

# THE NEWSLETTER

Last Issue: March 2010

## Chairwords

*Against necessity, even the Gods do not fight.*

*Simonides, Greek Poet, 556-468 BC*

At present, as Members already know, with Antwerp The Hague and Brussels using the same Lecturers **plus** our share of the travel costs being paid by Brussels, we need around 40 Members to be financially viable. To pay our way alone we would need 50. We have now only 30. The Committee, judging that we are not likely to have more in future, asked Members "Should we close down?" and got a clear answer "Yes". Likewise Members agreed on to whom we should donate our Funds.

Dear Members : Many thanks for your cooperation in having to accept this difficult situation and being so responsive with the voting required. So sadly ADFAS - The Lectures - will soon be no more, but, **importantly**, our Volunteers will carry on : Long Live The Volunteers! Looking forward to meeting you again as friends - but as ADFAS we must part.

*And must we part? Well - if we must, we must - and in that case the less said the better*

*Sheridan, The Critic, Act ii, Scene 2*

But we are going to go out with a bang, not a whimper : See you for Drinks & Snacks before the May Lecture

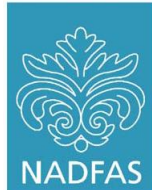
Michael Smith

## THANK YOU

From all the Antwerp-DFAS members a big thank you to the founder members and to all the committee members over these 19 years of ADFAS existence.

ADFAS has given us all wonderful lectures, visits and outings. It made it possible for native Belgians to share these pleasures in the English language with members of the British community in Antwerp.

**ADFAS**  
the Antwerp Arts  
Society  
a member society of



Thank you also to the Brussels and The Hague Societies for their cooperation over the years.

And last but not least, thank you to the NADFAS staff, past and present for their cooperation and for the grants we received to organise the Contemporary Art Exhibitions.

GDB

## LAST ADFAS OUTING to Ghent on Saturday 24 April 2010

On Saturday 24 April 2010 the ADFAS OUTING to GHENT will bring us two guided tours of two very different exhibition.

We meet at 10.15am in the Entrance Hall of the MSK in Ghent for a guided tour of the exhibition

### GUSTAVE VAN DE WOESTYNE

He was one of the original representatives of modern art in Belgium. As a Symbolist and admirer of medieval art, but also as a spiritual son of Modernist movements such as Expressionism and neo-Realism, Van de Woestyne created a body of work that, in its day, left nobody indifferent. His work is surprising, even disconcerting at times, because of its original vision, daring solutions and tension often underlying his classic approach.

In this eagerly awaited retrospective, all aspects of this versatile artist are highlighted in 145 works of art that have been selected from museums and numerous private collections. *(from the MSK Gent website)*

Immediately after the visit we will have LUNCH at Mub'Art Brasserie (at the MSK) A main dish + drink + coffee or tea for 15 € pp.

At 3pm we will visit a very different exhibition, but much spoken of, at the Guislain Museum.

**FROM MEMORY. About Knowing and Forgetting.**

People remember and people know. But people 'forget' also. From Memory deals with the fascination for memory in the worlds of science and art. The exhibition sheds a light on an age-old search: from the medieval art of memory, over the earliest psychological research, to contemporary experiments with artificial intelligence. Artists draw inspiration from memories. Memory is a manifestation of human potential, memory disease is one of failure. Libraries, encyclopaedias and the internet are all attempts to collect information and thus help our memories. But are they not doomed to failure? Besides, what is dementia and what is an elephantine memory?

**PRICE: 20 € pp** to be paid in advance for the entrances and the English guided tours in both exhibitions. Exclusive of travel and lunch costs.

For more information and payment contact Gilberte Du Bois on her mobile 0477 530 501 or mail her [gilberte.dubois@belgacom.net](mailto:gilberte.dubois@belgacom.net)

We have already 12 subscriptions and the maximum number of participants is 20.

**Our lecture venue:**  
**The Church Hall (St.Boniface  
Anglican Church), Grétrystraat,  
2018 Antwerpen  
Info: 03/230 39 36.**

## The April and May lectures

Monday 12 April 2010  
**HISTORY OF  
THE LONG CASE CLOCK**  
Lecturer: Dr Colin Lattimore

A review of early timekeepers from sundials onwards is followed by the introduction of mechanical timekeeping using a weight driven mechanism, and then from turret clocks and lantern clocks to the long case clock which was in fashion for about 180 years from 1660 to 1840, coming back into fashion as an antique in the 20th century. The story involves the artistic, mechanical, social and commercial aspects. It relates the development to the business and social needs of the period.



