The Relations of Jacob Grimm with the ‘Koninklijk-Nederlandsch Instituut van Wetenschappen, Letterkunde en Schoone Kunsten’

Old and new documents for the history of the humanities

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Abstract

The relationship between Dutch and German philology as well as between Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and the scientific institutions in the Low Countries have scarcely been a subject of research during the last few decades. However, the correspondence – known and recently found letters – between Jacob Grimm and the Royal Dutch Institute of Science, Literature and the Fine Arts (the predecessor of the present Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) shows that they regarded each other quite highly. Especially the correspondence between Willem Bilderdijk, the former secretary of the Institute, and Jacob Grimm was very friendly. Additionally, Jacob Grimm was the first foreign scholar the Institute appointed as an associate member in 1816, in recognition of his efforts relating to Dutch literature and language. This article is intended as an initial step toward expanding the research on the relationship between these two neighbouring philologies during the nineteenth century.

Introduction

In the history of the humanities, the relationship between German and Dutch philology has not always been easy, especially during the period following the Second World War. This difficult relationship is also, in an anachronistic way, projected onto the relationship of these philologies during the nineteenth century. As a consequence of this view, the relationship

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between Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and their Dutch and Belgian colleagues – as well as between Dutch and German philology in the first decades of the nineteenth century – has hardly been investigated. Some researchers argue – even if they acknowledge the importance of Jacob Grimm for Dutch philology – that Jacob Grimm regarded Dutch as part of the German language, and therefore did not view it as an independent branch of the Germanic languages.¹ They stress that he had a Pan-Germanic view and that he thought High German was the superior language.² Other researchers have followed the line of arguments for so-called Pan-Germanism without taking into account documents, or without differentiating Grimm’s opinions in different phases. According to Ter Haar, Grimm’s use of the word Niederdeutsch (‘Low German’) for Dutch characterizes Grimm’s ideology, because in this way Dutch becomes one of the branches of the German language area. On the other hand, the word Nederduitsch is the normal term

¹ Kloos, Niederlandebild und deutsche Germanistik, pp. 26-28; Ter Haar, ’Nicht nur ein Appendix’.
² Ibidem, p. 27.
used in the nineteenth century for Dutch.\(^3\) In a book on the history of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Van Berkel only mentions Grimm’s refusal to accept the membership in 1855.\(^4\) However, in the several decades prior, Jacob Grimm had been a member of the predecessor of the academy, the Koninklijk Nederlandsch Instituut van Wetenschappen, Letterkunde en Schoone Kunsten (‘Royal Dutch Institute of Science, Literature and Fine Arts’), up to the moment that the institute was closed in 1851.\(^5\) There is a discrepancy between this postwar depiction of Grimm and the recognition he received from his contemporary Dutch (and also Belgian) colleagues and authorities.

In order to gain more adequate insight into the relationship between Dutch and German scientific relations in the early nineteenth century, new interdisciplinary research is needed which takes into account known as well as recently found documents. For a better understanding of these relationships, the correspondence between Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and Dutch and Belgian colleagues is very important.\(^6\) During the 50 years between 1813 until 1863, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm corresponded with more than 35 colleagues in the Netherlands and Belgium. In my paper, these documents, especially the letters, will be presented and analysed.

It is the aim of this paper to show that in the first decades of the nineteenth century, at the beginning of the institutionalization of Dutch philology, Jacob Grimm’s contribution to Dutch philology was highly esteemed, and that during these years there was intensive exchange of information. The correspondence between Jacob Grimm and the Royal Dutch Institute of Science during the years 1812 until 1819 consists of 28 letters, and will serve as an example for these intensive contacts. The 28 letters were written on the following dates and by the following people:\(^7\)

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3 In this article ‘Nederduitsch’, the word used very often in the nineteenth century for the Dutch language, is translated as ‘Low Germanic’ when intended as a synonym for ‘continental West Germanic’. Cf. Leerssen, *De bronnen van het vaderland*, pp. 47-48.; Schlusemann, ‘Jacob Grimm: pionier van de Neerlandistiek’.

