

BIOGRAPHICAL LEXICON

ÆMILIUS, or Melis, Antonius (Aachen 1589 – Utrecht 1660)

Æmilius' father was Burgomaster of Hasselt (now Belgium), but the family fled to Dordrecht because of their reformed belief. Æmilius studied theology in Leiden from 1607 till 1611, and in Saumur in 1612. From 1615 till 1619 he was rector of the Latin School at Dordrecht. In 1619, Æmilius was appointed rector of the Hieronymus school in Utrecht, where he took on his former college friend Isaac Beeckman as deputy headmaster a month later. Finally, in 1633, he was appointed professor of history and rhetoric at the Illustrious School (University since 1636). His contacts with Descartes date from the Spring of 1639, when he sent Descartes his funeral oration on Reneri, in which the philosopher was excessively praised (ÆM/D 5). Descartes gave him a copy of the *Meditationes* for commentary (cf. D/R 15), but there is no evidence of any contacts between the two after 1640. In 1647, after his break with Regius, it was Æmilius whom Descartes described as 'the most prominent ornament of the university [of Utrecht]' (cf. AT VIII B 203), but there is no indication that they ever met or continued their correspondence after 1640.

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 3–6; MONCHAMP 1886, 190–191; NNBW, I, 38–39; *Resolutiën*, 34; VAN BERKEL 1983, 50, 54, 99, 102, 138; VERBEEK 1992A, 57, 96, 124.

BEVERWIJCK, Johan van (Dordrecht 1594 – Dordrecht 1647)

Johan van Beverwijck studied medicine at Leiden University, and then made a grand tour through France and Italy. After his graduation in Padua in May 1616, he returned to Holland and set up a medical practice in his hometown, Dordrecht. He held several public positions, such as town physician (since 1625) and town librarian (since 1636). With the foundation of an Illustrious School in 1643, he was appointed professor of medicine. Van Beverwijck is famous for his publications on much debated issues, in which he collected letters on the subject by eminent scholars. Asked to make a contribution on the theory of the circulation of the blood, Descartes sent him his correspondence with Plempius (VAN BEVERWIJCK 1644). According to Baillet, Descartes visited Van Beverwijck in June 1644, but there is no independent evidence of that.

Lit. NNBW, I, 327–332; LINDEBOOM 1984, 128–130; POELHEKKE 1961, 315.

GOLIUS, or Gool, Jacob (The Hague 1596 – Leiden 1667)

Golius matriculated at Leiden University in 1612 to study mathematics. His interest in ancient mathematical texts brought him to the study of Arabic. In the 1620s he made several journeys to North-Africa and the Middle-East, collecting a vast amount of Arabic manuscripts. In 1625 he was appointed professor of Arabic at Leiden University, and in 1633 professor of mathematics as well. Being a close friend of Descartes, he accepted the role of judge in the Stampioen-affair in 1640.

Lit. NNBW, X, 287–289; W. Juynboll, *Zeventiende-eeuwsche Beoefenaars van het arabisch in Nederland*, Ph.D. Diss. Utrecht 1931, 119–183.

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HAESTRECHT, Godefroot van (Drunen 1592/93 – Utrecht 1659)

