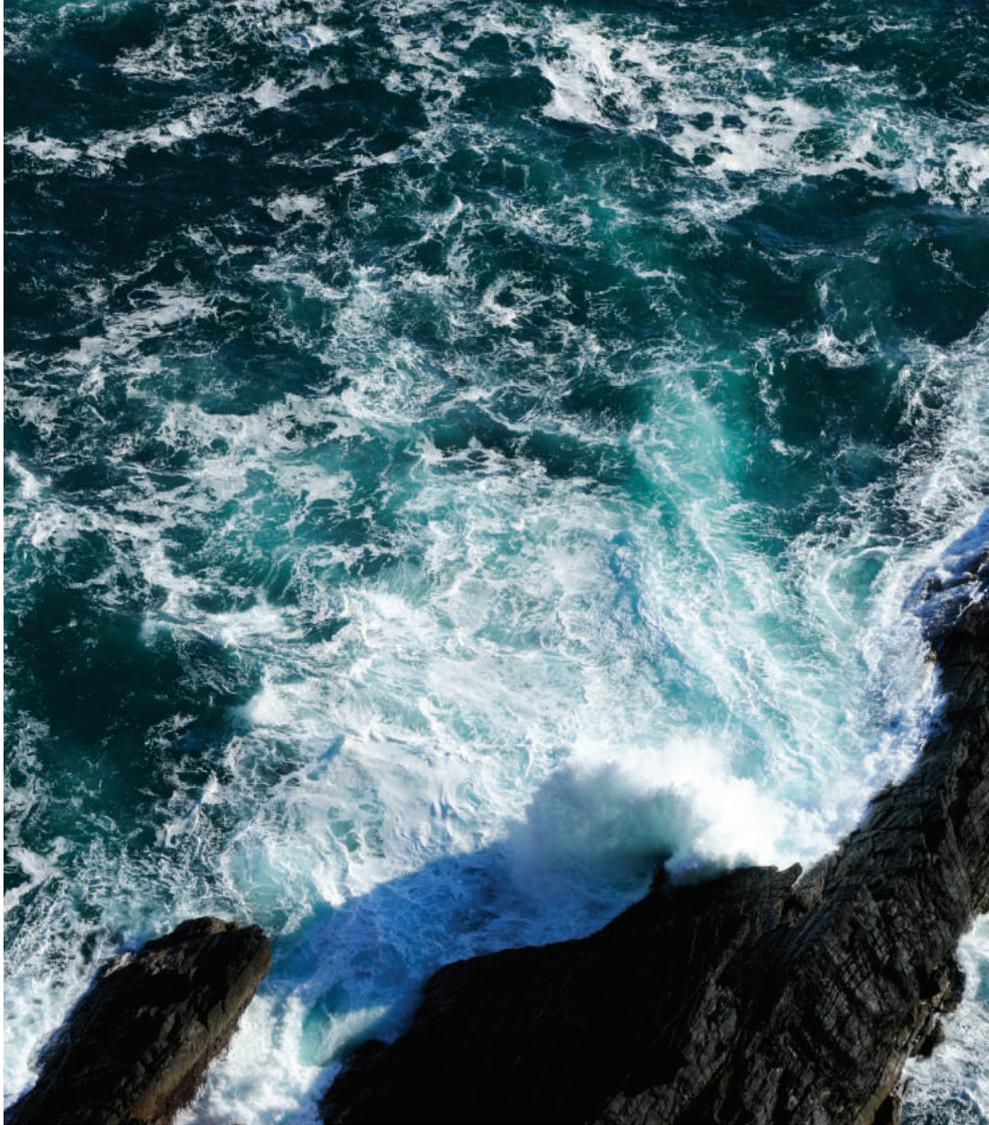


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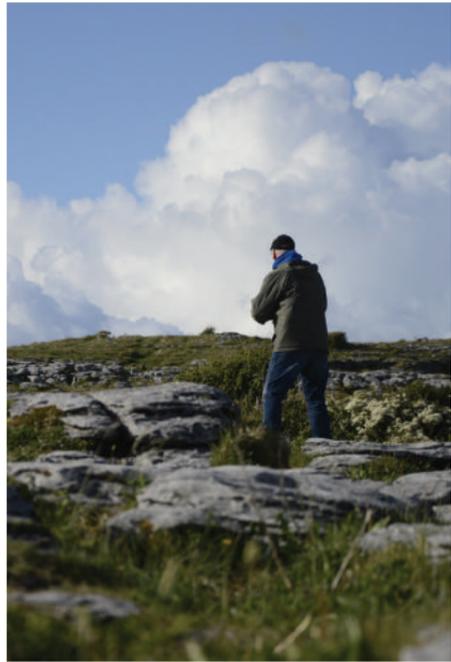
ISSUE 3 | APRIL 2018



