

Masterclass 4. Commerce and science in the Dutch Golden Age *Harold J. Cook (Wellcome Institute)*

Att.: all PhD students
Date: February 5, 2010
Time: 10.00-16.00 hrs.
Location: Amsterdam
Registration: Huizinga-fwg@uva.nl
Fee Huizinga members: none
Fee others (non-Logos): € 50
Number of participants: 15

Using examples from the Dutch world, Hal Cook has shown that the 'rise of science' in the 16th and 17th centuries owed far more to commerce than to religion, and more to the means of exchange than to the means of production. The main stories are drawn from medicine and natural history, placing them at the centre rather than the periphery of the account of change in the period. Moreover, and equally importantly, the development of natural science in the period did not occur in the home country alone, but depended upon personal networks that spanned the globe, including many people in Asia, Africa, and the New World. As a consequence, the developments that sometimes go under the rubric of 'the scientific revolution' are seen to be rooted in bodily interests and passions rather than disinterested reason, which is consistent with the explanations many contemporaries themselves gave for the changes going on around them.

In February 2010 Harold Cook will conduct a masterclass for interested PhD-students and RMA students from the Huizinga Instituut or other institutes regarding commerce versus religion and exchange versus production in relation to scientific developments in the 16th and 17th century. He will do so by debating some of his own writings.

Preperation

Participants are requested to study some materials and to hand in a (provisional) outline of their dissertation and their academic CV.

About Hal Cook

Professor Hal Cook is the Director of The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. In his academic work, he investigates subjects related to early modern English medicine, but now gives most of his energy to medicine and natural history in the Dutch Golden Age in an attempt to reassess the relationships between the beginnings of a world-wide trading system and a world-wide exchange of information about nature. Hal Cook is also co-editor of the journal *Medical History*, serves on many advisory boards and professional bodies, and has been elected to an honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians.