recommend this band to all music fanatics. I’ve caught myself tapping my feet and fingers quite a few times already. Great album, great band, great songs. 4/5.



@valentinesmessage:

♥Dearest Elisabeth, the dearest creature in creation, who once studied English pronunciation. I have but one wish, a great day, and a lovely fish.♥

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

Ms Zeven enlightens us: “I can’t help thinking ‘pompous so-and-so’ whenever I read something by Harry Mulisch.”

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

When we were little, my parents read to me and my brother every day. Some of the books became such favourites that we knew them almost completely by heart. We even made my dad read out ‘Asterix and Obelix’ to us (when I’m sure we did not get half of the jokes), simply because we were fascinated by the fact that reading could make you burst out laughing. But the first book I read myself that probably taught me the magic of reading was ‘Tim Daalder, de jongen die zijn lach verkocht’, about a boy with a beautiful smile and contagious laugh who sells his smile and laughter to the devil. Not a classic, and perhaps not even very well written, but I can so vividly remember not being able to put the book down even for a minute, it must have made a great impact.

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

It does not take much to start the waterworks when I’m reading and picturing the events described on the page (I blame my imagination!) Just a few candidates: *De Gebroeders Leeuwenhart* by Astrid Lindgren (one of the boys in the story dies), *Iced* by Ray Shell (haunting book about a crack addict), *The White Family* by Maggie Gee (racism and heart-braking family drama), now there’s a cheerful list... I could probably fill the Angler with titles of books I had to stop reading because I was overwhelmed by emotion. Perhaps more intriguing: a novel that I had to stop reading because it made me physically sick (not a good idea when you’re on a train full of commuters): *Marabou Stork Nightmares* by Irvine Welsh. The protagonist is a violent, misogynistic thug, which makes the book awful and compelling to read at the same time.

3. Favourite book turned movie

I feared this would be one of the questions. I’m not sure my favourite books have actually been made into films. But there’s a nineties film version (starring Lawrence Fishburne) of one of my favourite plays (*Othello*) that I think is absolutely brilliant.

4. Book turned movie and completely desecrated

Restoration by Rose Tremain, a novel about a physician at the court of King Charles II. The dreamlike quality, the philosophical thoughts, the mostly subtle, but sometimes lyrical writing – almost everything that is good about this novel gets completely lost in the film.

5. Favourite romance novel

I’m afraid I can’t really answer this question, because I simply don’t read romance novels. Rest assured: what I miss out on where trashy romance novels are concerned, I more than make up for by watching trashy TV-series and romantic films. A few favourites in the latter category: *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* and *Grease*.

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

Best get my doctoral thesis out of the way first before I start thinking about writing novels... but of the books I read over the past 12 months, I would have *liked* to have written *Wolf Hall* (Hilary Mantel), *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* (David Mitchell) and *Seeing Stars* (Simon Armitage).

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

This is probably sacrilege (never speak ill of the dead), but I can't help thinking 'pompous so-and-so' whenever I read something by Harry Mulisch. I have tried, honest!

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

Roddy Doyle (because of his great sense of humour) and Toni Morrison (because she can make you feel compassion).

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

The White Family by Maggie Gee, because there is no 'black or white' in this novel, that is to say: people who are very likeable can be horrible sometimes, and people who are not as sympathetic may surprise you too. And sometimes the characters in the novel reflect on their own character traits and actions, which in turn makes you think about your own...

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

Mysteries of Anatomy

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee,
Or the key to a lock of his hair?
Can his eyes be called an academy
Because there are pupils there?

Is the crown of your head where jewels are found?
Who travels the bridge of your nose?
If you wanted to shingle the roof of your mouth,
Would you use the nails on your toes?

Can you sit in the shade of the palm of your hand,
Or beat on the drum of your ear?
Can the calf in your leg eat the corn off your toe?
Then why not grow corn on the ear?

Can the crook in your elbow be sent to jail?
If so, just what did he do?
How can you sharpen your shoulder blades?
I'll be darned if I know – do you?

