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## REVIEW ARTICLES

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### *Thirty Years of Research in Social and Economic History: The Centre of Modern and Colonial History at the University of Ghent*

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Between 1944 and 1974 Professor Charles Verlinden acted as director of a lively research centre at the University of Ghent. His nomination as director of the Belgian Academy and of the Belgian Historical Institute in Rome in 1959 did not diminish his activities in Ghent, as among other examples the five volumes of *Documents on the history of prices and wages in Flanders and Brabant* (Dokumenten voor des Geschiedenis van Prijzen en Lonen in Vlaandren en Brabant) which have been published since 1959 clearly illustrate, for these contain the results of Professor Verlinden's teaching and of the research of members of the centre in Ghent,<sup>1</sup> several of whom are now teaching there or in other European and American universities.

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<sup>1</sup> The first volume (*Travaux de la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Gand*, n. 125, 1959, XXXVIII, pp. 577) contains documents for the 15th to the 18th centuries. In addition to the preface by C. Verlinden it contains contributions by: H. Coppejans-Desmedt, J. Craeybeckx, D. Dalle, V. Janssens, E. Scholliers, G. Croisiau, P. Deprez J. Vermaut, A. Wyffels. The research was coordinated by J. Craeybeckx, who was at time director of research at the Ghent Centre and is now professor at the Flemish University of Brussels. The second volume is in two parts (*Travaux* etc., n. 136 & 137, 1965, XXXIX, pp. 1360). This time the documents cover the period from the 14th to the 19th century. E. Scholliers was chief coordinator, and was director of studies at the Centre at that time and is now also a professor at the Flemish University of Brussels. Contributors included: H. Coppejans-Desmedt, M. Mestayer, J. Craeybeckx, G. Impens, E. Scholliers, P. Van de Walle, D. Van Ryssele, A. Verhulst, A. Wyffels. The fourth volume contains documents from the 16th to 19th centuries and was published in 1972 (*Travaux* etc., n. 153, XXVIII, pp. 468). The volume was coordinated by E. Scholliers and the contributors were: F. De Wever, B. Goffin, F. Masson, E. Scholliers, C. Vandenbroeke, W. Vanderpijpen. The fifth volume was published in 1973, covers the 13th-19th centuries (*Travaux* etc., n. 156, XXX, pp. 420) and was coordinated by E. Scholliers. The contributors were: K. Deblonde-Cottentier, Van Damme-De Mey, J. Mertens, W. Prevenier, M. Toch, C. Vandenbroeke, W. Vanderpijpen.

In addition to the volumes already mentioned, the volume published in 1962 by Charles Verlinden and J. Craeybeckx on wage and price policy in the Netherlands (present day Belgium and Holland) in the 16th century,<sup>2</sup> and also the outstanding study by E. Scholliers on standards of living in Antwerp from the 15th to the 16th century, which was published in 1960,<sup>3</sup> should be mentioned.

As long ago as 1945 J. Craeybeckx, one of the earliest participants in Professor Verlinden's research seminars, wrote a very fine *thèse de licence* on a fiscal problem which is extremely important for the economic history of the Netherlands in the 16th century. This was the tax of the 100th, the 20th and the 10th penny raised in Flanders and Brabant by the Duke of Alba, which had, it was generally agreed, quite disastrous consequences. Even Pirenne in his *History of Belgium* was of this opinion, but Craeybeckx showed that the 10th penny, which was generally held to have been particularly onerous, was in fact hardly ever collected.<sup>4</sup>

In 1947 Mme H. Coppejans-Desmedt, who is at present director of a department of the *Archives Générales du Royaume* in Brussels, submitted a thesis on the bourgeoisie of Ghent in the time of Maria Theresa, which contained an excellent economic and social history of this leading Flemish town in the years prior to the Industrial Revolution, and which provided the basis for her later book published in 1952.<sup>5</sup> In the following academic year V. Craeybeckx also brilliantly defended his doctoral thesis on the import trade of French wines in the Low Countries (13th-16th centuries). This was subsequently published in 1958 in the series « Ports, Routes, Traffics » of the *VIe section of the École pratique des Hautes Études in Paris*. This book is a major contribution to the commercial history of the later middle ages and the early modern period.