4 Van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap*, p. 201.

5 Krul, ‘De Koninklijke Academie en de geesteswetenschappen’.

6 In a project financed by the German Science Foundation, I am preparing an edition of the correspondence between Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and their Dutch and Belgian colleagues. At present, about 290 letters have been found. For a preliminary survey see Schlusemann, ‘Der frühe Briefwechsel Jacob Grimms’. p. 245. See also van de Zijpe, ‘Noord- en Zuidnederlandse korrespondenten van Jacob Grimm’ and ‘Jacob Grimm en de Nederlanden’.

7 The letters were written by the different secretaries of the second class of the Institute Willem Bilderdijk (B), Samuel Wiselius (W) and Abraham des Amorie van der Hoeven (H); and by Jacob Grimm (JG); in parentheses the number of pages.
In fact, the correspondence reveals that the Institute appreciates both Grimm’s knowledge of the Germanic languages and his concern for Dutch literary monuments. Grimm did not study Dutch as a variant of German; rather, he acknowledged the status of the Dutch language and of Dutch literature next to German language and literature, regarding both as autonomous branches of the same tree. Furthermore, he encouraged his Dutch and German colleagues to prepare editions and studies of their own language and literature. In this respect, the exchange of knowledge during the nineteenth century can still be seen as an example of fruitful international collaboration beyond national boundaries.

The contacts between Jacob Grimm and the Institute can be divided into three phases. The first phase lasts from 1812 until 1816, when Jacob Grimm was elected as a *membre correspondant*. This phase can be characterized as years of very active correspondence between Willem Bilderdijk and Jacob Grimm. The second phase begins in 1816, when Jacob Grimm was elected *membre associé*. This phase lasts until 1851. The last phase – of non-membership – starts in 1851, the already-mentioned year when the Institute was dissolved. In 1855, Jacob Grimm was offered a new membership by the successor of the institute, the Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen (‘Royal Academy of Sciences’), but he – as well as other

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8 Schlusemann, ‘Der frühe Briefwechsel Jacob Grimms’. See for similar observations also Schlusemann, ‘A Tribute to his Exceptional Merits’.  
9 Until now, no letters have been found which were written between 1819 and 1851.
famous scholars – refused to accept it. In the research on the relationship between Jacob Grimm and the Institute, this refusal has, to my mind, been overestimated. Accordingly, the relationship between Jacob Grimm and the Low Countries has not been judged adequately. For a more adequate view on Jacob Grimm and the Netherlands and on the two philologies, the first two phases are even more important. In this context, the correspondence in the nineteenth century plays a dominant role for the exchange and for the relationship between Dutch and German philology.

In order to characterize the importance of the correspondence in a broader context, I will begin with two introductory remarks about the start of correspondence between Jacob Grimm and the Low Countries, and second, with the Institute and its different kinds of membership. In the main section, the characteristics of the correspondence between Jacob Grimm and the Institute will be analysed, especially emphasizing its importance for the development of Dutch philology. It is my aim to show that the letters not only show mutual estimation, but that they can be regarded as an important scientific Dutch-German exchange, as a predecessor of scientific exchange which later took place and still takes place in scientific journals.

**Introductory remarks: development of the correspondence between Jacob Grimm and Dutch scholars**

In 1810, Jacob Grimm wrote to Hendrik van Wijn, the archivist of the Royal Library in The Hague, with the goal of obtaining some books which were very important for his study on so-called chapbooks. After Van Wijn had not responded to Grimm's letter, Jacob Grimm tried to contact Dutch colleagues via his professor of law at the University of Göttingen, Carl von Savigny. In April 1811, he sent a letter to Savigny intended for Hendrik Willem Tydeman. He was also a professor of law, and Savigny had been corresponding with him for some time. In his answer, Tydeman emphasized that, being a member of the Institute, he had already done much work for Dutch

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10 One of them was Jacob Geel (1789-1862), a librarian at the university library of Leiden and honorary professor. See in detail Krul, ‘De Koninklijke Academie en de geesteswetenschappen’, p. 101-104.
11 Schlusemann, ‘Der frühe Briefwechsel Jacob Grimms’.
literature, and that his father worked as a librarian at the University of Leiden.\textsuperscript{13}

