

European pharmacopoeias. Using the example of guaiac wood, he shows that the discovery of the special properties of a multi-purpose product could provoke an intense global trade in it. Guaiac was on the one hand used for technical purposes such as a material for ships' pulleys, and mortars, but on the other it was especially highly esteemed as a remedy against syphilis—then a new and fearsome illness—so that trade in it increased enormously. Multifunctional drugs were also used as constituents of compound medicines such as theriac, which was not a new remedy but a classical and famous European panacea. Theriac too was transported around the world in enormous quantities. Finally, Rutten shows that fragrant substances like ambergris, civet and musk were also appreciated as medicines, and formed an important group of commodities in Dutch trade.

The book concludes with a bibliography. Rutten's study provides comprehensive information concerning the trade in multifunctional drugs in the eighteenth century and their influence on Europe. By combining aspects of the histories of pharmacy, culture, and trade, he shows that interdisciplinary studies can contribute to a new understanding of historical developments. It is a pity that there are no detailed references, especially since the author has evidently consulted a large number of archival sources. But, most importantly, the results of Rutten's investigations definitely offer much inspiration for further interdisciplinary studies. The book can be recommended to a wide public: to scientists of many disciplines as well as interested amateurs.

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G A Lindeboom, *Herman Boerhaave: the man and his work*, second edition, Rotterdam, Erasmus Publishing, 2007, pp. xxx, 372, illus., €49.50 (hardback 978-90-5235-137-7).

In 1968, G A Lindeboom made his reputation in the English-speaking world as the chief expert on the history of Dutch medicine by publishing his biography of Boerhaave. (See the review in *Medical History*, 1969, **13** (4) by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead.) In that work he was significantly aided by E Ashworth Underwood, who refused to be named as co-author and simply provided a brief, signed Foreword. The book remains the only modern attempt in any language to comprehend the life and work of this most famous of eighteenth-century medical teachers and authors. Given that the original publication is now hard to obtain, Erasmus Publishing have brought out a new edition of the work, with a careful and perceptive introduction by M J van Lieburg about Lindeboom and his work that amounts to an important short biography of its own. The original edition has been entirely reset and is beautifully produced, while the alterations to the text are slight, only correcting errors. More important are Van Lieburg's editorial interventions: the Latin parts have been dropped from appendix one (the *Commentariolus*, composed from Boerhaave's autobiographical notes); appendix three is dropped entirely (the sale catalogue of Boerhaave's collections); the bibliography is painstakingly corrected and brought up to date; and Lindeboom's *Bibliographia Boerhaaviana* of 1959, also carefully expanded and corrected, is added as a final appendix. As he makes plain, the structure and aims of the original work show its age, but it remains a masterful synthesis of information then available in print, and with Van Lieburg's editorial interventions, it will still be widely consulted by anyone wishing to embark on an acquaintance with Boerhaave and his publications.

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Sandra M Sufian, *Healing the land and the nation: malaria and the Zionist project in Palestine, 1920–1947*, Chicago and London,