The Dutch-Belgian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (Werkgroep Achttiende Eeuw) is an active association with approximately 250 individual members and 50 institutional members. Each year, the Society organises a conference and at least one lecture or activity. In collaboration with the Dutch Society for Seventeenth-Century Studies (Werkgroep Zeventiende Eeuw) Since 2017, the association publishes Early Modern Low Countries, a peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal. The association continues to publish the yearly, Jaarboek Achttiende Eeuw. As of 2019, the board consists of the following members: Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis (chairman, VU/UT), Wouter de Vries (general secretary, VU), Henk Boels (treasurer, retired RUG), Klaas van Gelder (UGent), Beatrijs Vanacker (ULEuven), Lieke van Deinsen (ULEuven/VU), Anna de Wilde (Radboud) and Lien Verpoest (ULEuven).

The Society explicitly aims to address both an academic and a non-academic audience, which is reflected in both its activities and its publications.

**Activities**

The annual conference of the society, held on the 21st and 22nd of March in Leuven, had as its theme ‘Portraits and Poses: Representations of Female Intellectual Authority, Agency and Authorship in Early modern and Enlightenment Europe’. The conference was a great success, with three keynote lectures, an broad international list of speakers, numerous sessions and a large audience. In order to support junior scholars working on the eighteenth century, the Society has set up the Alexander J. P. Raat conference fund in 2018, aiming to assist early career scholars in financing one large or two small conferences each year. In 2018, the fund was awarded to the conference ‘Foreign Eyes on the Dutch Republic’, held on the 21st and 22nd of February 2019, at the Radboud University Nijmegen. The conference addressed the images and stereotypes connected to the Dutch Republic in the eyes of foreigners.

Finally, the Society has decided to award their thesis award biennially, which means that no thesis award has been awarded during this year.

**Publications**

As of 2017, the Society publishes a yearbook in Dutch, and is participating in the new, online, open-access and English-language journal Early Modern Low Countries. The theme of this year’s yearbook was ‘250 years of circus’, addressing not only circuses but other phenomena such as fairs, festivals and celebrations as well. In 2019, the yearbook will commemorate the publication of Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe, exactly three-hundred years ago.

The recently started EMLC is a great success. Appearing two times per year, the journal is open to submissions covering the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In 2018, one theme-issue was published on ‘The Newspaper in the Early Modern Low Countries’. Another issue was published without theme.