The same year saw the submission of the first *thèse de licence* on prices and wages which was written by A. Wijffels and dealt with Flanders in the 16th century. It was from this time that this began to form one of the principal topics for research at the centre, together with the other

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<sup>2</sup> *Prijzen en Lonenpolitiek in de Nederlanden in 1561 en 1588-9. Onuitgegeven adviezen, ontwerpen en ordonnanties* (Suggestions, Projects and Regulations), « Commission Royale d'Histoire de Belgique », 1962, pp. 181.

<sup>3</sup> *Loonarbeid en honger. De levensstandaard in de XVe en XVIe eeuw te Antwerpen* (Wage, labour and hunger. Living standards in Antwerp in the 15th and 16th centuries) Antwerp 1960, XXXII, pp. 284.

<sup>4</sup> He returned to this later in *Alva's tiende penning, een mythe?* (Was the 10th penny a myth?), *Bijdragen en Mededelingen*, Utrecht 1962, pp. 10-42 and also in *De moeizame definitieve afschaffing van Alva's tiende penning* (The painful abolition of A's 10th penny), *Album C. Verlinden*, Ghent, 1975, pp. 63-94.

<sup>5</sup> *Bijdrage tot de studie van de gegoede burgerij te Gent in de XVIIIe eeuw. De vorming van een nieuwe sociaal-economische stand te Gent in de XVIIIe eeuw*, *Verhandelingen Kon. Vl. Acad. Kl. Letteren*, n. 17, pp. 266.

<sup>6</sup> IX, pp. 315.

subjects already mentioned, and one the topics around which Professor Verlinden's seminars became focussed. This was how the series of *Documents on the history of prices and wages in Flanders and Brabant*, the first of which appeared in 1959 edited by Craeybeckx (later Scholliers), came into being. Now with its five volumes it constitutes one of the richest sources for price and wage history in Europe. In 1955 C. Verlinden, J. Craeybeckx and E. Scholliers had also published an essay on « The Movement of prices and wages in Belgium in the 16th century ».<sup>7</sup>

In preparation for a more general study of price movements, Craeybeckx looked first at the relationship between grain prices and bread prices in Brussels.<sup>8</sup> In the same year he also published an essay on merchants, artisans, and labourers, in Flanders between the 16th and 18th centuries,<sup>9</sup> and a comparative study of grain prices in Brussels and Antwerp.<sup>10</sup> His research on food prices in Brussels (1501-1795) and Antwerp (1608-1817) is included in the first volume on the *Documents on prices and wages* (1959) of which he was general editor at that time.<sup>11</sup> He also published other essays on living standards and conditions of workers,<sup>12</sup> as well as an important study of the export industries in Ghent and Bruges in the 17th century.<sup>13</sup> In 1964 Craeybeckx left the Centre at Ghent to take up a chair at Brussels University, but several of his later publications were based on the research carried out before he left. These include his studies on the origins of the Industrial Revolution,<sup>14</sup> on the revolution in Brabant,<sup>15</sup> and on the Duke of Alba's fiscal system.<sup>16</sup> In Volume II of the *Documents...* (1965) he also contributed a study of prices in Brussels between 1761 and 1787.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *Annales E.S.C.*, pp. 173-198.

<sup>8</sup> *De Brusselse "Terminatieboeken"*, « Bijdragen tot de Prijzengeschiedenis », II, 1957, pp. 66-68.

<sup>9</sup> *Handelaars en neringdoenden*, « Flandria Nostra », I, Anvers, 1957, pp. 409-464; *De Handarbeiders*, *ibidem*, pp. 281-328.