On 12 August 1811, Tydeman sent 22 chapbooks to Grimm, and he proposed that Grimm should publish a request in the periodical \textit{Algemene Konst- en Letterbode} (‘General Messenger for Arts and Literature’). Tydeman also offered to translate this announcement. In the same month, Grimm sent a draft of the request to Tydeman who translated it, and it was published on 22 November 1811. Grimm especially emphasized the close relationship between the ‘Flemish’, ‘Hollandish’ and other ‘Germanic’ languages:

The Dutch language, as well as the Flemish and Hollandish, is, the older it is, more closely related to the other Germanic languages, and the same is valid for the literature and poetry; everything helps, supports and explains each other mutually. This has been done by Huydecoper, Lelyveld, van Wyn and others, whose main beloved subjects of their learned diligence were the rescue and elucidation of the old Hollandish literature; their ambition earns esteem and praise, but it deserves to be succeeded and continued and extended.\textsuperscript{14}

\textsuperscript{13} This letter is not preserved, but Wilhelm Grimm cited some sentences in a letter to his brother (see Rölleke, \textit{Briefwechsel zwischen Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm}, p. 223). Tydeman wrote that he was very interested in chapbooks and that he was inclined to search in Amsterdam and Rotterdam in order to buy some of them for Grimm. But he also admitted that it could take two or three months before he might have got hold of the books. Martin, ‘H.W. Tydemann und J. Grimm’; see also Soeteman, ‘Jacob Grimm im Briefwechsel mit niederländischenand Jansen, ‘Der Briefwechsel zwischen H.W. Tydeman und F.C. von Savigny’.

Grimm encouraged his colleagues to increase their efforts to preserve Dutch literary monuments, because otherwise, in his opinion, a lot of documents of the literary past would be lost within ten years. He asked the readers of the journal to inform him about Dutch literary manuscripts, Dutch songs, and especially about manuscripts of a rhymed version of *Reynard the Fox*. Nothing is known about any reactions to this request. Tydeman, however, sent it directly to the Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde (‘Society for Dutch Literature’) in Leiden and the Second Class of the ‘Royal Institute of Science, Literature and Fine Arts’ in Amsterdam.

**Royal Dutch Institute of Science, Literature and the Fine Arts**

On 18 May 1808, the ‘Royal Dutch Institute of Science, Literature and the Fine Arts’ was founded, as a result of an initiative by King Louis Napoleon. For the first time, an Institute with the aim to promote and study Dutch science, literature, and fine arts, financed by the government, was established. The Institute primarily consisted of 49 members and was divided into four classes: the First Class for mathematics and physics (medicine and technique) and the Second Class with the aforementioned sciences (Dutch) language, literature and history. The Third Class studied old and Eastern languages as well as general history, and the Fourth Class dealt with the fine arts.

Three different kinds of membership can be distinguished: the highest membership, called ‘*membre*’, was for normal members with all rights and duties. The middle membership, called *membre associé* (‘associate member’), was intended for renowned scholars and artisans in foreign countries. An associate member had the right to participate in meetings and to make decisions concerning scientific questions. This second form of membership did not exist in the Second Class. The third form of membership was the so-called *membre correspondant* (‘corresponding member’). These correspondents were scholars who can be described as ‘just a bit less-renowned scholars in the Netherlands and abroad’. This kind of membership was offered to foreign scholars who had earned notable merit in the study of Dutch language and culture.

15 Van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap*, pp. 47-59; see also Hooykaas, ‘Thorbecke, het Instituut en de Akademie’.
16 Van den Berg, ‘De Tweede Klasse’; Van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap*.
17 Van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap*, p. 60.
As a consequence of the French incorporation of the Dutch kingdom in July 1810, the Institute was renamed as ‘Dutch Institute’. After the defeat of Napoleon, and after Frederik Willem had become the new sovereign in 1813, the Institute was renamed: ‘Royal Dutch Institute for Science, Literature and Fine Arts’, and already in March 1814, the new sovereign visited the Institute. After some decades of peace in 1849, the home secretary of the Netherlands, Johan Rudolph Thorbecke, expressed his favour for the First Class of the Institute (Mathematics and Physics) and even stated that, to his mind, the other Classes had nothing special. On 26 October 1851, the king decided to dissolve the Institute. Instead, in the same year, a Royal Academy of Sciences was established in order to promote Mathematics and Physics. Nearly four years later, in February 1855, a new department was added to the Academy: the department for literature.