<http://users.tinyonline.co.uk/gswithenbank/funnyeng.htm>

ALBION'S LONDON TRIP 2012



TIPS AND TRICKS FOR A TERRIFIC LONDON TRIP

Most of us may already know their way through good old London town and its familiar tourist sites, but there's always more to discover. Inspired by Albion's London trip, we've put together a few tips and tricks for visiting this amazing city. Below, you will find some lesser known cool hotspots that can be found in London.

- **Leadenhall Market** (Tubestation: Bank or Monument). This is a large covered market – Victorian, so incredibly elaborate and luxurious – which features in various movies such as the Harry Potter series (as Diagonally) and *The Imaginarium of Dr Parnassus*. Go there on a weekday (on Sundays it is dead silent and there's not much to do) to do some serious shopping. The Pickle (a.k.a. the Royal Bank of England's building) is close-by, too.

- **St Bartholomew's Church** (Tubestation: St Paul's or Barbican). This is London's oldest church, built by a court jester in the 12th century. Nearby you will find Smithfield Market, an old meat market which is still in use. While the surroundings of St Bartholomew's and Smithfield Market aren't terribly nice to look at, it's a part of London that's rarely seen by tourists' eyes, which makes it special in its own way.

- **Camden Lock/Horse Stables Market** (Tubestation: Camden). This is probably not as unknown but especially the horse stables market is terrific. The smell of horses and leather still abounds and the stables themselves are filled with second-hand knickknacks; books, jewellery, clothes, china, posters, hats, you name it. It's not too expensive and deliciously labyrinthine. You can buy great curry in Camden Lock for a fiver (above the Horse Stables Market).

- **Primrose Hill** (Tubestation: Mornington Crescent/Camden Town). From this elevated area you will get an amazing view over London. Go there on a sunny day and you will have to fight for a spot where you can spread your picnic blanket and have a great, lazy afternoon.

- The **British Museum** is always good for a visit (all you Old English fanatics will be very happy to see the Frank's Casket there). You can get awesome cupcakes in **Covent Garden** (a very small, green shop on the lower level) and in summer, street performers do their thing around there all the time. If you are interested in the history of London's poor, **Whitechapel** is always good for a visit, too – Petticoat Lane is quite a sight and to walk around where Jack the Ripper went about his business gives the place a proper sense of the uncanny.

STUDYING ABROAD

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



Name: Minke Jonk

Age: 21

From: Breda, the Netherlands

Studied in: Southampton

Studied abroad from September 2010 to June 2011

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

Southampton was actually third on my list, after Dublin Trinity College and Dublin University College. I liked the modules Southampton had to offer; I didn't know anything about the city itself or the area it was in. I didn't want to go study in London, because that was the one

town on the list that I'd been to already and I wanted to discover other parts of Britain. "Soton", as it's affectionately called, turned out to be great for that. As it was within reach of so many places I've seen most of the south of England in nine months.

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

We'd work together a lot more than in Leiden. Getting to an answer was much more a joint effort. We'd peer-review each other a lot, whether compulsory or not. The style of lecturing was pretty much the same, but in seminars there was a lot more "compulsory" participation. In several modules, everyone had to prepare a short talk on a certain novel, play or poem (as a sort of class discussion), which really helped with writing essays because you basically did essay prep, finding quotes to support your ideas and getting feedback from the lecturer and other students before even thinking about actually starting your essay.

Which courses did you do whilst abroad and why?

In my first semester I took a Shakespeare course, Children's literature (fullest module I've had; almost all of that year's hundred-something students were there) and 19th Century Visual Sensations. Especially the latter really helped me choose a subject for my bachelor's dissertation. In my second semester, I took Twentieth Century Irish Drama, Writing Rural England – for which I had a lecturer who was very... let's say peculiar (he always called us students "yokels" in his emails and his standard salutation at the end was "Pip pip") – and Literatures of Islands and Oceans. The last one was amazing, I became completely obsessed with whales after reading *Moby Dick* (I actually read it twice, once for class and once more for my essay. Now I'm reading it again for my masters' dissertation!).

