

Not. Romuald's Seal.



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St Nicholas News

A paper sent free to the St Nicholas' friends
all around the world,
by Fr Gerardo Cioffari, o.p., director of the
St Nicholas Research Center in Bari
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2010, November 15

DICK MAAS' HORROR MOVIE

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SINT

WHERE THE IDEA OF A NEW REVIEW COMES
FROM ?

THE **ST NICHOLAS NEWS** IS THE
CONSEQUENCE OF DOZENS OF PEOPLE
ASKING ME TO REACT AGAINST

SINT

THE HORROR MOVIE BY DICK MAAS, A
KNOWN DUTCH MOVIE DIRECTOR WHO HAS
GIVEN AN IMAGE OF SINTERKLAAS AS A
MIDDLE AGE BISHOP-KILLER.

TO WRITE IN ITALIAN WOULD HAVE BEEN
USELESS, BECAUSE IN ITALY SINTERKLAAS IS
UNKNOWN. THEREFORE I WROTE IN
ENGLISH TO SOME DUTCH NEWSPAPERS.
FROM THIS EXPERIENCE AROSE THE IDEA OF
A **PAPER IN ENGLISH**,
THAT COULD BE SENT FREE TO ALL
ST NICHOLAS FRIENDS **IN THE WORLD**.

AFTER FOUR OR FIVE ISSUES CAME ALSO THE
IDEA TO HAVE AN ITALIAN EDITION.

1. MEETING: November 19. h 18,00 pm
“St Nicholas, a link between Bari and Holland”

Conférence: St Nicolas, liaison entre Bari et l’Hollande

Conferenza: S. Nicola, legame tra Bari e l’Olanda

Конференция: Свт. Николай, связи между Барградом и Голландией

Bari. Basilica di S. Nicola. Portico dei pellegrini.
November 19, 2010; h 18 pm

Thanks to the initiative of Dutch Embassy in Italy, through cooperation of mr Aart Heering and mr Massimo Salomone (consul of Holland in Apulia) and the Centro Studi Nicolaiani it has been programmed a meeting November 19 at the Portico dei pellegrini (right in front of St Nicholas Basilica in Bari) with papers read by the Dutch scholar John Helsloot and by Fr. Gerardo Cioffari, Dominican and researcher on St Nicholas ancient manuscripts.2.

MEETING: 2-4 DECEMBER 2010

At the roots of Europe: St Nicholas cult between East and West.

Alle origini dell’Europa: il culto di S. Nicola fra Oriente e Occidente.

Aux origines de l’Europe: le culte di St Nicolas entre l’Orient et l’Occident.

У истоков Европы: Почитание Свт. Николая между Востоком и Западом

The French Italian Conference has been organized by the Istituto di Studi Classici e Cristiani (University of Bari) and the Centro Studi Nicolaiani.

Details on the Conference will be given shortly.

3. MOVIE AGAINST MOVIE: A MATCH BETWEEN MAAS AND HARTKE

The end of the year shall be remembered as the competition between two extraordinary movies: the horror film by Dick Maas “**Sint**” (in which our St Nicholas has been turned into a cruel middle age Bishop who frightens and kills





without mercy), and the epic historical movie by Gerald Hartke: **“St Nicholas of Myra. The story of Saint Nicholas”**.

About Dick Maas’ movie I already spoke in my first letter (as artistically wonderful, - it is enough to look at the movie poster to notice how much impressive it is - historically false, morally deserving blame, because children have the right to grow according to their age without terrible shocks).

Completely different is Hartke’s movie. Keeping into account the universal knowledge of Santa and the human feelings (love and generosity) that his figure inspires, the Writer/Director Gerald Hartke has gone to the roots of Santa Claus discovering the IVth century Bishop of Myra (main actor Matthew Mesler, producers Christopher Santucci and Paul Mergenhagen, music by Seth Stachowski). From the point of view of history the movie could be criticizable, because it accepts the tradition of this second Millennium which included into the life of St Nicholas many episodes taken from the life of another Nicholas (who lived 200 years after Nicholas of Myra). However, this shortcoming does not distort truth (as Maas’ movie does), because it gives a very faithful historical context (the

emperors Diocletian, Licinius, and Constantine the Great, as well as, Arius, Eusebius and so on). After history, myth and legend continues the message of the great Bishop of Myra through the children beloved Santa.