<sup>10</sup> *Brood en levensstandaard. Kritische nota betreffende de prijs van het brood te Antwerpen en te Brussel in de 17e en 18e eeuw* « Bijdragen tot de Prijzengeschiedenis », III, 1958, pp. 133-162.

<sup>11</sup> pp. 481-522.

<sup>12</sup> *De arbeiders vóór de industriële onwenteling*, *Geschiedenis van de socialistische arbeidersbeweging in België*, I, Anvers, 1960.

<sup>13</sup> *Les industries d'exportation dans les villes flamandes au XVIIe siècle particulièrement à Gand et à Bruges*, *Studi in onore di A. Fanfani*, IV, 1962, pp. 411-468.

<sup>14</sup> *De agrarische wortels van de industriële onwenteling*, « *Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire* », XLI, 1963, pp. 397-448; *Les débuts de la révolution industrielle en Belgique et les statistiques de la fin de l'empire*, *Mélanges G. Jacquemyns*, Brussels, 1968, pp. 115-144.

<sup>15</sup> *De Brabantse onwenteling: een conservatieve opstand in een achterlijk land?*, « *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* », 1967, pp. 303-330.

<sup>16</sup> *La portée fiscale et la politique du centième denier du duc d'Albe*, « *Acta Historica Bruxellensia* », I, 1967, pp. 343-374.

<sup>17</sup> pp. 1300-1319.

Between 1961 and 1964 about a dozen *thèses de licence* were prepared under his supervision, several of which were published. In 1961 he supervised five theses, on the linen industry and trade,<sup>18</sup> on tapestry production, on herring and cod fishing, on demographic developments in certain Eastern-Flemish villages.<sup>19</sup> A study of customs policy and the commercial treaties of the Spanish Netherlands in the late 17th century was completed in 1963.<sup>20</sup> In his final year at Ghent, Craeybeckx supervised four theses, dealing with the fiscal system in Waes,<sup>21</sup> the diamond trade in Antwerp in the 17th century, wages in the Plantinian printing works from the 16th to the 18th century<sup>22</sup> and rents in Ghent between 1500 and 1795.<sup>23</sup>

E. Scholliers who was already a member of the Ghent Centre succeeded Craeybeckx in 1964 and became director of research until he also received a chair at Brussels University. Scholliers' main interest lies in social history and the incidence of economic *conjunctures* in the modern period. It is largely as a result of his work that the wage series for Flanders and Brabant are among the richest for the whole of Europe for the period between the 15th and the 19th centuries. In 1955 he wrote on the living standards of Antwerp workers in the late 16th century,<sup>24</sup> while he published a study on "free" and "unfree" workers,<sup>25</sup> a general appraisal of conditions of manual workers in the 16th century in « Flandria Nostra »<sup>26</sup> and, in 1957, a study on the relationship between wages and the labour market.<sup>27</sup> These studies provided the basis for a general study of living standards in Antwerp

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<sup>18</sup> J. BASTIN, *De Gentse lijnwaadmarkt en linnenhandel in de 17e eeuw*, « Handelingen der Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde te Gent », XXI, 1967, pp. 131-162.

<sup>19</sup> G. VANLAERE, *Bevolking en sociaal-ekonomische evolutie gedurende de 17e en 18e eeuwen in Assenede, Bassevelde, Boekhout, Ertvelde, Oosteeklo en Waterliet*, « Handelingen der Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde te Gent », XV, 1961, pp. 49-103.

<sup>20</sup> S. VANDE CASTEELE, *Het protectionisme in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden gedurende de tweede helft der 17e eeuw*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », 78, 1965, pp. 294-317.

<sup>21</sup> R. DE BOCK, *Het belastingsstelsel in het Land van Waas in de XVIIe en de XVIIIe eeuw*, « Annalen van de Oudheidkundige Kring van het Land van Waas », 1967.