Exchange and mutual estimation: origin and intensification of the contact between Jacob Grimm and the Institute – first phase (1812-1816)

The first phase of the correspondence between the Institute and Jacob Grimm (1812-1816) can be characterized as very intense. It developed because of Grimm’s contact with Hendrik van Wijn and Hendrik Willem Tydeman, which had started in 1810. In these letters, Grimm emphasized the close relationship between the ‘Dutch’ and ‘German’ cultural space in the Middle Ages, as well as the linguistic and literary connections. At the same time, he encouraged his Dutch – and later also his Belgian – colleagues to increase their efforts for older Dutch literature, especially to trace medieval manuscripts and early prints of Dutch literature. For Grimm, other tasks were equally important: editions of medieval literary works and studies on medieval language and literature.

18 Ibidem, p. 85.
19 Ibidem, p. 95-96.
21 In 1837, six of the letters were published by Messchert (see dbnl.nl), and in 1883, two letters written by Grimm and addressed to Bilderdijk were published by Reifferscheid, Briefe von Jakob Grimm an Hendrik Willem Tydeman. In my article, the transcription of citations is diplomatic. Errors such as the omission of accents in French – e.g. in the word ‘derniere’ – are not corrected and are normally not marked, as we don’t know if the writer made an error or if it was a personal way of writing.
22 Gaedertz, Briefwechsel von Jacob Grimm und Hoffmann-Fallersleben; Reifferscheid, Briefe von Jacob Grimm an Hendrik Willem Tydeman.
Shortly after these early contacts, on 9 December 1811, Grimm informed Tydeman about the discovery of a Dutch manuscript in Comburg (near Stuttgart in Württemberg).23 This manuscript is still one of the two most important manuscripts of medieval Dutch literature.24 On 346 leaves, very important texts of medieval Dutch literature have been written down, and some of them are only preserved in this manuscript, e.g. *Rijmkroniek van Vlaanderen* (‘rhymed chronicle of Flanders’) on fol. 282r-346r. Only one month later, in the *Algemene Konst- en Letterbode* (‘General Messenger’) on 17 January 1812, Tydeman informed the Dutch public about the sensation of this discovery.

The Dutch Institute now reacted very quickly, as it acknowledged Grimm and his interest for Dutch literature. In a flattering letter of four pages, written on 6 February 1812, Willem Bilderdijk, the secretary of the Second Class of the Institute, praised Grimm’s knowledge of Dutch literature. He further expressed his pleasure in communicating with a scholar whose ‘knowledge and hobby involve old Dutch literature in the broadest sense’.25 Bilderdijk asked Grimm for a copy or an extract of this manuscript. To Bilderdijk’s mind, the importance of the discovery and the manuscript itself could not be overestimated.

Bilderdijk’s request was not only important for the literary history of the Dutch Middle Ages. There were political implications as well, as the Netherlands were annexed by France on 10 July 1810. As a consequence of this annexation, from then on French was the official language in the Netherlands. This in turn threatened the existence of the Second Class of the Institute, the class for ‘Dutch’ language, literature, and history. On 20 September 1810, Bilderdijk petitioned the general-lieutenant of the Dutch Departments, Charles François Lebrun, to save the Second Class. This request for the continuation of the existence of the Institute, including the Second Class, was presented by Lebrun and the chairman of the Institute, Jan Hendrik van Swinden, most notably during a meeting with the French emperor Napoleon, on 13 October 1811. A week later, on 21 October 1811, the emperor decreed that the institute could proceed as ‘Institute of Amsterdam’.26