What are you studying at the moment?

I'm taking the Translation Dutch-English-Dutch Master, specialising in literary translation. I've noticed that because of my experience living in the UK, there are cultural references or specific words that are more clear to me now than when I did the minor in the BA.

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

I've enjoyed it immensely. It made me a much more independent, stronger and more sociable person. I wouldn't have done it any differently. Every single experience I've had in Southampton, all the amazing people I've met and all the things I've learnt made it an awesome experience I wouldn't change for the world. I loved the life I lived over there, the independence I experienced and just living in a different country with a different culture, surrounded by people who are from all over the world. The hardest thing was going back to the Netherlands, and even though I knew it was going to be difficult, the actual experience of missing something so much it almost hurts sometimes was something I wasn't really prepared for.

Any tips for people who are thinking about studying abroad?

I can't *not* recommend it. Yes, you'll be going there alone but you're not going to be the only one who feels like they've been thrown into the deep end. Most people you'll meet are like-minded, so to me it really felt like coming home. I am a Harting scholar, so the one tip that might be valuable is to do well in your first three semesters in Leiden. And I mean *really* do well. And write a really good motivation letter. That's the thing that got me in, because my grades weren't the highest. As far as I'm aware, the Harting programme isn't something you can sign up for; you have to be invited. Also, once you're assigned to a university, start planning. Maybe even go there before the semester starts. Just to get to know your new university town a little!

DIARY OF A CUPID

By Liselore Goossens

Eros (immortal), son of Ares and Aphrodite (both immortal), is married to Psyche (immortal) and father of Hedone (perpetually 16). Here, he writes about his job as a cupid and his complicated family relations.

Let me begin with a warning to you, dear fellow immortals: this will not be a happy column. (Nor a Doric, Ionian or Corinthian one.) In the past, I have always tried to avoid this topic, but after all these decades of writing about my work as a cupid, I feel it is time I start speaking out about why I despise what has recently become the most important day of the year for those in my profession. Indeed: Valentine's Day. When *exactly* it became so important, I cannot say – but I don't need to explain to you, fellow deities, how any amount of time smaller than a few centuries becomes virtually meaningless when you've lived as long as we have.

Like all of you, I was forced to find a profession when Olympus was dismantled. I know most of us tried to find one close to our natural abilities. My parents became merchants, or whatever they call them these days – traders, sellers, *business people*? I have told you before of my mother's successful beauty company (she recently launched a fantastic new perfume!); my father's trade is more shady and secretive, and I'm not sure how much of it I'm allowed to disclose, so I will not discuss it. My wife has a centuries-long reputation of being a brilliant scholar in the field of the human mind, named 'psychology' after her; she is always doing research and adapting her theories and methods to the mortals' ever-changing mind. (They, foolishly, believe it is mostly a constant thing.) She recently wrote yet another ground-breaking book about it, under yet another pseudonym, that I will tell you all about in my next column.

Others saw Olympus' fall as an opportunity to branch out, so to say, and explore sides of themselves they hadn't delved into before. Did you know, for example, that Hephaestus decided to give up fire and metalwork and for eons now has been using his craftsmanship to design fabulous shoes, because 'even a lame foot deserves to look good' – his words.

And then there are those like my much sighed-about daughter, who opted out of professions and instead started a movement named after herself, and is still a lazy, good-for-nothing ... but enough about Hedone. I have moaned about her and her 'hedonists' often enough. (She insists she is this way through some fault of mine, and likes to quote this mortal that Psyche taught a while ago, but her arguments never makes any sense. I forget what this supposed 'prodigy' was called, too; apparently he knew Oedipus, yet I don't think Oedi ever mentioned his name to me.)