The movie has been seen by our friend James Rosenthal who spoke with the Director and the actors.

As he did, we too wish to it a great success.





Van: Guus Smits / Ine Cooijmans
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Buona sera, Fr. Gerardo Cioffari o.p.

On the eve of the day of 'our' Saint I would like to thank you for your very clear mail on Dick Maas' horromovie SINT.

My name is Gus (Augusto) Smits and I have been secretary of the Dutch Saint-Nicholas Society since the beginning some 17 years ago. Unfortunately I've never been able to visit Bari (e.g. in het month of May!), nor had the chance of meeting you, although as a teacher in classical Greek and Latin it would surely be of the utmost interest for me to be able to exchange ideas with you, as my contacts with Lieven Dehandschutter, Jim Rosenthal, Carol Myers, Herman Cole, Marie-José Wouters and Annemieke van Soestbergen are.

I have seen the movie and you are right in saying that Dick Maas really is a master of suspense in creating this kind of films in a typically Dutch way (I don't think this film with typical Dutch scenes and humor in it will conquer the filmworld!), but to take Saint Nicholas, the icon of doing good, as a subject for this kind of movies goes way beyond the standards of morally good.



Although I own copies of the Gustav Anrich book, your news about the book being on-line is very welcome to everyone who is interested in and able to read the Greek sources. I will spread the news! To finish off I must say that I often come to Italy for excursion purposes with my pupils and also visit your country every year during the summer holidays with my family, but I regret that it is always limited to the north (to Napoli). I hope that in the future there will be some opportunity to visit the town of Bari, the relics of our Saint, and of course to meet you.

All the best for the festivities tomorrow and hope to stay in contact! Cordiali saluti di

Augusto Smits Secretary Dutch Sint-Nicolaas Genootschap

INDEPENDENT FILMS.

Dear friends, if you visit this site www.metronieuws.nl/entertainment/johan-nijenhuis-maakt-sinterklaasfilm/xlkjkD!bA@5rgG8Soywe5JEvWGrmw ; or even this other : http://www.trouw.nl/anp/article3319343.ece/Johan_Nijenhuis_maakt_sinterklaasfilm.html you will learn that

Independent films (NL) shall realize in 2011 a movie about Sinterklaas. Director : Johan Nijenhuis, producer Klaas (!) de Jong. The milieu shall be the years thirties of the XX century.

The works shall begin in February in the Zuiderzeemuseum in Enkhuizen.

www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl

Nijenhuis announces that people shall find the warm atmosphere Dutch people are accustomed to live with Sinterklaas.

News from : herman.cole@skynet.be

Marie-José Wouters and “Sint”.

“Thank you so much for the book "La storia di Santa Claus"! It is a good opportunity to exercise my Italian as well. In May 2009, when I was at Bari and we met, I had just studied Italian for a half year. Since then my work and family took more of my time. So sorry I cannot reply in Italian now! I would like to pay for the book and sending; how can I send the money to you? Please, let me know!

About the film "Sint": many people (100.000) have seen the film. It has a golden state for it. But they say, it is a very cruel film. As long as children do not see it, nor the posters, it does less harm as I feared on forehand.

I also heard that in the United States they make horror films about father Christmas. I did not know that. Still there are protests but they are now less because Saint Nicolas has arrived this saturday. (I was one of the 658 Black Petes in the procession). Everyday there is the "Sinterklaas-journaal" (Sinterklaas news) on the Dutch television with all kind of news on Sinterklaas for the small children.

Arrivederci,
Marie-José Wouters

PS. M.J. Wouters' is the author of the Sinterklaas Lexicon. It is a book that cannot be missed by anyone interested in Dutch and international folklore about the popular figure of St Nicholas.

Marie-José Wouters

SINTERKLAAS LEXICON

Sinterklaas
van A tot Z



Becht