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24 Stuttgart, Württembergische Landesbibliothek, Cod. poet. et. philol. fol. 22; See Brinkman & Schenkel, *Het Comburgse handschrift*.
26 Van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap* p. 85-88.
Therefore, the discovery of the manuscript and the information provided by Grimm also had implications for the role of the Institute itself. Only four months after the assembly of the ‘new’ Institute on 12 February 1812, Jacob Grimm was chosen *Membre Correspondant* of the Second Class. In a letter dated 1 March 1812, Bilderdijk informed Grimm about this promotion:

> It is my honour to inform you that in the assembly of 27 February, the Second Class of the Dutch institute chose you as a corresponding member. That’s an honour, Sir, by which the Class believes to honour itself by associating a savant for your merits; and especially the attention you pay to the study of our language makes us hope that you will regard it as a special distinction.\(^{27}\)

On 15 April 1812, Jacob Grimm sent a reply that was mentioned in a register on ‘incoming letters to the Second Class by foreign correspondents’.\(^{28}\) Number 21 of the letters was written by Grimm on 15 April 1812, and was described in the register as follows:

> By Mister Grimm, a letter of thanks for his appointment as correspondent, and notice of several news items, among which the old Dutch and other manuscripts in Germany in general, and the recently discovered in Swabia.

The letter, an answer to the letters written by Bilderdijk on 6 February and 1 March 1812, is not only mentioned in the register, but is actually present in the archive. In his letter in French, Grimm excused himself for having waited such a long time, because he had tried to get hold of the Comburg manuscript. Following Bilderdijk’s request, Grimm had written twice to General Girard, the Westphalian minister at the court of the king of Württemberg, but he hadn’t received an answer yet. Furthermore, Grimm wrote about publications that might be interesting for the Institute, e.g.

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27 Berlin, SBB-PK, Nachlass Grimm 807, p. 3: ‘J’ai l’honneur de Vous annoncer que dans la séance du 27 dernier, la seconde classe de l’Institut Hollandais Vous a élu Membre Correspondant. C’est un hommage, Monsieur, par lequel Elle a cru s’honorer en s’associant un savant de Vos merites; et l’intérêt particulier que Vous mettez dans l’étude de notre langue nous fait espérer, que Vous l’agréerez comme une distinction de sa part’.

28 This register can be found in a folder with the letters itself (Haarlem, Rijksarchief van Noordholland [= RANH], Archive KNAW, 175/75). For a better understanding of the contacts between Jacob Grimm and the Institute this folder is very important.
Weckherlin’s *Beyträge zur Geschichte altteutscher Sprache und Dichtkunst*. In this book, Weckherlin described the Comburg manuscript in detail.\(^29\)

A few weeks later, on 25 May 1812, Grimm wrote another letter to Bilderdijk and now, he could also send him Girard’s answer (9 May 1812).\(^30\) Girard had responded to Grimm with the words: ‘il m’a été refusé!’, which meant that the authorities in Stuttgart had refused to give him the manuscript.\(^31\) Grimm thought that Friedrich David Gräter, who had found the manuscript, and Ferdinand Weckherlin, the Minister of Economics of the kingdom of Württemberg, didn’t want to provide information about it. Both had published about the manuscript.\(^32\) In a second attachment, Grimm informed Bilderdijk about the manuscript according to the information he had found in Weckherlin. Grimm also cited from different texts, e.g. the dream allegory *Roman van de Roos* and *Heimelijkheid der Heimelijkheden* (the Dutch translation of the mirror for princes *Secretum Secretorum*).

In his following letter Grimm had to admit that he did not succeed in getting hold of the Comburg manuscript.\(^33\) As proof of his efforts he also sent the letters he had received from the Secretary of State Von Vellnagel, as well as Mr. Moustier’s reply (the French official at the court of Württemberg).\(^34\) Only three months later, in December of the same year, Grimm sent a package to the Institute.\(^35\) This parcel included the journal *Odina und*
Teutona with an edition of the Reinaert by Gräter (1812), three samples of Hildebrandslied and Wessobrunner Gebet, edited by him and his brother Wilhelm, a review on a grammar of Icelandic and a survey of ten pages on the words for the male and female chicken and their names (e.g. Coppe, Canteicleer) in different languages (see figure 1).

