

*Final speech centenary lustrum of Gebr. de Jong's Leen*

*Fries Scheepvaart Museum, Sneek 2 October 2021.*

*Birgit ten Cate, secretary of the board of the Gebroeders de Jong's Leen Foundation*

It is my honour to conclude this webinar. Let me start by saying that this webinar has given me a lot of energy with the various stories I have heard this afternoon: for example, about the computer the board purchased in 1985 for 10,000 guilders or the video of Aroldo and Cynthia in Brazil about the pensions they received.

In 2016 - five years ago - we first talked about organising the 100th anniversary of the Gebr. de Jong's Leen Foundation. We had an off site and had been invited by Herre to Eernewoude at his wife Marijke's holiday home. From the minutes, I gather that we were thinking of a party, in Friesland, with as guests the family history of Herre Rinia and Reinskje van der Sluis.

A book that is both in-depth and accessible, with new information presented in an accessible way. Preferably, a phd, trajectory, if that would do it. '

We will also devote attention to it at other times in 2021, for example at the presentation of the Tjeerd de Jong prize.

In the meetings that followed, we often continued to brainstorm about the anniversary. Because brainstorming is what we are good at. However, of course at a certain point we had to become more concrete. Particularly with regard to the book, we understood that - if we wanted to give it a scientific touch - we had to hurry up.

There were several ideas and inputs, as several board members have their connections in the scientific world. At the time, I was leading a policy research club at the Ministry of Finance. One of my colleagues advised me to contact Ronald Kroeze, senior lecturer in the history department at the VU, whom he knew from the time he was doing his PhD research. It turned out to be a golden move.

Although it took some time before Floris van Berckel Smit could start his research and write his book, I - and I think the entire board - am very proud and happy with the result that Floris van Berckel Smit has produced. I think he has succeeded very well in writing that profound and at the same time profound research, as we intended on the heath day.

I can imagine that a number of people in the room would like to know more about this and would like to read the book. I have good news for you: everyone will soon be able to take this book home with him or her. Floris, the board would like to thank you for your contribution to this webinar with a bottle of Beerenburg.

Then we had to start thinking about the location. As I said, Friesland seemed a logical choice. However, which location in Friesland then? I was reminded of my family's link with the Fries Scheepvaartmuseum (FSM). My father had told me that his great-grandmother Jeltje ten Cate lived on the spot where the museum is now located before the war. Herre said that he thought that was a good idea, because there were more links with other parts of the family history of Herre Rinia and Reinskje van der Sluis.

I cannot say anything else: from the moment we contacted the Fries Scheepvaartmuseum with the question if we could hold the lustrum at their place, we were welcomed with open arms. Despite all the difficulties and uncertainty that the corona measures brought. I want to thank the museum, Hester Postma, Grytsje Feitsma and all other people involved for this. I would like to present Grytsje Feitsma with a bunch of flowers.

Then came the party. The corona measures made that more difficult too. We therefore thought that it should be a webinar, with, for example, a number of entertaining films. But how do you do that?

Fortunately, we received help from Jelle Ijntema of Passion in Focus. Jelle and his colleagues took a lot of work out of our hands. And Jelle brought us into contact with Anne Jan, who guided us through the afternoon in a pleasant manner. I'd like to thank both of them with a bottle of Beerenburg.

Finally, I come to our guests in the webinar: Tjalling Halbertsma, Rosina Fabius, Ellie Nimeroski and Dieuwke Mink van der Molen. Without your presence this afternoon, this webinar would not have been what it was. It shows that there is a story behind every pension. For example, Tjalling's story about Mongolia, which I found very interesting to read. I would like to take this opportunity to urge you all to pass on all those stories about the pensions to each other during drinks later on. This afternoon was also a nice glimpse of the talent that is present in the family tree. For instance the musical performances; I am sure I am not the only one who enjoyed them. The board wants to thank Tjalling with a bottle of Beerenburg and Rosina, Ellie and Dieuwke with a bottle of Beerinnenburg.

Finally, thank you for being present at the webinar. I enjoyed celebrating this anniversary with you. Now let us go and have a bite to eat and a drink.