But I digress! I was to talk about Valentine's Day, and instead I spent paragraph after paragraph reminiscing. This is the curse of us immortals, who have all the time in the world to gather memories and acquaintances. I believe I left off at the fall of Olympus, and the moment we all had to find a profession. I was offered a place as a heart surgeon, but politely declined, chiefly because I felt my arrows were neither intended nor suited for cutting up chests. Despite the progress Asclepios and Hygieia have since made, I have never reconsidered. Instead, I requested to remain a cupid, and put the world through several days without love to argue my necessity. This was sufficiently convincing, and with the expanding population of mortals, I have expanded my company accordingly and now manage several thousand cupids; all demigods, not all mine.

So why then do I despise Valentine's Day so much, if that is arguably the busiest, best day of the year for me and my cupids? Because ever since its invention, every single one of my several thousand cupids takes that day off to be with their beloved – leaving me to do all of the work, alone. And that makes this small orb that we gods used to rule very, very large all of a sudden.

AN ODE TO: AGATHA CHRISTIE

By Charlotte Liebelt

As one of the world's most famous crime writers – often dubbed the 'Queen of Crime' – Agatha Christie will be a name well known to many students in our department. Personally, I first became familiar with her work through one of the many TV versions of the Miss Marple series. Miss Marple is one of her most famous creations; an elderly spinster who hardly gets out of her village but who has an incredibly sharp mind and an almost infinite knowledge of human nature. After the first episode I was hooked and now I have read almost every novel she has written.



David Suchet as Hercule Poirot

The reason for my love of her stories is simple: they are exciting, but not frightening. Terrible murders take place, but the stories are not about the gruesomeness and bloodiness of it all. Rather, it is about the psychology of all of the characters involved – not just the murderer. In this sense, it is a classic 'whodunit': the type of stories the British seem to have made their own.

Agatha Christie died in 1976, and her stories are still as popular as ever. This is shown by the huge number of her books that are still sold all around the world, but also by the fact that her stories continue to be filmed. Besides Miss Marple, her most famous character is undoubtedly the Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot. His famous 'little grey cells' have been able to solve the most baffling crimes, and his sometimes annoying mannerisms have driven even his creator to despair at times. His popularity, however, has not diminished. Many famous actors have played Hercule Poirot in TV adaptations of the novels (Peter Ustinov and Albert Finney, amongst others) but it is David Suchet who is generally regarded as the right man for the job. At the moment, he has been portraying the Belgian sleuth for 22(!) years. It is, however, all about to end: Agatha Christie's final novel featuring Poirot, 'Curtain', will be filmed along with four other remaining Poirot stories. 'Curtain' was published, at the express wishes of the author, after her death, and it is one of the most intriguing stories I have ever read. 'Curtain', and the other four stories, will go in production this year. I, for one, cannot wait to see the result.

@valentinesmessage:

♥Wishing loads of love to all anglophiles!♥

CAMALUS

A STORY

By Jordi van de Weerd

The discovery of an unknown island has stirred the court, and Camalus the dodo, King of Caelia, is ordered to explore. After receiving cryptic advice from Cerridwen the Wise, he returns home. Along with his advisor Coturnia, Camalus tries to find the Halcyon, a mysterious animal that might help him in his quest.

II.

“Camilus, I have done as you requested, and the librarian will be here momentarily. I was unable to contact the scouts, as they are currently investigating a disturbance in Incendia. They should be back within two days.”

Camilus nodded, and moved with Coturnia to the main hall. Camalus and Coturnia sat down at the largest table, the table commonly used for such meetings. Camalus had always rejected the idea of a throne, and preferred to be on equal footing with his people. It was not before long that the librarian came in.

“Welcome Lughus, 'tis good of you to come on such short notice,” Camalus said.

“No problem at all, my lord,” said Lughus.

Every time they met, Lughus struck Camalus as an odd fellow. The parrot always squinted through a monocle and was clumsily dressed, preferring to wear his gown at all times. For a moment, Camalus wondered if he had ever seen Lughus dressed in anything else. He couldn't seem to remember. Still, Camalus thought, he was a good librarian, and by far one of the most intelligent people in his realm. Lughus took a seat at the table, and stared at the company through his monocle.