<sup>22</sup> G. IMPENS, *Salaires à l'imprimerie Plantinienne, 16e-17e siècles*, Doc. II, pp. 1057-1235.

<sup>23</sup> D. VAN RYSSSEL, *Loyers à Gand, 1500-1795*, Doc. II, pp. 163-353, and *De Gentse huurhuren tussen 1500 en 1795. Bijdrage tot de kennis van de conjunktur van de stad*, « Pro Civitate », Editions Historiques, n. 15, 1967.

<sup>24</sup> *De levensstandaard der arbeiders op het einde der 16e eeuw te Antwerpen*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », LXVIII, 1955, pp. 80-103.

<sup>25</sup> *Vrije en onvrije arbeiders voornamelijk te Antwerpen in de XVIe eeuw*, « Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden », XI, 1956, pp. 285-322.

<sup>26</sup> *De handarbeiders*, « Flandria Nostra », I, Anvers, 1957, pp. 261-280.

<sup>27</sup> *Loonsverhoudingen en arbeidsmarkt*, « Bijdragen tot de Prijzengeschiedenis, II. 1957, pp. 56-59.

<sup>28</sup> Cf. above, n. 3.

in the 15th and 16th centuries,<sup>28</sup> and the price and wage series used for this were also published in the first volume of the *Documents*...<sup>29</sup> In the following years Scholliers broadened his research, and produced a study of rents in Antwerp between 1500 and 1873<sup>30</sup> and a study of prices and wages in Flanders and Brabant (Bruges, the "Franc" of Bruges, Ghent, Alost, Grammont, and certain villages in eastern Flanders, Antwerp, Malines, Hoogstraten, and the Antwerp region). All these are included in the second volume of the *Documents* (1965),<sup>31</sup> of which he was editor as well as of the third volume (published in 1972) in which he published two new studies on prices and wages in Antwerp and Alost.<sup>32</sup>

In addition to his own research Scholliers supervised a number of these which were published, including studies on property ownership in Ghent in 1738,<sup>33</sup> cereal policies in the Austrian Netherlands by C. Vandembroeke,<sup>34</sup> and on rents in Bruges (1500-1796) by F. Masson published in *Documents* vol. III.<sup>35</sup> This volume also includes a study of farm rents in the Ghent and Antwerp regions and in the polders of Antwerp written by F. De Wever.<sup>36</sup> A study of prices based on the account books of certain Ghent institutions in the 16th century by M. Toch was published in vol. IV.<sup>37</sup> E. Scholliers had three assistants at the Centre, C. Vandembroeke, his main assistant, W. Vanderpijpen and F. De Wever, who were probationers of the National Foundation for Scientific Research.

Following a *thèse de licence* on provisioning policies, a summary of which was published in the « *Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire* », Vandembroeke's research was concerned with agrarian history and problems of food supply. In 1969 he published on the cultivation and consumption of potatoes in the 17th and 18th centuries,<sup>38</sup> and an English translation of this article appeared in 1971 in the « *Acta Historica Neerlandica* ».<sup>39</sup> His doctoral thesis on agriculture and food supplies in the Austrian Netherlands was submitted in 1970 and will be published shortly. Together with W.

<sup>29</sup> pp. 241-480.

<sup>30</sup> *Un indice du loyer: les loyers anversois de 1500 à 1873*, « *Studi in onore di A. Fanfani* », V, 1962, pp. 593-617.

<sup>31</sup> pp. 87-160, 354-461, 514-577, 641-1056, 1236-1299.

<sup>32</sup> pp. 189-221 et 350-358.

<sup>33</sup> L. VANAUWERBEKE, *Peiling naar de bezitsstructuur van de Gentse bevolking omstreeks 1738*, « *Pro Civitate* », Editions Historiques, n. 24, 1969).

<sup>34</sup> *De graanpolitiek in de Oostenrijkse Nederlanden*, « *Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire* », XLV, 1967, pp. 369-387.

