

nology in Leiden and the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam, in an essay on “Ethnography and Colonialism after 1815: Non-Western Culture and Dutch Cultural Heritage.”

The account on “The Indonesia and Africa Specialist P. J. Veth (1814–1895): Founder of the First Chair of Anthropology in The Netherlands (1877),” written by Paul van der Velde, senior policy advisor at the UvA, zooms in on the life of “the greatest specialist in colonial affairs in The Netherlands during the nineteenth century” (647), who was held in high esteem by one of

Holland’s foremost national writers, that is, Multatuli alias Eduard Douwes Dekker (1820–1887). The writer regarded Veth as the leading authority of the Indies, a statement which was perhaps not only inspired by Veth’s scholarship but also by his excellence as a writer.

It is particularly the contributions of van der Velde, Legêne, and Ensel that make “Tales from Academia” an entertaining reading not only for scholars interested in the respective disciplines but also for those interested in cultural history in general.

Religia. Encyklopedia PWN (Tadeusz Gadacz and Bogusław Milerski [eds.]) – In 2003, Polish readers welcomed the publication of the last volume of “Religion, Encyclopedia PWN.” The publication of the successive volumes of the encyclopedia was met with great interest in Polish scientific circles. The entire encyclopedia consists of nine printed volumes (each volume of c. 500 pages). It is also available on CD which contains the entries of the nine volumes as well as over 1,200 entries not included in the printed version, for a total of 12,494 entries, 24 maps, and 1,470 illustrations. The entries cover not only all areas of the study of religion (theology, philosophy, ethnology, psychology, sociology, pedagogy, comparative religion, and geography of religion), but also interdisciplinary studies of religion that show the connection between religion and politics, art, music, literature, etc. In consecutive volumes, an interested reader will find information on various world religions, churches, denominations, ecumenism, new religious movements, heresies, holy books, gods, historical events, as well as biographical notes on founders of religions, reformers, mystics, and contemporary scholars of religion. Along with these more traditional concepts, the reader will find entries on religious symbolism of colors, numbers, animals, birds, insects and themes which appeared in the context of religious studies relatively recently, such as “neurotheology.” This is the first encyclopedia on the Polish book market to present religion in a manner that is expert, comprehensive, and easily accessible to a reader. – (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, 2001–2003. ISBN 1-1083-01-13-414-3)

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Leksykon Sociologii Religii (Maria Libiszowska-Żółtkowska, Janusz Mariański [eds.]). – This “Lexicon of Sociology of Religion” is the first dictionary-style examination of the terms and issues of sociology of religion to be published anywhere in the world. The 325 entries of the lexicon are the collective work of 60 scholars – mainly sociologists, but also psychologists, educators, theologians, and experts in comparative religion – who represent various research methods and theoretical backgrounds. The subject matter entries focus almost entirely on issues in the area of sociology of religion, while touching upon comparative religion as a secondary matter. The lexicon also explores some of the new sociological topics, which found their expression in such entries as: Globalization and Religion, Internet and Religion, Political Science and Religion, or Sociology of Missions. Each entry provides a bibliography, which documents the state of the international and Polish scholarship in the area of sociology of religion. The biogram entries present the leading international and Polish scholars and their achievements, with particular emphasis on the classics of the sociology of religion and their followers. The lexicon is addressed not only to sociologists and experts in related areas, but also to readers who have a general interest in the subject matter of religion, history of religion, and the interrelation between religion and the life of the individual and the community. – (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Księży Werbistów VERBINUM, 2004. 497 pp. ISBN 83-7192-241-8)

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