“I understand that you have not been told what this is about?” asked Camalus.

“No sir, I have not,” Lughus hastily replied.

“I did not have time,” Coturnia said apologetically.

”It is all right Coturnia, I know I gave you little time,” said Camalus, trying to reassure Coturnia. He continued: “What we are about to discuss cannot leave this room, and is of the utmost importance to our nation. I believe I can trust you with this?”

“Of course sir, anything you say,” replied Lughus.

Camilus had already known the answer, but was pleased with the young parrot's enthusiasm.

“I'm sure that you will have heard about this new island by now?” asked Camalus.

“Yes sir, I have heard, but I thought them only legend and myth?”

Camilus replied: “So did I, but Muscio of Solum disagrees. He has tasked us with the exploration of this island.”

Lughus seemed puzzled by Camalus' words, and before he could think, he said: “But why us, we are not creatures of the sea? Sir?”

Camilus was happy that Lughus appreciated the problem ahead, and continued:

“Indeed we are not, and this I tried to explain. However, I was not granted my request, and we shall have no choice. Before I left Solum, I was visited by Cerridwen the Wise, and she spoke of a species who will be able to help us. This is why you were asked to come to the palace, we need you to find anything you are able to on this species.”

Lughus was apparently lost in thought after these words, for it took a clearing of the throat to bring him back to the conversation.

“Another species, you say? And if I may ask, what is the name of species sir?”

“They are known as Halcyon, and Cerridwen was absolutely sure of their existence,” replied Camalus.

“I have never heard of them sir, but I will do whatever I can, you have my word,” Lughus assured the king. “If you will excuse me now sir, I will begin at once!” he exclaimed, before rushing out of the room.

After Lughus had left, Coturnia turned to Camalus and spoke: “Are you sure this is going to be of any help?”

Camalus looked at Coturnia, and said “I do not know, but we need all the help we can find. I see no harm in letting him consult his books.”

Coturnia nodded, and was apparently satisfied by this answer. Camalus could see Coturnia hiding her impatience and doing a poor job of it, and he dismissed his advisor. Returning to his room, Camalus could suddenly feel the exhaustion that he had been pushing back during the meeting, and as he took off his jacket and tie, was happy that at least this day had come to an end.

Solum

“What news is there from Caelia?” asked Tharandar.

The parandrus had been patiently waiting for his scouts to report back from Caelia. While none were visible, Tharandar could sense the gathering of his kind.

To his right, a voice came: “We have not been able to find out much sir.”

Tharandar, unimpressed and impatient at this lack of news, flicked his tail and waited for another voice.

“Camalus is keeping everything very quiet. All we know is that his pet librarian has been called to the palace,” said a second voice, this time from the left.

This is why Tharandar always send out his spies in pairs. Where one was unable to uncover information, the other would. Tharandar prided himself on having the best spies in the kingdom, a fact leading to his species' promotion to the King's royal spies.

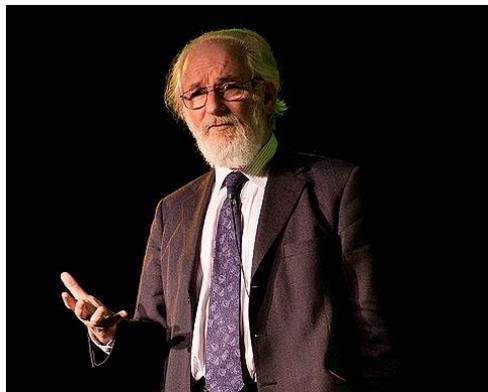
“You have done well,” said Tharandar. This acknowledgement was enough for the two parandruses, who immediately left again. Tharandar knew all he had to, and so he set off towards the castle. Using his spotted fur to camouflage himself, Tharandar easily avoided detection by the many guards patrolling the forest at this time of night. He had always excelled at hiding, and so had those he trained. He had made the night their territory, allowing them to be of use to the kingdom. Every year he would go and seek out young ones who held promise as either spies or assassins, and take them away. Trained from infancy to hide, sneak, steal, and kill – they made the best spies the kingdom could ask for. But they were not only trained to mindlessly spy and kill, for Tharandar had no use for such thoughtless creatures. Aside from sharp claws, he needed sharp minds, able to analyse a situation and, above all, critical. Besides the physical skills, cubs were also taught how to think independent of orders. This ability had proven useful many times over, and it ensured that the parandruses were not slaves of the king of Solum. Tharandar was loyal to the king, but made sure his kind were loyal to him. He knew well that loyalty is a peculiar thing, and that it easily shifts. By ensuring his kind's loyalty to him, he would need not fear being turned on by his own species. Nearly reaching the castle, he paused, as he always did, making sure he had not been seen or followed. When he was content he was alone and unseen, he snuck into the castle grounds, knowing the way even in the dark.