<sup>35</sup> pp. 3-94.

<sup>36</sup> pp. 222-288, 359-450.

<sup>37</sup> pp. 326-400.

<sup>38</sup> *Aardappelteelt en aardappelverbruik in de 17e en 18e eeuw*, « *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* », LXXXII, 1968, pp. 49-68.

<sup>39</sup> *Cultivation and consumption of the potato in the 17th and 18th century*, « *Acta Historica Neerlandica* », V, pp. 15-39.

Vanderpijpen he also has written on the development of the cultivation of foodstuffs in Flanders between 1700 and 1846,<sup>40</sup> and in 1971 he wrote an essay on the wages and diets of sailors in Flanders in the 18th century.<sup>41</sup> A study of urban tolls (*octrois*) in the early 19th century, which indicates the type of foodstuffs brought into the city of Ghent, has also been published by the same author,<sup>42</sup> and in collaboration with Vanderpijpen he has written on food prices in Brussels (1800-1912) and Ghent (1800-1914); this study is published in *Documents . . .* vol. III.<sup>43</sup> In vol. IV he contributed a comparative study of prices for some twenty villages in the Austrian Netherlands between 1765 and 1794.<sup>44</sup> Vandenbroeke is also engaged in demographic research, and following the methods established by M. Fleury and L. Henry for family reconstruction he is preparing a demographic study of a village in southern Flanders in the period 1650-1850. In the work of the Centre he is responsible for theses on demographic topics.

W. Vanderpijpen, who was a probationer of the National Foundation for Scientific Research, has worked on a doctoral thesis on agriculture and rural administration in the departments of Lys and Scheldt between 1794 and 1814. He has published a study of foodstuff cultivation, together with Vandenbroeke, which we have already mentioned, as well as a study of prices in Ghent. Other price series researched by him are published in the *Document . . .* vol. IV.<sup>45</sup> He is also author of a study on agricultural statistics during the French regime<sup>46</sup> and in 1971 together with J. Mertens he wrote an essay on agriculture in Eastern Flanders in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.<sup>47</sup> He has also published research on the social structure of Bruges in the late 14th century in the collection *Anciens Pays et Assembles d'Etats* (vols. LIV, LVII).<sup>48</sup> De Wever is also preparing an elaborate

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<sup>40</sup> *De voedingsgewassen in Vlaanderen en Brabant in de XVIIIe en XIXe eeuw* « Revue Belge d'Histoire Contemporaine », II, 1970, pp. 47-82.

<sup>41</sup> *Bijdrage tot de studie van de voeding en de lonen van de zeelui tijdens de tweede helft van de 18e eeuw*, « Tijdschrift voor Sociale Wetenschappen », XVI, 1971, pp. 403-424.

<sup>42</sup> *Voedingstoestanden te Gent tijdens de eerste helft van de XIXe eeuw*, « Revue Belge d'Histoire Contemporaine », III, 1971, pp. 95-188 et 289-349.

<sup>43</sup> pp. 95-188 et 289-349.

<sup>44</sup> pp. 1-166.

<sup>45</sup> pp. 167-223.

<sup>46</sup> *De landbouwstatistiek in Vlaanderen onder het Frans Bewind*, « Revue Belge d'Histoire Contemporaine », II, 1970, pp. 29-46).

<sup>47</sup> *Schets van de Westvlaamse landbouw eind 18e-begin 19e eeuw. Het rapport van B.J. Holvoet en zijn belang voor de "Mémoire Statistique du département de la Lis"*, « Handelingen van het Genootschap Société d'Emulation te Brugge », CVII, 1970, pp. 277-300.

