Other Relevant Works
Buddæus, J.F., Elementa philosophiae practice (Halle, 1703).
Clauberg, Johannes, Logica vetus et nova (Amsterdam, 1634; Franeker, 1692).
Descartes, René, Principia Philosophiae (Amsterdam, 1644).

Further Reading

TIMMERMAN, Petronella Johanna de (1724–86)

Petronella Johanna de Timmerman was born on 2 February 1724 in Middelburg. She was the first child of Susanna van Oordt and Pieter de Timmerman, who was a merchant and a member of the city council. Having mathematics and philosophy as hobbies, he taught his daughter the principles of these sciences, and showed her how to use physical instruments. In 1749 Petronella married the lawyer Abraham Haverkamp, who died nine years later. During and after this marriage she built up an impressive collection of books and physical instruments. In 1769 she remarried Johann Friedrich Hennert, professor in mathematics and philosophy at Utrecht University. A cerebral hemorrhage put an end to her life on 1 May 1786.

Already at the age of fourteen De Timmerman started writing poems. They were collected by Hennert and published posthumously in one volume, Nagelaatene gedichten (1786), with a biography. Her interest in astronomical events became apparent from a poem about a comet that was observed in 1743 and 1744. Following the ideas of, among others, Bahthasar Becker, she strongly disputes the idea that comets are signals from God to announce evil. She argues that mathematical calculations can describe and predict a comet’s movements. In another poem she follows the popular tradition of physico-theology by using the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly as an argument for the existence of God.

De Timmerman had an extraordinary knowledge of the exact sciences and philosophical subjects, but unfortunately none of these manuscripts have survived. According to Hennert’s biography, in which she is described as the ideal enlightened woman who managed to combine household tasks with intellectual activities, she read Van Musschenbroek, Nollet, Reaumur, Leibniz, Mendelssohn, Reimarus and Bonnet. Her favourite philosopher was, however, Christian Wolff. She shorted his works very intensively and made notes to grasp complicated passages. She shared this philosophical preference with Christina Leocora de Nuytville, one of the few eighteenth-century women who had an in-depth knowledge of contemporary philosophy. According to Hennert, De Timmerman’s admiration for Wolff even went so far that she managed her household according to his principles mathematically, economically, and with extreme precision. Hennert sometimes ridiculed her behaviour, but she responded by quoting specific sections from Wolff’s writings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Nagelaatene gedichten (Utrecht, 1786).

Further Reading

TIRION, Isaak (1705–65)

Isaak Tirion, the son of the medical doctor Christoffel Tirion and Dorothea Aldenhoven, grew up in a modern Mennonite family. His father, having first been a preacher, later specialized in the fields of history and geography, theology and philosophy, law and politics, and natural sciences. Of fundamental importance throughout his career was his close contact with the prolific historian Jan Wagenaar, also a Collegiant board member of the ‘Oranjeapelle’. Wagenaar contributed to Tirion’s renowned first series is nine volumes of Thomas Salmon on international contemporary history, Hedendaagsche historie of tegemoetcijntijd van alle volkeren (1729–37), translated by the Remonstrant minister Mathias van Gogh, to which Wagenaar added seven volumes dealing with the Dutch Republic, the Tegemoetcijntijd der Vroomen Nederlanden (1738–44 and 1758). Quite remarkably, one volume of the Hedendaagsche historie series, dealing with Poland, contained an apology for Socinianism, which was not to be found in Salmon’s original text. Tirion also published the twenty-one volumes of Wagenaar’s opus magnum on Dutch history, the Vaderlandse historie (1749–59). Wagenaar was also the author of two political ‘spectacles’, the Koffy-bus-praatje and De Pavet (1747), which caused a political, anti-Orangist controversy and a riot at Tirion’s bookshop. In several lampoons Tirion was accused of commercial opportunism; whatever the truth may be, he sold a few thousand copies of the Koffy-bus-praatje within a fortnight. Another characteristic of Tirion’s publisher’s list are the great number of maps and atlases, most notably the Nieuwe en beknopte han-