

The Annual PKN and AIP Conferences in Gouda (2018)

by Bert van der Lingen

This year the Dutch Society for Research of Historical Tobacco Pipes (PKN) and the Académie Internationale de la Pipe (AIP) held their conferences in the Catharina room of the Gouda museum where Gouda pottery is on display. The AIP conference ran from the 9th to the 12th October. Members of the international group came from nine different countries. Thirteen lectures were held, and excursions were organized on two days.

After a word of welcome by Marc de Beyer, director of Museum Gouda, AIP's chairman, Ruud Stam, gave the first presentation entitled *The economic history of the Gouda pipe industry and its importance for Gouda*. This was followed by Arjan de Haan with his lecture *The chibouk pipe. European clay pipe manufacturers, their response to the Turkish chibouk pipe in the nineteenth century*, about the pipe models created by European pipe manufacturers in response to the Turkish chibouk.

After lunch Sabrina Liebetrau gave a presentation about the pipe finds in Kaiserswerth, *Clay tobacco pipes from the Rhine banks in Kaiserswerth, Germany*, where mainly Dutch and German clay pipes were found. Barney Suzuki then took delegates all the way to Japan for his lecture about *Supply shortage of clay pipes for Dutch expatriates in Japan and kiseru export by Dutch ships*. Benedict Goes from the Amsterdam Pipe Museum gave information about the *Pipe Portal, Past & Present*. In his presentation, entitled *Some news from the Amsterdam Pipe Museum*, a new and interesting digital project of the museum, in which several other museums are involved, was explained. This portal provides information about the history and culture of tobacco use through the collections of museums across Europe.

The second conference day began with a lecture by Ruud Stam on *Dutch and German clay pipe exports in the nineteenth century. Statistics, consequences and questions* and was followed by *Dutch pipes in early nineteenth-century Britain* by Dennis Gallagher. Arjan de Haan continued his story about the chibouk in Turkey with *The Chibouk pipe. Turkish clay pipe manufacturers, their response to the European market in the 19th century* and considered the question of how Turkish pipe makers made products for the European market. Bert van der Lingen concluded the morning session with a presentation on clay tobacco pipes from the VOC Ship *Amsterdam* that were excavated in the 1980s and had not undergone a specialist investigation before.

The afternoon was reserved for a walking tour through Gouda with local guide Fred Pieters and then the gala dinner at restaurant De Zalm at the Markt in Gouda.

The third conference day started with the video presentation *The spiritual significance of pipe smoking among the people of South Africa* from Adolph Weich from South Africa, who himself could not attend. Dennis Gallagher then spoke about the export of tobacco pipes from Scotland in *Tobacco pipe exports from Scotland in the early nineteenth century*. Also, from a distance, Anna Ridovics gave the preliminary program for the 2019 AIP conference which is to be held in Budapest. This was followed by a presentation from Arjan de Haan *Central European pipes, a teaser for the 2019 AIP conference in Budapest*.

For the final day of the conference there was the AIP auction in the morning followed by an excursion to the windmill powered snuff mills of *De Ster* and *De Lelie* at Kralingen near Rotterdam. This was followed by lunch and a visit to the museum Paulina Bisdom of Vliet in Haastrecht.

The AIP conference was followed on the 13th October by the annual conference of the PKN, to which members of the AIP were invited. For these participants English summaries of the lectures were prepared.

Four presentations were given during the PKN conference. The morning session began with a lecture by Bert van der Lingen about the ledger of the Gouda pipe manufacturer Frans Verzijl, which was found years ago in the Rotterdam archives and shows, among other things, the enormous trade in pipes of the company at the end of its existence. Arjan de Haan showed the development of the pipes of Wedgewood, which differs so much from that of other ceramic pipes. Both the images from the Wedgewood archive as well as images of various pipes from the museum of Wedgewood show the development of these special pipes.

Jos Engelen gave a multifaceted lecture on the Commedia dell'Arte, a form of improvisational theatre from Italy and the various figures in it that were popularized in various European traditions and depicted on tobacco objects. The *Il Tabacco Balletto* also pays homage to the phenomenon tobacco and many Italian icons from the rich religious, political and musical history of Italy are depicted on miniatures and tobacco objects.

In the afternoon session, Bert van der Lingen spoke about the discovery of clay tobacco pipes from Alphen in a landfill site of a local potter in which a large number of previously unpublished pipemakers marks and models, from workshops in Alphen, were found.

The afternoon concluded with the annual goods auction which, although significantly smaller than in previous years, still provided a good amount. The money will be used for expenses of the PKN. As usually, a number of the participants gathered in a restaurant later in the evening for a very enjoyable meal, which brought the conference to a close.