<sup>48</sup> *Vergelijking van de sociale samenstelling van de bevolking van het St. Jakobs-zestendeel te Brugge in 1382-83 en 1394-66*, tome LIV, pp. 79-94 et tome LVII, pp. 37-236.

study of farm rents in Flanders and Brabant between 1500-1800, and some preliminary results for the 18th century together with some methodological observations have been published in vol. III of the *Documents*. An essay on conjunctural movements has been published in another review.<sup>49</sup>

Turning to rather different fields from those with which we have until now been concerned, P. Deprez (now Professor in the Faculty of Economics in the University of Winnipeg, Canada) began his career with a *thèse de licence* on economic and social conditions in the lordship of Nevele from the 16th to the 18th century, which was submitted in 1955. This began his research on the relations between demographic and agrarian development. In the following year J. Vermaut wrote an essay on prices and wages in the Bruges region in the 17th century, which was published in the *Documents* vol. I, and the same author, in 1974, submitted a brilliant doctoral thesis on the textile industry in the same region, which will be published shortly.

W. Brulez was one of Professor Verlinden's principal research colleagues and is now professor of economic history at Ghent University. In 1958 he submitted a brilliant doctoral thesis with which he fully established his reputation as an economic rather than, as before, a political historian. The study dealt with the important Antwerp company run by the della Faille family, and the international trade of the Antwerp companies in the 16th century. In the following year it was published by the Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences. In the same year Mme H. Coppejans-Desmedt submitted a very fine doctoral thesis on the Ghent textile industry between 1795 and 1835, which, unfortunately, has not been published yet.

In the following year a *thèse de licence* on two other Antwerp companies was submitted, this time dealing with the 17th century and with the firms Van Colen and De Groot (1640-1660). The author, at present assistant professor at Antwerp University, took this as the starting point for his doctoral thesis on Antwerp's international function as a trade centre in the same period, which was submitted in 1972 and will shortly be published.<sup>51</sup>

The first thesis on a colonial topic was submitted in the same year by F. Van Gool. This deals with a false source for the history of Peru, the *De Rebus Peruviae* by Levinus Apollonius. Four other theses on economic and colonial history topics were completed in the next year: G. De Clerq on forced labour as commutation of debts by the Mexican indian rural proletariat

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<sup>49</sup> *Pachtprijzen in Vlaanderen en Brabant in de 18e eeuw. Bijdrage tot de conjunctuurstudie*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », 85, 1972, pp. 180-204.

<sup>50</sup> *De Firma della Faille en de internationale handel van Vlaamse firm's in de 16e eeuw*, XVI, pp. 634.

<sup>51</sup> In the meanwhile see: R. BAETENS. *Een Antwerps handelshuis uit de XVIIe eeuw. De firma van Colen*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », 75, 1960, pp. 193-214.

in the 16th and 17th centuries; G. Goosens on the material aspects of indigenous civilization in pre-Cortes Mexico, based on the oldest narrative sources; J. Siebens on the organization of the « republicas de Indios » in Mexico from the 16th to the 17th centuries; P. Smedts on the "repartimiento" of Hispaniola in 1514. Although none of these were published, the Institute's director has been able to draw on the information which they contain in various articles.<sup>52</sup>

In the same year P. Deprez submitted a doctoral thesis on the *châtellenie* of Vieux-Bourg and its economic and social structure in the 18th century, which provided the basis for many demographic studies subsequently published by the author.

In 1960, J. Everaert, at present associate professor at Ghent University and a specialist in colonial economic and social history, submitted his *thèse de licence* on the slave trade in Nantes in the late 18th century. This work, which has been considerably extended, will appear in the series of monographs published by the Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences.<sup>53</sup> In the same year G. Van Vooren was also working on the native population of Mexico city in the mid-16th century.<sup>54</sup> In 1962 M. Siron submitted a *thèse de licence* on native slaves in Spanish America, and in 1965 K. Stals was working on the Peruvian economy from the 16th to the 17th centuries.<sup>55</sup>

