

Recommended Holland & Belgium Books

General Holland History/Biography

Art and Commerce in the Dutch Golden Age. Michael North.

Examination of how a tiny country with virtually no natural resources attained an unprecedented amount of world power, religious tolerance and artistic flowering during the 17th century.

A Bridge Too Far. Cornelius Ryan.

A historic account of Operation Market Garden and of the epic Allied attempt to capture the crucial bridge at Arnhem. Also a 1977 all-star film.

Dear Theo: the Autobiography of Vincent van Gogh. Vincent van Gogh.

A revealing portrait of the great artist from his letters to his beloved brother, Theo.

Girl With a Pearl Earring. Tracy Chevalier.

Fictionalized account of the young girl who modeled for the enigmatic Dutch Master, Vermeer. Also an Oscar-nominated 2003 film.

History of the Low Countries. J.C.H. Blom, Emiel Lamberts, James C. Kennedy.

The first comprehensive English-language history of the Low Countries (Holland and Belgium).

Nature and Art: Dutch Garden and Landscape Architecture 1650-1740. Erik De Jong.

A study of Dutch gardens during the Golden Age, including the magnificent grounds of Paleis Het Loo.

Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower & the Extraordinary Passions It Aroused. Mike Dash.

The title says it all!

Amsterdam (Holland)

Amsterdam. Geert Mak. The noted Dutch journalist's fascinating study of the origins and evolution of the Netherlands' most important city.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl. Otto Frank.

The moving story of the young Dutch girl who spent two years hiding in an Amsterdam attic before being betrayed and sent to her death in Bergen-Belsen. Lovingly compiled by her father.

The Coffee Trader. David Liss.

A rich novel of intrigue set in Amsterdam's 17th century Jewish community.

Delft (Holland)

Discovering Dutch Delftware: Modern Delft and Makkum Pottery. Stephen Van Hook.

An excellent reference to the beautiful pottery of Holland.

General Belgium History/Biography

Belgian Fashion Design. Luc Derycke.

Fascinating study of today's Belgian designers, with plenty of photographs.

Flax in Flanders Throughout the Centuries. Bert Dewilde.

History of the Flemish people who take pride in producing the world's finest linen for centuries.

The Rape of Belgium: The Untold Story of World War I. Larry Zuckerman.

A harrowing account of the 50 months following Germany's 1914 invasion of neutral Belgium.

Brussels (Belgium)

The Professor. Charlotte Bronte.

This book is set in Brussels and was inspired by the author's experiences as a teacher in Belgium.

Cookbooks

A Belgian Cookbook. Juliette Elkon Hamelcourt.

A comprehensive collection of recipes, grouped by region.

Let's Go Dutch. Johanna Bates.

The full gamut of Dutch cooking from pastry to chocolate and split pea soup. Contains an excellent section on Indonesian cooking, an important aspect of Dutch cuisine.