Van Haestrecht was the second son of Dirk van Haestrecht, Lord of Drunen and Gansoyen, and Anna van Malsen. Baillet, relying on Pierre Borel (*Vitae Renati Cartesii*, 1656, 49), mistakenly believes that Van Haestrecht originated from the Liège-area in Belgium. He was an officer in the Dutch army and a renowned strategist. In 1623, he matriculated at Leiden university to read mathematics. From the early 1620's onwards he was a canon in the Chapter of the Utrecht Dom-church. After the death of his elder brother Charles Otto (†1641), he acted as guardian of his niece Isabella Maria but, having renounced his rights in 1632, he never accepted the title. He died in Utrecht in January 1659, and was buried in his native village. Van Haestrecht is listed among the Utrecht friends of Descartes by his early biographers. According to Baillet he lived in the castle 'Renoude', at half a mile from Utrecht. This probably refers to the castle of Rhijnauwen, three kilometers from Utrecht, although his stay in the castle is not recorded. Van Haestrecht's death certificate has 'Achter de St. Pieter' (Utrecht) as his address, and a poem by Barlaeus describes his study as *basilicae ultrajectinae annexum*, which description corresponds to that address. He was one of the first to understand the importance of Descartes' *Géométrie*, and a short commentary by him was added to the Latin edition of that work (Amsterdam 1649). Perhaps he is also the author of 'Le calcul de Mr Descartes', an introduction to the *Géométrie*. Van Haestrecht is the likely addressee of two letters of Descartes, one from October 1637 (AT I 459–460) and one from 1645 (AT IV 227–231).

Lit. NNBW, I, 1017; *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 166; AT II 577; 580; AM III, 323–327; THIJSEN-SCHOUTE 1954, 83–84; COSTABEL 1988, 62–63; W. van Oosterhout *et al.*, *Archief van de heerlijkheid Drunen*, Oisterwijk 1996, 26, 33; Caspar Barlaeus, *Poemata*, 1655, vol. I, 371–375; vol. II, 62–64, 295, 415, 487.

HEYDANUS, or Van der Heyden, Abraham (Frankenthal 1597 – Leiden 1678)

After his theological studies in Leiden, which he started in 1617, Heydanus became a minister, first, at Naarden in 1623, and four years later in Leiden. In 1648 he was appointed professor of theology at Leiden University. In philosophy he preferred Cartesianism to Aristotelism.

Lit. CRAMER 1889; NNBW, VII, 587–588; BLGNP, II, 240–243.

HOGELANDE, or Hoog(h)elande, Cornelis van (Leiden 1590 – Wassenaar 1676)

Except for his being a Roman Catholic and an intimate friend of Descartes, we know virtually nothing of Van Hogelande. He practiced as a physician in Leiden. In 1646, he published a tract on mechanical physiology that reflected Descartes' doctrines very closely (VAN HOGELANDE 1646). Van Hogelande acted as an intermediate of Descartes' correspondence, forwarding and redirecting his letters. Upon moving to Sweden, Descartes left him with a trunk of manuscripts, which included the letters by Huygens, and presumably Regius' letters to Descartes as well.

Lit. NNBW, II, 594–595; THIJSEN-SCHOUTE 1954, 228–230, 232–234; LINDEBOOM 1984, 890–891; FRENCH 1989, 68–72, 81–85.

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HOOLCK, Gijsbert van der (Utrecht 1597/98 – Utrecht (?) 1680)

Van der Hoolck was one of the founders of Utrecht University (1636), and one of the two Burgomasters of Utrecht in 1634–1639 and again in 1641–1642. In 1642, he became deputy of the States of Utrecht to the States General in The Hague. His friendship with Descartes probably dates back from Descartes' stay at Utrecht in 1635. As the most important *curator* of the university, Van der Hoolck acted as an influential protector of Regius during the crisis in 1641–1642. In 1643, Descartes seems to have been disappointed in him, when he suspected him of taking measures, contrary to Descartes' wish, to ensure an early end of the lawsuit against the French philosopher in Utrecht (cf. AT IV 30).

Lit. VAN DER AA, III, 367.

PICOT, Claude ((?) c.1601 – Paris (?) 1668)

Except for his connections with Descartes, whose *Principia* he translated into French (Paris 1647), little is known about Picot. According to Baillet, the intimate friendship between Descartes and *l'Abbé Picot, Prieur de Rouvre*, dates back to 1628 (*Vie*, I, 168). He visited the Netherlands from May 1641 till autumn 1642, staying at Leiden and Utrecht, but mostly with Descartes at the castle Endegeest (cf. AT III 388, 390, 594; AT V 653; R/D 44F). Conversely, Picot hosted Descartes in Paris in 1644 and 1647. Preparing his trip to Sweden, Descartes entrusted him with his financial dealings in France (cf. *Vie*, II, 348/AT V 227).