Fig. 1: Part of an appendix (page eight of ten pages) to the letter written by Jacob Grimm to the institute on 9 to 12 December 1812. Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, Inv.no. 176/75, no. 30.

36 Published in: Odina und Teutonia; ein neues litterarisches Magazin der teutschen und nordischen Vorzeit, vol. 1 (Breslau, 1812).
37 Grimm, Die beiden ältesten deutschen Gedichte (1812). One sample was intended for the Institute, one for Tydeman and the third for Van Wijn.
38 Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, Inv. no. 175/76, no. 30.
39 Because of the condition of the very thin paper it is very difficult to read and/or to reproduce the appendix.
In February 1813, Bilderdijk wrote a letter to Grimm to thank him for his package. This letter was accompanied by an elaborate reaction concerning the history of language. Between 1812 and 1816, the correspondence between Bilderdijk as secretary of the Institute and Jacob Grimm consists of 21 letters. The contacts between the Institute and Grimm in these years show Grimm’s endeavours to provide the Institute with new and current information about the studies on German and Dutch language and literature in Germany. The Institute regarded Grimm’s efforts with the following words: ‘We thank you for the steps you have taken’. At the same time, the Institute expressed its gratitude with a new nomination.

**Grimm membre associé – second phase**

The second phase of the correspondence started with Jacob Grimm’s election as *membre associé* (‘associated member’) in 1816. After Willem I had been chosen King of the Netherlands on 16 March 1815, the articles of the Second Class were changed. Now it was possible to choose important scientists as associate members. Four of these new members came from abroad. Grimm was the first foreigner to be elected as an associate member of the Second Class on the assembly of 8 August 1816. Now he had the right to take part in meetings and to discuss and decide about scientific questions. This honourable promotion, which, up to now, has been neglected in research, can be seen as an indication of the growth of Grimm’s reputation, despite the failure of his efforts regarding the Comburg manuscript.

On 16 September 1816, Bilderdijk informed him about the honourable promotion in French:

announcing to you the choice by which our Class believes to honour itself, by providing to you the title and the quality of one of its four associated members, which are suitable for foreigners. Until now, Monsieur, it has only had correspondents; but the goodness of the King, our sovereign, allowed us to have a small number of associates, to choose the most distinguished among the foreign savants, the Class

41 The others were: Heinrich Storch (1766-1835), German-Russian economist and resident of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Petersburg; Charles Pougens (1755-1833), printer and librarian in Paris; and Robert Southey (1774-1843) in London. In the manuscript the last name is spelt ‘Soulthy’ which must be a mistake.
didn't hesitate to nominate you as the first, and the approbation of the monarch who has confirmed our choice, directly asked us to present to you this expression of estimation and distinction. With this title, Monsieur, you enjoy the right of sessions and [the right] to vote in all our scientific counsels.42

Grimm also expressed his gratitude to Bilderdijk in French: ‘express in my name the respectful sentiments because I have entered this illustrious corps’.43 He also informed Bilderdijk about his new job at the museum in Kassel. In his correspondence with Bilderdijk, Grimm wrote about different matters, and he even built up a kind of personal relationship with him.

Because of conflicts with other members of the Second Class, Willem Bilderdijk resigned as secretary on 27 November 1816, one day before the first public meeting of the Class.44 The correspondence between Grimm and the Second Class continued despite Bilderdijk’s resignation. Samuel Wiselius (1769-1845), lawyer and poet, director of the Amsterdam police from 1814, was appointed as secretary of the Second Class in 1816.45 He continued the correspondence with Jacob Grimm and sent him invitations. The character of the correspondence changed, and can be described as business-like.

On 11 December 1816, Wiselius sent him several samples of a promotional contest the Second Class announced: ‘Promotional contest proposed for the contest of the second class of the royal Dutch institute of science,

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42 Berlin, SBB-PK, Nachlass Grimm 807, p. 29: ‘Vous annonçant le choix par lequel notre Classe s’a crû honorer en Vous revêtant du titre et de la qualité de l’un des ses quatre membres associés, qu’elle vient de s’approprier dans l’étranger. Jusqu’ici, Monsieur, elle n’a eu que des Correspondans; mais la bonté du Roi notre Souveraine, nous ayant permis d’avoir un petit nombre d’Associés, à choisir parmi les savans étrangers des plus distingués, la Classe n’a pas tardé de Vous nommer le premier, et l’approbation du Monarque qui a confirmé notre choix, nous a mis à même de Vous présenter cette marque d’estime et de distinction. À ce titre, Monsieur, Vous jouirez du droit de séance et de celui de Voter dans toutes nos délibérations scientifiques’.