End of part II

Please send your questions and comments to j.weerdvande@gmail.com

“PRAGMATICS IS COOL”: DAVID CRYSTAL IN LEIDEN

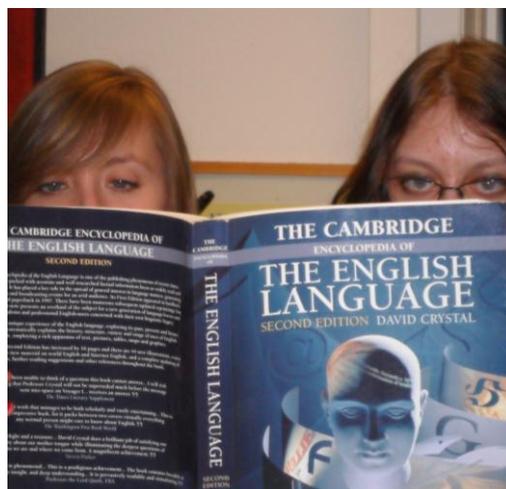
By Charlotte Liebelt and Minke Jonk



Professor David Crystal’s name will ring a bell with most students in Leiden’s English department. He is the author of *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language*, one of his many books on English language and linguistics. As such, he is widely known and respected in the academic world. Needless to say, we were very thrilled to learn he would give a lecture right here in the Academiegebouw in Leiden. Very curious, we entered the Klein Auditorium and one look reassured us that this was going to be a very interesting lecture indeed. Before, we were afraid his awesome intellect would be slightly intimidating to us mere students. We need not have feared; nothing could have been further from the truth.

Our very own Professor Tiekens-Boon van Oostade provided the introduction to the lecture, which was entitled ‘Pragmatics: The Final Frontier?’. Of course, we could give you all the details of what he told and explained to us, but that would not only take up several pages, but would not convey the relaxed atmosphere of the lecture, either. Professor Crystal definitely knows how to captivate the attention of his listeners and at the same time how to get his message across in a humorous way.

He started his lecture with his definition of ‘pragmatics’, adding that anyone already familiar with this was allowed to doze off for the next five minutes. This set the tone for the rest of the lecture. After explaining how the study of pragmatics has emerged, he elaborated on his definition of it, which is three-fold. Pragmatics mainly deals with the choices we make when using language, reasons for these choices, and effects of these choices. He illustrated his points with many amusing examples and anecdotes, for instance the difference between active and passive sentences. Pragmatics asks the question why this difference matters and why the difference exists at all as an active sentence and its passive equivalent really mean the same thing. Other examples included the use of *you* and *thou* in Shakespearean drama, swearing, and being rude in French. The lecture concluded with a Q&A session and drinks afterwards. All in all, it was a wonderful opportunity to hear a celebrity of linguistics speak. Hear, hear.



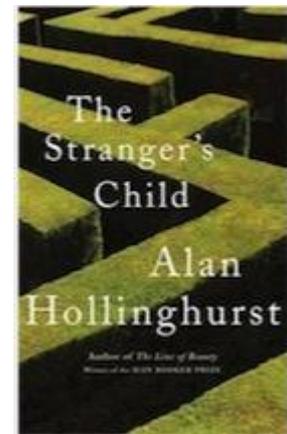
LESSER KNOWN WORKS

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.