Lit. Baillet, *Vie*, passim; AM IV 402–404.

PLEMP(IUS), Vopiscus Fortunatus (Amsterdam 1601 – Leuven 1671)

Born in Amsterdam of a Catholic family, Plemp was educated at a Jesuit college in Gent. He was a student at Leuven, Leiden, Padua and Bologna, where he graduated in 1624. He practised in Amsterdam from 1624 to 1633. In 1634 he was appointed professor of medicine at Leuven University. Descartes and Plemp knew each other personally, and it seems likely that they dissected animals together in Amsterdam in the early 1630s. Plemp's initial rejection of the theory of the circulation of the blood disappointed Descartes, and his apparently unauthorised publication of a shortened version of Descartes' letters to Plemp on the subject in *De fundamentis medicinae* (1638) put an end to their relationship. In the second edition of his work (1644) Plemp accepted the circulation of the blood, be it along Harveyan lines.

Lit. NNBW, VI, 1136–1137; *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 152, 198; MONCHAMP 1886, 35–37; LINDEBOOM 1984, 1544–1546; POELHEKKE 1961, 319.

POLLOT, or Palloti, Jean-Alphonse (Dodier (Piemont) c.1603 – Geneva 1668)

Pollot joined the Dutch States' army at the age of 17. Despite the loss of his right arm during the siege of 's-Hertogenbosch in 1629, he stayed in the service of the Dutch army. In 1633 he was appointed a captain. He was also known as 'Monsieur Alphonse' to distinguish him from his brother Jean-Baptiste Pollot (†1641), whom he succeeded as chamberlain of Frederik-Hendrik in 1642. After the Stadholder's death, Amalia van Solms appointed him her personal steward in 1648. He returned to Geneva in 1659. He

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was a close friend of Descartes', who profited from his connections in The Hague when the Utrecht Vroedschap intended to put him on trial in 1643.

Lit. NNBW, II, 1117–1119; Adam, *Vie de Descartes*, AT XII (1910), 567–575.

RAEY, Johannes de (Wageningen 1622 – Amsterdam 1702)

De Raey, who became the most important Cartesian philosopher in the Netherlands in the second half of the 17th century, was Regius' most gifted student, both in philosophy and in medicine. His matriculation at Utrecht University is not recorded, but he acted as a respondent of several of Regius' disputations in 1641 and 1643. In October 1643, he matriculated at the University of Leiden. After his graduation in July 1647, he settled down to a practice in Leiden, obtaining permission to give private lectures on Aristotle's *Problemata* at the university. In 1653 he was appointed associate professor of philosophy, and five years later associate professor in medicine as well. His full professorship followed in 1661. In 1668 he accepted the invitation to the chair of philosophy at the Amsterdam Athenaeum.

Lit. *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 344, 366; LINDEBOOM 1984, 1584–1585.

REGNERI AB OOSTERGA, Cyprianus (Zwolle (?) 1614 – Utrecht 1687)

Van Oosterga studied in Groningen and Leiden, where he graduated in Law in 1634. After his studies he remained in Leiden where he gave private lectures and polemized with the Leiden professors Claude Saumaise and Johannes Maestertius. In March 1641, he was appointed professor of law at Utrecht University. During the Utrecht Crisis, Van Oosterga refused to sign the ban on Cartesianism, probably because he believed the procedures to be illegitimate. His independent mind is furthermore shown by his polemic with Voetius on ecclesiastical property.

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 253–260; NNBW, II, 1179–1180; *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 243; *Resolutiën*, 145–146; DUKER 1989, II, 305–306.

