

Febr 1938

Dear Jeanette,

I thank you for the long letter you sent me and especially for the Christmas present. I liked it very much.

I received your letter about two weeks ago but I was so very busy with my study and with our feast evening from our school, that I had no spare-time to answer your letter but I hope you will forgive it me.

Our feast evening was on 26 Februari. It began at eight o'clock with stage and sang till twelve o'clock. We gave two plays; in one I was a farmers' son and other "host." It was a great success.

From twelve till four o'clock we had a fine ball. I went out with a girl named Annemarie. She is a sweetheart.

You asked me what the inscription Coevorden on the slippers meanded. Coevorden is the name of the town where I am going to school and where I bought the slippers, but they are made in Delft in Holland. In Delft are the factories of Delft-ware and china-ware. They are famous all over Europe. Therefore I sent a pair of slippers to you, for on the Jamboree I saw that the American scouts were found of them. Yes, I do like jokes, and thank you for the joke you sent me, but hilas (?) I heard him earlier.

How do you find this?

Too much "too"

He: I am going to Tooting.

She: And I am going to Tooting, too.

He: I am going to Tooting by the two to two train.

She: And I am going to Tooting by the two to two train, too.

And this?

The employer: Young man, I don't understand how you can smoke those expensive cigars, with your small wages. --

The Clerck: You are right sir; I ought to have higher wages.

Do you want to have a description of Holland?

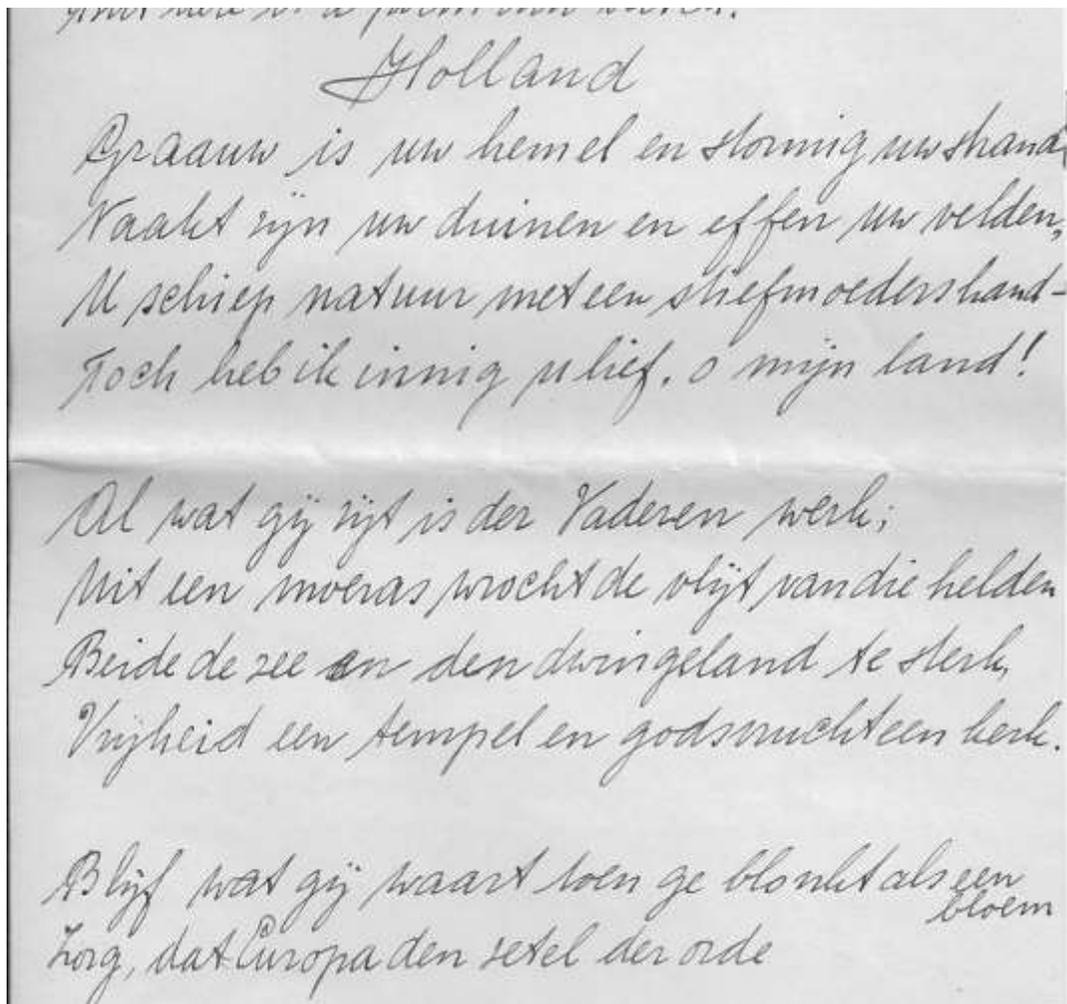
Description of Holland.

A country that draws fifty foot of water,
In which men live as in the hold of Nature,
And when the sea does in upon them break,
And drowns a province, does not spring a leak,

That dwells in ships, like swarms of rats, and prey
Upon the goods all nation's fleets convey;
That feed, like Cannibals, on other fishes,
And serve their cousin-germans up in dishes;
A land that rides at anchor, and is moor'd
In which they do not live, but go aboard.