The major work on economic colonial history which has been produced in Ghent is J. Everaert's doctoral thesis on the international and colonial trade of the Flemish companies in Cadiz between 1670 and 1700. This book was published in 1973 in the *Travaux de la Faculté des Lettres de Gand*.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> C. VERLINDEN, *Une fausse source de l'histoire coloniale du Pérou: Levinus Apollonius, De Peruviae regionis inventione*, « Revista de la Sociedad Peruana de Historia », 1965, pp. 307-315); *Gouvernés et gouvernants dans les "republicas de Indios" du Mexique aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles*, « Recueil de la Société Jean Bodin », XXIV, 1966, pp. 483-502); *Le repartimiento de Rodrigo de Albuquerque à Española en 1514. Aux origines d'une importante institution économique-sociale de l'Empire colonial espagnol*, « Mélanges G. Jacquemyns », 1968, pp. 633-646); *El regimen de trabajo en México. Aumento y alcance de la ganancia en el siglo XVII*, « Homenaje José Miranda », 1970, pp. 225-246). See also C. VERLINDEN, *Americanismo del period virreinal en Belgica* « Historia y bibliografía Americanistas », XVI, 1972, pp. 427-452).

<sup>53</sup> In the meantime see: J. EVERAERT, *Les fluctuations du trafic négrier nantais (1763-92)*, « Cahiers de Tunisie », XI, 1963, pp. 37-62) and PIETER VAN ALSTEIN, *Gents slavenkapitein in Nantese dienst (1733-39)*, « Handelingen der Maatschappij voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde te Gent », 1965, pp. 47-84.

<sup>54</sup> Cf. C. VERLINDEN, *Structure sociale et administrative à Mexico au début de l'époque coloniale comme bases de l'urbanisation*, « Verhandlungen des XXXVIII Amerikanisten Congresses », IV, 1972, pp. 73-76).

<sup>55</sup> Cf. C. VERLINDEN, *L'américanisme en Belgique*, « Anuario de Estudios Americanos », XXVIII, 1972, pp. 491-497.

<sup>56</sup> *De internationale en koloniale handel der Vlaamse firma's te Cadiz, 1670-1700*, XLIX, pp. 974.

Besides his economic studies, W. Brulez, the current holder of the chair in economic history at the University of Ghent, has also tackled a number of colonial topics. He has published a penetrating critique of the monumental work by P. Chaunu,<sup>57</sup> and has also written on the commercial affairs of the Flemish Helman company in Constantinople, Persia and India,<sup>58</sup> on the commercial aspects of the voyages of Ca' da Mosto in Portuguese Guinea,<sup>59</sup> as well as an essay on the colonial trade of the Netherlands in the 16th century.<sup>60</sup> He has also supervised *thèse de licence* devoted to the Americas, and to Asia, which have concentrated in particular on the Dutch East India Company's trade in Persia in the 18th century, and on the attempts made by the Austrian Netherlands to negotiate with the United States of America and the French Antilles between 1776 and 1794.

J. Everaert has supervised theses on the « Admiralty of Seville » (c. 1625-33), an international trading company designed to combat Dutch smuggling, on the southern trade of the Ghent company of J. de Loose (late 18th century), on trade relations between the Austrian Netherlands and the Islamic world in the 18th century, while the little known topic of the Ostend company's trade with China (1718-35), was also studied, as was marine insurance in Antwerp in the 17th century. Everaert himself is writing a study of the negro slave trade in the Austrian Netherlands, as well as a new illustrated biography of Pedro de Gante, a 16th century Flemish missionary in Mexico, and a study of Flemish emigration to the Atlantic archipelagoes.

Various studies of commercial enterprises have been conducted under the guidance of W. Brulez. A large number of commercial houses based on Ghent or Antwerp have been described and their different activities analysed. Many of these specialized in trade with Spain, for example Borrekens (mercury 1642-62), J. de Bruyne (1641-64), Van Lidt-de Jeude (lace, 18th century), Kerremans (textiles, 18th century). Brulez has also studied the changing role of Antwerp in the early 17th century,<sup>62</sup> as well as other aspects of the 16th century which was a golden age for the Netherlands

<sup>57</sup> W. BRULEZ, *Séville et l'Atlantique: quelques réflexions critiques*, « Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire », XLII, 1964, pp. 568-92.