RENERI(US), Henricus (Huy 1593–Utrecht 1639)

After his conversion to the Reformed faith, Reneri gave up his studies at Leuven University and went to Leiden in 1616. In 1631, he was appointed professor of philosophy at the Illustrious School at Deventer and finally in Utrecht (1634). His intimate friendship with Descartes dates back from 1629, when they both lived in Amsterdam.

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 301–304; NNBW, II, 1191–1193; MONCHAMP 1886, 33–35, 38–40, 122–124; SASSEN 1941; DIBON 1954, 197–202/DIBON 1990, 206–218; DE HAAN 1993; VERBEEK 1993c.

SCHOOCK(IUS), Martin (Utrecht 1614 – Frankfurt a/d Oder 1669)

Martin Schoock studied philosophy and theology in Franeker, Leiden and Utrecht. The intended foundation of an Illustrious School (1634) in his hometown made him return to Utrecht. Schoock acted successfully as the respondent during the first disputation at the Illustrious School, presided by Reneri (Van Buchell 1940, 23). In 1636, he received the first doctoral degree (*magister artium*) granted by Utrecht University. In 1638, he accepted an invitation to the chair of history and eloquence of the Illustrious School at Deventer. Three years later he was appointed professor of logic and physics in Groningen. Debts and personal problems made him flee to Germany in 1666, where

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he took up a chair in history in Frankfurt a/d Oder, and became historiographer of the Elect of Brandenburg. During his Utrecht years, Schoock engaged in a polemic on behalf of Voetius against Remonstrants, Socinians and Roman Catholics. In later years he crossed swords with Claude Saumaise and Descartes among others, including his preceptor Voetius, with whom he broke in 1645. Schoock's wide interests emerge from his numerous publications ranging from philosophy to a history of beer and a treatise on herring.

Lit. REVIUS 1651, 710–712; Effigies, 131–133; BURMAN 1738, 324–342; NNBW, X, col. 889–891; BLGNP, II, 394–395; DUKER 1989, II, III, passim; DIBON 1954, 180–188.

SCHURMAN, Anna Maria van (Cologne 1607 – Wieuwerd 1678)

Van Schurman was famous for her erudition, excelling in Oriental languages and poetry. In 1638 she published a discourse on the appropriateness of scholarship for women (*Dissertatio ... de capacitate ingenii muliebris ad scientias*). Under the mentorship of Voetius, her interests shifted to theology, and she became interested in the French Pietist mystic Jean de Labadie, whose community she finally joined in 1669. Van Schurman personally knew Descartes (VAN DER HORST 1984, 282, 283), but she severed relations after Descartes' alleged remark, when he found her studying a Hebrew Bible, that such was a waste of time since nothing clear or distinct was to be found there (cf. AT III 231; AT IV 700–701). Her brother Johan Godschalk (1605–1664), who introduced De Labadie to the Netherlands, translated parts of Descartes' *Discours* for the benefit of Schoock's anti-Cartesian work (Schoock 1643), in addition relaying to him the things he heard Descartes say on the Holy Scriptures (Schoock 1646, 28; BOS 1999A, 70).

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 348–355; NNBW, I, 1465–1466. Further references are found in the bibliographical notice by Eileen O'Neill in GARBER/AYERS 1998, II, 1461–1462. On J.G. Schurman, see LINDEBOOM 1984, 1787.

STAMPPIOEN, Johan Jansz. de Jonge (Rotterdam 1610 – (?) 1653)

The mathematician Stampioen, called the Younger as he was named after his father, apparently was a gifted teacher, because he became a tutor to Prince William II, Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, and Huygens' eldest sons Constantijn and Christiaan. In 1633, he challenged Descartes to solve a mathematical problem, which problem Descartes easily solved. In return, Descartes asked him to solve the classical problem of Pappus, which Stampioen was unable to do (AT I 275–280, 573–578). In 1638, Stampioen published a broadsheet, at his own printing house *In sphaera mundi* at The Hague, in which he challenged Dutch mathematicians to solve two mathematical problems. The challenge was taken up by Descartes' friend in Utrecht, Jacobus van Waessenaer, who solved both questions using Descartes' geometrical method. The dispute on their respective solutions (the so called Stampioen-affair) was settled by a jury in 1640 in favour of Van Waessenaer.

