Other Relevant Works
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 mathe-matics and philosophy as a hobby, he taught his daughter the principles of these sciences, and showed her how to use physical instruments. In 1749 Petronella married the lawyer Abraham Havekamp, who died nine years later. During and after this marriage she built up an impres-sive collection of books and physical instru-ments. In 1769 she remarried Johann Friedrich Hennert, professor in mathematics and philosophy at UTRECHT UNIVERSITY. A cerebral haemorrhage 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 posthu-mously in one volume, *Nagelaten gedichten* (1786), with a biography. Her interest in astronornical events becomes apparent from a poem about a comet that was observed in 1743 and 1744. Following the ideas of, amongst others, Balthasar 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 but-terfly as an argument for the existence of God. De Timmerman had an extraordinary knowledge of the exact sciences and philoso-p-hy. She wrote many treatises on astronomical and geometrical 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 philosophe was, however, Christian Wolf. She studied his works very intensively and made notes to grasp complicated passages. She shared this philosophical preference with Christina Leocora de Neufville, one of the few other eighteenth-century women who had an in-depth knowledge of contemporary philosophy. According to Hennert, De Timmerman’s admiration for Wolf even went so far that she managed her household according to his prin-ciples mathematically, economically, and with extreme precision. Hennert sometimes ridiculed her behaviour, but she responded by quoting specific sections from Wolf’s writings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
*Nagelaten gedichten* (Utrecht, 1786).

Further Reading

Jennis, Lorrie, ‘“Het de passer in de hand”: Petronella Johanna de Timmerman’, in *Het wederkeren van teksten: Schrijvers* (1728 and 1765, a modest average of 6.5 titles per year. Both in content and typographical design his production can be qualified as out-standing when compared to that of most of his contemporaries. His bookseller’s mark, a portrait of Grötius, had the ambiguous device: ‘Na Drukt Volgt Vreugde’ (After Printing/Pressure comes Rejoicing). He specialized in voluminous and high-standard titles, both of Dutch origin and in Dutch translation. His ini-tiatives provided an important stimulus for the Dutch book trade, which by that time suffered from a collapsing export market. He specialized in the field of history and geography, theology and philosophy, law and politics, and natural sciences. Of fundamental importance through-out his career was his close contact with the prolific historian Jan Wagenaar, also a Collegiant board member of the ‘Oranjeappel’. Wagenaar contributed to Tirion’s renowned first series is nine volumes of Thomas Salomon on intenntionl contemporary history, *Hedendaagsche historie der tegenwoordig staat van alle volkeren* (1729–37), translated by the Remonstrant minister Matthias van Goet, to which Wagenaar added seven volumes dealing with the Dutch Republic, the *Tegenwoordig staat der Vereenigde 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 Salomon’s original text. Tirion also published the twenty-one volumes of Wagenaar’s *opus magnum on Dutch history, the Vaderlandsche historie* (1749–59). Wagenaar was also the author of two political pamphlets, the *Koffy-huis-praatje* and *De Patriot* (1747), which caused a political, anti-Orange controversy and a rift at Tirion’s booksop. In several lampoons Tirion was accused of commercial opportunism; whatever the truth may be, he sold a few thousand copies of the *Koffy-huis-praatje* within a fortnight. Another characteristic of Tirion’s bookseller’s list are the great number of maps and atlases, most notably the *Nieuwe en beknopte kaart* (c. 1740, and with many reprints), which Wagenaar added seven volumes dealing with the Dutch Republic, the *Tegenwoordig staat der Vereenigde 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 Salomon’s original text. Tirion also published the twenty-one volumes of Wagenaar’s *opus magnum on Dutch history, the Vaderlandsche historie* (1749–59). Wagenaar was also the author of two political pamphlets, the *Koffy-huis-praatje* and *De Patriot* (1747), which caused a political, anti-Orange controversy and a rift at Tirion’s booksop. In several lampoons Tirion was accused of commercial opportunism; whatever the truth may be, he sold a few thousand copies of the *Koffy-huis-praatje* within a fortnight. Another characteristic of Tirion’s bookseller’s list are the great number of maps and atlases, most notably the *Nieuwe en beknopte kaart* (c. 1740, and with many reprints),