43 Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, 175/86, no. 1: ‘[…] exprimer en mon nom les sentimens respectueux, dont je suis penetré envers ce corps illustre […]’.

44 Scholarship on this topic gives different reasons for Bilderdijk’s resignation: some assume that Bilderdijk lost his trust in the Second Class because not he, but Capelle was appointed as a professor of Dutch language and literature at the ‘Athenaeum’ (high school) of Amsterdam. Bilderdijk also thought that an essay written by Matthijs Siegenbeek, the professor for Dutch at the University of Leiden, was not fit to be published. The other members of the Second Class, however, permitted the publication (Van Berkel, De stem van de wetenschap, p. 111).

45 Samuel Wiselius was the former lawyer at the court of Holland, who was dismissed after he had acted against the French government. After that he wrote poems and plays.
literature and the fine arts in the Low Countries, in its public session in 1816'. Wiselius asked Grimm to send the announcement to different German journals, such as Göttingische gelehrte Anzeige [sic], Jenaer, Hallische, and Leipziger Litteratur Zeitung, and to distribute the others to ‘those who seem convenient to you’.47

In the following years, Wiselius continued this policy (e.g. on 9 November 1817 and on 10 October 1818), and Jacob Grimm informed the Institute about important discoveries, e.g. the Gothic translation of the Bible by Ulphilas, found by Angelo Mai, librarian of the Ambrosian library in Milano.48 As Grimm had been asked to write a review about this manuscript, his letter was accompanied by a review of four pages. Only a few days later, on 30 October 1817, Grimm sent a new letter with information about a manuscript from Flanders, which he had found in Paris (see figure 2).49 This Latin manuscript with the Ysengrimus was written in Ghent in the 12th century.50 In this letter, Grimm also sent an announcement of his work Reinhart Fuchs.51

Again and again the Institute expressed its gratitude for Grimm’s work and for the information he delivered to the Institute. On 9 November 1817, Wiselius writes: ‘I hope I don’t have to tell you to what extent our Institute, which has the honour to rank you among its associates, considers itself obliged to you for the very interesting messages’.52

On 12 March 1819, Grimm sent a volume of his grammar which he had just published: ‘It is my honour to address to you a copy of my German grammar, which you can offer in my name to the second class of the Institute’.53 In this

47 ‘Göttingische gelehrte Anzeige [sic], Jenaer, Hallische, et Leipziger Litteratur Zeitung, et de distribuer les autres à ceux que Vous jugerez convenir’.
48 Letter of 21 October 1817; Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, 175/86, no. 3. The letter has been transcribed by De Jong 2005, pp. 68-71.
49 Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, lat. 8494. This discovery was a sensation as he was the first to discover an Ysengrimus-manuscript. The Ysengrimus, about 6500 verses long, is very important for the development of the animal epic as it is the oldest version with names for the fox and the wolf and their presentation as antagonists (see, for more information, Mann, Ysengrimus, p. 10).
50 In the end, the book was published in 1834 (see Grimm, Reinhart Fuchs).
51 Berlin, SBB-PK, Nachlass Grimm 572, 2: ‘Je n’aurai pas besoin, j’espère, de Vous dire, en quel point la deuxième Classe de notre Institut, qui s’honne de vous compter, Monsieur, parmi ses Associés, se trouve obligée à Vous, pour des communications aussi intéressantes’.
52 Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, 175/86, no. 4.
53 Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, 175/86, no. 8: ‘J’ai l’honneur [sic] de vous adresser un exemplaire de ma grammaire allemande, que vous voudrez bien remettre en mon nom à la
Fig. 2: Beginning of an appendix to a letter written by Jacob Grimm to the Institute on 30 October 1817. Haarlem, RANH, Archive KNAW, Inv.no. 175/86, no. 4.
letter he also mentioned that he didn’t have any contact with journals to which he could send the programme of the Institute, except for the journal in Göttingen. In the following letter, Wiselius expressed his gratitude for Grimm’s efforts and informed him that his package for Tydeman had already been sent.