<sup>58</sup> *Venetiaanse handelsbetrekkingen met Perzië en Indië omstreeks 1600*, « Orientalia Gandensia », I, 1964, pp. 1-27.

<sup>59</sup> *Les voyages de Ca' da Mosto et le commerce guinéen au XVe siècle*, « Bulletin de l'Institut Historique belge de Rome », 1968, pp. 311-26.

<sup>60</sup> *Der Kolonialhandel und die Handelsblüte der Niederlande in der Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts*, « Kölner Vorträge zur Social- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte », Heft 3, 1969.

<sup>61</sup> K. DEGRYSE, *De Oostendse Chinahandel (1718-1735)*, « Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire », LII, 1974, pp. 306-347.

<sup>62</sup> W. BRULEZ, *Anvers de 1585 à 1650*, « Vierteljahrsschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte », 1967, pp. 75-99.

and in particular the predominant position held at that time by Antwerp.<sup>63</sup> On the basis of this research he has also attempted a comparison of the roles played respectively by Bruges and Antwerp in the 15th and 16th centuries.<sup>64</sup>

Antwerp entrepreneurs have been the subject of a number of monographs: Gilbert Schoonbeke, a brewer and notorious speculator;<sup>65</sup> Anne Janssens, a bold company director;<sup>66</sup> Juan Henriquez, broker and insurer on a very large scale; the Rockox family and burgomaster Antoine van Stralen whose possessions and income have been studied.

Industry has until recently been comparatively neglected, but this is now also being studied. Both the silk industry (17th century)<sup>67</sup> and brewing (1585-1700) in Antwerp are at present being studied from a technical perspective and from the point of view of their changing economic fortunes. One can look forward to an important work on both these topics by H. Soly, Brulez' principal assistant. There are moreover a number of projects in progress on the merchant fleet, consisting of statistical studies of the movement of ships and goods in the Flemish sea ports in the 17th century (Ostend, 1640-78, Nieuport 1642-1654) and in the 18th century (Ostend 1750-1800), as well as studies on marine insurance at Bruges (1370-1569) and on the sea works and dikes between Blankenberge and Ostend in the modern period. A description of the communications net-work around Antwerp in the Austrian period is also being prepared.

This then is a brief summary of the activity of the study centre at Ghent.

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<sup>63</sup> *De bandelsbalans der Nederlanden in het Midden van de 16e eeuw*, « Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden », XXI, 1966-67, pp. 278-310; *The balance of trade of the Netherlands* (English translation in « Acta Historica Neerlandica », IV, 1970, pp. 20-48); *Le commerce international des Pays-Bas au XVIe siècle: essai d'appréciation quantitative*, « Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire », XLVI, 1968, pp. 1205-21; *De economische kaart van de Nederlanden in de 16e eeuw volgens Guicciardini*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », 83, 1970, pp. 352-57.

<sup>64</sup> *Brugge en Antwerpen in de 15e en 16e eeuw: een tegenstelling?*, « Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis », 83, 1970, pp. 15-37.

<sup>65</sup> H. SOLY, *De brouwerijonderneming van Gilbert van Schoonbek (1552-63)*, « Revue Belge de Philologie et d'Histoire », XLVI, 1968, pp. 337-392, 1166-1204.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.*, *De Antwerpse onderneemster Anna Janssens en de economische "boom" na de Vredè van Catcau-Cambrésis (1559)*, « Bijdragen tot de Geschiedenis », LII, 1969, pp. 139-64.

<sup>67</sup> A. Tuijs, *De Zijdenijverheid te Antwerpen in de 17e eeuw*, Bruxelles, 1969.