(Maker: Silas Hoadley, of Plymouth, Conn., about 1810-1820)

### COLIN LATTIMORE

Dr Colin Lattimore is a Medical Practitioner who trained at University College Hospital, London.

For many years he has had a wide interest in the English Decorative and Applied Fine Arts. He has lectured extensively for Extra Mural Boards of various Universities.

His subjects include silver, porcelain, Faberge, heraldry, watercolours and press moulded glass. However his special interest is in the field of clocks and watches.

In 1999 he was President of the British Horological Institute. Other titles: Honorary Keeper of Clocks and Watches at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. In 2005 he was appointed O.B.E.

Monday 10 May 2010  
**OCEAN LINER ART:SHIPS  
THAT SHAPED OUR LIVES  
1800 - 1950**  
Lecturer: James Taylor



(RMS Titanic, an Olympic-class passenger liner owned by the White Star Line and built at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast)

The vision and engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel underpins this global story of hopes and dreams, disasters and triumphs. This talk features a wide range of ships, including Great Britain and Great Western, Lusitania and Mauretania, Olympic and Titanic, as well as the shipping lines and personalities behind them brought to life through historic and contemporary artworks. This is a lively talk with a diverse mix of images including insights into shipboard design and striking Art Deco shipping posters



RMS Lusitania

### JAMES TAYLOR

Mr. Taylor is the former curator of paintings, drawings and prints and co-ordinator of various exhibitions and galleries at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and is also lecturer and ships historian on board cruise ships.

His publications include Marine Painting and Yachts on Canvas as well as the catalogue for the exhibition Rule Britannia! Art, Power and Royalty to mark the 400th anniversary of Jamestown.

special - special - special - special - special - special - special

### ! SPECIAL ATTENTION !

Since the **May Lecture** will be the last ADFAS activity, before the winding up of the society, the existing committee wants to make this evening a little special by having free drinks and sandwiches before the lecture.

We expect you at around 6.30 pm at the Church Hall of St Boniface. It is here that ADFAS started with its first lectures in 1991. A pity we didn't make it to ADFAS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We hope to see on that evening ALL the current members but also as MANY visitors as possible, especially ex ADFAS members, your family and friends.

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### What's on in Antwerp?

After a considerable time of cheerful expectation, at last the construction works of the *Museum aan de Stroom* (MAS) are completed! It took three years and 8 months since the official start on 14 September 2006. The official public opening is planned on 17 May 2011.

In the meantime, the city of Antwerp will soon grant the future visitors to the MAS, the opportunity of a glimpse inside the new building. On 17 May 2010, exactly one year before the opening, the architects of Neutelings Riedijk will comment on the building for the national and international press. From 22 to 26 May the general public will also have the chance of visiting the MAS-building with guided tours. Moreover, during the complete month of May 2010, a programme of readings, films/documentaries and concerts will be held in the MAS-pavillion besides the MAS. The Programme & reservation details will appear in the May edition of the free newspaper *Den Antwerpenaar*.

Website: [www.mas.be](http://www.mas.be)

## Other items of interest

### The National Theatre *Direct*

Thursday 22 April 2009 at 19.30 in the Metropolis, Antwerp

#### *The Habit of Art*

A new play by Alan Bennett  
With Alex Jennings, Richard Griffiths and Frances de la Tour  
Director: Nicholas Hytner  
2 hours 35 mins (inc interval)  
No subtitles

#### Some reviews

##### *Daily Telegraph*

'I thought it unlikely that he would be able to equal the success of *The History Boys* but *The Habit of Art* is another absolute cracker, often wonderfully and sometimes filthily funny, but also deeply and unexpectedly moving.'

'I can think of few plays that combine wild laughter, deep emotion and technical ingenuity with such bravura. *The Habit of Art* is a smash hit if ever I saw one.'

'Somehow Richard Griffiths makes you care about Auden's frailty and dried up talent while also playing an actor who can't remember his lines and hates the way Auden is presented.'

'With extraordinary panache, Bennett and director Nicholas Hytner, keep us equally interested in both the rehearsal process and the portrait of Auden and Britten.'