**Conclusion**

In their period of correspondence, the Institute and Jacob Grimm respect each other as very important partners in the exchange of scientific information. Grimm informs the Institute about discoveries which could be interesting for the sciences studied by the Institute. Additionally, he sent several of his own publications and book announcements. He also sent his own publications and announcements intended for colleagues like Hendrik Willem Tydeman and Hendrik van Wijn. After Bilderdijk’s resignation, the character of the correspondence changed because Wiselius acted as a ‘normal’ secretary, and did not discuss matters of linguistic history as Bilderdijk had done before. This does not imply that the correspondence became less friendly. The esteem between the two parties endured.

Jacob Grimm’s esteem in the Netherlands and in Belgium started in 1812, expanded to more and more Dutch (and Belgian) correspondents, stabilized in the following years and, in the end, became self-evident. The correspondence can be regarded as an international exchange of important scientific information, and therefore as a predecessor to the development of scientific journals.

This illustration of scientific contacts between Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and their Dutch and Belgian colleagues opens up a number of avenues for future research. First, this correspondence with the Institute can be compared to other institutions in the Netherlands and in Belgium. For example, the correspondence between Jacob Grimm and the Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde (‘Society for Dutch Literature’) in Leiden is also very important. In a recent article I have pointed out that Jacob Grimm was chosen as a member of the ‘Society’ on 13 July 1813 already.54

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54 See in more detail Schlusemann, ‘Uit hoofde van Uwe kunde en verdiensten’. 
He was elected because of his ‘knowledge and merit’. In a letter several decades later, Bodel Nijenhuis is reminiscent of Grimm’s membership and emphasized his great efforts for linguistics as well as his close relationship with Dutch science. The last letter of the correspondence between the ‘Society’ and Grimm has been discovered recently as well. On 18 June 1863, Jacob Grimm was elected as an honourable member after completing his 50 years of membership. On this date, shortly before his death, Jacob Grimm expressed his gratitude for this rare honour: ‘I ask you to express my gratitude to the Society of Dutch Literature. [...] It makes me happy to belong to a society which honoured me with a membership such a long time ago […] I feel refreshed with this renewed honour’.

Secondly, the edition of the correspondence with all the partners in the Netherlands and in Belgium can provide the basis for a deeper investigation of the scientific relations during the emergence of the Dutch and German academic ‘national’ philologies in the nineteenth century. Grimm also corresponded with other important Dutch and Belgian scientists such as Willem Jonckbloet, Matthias de Vries, Jan Frans Willems, and Joast Hiddes Halbertsma.

In the future, it would be very valuable to analyse the development of the contacts and how the growing network was established. In a more general European perspective, the character of the relationship between Dutch and German philologies could be compared to the meta-national relations of other sciences such as history or theology, or to the relations between other philologies such as German and English as well as Dutch and French.

55 ‘Uit hoofde van uwe kunde en verdiensten’ (Berlin, SBB-PK, Nachlass Grimm 1230). See the transcription of the letter in Schlusemann, ‘Jacob Grimm: pionier van de Neerlandistiek’, p. 154-155. Grimm’s election can also be found in the minutes of the meeting on 7 July 1813 (see Jaarboek van de Maatschappij 1813, no. X; dbnl.nl).
56 The letter (now: Leiden, UB, Archief van de Maatschappij der Nederlandse Letterkunde, map 93) has been published in Schlusemann, ‘Der frühe Briefwechsel Grimms’, p. 244.
58 Karsten, de Vries and Halbertsma op het eerste Germanistencongres; Soeteman, ‘Ein bei de Vreese fehlender Brief von Grimm’.
59 De Vreese, ‘Brieuwisseling van Willems en Grimm’; Deprez & De Smedt, ‘Drie nieuwe brieven van Willems aan Grimm’.
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