Samuel Butler

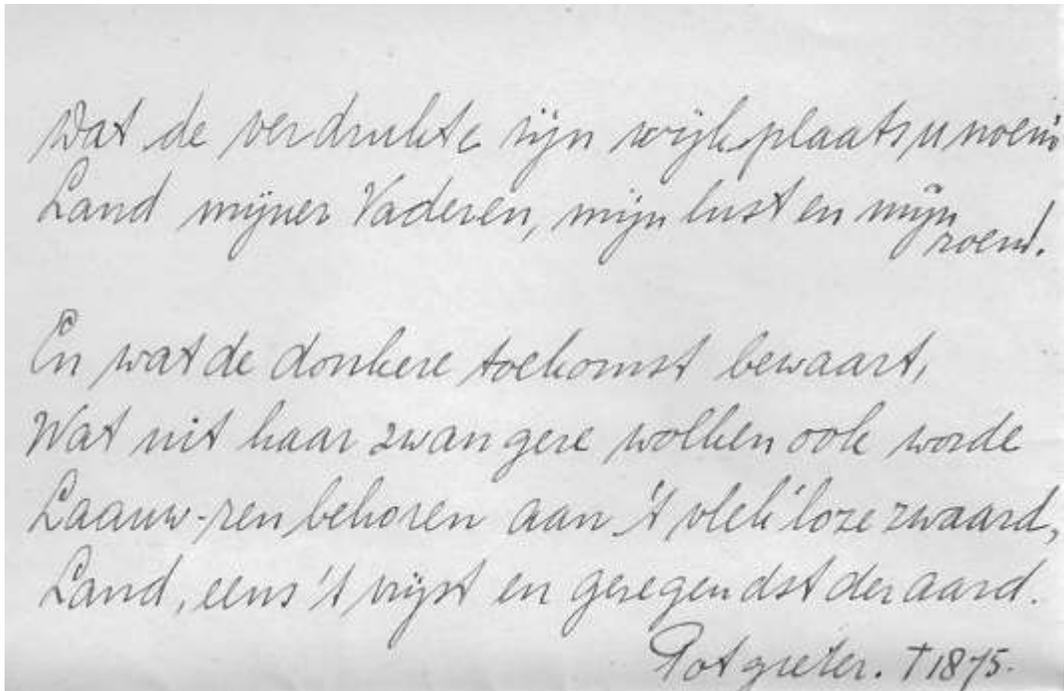
This poem is not written by a Dutchmen. But here is a poem in Dutch;



Holland
Graauw is uw hemel en stormig uw strand
Kaakt zijn uw duinen en effen uw velden,
M schiep natuur met een stiefmoeders hand
Toch heb ik innig lief, o mijn land!

Al wat zij rijt is der Vadersen werk;
Met een moeras, vrocht de vlijt van die helden
Beide de zee en den dwingeland te sterk,
Vrijheid een tempel en godsvucht een heik.

Blijf wat zij waart toen ze bloeit als een
hoeg, dat Europa den zetel der orde ^{bloem}



Potgieter 1875

Perhaps you do not understand it, therefore I shall explain it for you. The first ??? I shall translate literal, than you can see the difference between Dutch and English. The Dutch Language is not very difficult but for strangers is it very difficult, because every letter is pronounced.

Holland

Grey is your sky and stormy your (beach) and land.
Naked are your dunes and plain your fields
Nature created you with a ??? mothers hand
In spite of that I love you very much my (country) land.

All that you are is the work of our fathers,
They wrung it out of a swamp, these heroes
(They were) Both the sea and the tyrant too strong.
Liberty a temple and devotion a church.

Remain what you was when you glanced as
As flower; Take care of that Europe you call:
"The seat of the order" and those who are
Oppressed in other countries; my asylum.
Country, of my fathers, my pleasure garden, my glory.

What ever may happen

What the pregnant clouds may contain,
Laurels belong too the stainless sword
Land, once the most blessed of the earth.

Do you understand me? I hope so. The pronunciation is very different with the English, only some words are about the same.

Dutch: hand = English hand but the a in Dutch is long as the a in ask;
d is pronounced t

Dutch en and English and is also the same (pronunciation also).

Dutch is and English is, but the Dutch i is short, as the i in if;

Dutch in and English in is the same.

Hard and hard but the Dutch r is pronounced: rrr

Here you have some Interjections;

English	Dutch
Bravo	Movi too ???
Fie	foei ???
Alas	Helaas
Oh	O
Hallo	hola
Good-bye	Goeden-dag
Hello	Hallo pronounced HaLLoo a as in ask
Good-morning	goeden-morgen

You wanted to have a brother, I wanted to have a sister for I leave only one brother who is my elder by three years, (22 years old).

Is in America moral education in the schools? Can you tell me something about it?

At present it is here fine weather nearly spring! The birds are singing and the sun is shining.

Now I close and I hope you will write me soon.

Your boy in Holland
Herm. Roelofs

Goodbye Darling
Daaaaaaaaay