



## Christopher Love and the Netherlands

*New publication:*

### **Dutch Love for Christopher Love (1618-1651)**

#### **The case of Christopher Love**

The London preacher Christopher Love ended up on the scaffold because he was unwilling to acknowledge the legitimacy of the republican regime which had come to power in the coup d'etat of Oliver Cromwell in 1648. Love belonged to the group of Presbyterian Puritans who considered themselves to be strictly bound to the *Solemn League and Covenant*, which the English Parliament had entered into with the Scots in 1643. In the spirit of the Covenant these Puritans were active supporters of a monarchy that was limited by parliamentary power. After the execution of Charles I the new Council of State considered this view illegitimate. The Presbyterian struggle in the period 1649-1651 led to the so-called “Presbyterian plot” and the arrest of a group of people, of whom Love was the most prolific. A trial against Love before the republican High Court of Justice was carried out on the basis of a vague but broadly-formulated charge of high treason. Love was sentenced to death. Recent research has shown that a group of people at the center of power, among whom were John Milton and Sir Henry Vane the Younger, did everything they could to have the sentence carried out. The execution took place on Tower Hill on 22 August 1651. Ample documentation is available about Love and his case. The proceedings of the trial and the speech Love gave from the scaffold were written in shorthand and published in full. These dramatic events were followed by the Dutch Reformed with great interest and they will have contributed to the popularity of the devotional work of Love in The Netherlands.

#### **New publication about Christopher Love in the Netherlands**

In a new Dutch publication “*Nederlandse liefde voor Christopher Love*” (Dutch Love for Christopher Love) a group of scholars from the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam discuss various aspects of Dutch translations of the works of Love. The 543 page publication opens with a new biography of Love in which the contrast between the Presbyterians and the Commonwealth regime is set out in detail. The book also contains a theological analysis of the form and content of Love's sermons. Subsequently, the translators and their translation-strategies, together with the publishers and the reception of Love's work are discussed. A complete bibliography of all Dutch editions is also included. The many illustrations in the translated work of Love are discussed separately. Dutch publishers of the 17th century clearly showed their doubts about the fairness of Love's trial and execution. Key documents about Love's actions are included in the appendices, including a personal account of the events by Love himself, all petitions for his life, his correspondence and his farewell speech from the scaffold.

NEDERLANDSE LIEFDE VOOR  
CHRISTOPHER LOVE (1618-1651)

Studies over het vertaalde werk  
van een presbyteriaanse puritein

Studies onder redactie van  
W.J. Op 't Hof en F.W. Huisman



### **Order now**

W.J. op 't Hof & F.W. Huisman (editors), *Nederlandse liefde voor Christopher Love (1618-1651). Studies over het vertaalde werk van een presbyteriaanse puritein*. Amstelveen, EON Pers, 2013. 543 pages, with 46 illustrations, bibliography, appendices and index. With English abstracts. ISBN 978 90 77246 62 7. Price: € 50,- (not including shipping, we charge the actual shipping costs, which vary based on your location.)

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### **Digital bibliography *Pietas Online***

The hundreds of Puritan devotional writings which were translated into Dutch are an important component of the intensive relations between England and the Netherlands in the seventeenth century. The most complete bibliographic overview of these texts can be found in the [digital bibliography Pietas](#). The secondary literature can be found in [Pietas Studies](#). The editor is Frans Huisman from the Special Collections Department of the University Library of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Mail to: [f.w.huisman@vu.nl](mailto:f.w.huisman@vu.nl)