Alan Hollinghurst – *The Stranger's Child*

In some ways Alan Hollinghurst's *The Stranger's Child* does not really fit into this category of unknown works; Hollinghurst is a well-known and respected author, and this particular book was on the longlist for the 2011 Man Booker Prize. According to Professor Liebrechts, however, it should have won (see the previous edition of the Angler) and, after having read it myself, I could not agree more. The story takes place in five different periods in the twentieth century. The first part is set in 1913, when a young poet, Cecil Valance, pays a visit to the house of his friend and fellow student George Sawle. Cecil makes a huge impression on George's younger sister Daphne, and writes a poem for her.

The rest of the story revolves around this very poem; in the second part of the story, Daphne is married to Cecil's brother Dudley, and Cecil has died in the Great War. The poem he had written to Daphne has become famous, and throughout the rest of the novel we encounter a myriad of people, all of whom are interested in the life of Cecil Valance and want to figure out what were the real circumstances involved in the creation of his most famous poem. *The Stranger's Child* takes us not only on a journey through time, but also on a journey past the often tragic events that happen to the main characters in the book. In fact, Hollinghurst shows us how a simple action can have many consequences: the poem Cecil writes for a young girl in 1913 has an impact beyond the imagination of any of the characters involved and one that spans almost an entire century. The lives of these people - some of whom are desperately trying to find the truth about Cecil and others who are as desperately trying to ignore it - are linked and intertwined in a brilliant way, and no matter how hard some of them try they cannot break away. *The Stranger's Child* is a wonderful book – and not a difficult read! – that would have been a very worthy Man Booker Prize winner indeed.



Read this if:

- you like social history
- you like to read about the lives about many different people who react differently to the same events
- you like a beautiful story

Do not read this if:

- you do not like lengthy books (my version is 564 pages)
- history frightens you
- people – and their feelings – frighten you

‘An educated man is thoroughly inoculated against humbug, thinks for himself and tries to give his thoughts, in speech or on paper, some style.’ – Alan K. Simpson

COLOURFUL QUOTES FROM THE LECTURE HALL

‘Academics, when they are away from home, are like little children: even if you give them a map and detailed directions, they’ll still walk straight into the canal.’

‘I’m going to get into politically incorrect trouble here...’

‘You adopt a word from a language and then you do things to it.’

‘If you don’t give me chocolate next week, I’ll tell on you.’

‘I’m a good swearer. I’m a linguist.’

“‘Hey baby, you don’t need me, but you sure as hell want me.’” That’s dashes for you.’

‘Whatever you do, don’t say that to a non-RP native speaker. They will become physically aggressive.’

‘I have to listen to *myself*.’

‘I’d say I’d just taught a class – or a zoo...’

USEFUL LINKS AND WEBSITES

‘The Internet is the world's largest library. It's just that all the books are on the floor.’ – John Allen Paulos

<http://www.europass.nl>

→ Here you can find various forms and certificates for you to fill in when you are going abroad (in Europe) for work or study. There are language proficiency forms, CVs and other forms that are usable throughout Europe, as they're available in all sorts of languages.

<http://www.qi.com/>

→ Aside from being a great TV programme – hosted by none other than the fabulous Stephen Fry – QI also has its very own website where you can find interesting facts, QI news, merchandise and other QI deliciousness.

<http://www.9gag.com/>

→ Prepare to lose your soul! 9gag is filled with memes, interesting stories and pictures from around the world and all that is weird and wonderful on the Internet. Only for people who consider SOG-ing serious business!

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL ENGLISH

Eye Halve a Spelling Chequer

(I Have a Spelling Checker)

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plain lee marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rarely ever wrong.

A chequer is a bless sing,
It freeze yew lodes of thyme
It helps me right awl stiles two reed
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays come posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule
The chequer pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your please two no
Its letter perfect in it's weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

(Sauce unknown)