'Alex Jennings is superb... Frances De La Tour, as the stage manager and Adrian Scarborough as the biographer Humphrey Carpenter, give performances of comic perfection.'

##### *Sunday Telegraph*

'Alan Bennett's immaculate new play-within-a-play has the audience bawling with laughter throughout.'

This sad, funny, whimsical piece about age and fading dreams is immaculately executed and represents the National at its very best.'

##### *Independent*

'Bennett the maestro returns with a multi-layered masterpiece.'

'Richard Griffiths is superlative.'

'The play mixes hard-won wisdom with a rollicking irreverence and recklessness.'

'A cracking production that flirtatiously keeps the audience up to speed with the outrageous amount of information and allusion.'

### The Volunteers

The current volunteers Ada, Gilberte, Marianne, Martine, Moira and Myriam will continue working as a group.

In Antwerp we are known as the *Adfas-dames* and NADFAS has given us permission to continue working under that title.

We will ask Janet Hammersley to keep the website updated on the Volunteers projects but NADFAS has asked us to remove anything that would make the link with NADFAS.



*The volunteers at work in the Felixarchives*



*Joost shows us with a Powerpoint presentation what will be possible with the digitalized iconographic collection.*

Lately the volunteers have packed and checked a set of technical designs from the *Antwerpse Waterwegen*, of which a great number were in a very bad condition. But to make a change and make it more interesting, Joost Duydyt has given us now a collection of iconographic work from the different Universal Exhibitions in Antwerp: 1885, 1894 and 1930. It is a very nice collection of drawings and maps: the lay out of the exhibition, the designs of the different exhibition halls from Countries as well as from Industrial Companies and from the fake "Old Antwerp", respectively "Old Belgium" villages of these World Exhibitions.

Some of this material will be on display at the Felixarchives for the "Erfgoeddag" on Sunday 25 April as the theme of that day will be FAKE.

If you feel like joining the Volunteers in September, please give a call to Gilberte Du Bois (0477 530 501)

On Friday 26 March the Volunteers have been invited to a buffet dinner followed by a musical dance evening at the MAS.

### Winding up of ADFAS and Disposal of the funds

With 26 votes (out of 30 members) the committee received a clear YES majority (87%) to dispose of the funds as follows:

€ 1000 for a little hand at the MAS  
€ 1000 for the vzw Kruis & Beeld  
€ 1000 for the church of St Andries  
€ 1000 for the restoration of the stained glass window at St Boniface.

### What's on in Antwerp (continued)

Exhibition at the KMSKA:

#### Closing Time

From 24 April until 3 October 2010

The museum has invited visual artist Jan Vanriet (°1948, Antwerp) to design a grand itinerary through the museum's collection of Old and Modern Masters. Vanriet will select over a hundred and fifty works from his own thematic series and pair with thematically or stylistically related pieces in the museum collection. This way, Vanriet, as a painter and curator, will confront his own art with some of the museum's prominent showpieces as well as some hidden treasures from the reserve. Vanriet's oeuvre combines a multitude of themes (religion, violence, abuse of power) and diverse stylistic characteristics (from figurative to abstract, from minimalist to exuberant). He draws inspiration from his own family's past, from society and from the history of art. By engaging in a symbiosis with Vanriet's paintings, the museum collection will tell a striking contemporary story of human failings.

This exhibition, entitled 'Closing Time', is the final show before the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp closes its doors for a thorough renovation.

From the website: [www.kmska.be](http://www.kmska.be)

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

12 April 2010	<i>History of the Long Case Clock</i> Lecturer: Dr Colin Lattimore	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
24 April 2010	Outing to Ghent Guided tours to the exhibitions <i>Gustave Van de Woestyne</i> At the MSK Gent <i>From the Memory</i> At the Guislain Museum	Museum of Fine Arts Ghent Meeting 10.15 am in Entrance Hall Lunch at the Mub'Art Brasserie
10 May 2010	<i>Ocean Liner Art:</i> <i>Ships that Shaped our Lives 1800-1950</i> Lecturer: James Taylor	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 6.30 pm free drinks & sandwiches Lecture at 8 pm

## **ADFAS CONTACTS**

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**ADFAS website – <http://www.ADFAS.org>**

(Webmaster: Janet Hammersley)

**Bank account number: 610-1114400-58**

With thanks to the contributors:  
Michael Smith, Trudy Debice, Gilberte Du Bois