Lit. NNBW, VII, 1308–1309; CM IX 199–200.

SYLVIUS, Franciscus dele Boe (Hanau 1614 – Leiden 1672)

Sylvius studied in Jena, Wittenberg, and finally graduated in medicine at Basle in 1637. He matriculated at Leiden in November 1638, and he received the permission to lecture

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on anatomy. His public demonstrations on dogs of the circulation of the blood attracted many spectators, among whom Descartes and Walaeus. However, as an appointment at the university failed to materialize, he settled down to practice in Amsterdam in the autumn of 1641. Finally, in 1658, he was ordained professor of medicine in Leiden. Just like Regius and Descartes, he believed that the blood is expelled from the heart during the diastole, but in their explanation of the phenomena they differed greatly. Being a iatrochemist, he was convinced that all physiological and pathological processes could be conceived in analogy to processes and experiments observed in the chemical laboratory. He explained these processes in terms of effervescence, fermentation and putrefaction.

Lit. NNBW, VIII, 1290–1294; *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 299; BAUMANN 1949; LINDEBOOM 1984, 1939–1943; DSD, XIII, 222–223.

SURCK (or Zurck or Zurich), Anthony Studler van (Amsterdam (?) c.1608 – (?) 1666) Van Surck was a correspondent and a close friend of Descartes; his acquaintance with the Frenchman dates from 1633, when they both lived in Amsterdam (AT I 268–269). In October 1633, he went to Leiden to study law, and he matriculated again at Leiden University in 1636 and 1639. He was Lord of Sweyburg and Bergen (from 1640), Knight of Holland, and ‘Hoogheemraad van de Uitwaterende Sluizen’. He acted as Descartes’ banker in Holland.

Lit. *Album Stud. Acad. Lugd.-Bat.*, 258, 280, 305; P. Leendertsz. Jr, *Uit den Muiderkring*, Haarlem 1935, 37, 51–54; *De Navorscher*, 94 (1953), 43–44.

VOET, Paulus (Heusden 1619 – Utrecht 1667)

Paulus Voet, the eldest son of Voetius, studied in Utrecht, and became *magister artium* on 29 June 1640 (Voet 1640). In April 1641 he was appointed associate professor in metaphysics (full professor in 1644), giving additional lectures in Greek. In 1654, he graduated in law, and was ordained professor of law in the same year, leaving his chair in philosophy to his brother Daniel Voet (1629–1660). During the 1640s he defended his father against Descartes and Samuel Maresius in a number of pamphlets, the most interesting being the anonymously issued *Aengevangen procedueren* (Voet 1644), in which he published many documents pertaining to the process against Descartes in Utrecht in 1643. His major works include *Theologia naturalis reformata* (1656), *Prima philosophia reformata* (Utrecht: J. van Waesberge, 1657), and *De statutis eorumque concursu liber singularis*, (Amsterdam: J. van Waesberge, 1661). The latter work had two new editions in the 18th century.

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 427–430; NNBW, III, 1329–1330; *Resolutiën*, 154, 208–209; *Acta*, 202; DIBON 1954, 216–217.

VOETIUS, Gisbertus (Heusden 1589 – Utrecht 1676)

Voetius studied theology at Leiden University from 1604 till 1611. After his studies, he became a minister at Vlijmen (1611), Heusden (1617–1634) and 's-Hertogenbosch (1629–1630). He was appointed professor of theology and Hebrew at the Utrecht Illustrious School at a salary of 1200 guilders in June 1634. Three years later he became a minister in Utrecht as well. On 13/23 August 1636 he graduated in

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theology at the University of Groningen. Philosophically he was an Aristotelian, in theology he was an orthodox Calvinist. He was a prolific writer and a zealous polemist against Roman Catholics, Remonstrants and Socinians. He considered Descartes to be a 'subtle' atheist, that is, someone who claims to give irrefutable proof of God's existence, but in reality destroys the foundations of Faith. Voetius' main works are *Exercitia et bibliotheca studiosi theologiae* (VOETIUS 1644), *Disputationes theologicae selectae* (VOETIUS 1648–1669), *Exercitia pietatis* (Gorinchem 1664) and *Politica ecclesiastica* (3 vols., Amsterdam 1663–1676).

Lit. BURMAN 1738, 396–426; NNBW, VII, 1279–1282; BLGNP, II, 443–449; *Resolutiën*, 55, 56–57; *Album Stud. Acad. Gron.*, 446; DUKER 1989; OORT 1989; VAN RULER 1995. An inventory of his correspondence is published in BOS 1998.

WALAEUS, or De Waal, Johannes (Koudekerke 1604 – Leiden 1649)

Walaeus studied philosophy and medicine in Leiden, where he graduated in medicine in 1631. Two years later he was appointed associate professor, but he became full professor at Leiden university only in 1648. At first a sharp critic of Harvey's theory, he was convinced after the public demonstrations on the circulation of the blood by Sylvius. Enthusiastically he started to perform his own experiments, which he published in the form of two letters to Thomas Bartholin.

Lit. NNBW, IX, 1270–1272; SCHOUTEN 1972; SCHOUTEN 1974; LINDEBOOM 1984, 2117–2119.

WAESSENAER, Jacobus van (Utrecht 1607 – Utrecht 1682)

Jacob van Waessenaer, a surveyor in Utrecht, is mainly known from his joint combat with Descartes against the Dutch mathematician Stampioen. He was one of a circle of men in Utrecht who devoted themselves to the study of Descartes' *Géométrie*. If his father, Jacob van Waessenaer Sr, indeed was a former professor of mathematics in Utrecht, as Baillet claims, he would have been a teacher at the Latin School, and not at the university or the Illustrious School.

Lit. NNBW, VII, 1308–1309; AT I 29; VERBEEK 1995, 100–101.

WASSENAER, Petrus (†Utrecht 1680)

In 1647 Petrus Wassenauer added a set of corollaries to a disputation which he intended to defend under Regius. The rector, however, censored the corollaries, which were taken from Regius' published and unpublished works. Wassenauer and Regius then published the corollaries separately as a broadsheet, entitled *Explicatio mentis humanae*. In reply to Descartes' *Notae in programma quoddam*, Wassenauer wrote an open letter to Descartes, published in Regius 1648, in which he defended his professor against the French philosopher. In 1669 he became town physician. In one of Regius' wills he inherits Regius' manuscripts, but there is no evidence that he actually received them.

Lit. *Acta*, 229; *Resolutiën*, 233; DE VRIJER 1917, 44, 74, 171–173, 176; DE WAARD 1947; VERBEEK 1992A, 54, 59, 122, 125; VERBEEK 1995, 18–19, 37.

WATERLAET, Lambertus vanden (Gemert c.1619 – Alem 1678)

Vanden Waterlaet's parents destined him to become a monk at the monastery of St. Agatha at Cuyck, but he left the convent and was converted to the Reformed Faith.

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His first matriculation at Utrecht University is not recorded, but he acted as Voetius' *respondens* during the disputations in December 1641 against the New philosophy. In 1642, he published a reply to Regius' *Responsio* (VANDEN WATERLAET 1642). After his theological studies in Utrecht and Leiden, where he matriculated on 22 February 1642, he became a minister at Pannerden (1645), Ravenstein (1649), and finally at Alem (1652).

Lit. *Album Stud. Lugd.-Bat.*, 329; BOTS/MATTHEY/MEYER 1979, 756; VAN LIEBURG 1996, 274.