THE TRAVEL ISSUE



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Letter of the Editor

By Lola van Scharrenburg



Dear readers,

As you are reading this, you are probably enjoying your well deserved break from the stress-inducing, social life destroying predicament that is university. Alright, it's probably not that bad, but some time off never hurt anyone. What will you be using your 14 days of precious freedom for? Some of you might be joining the Big Trip to #Birdiff, or you might have a different trip planned. Maybe to Berlin? Paris? Whatever it is that you'll be doing, we at Phoenix always try to find a theme that is currently relevant to our fellow Albioneers, and all this is basically just an overly elaborate way of me getting to my point – namely that this issue's theme is, you guessed it, travel!

It's amazing to realise that we have the freedom to open our laptops, book a plane ticket and fly to all sorts of cool places. Or even just get in the car/train and visit a different city. Hell, if you try hard enough and the weather cooperates, even an afternoon in the park can feel like a holiday. If you'd rather stay inside, that's alright too. With four amazing travel-themed short stories (both fiction and non-fiction), recipes from all over the world and some wonderful photographs of the UK, you won't even need to get out the door to feel like you're away from home.

No matter where you spend your break, I hope you have a good time.

Love,

Lola van Scharrenburg
Editor in chief

SOUTH AFRICA

Text and images by Maaïke Smit



“EVEN WITH ALL HER IMPERFECTIONS, IT IS TRUE LOVE.”



Last year I took a gap year and decided to travel to Plettenberg Bay, better known as ‘Plett’, in South Africa.

When I was in my fifth year of VWO we had to have an exchange. My mother knew some friends in South Africa from the days when she explored the world. These friends, the Lederle’s, own a lunchroom that they named Lederle’s Bakery. They invited me to come and work for them in exchange for board and lodging. I spent two weeks with them and fell in love with the family as well as the country. When I came home I missed them very much and decided that I would visit them again if I were to take a gap year. And so I did. I left sunny Utrecht in August to fly into winter in George. I lived with the Lederle’s on a farm where we shared the land with Granny and Grandpa and Mrs Lederle’s youngest daughter and her husband, Mr and Mrs Verster. Every morning at 7:30 we drove to the bakery and we would all work until the bakery closed at 18:00. I was allowed to keep the tips I received, which would amount to around 100 Rand (R) a day. To put this in perspective, when I was there you could buy 15R for €1 and a bread at the supermarket cost 30R. Many waitresses do not get a salary and therefore have to make a living with that scarce amount.

One of the cultural differences that struck me was that in Plett people usually get married at the age of 20. Mrs Verster was 18 and her husband 19 when they got married. The Lederle’s only son, Jack (21), got engaged mere weeks after I got home and the eldest sister, Olivia, was looked down upon for being 24 and not having found a husband yet.

South Africa is also not the safest country for women to visit. I, as a young white girl, could

not even go shopping with my friends without a male friend accompanying us. The first thing Mr Lederle said to me was: “Do not trust the police, they will provoke you and then charge you with something racist and silly.” The fact that back home I can go anywhere, even at night, seems so normal, but living in Plett made me realise how lucky I am to feel so safe and free.

But the cultural difference that had the most impact on me was the influence of Apartheid even after so many years. The bakery did not have a sign ‘whites only’, but I did not see a single coloured guest in the three months I worked there. White and coloured people simply do not mix. They do not have respect for one another. All of my white friends that can afford it leave South Africa. Olivia now works in France, Jack and his fiancé moved to New Zealand and many others have left or are planning to. Sadly, the young white people flee the poverty and instability of South Africa.

Still, it is a gorgeous country and I love it very much. I travelled through the beautiful landscape on a 24-day guided tour. We drove from Cape Town to Jo’burg via Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. We made ‘potjiekos’ on an open fire every evening, saw the Big Five in Etosha, went bungee jumping over the Zambezi, went looking for scorpions, stood 3 meters from one of the last wild rhinos and drank Amarula every evening.

Even with all her imperfections, it is true love.

JAPAN

Text and images by Laurel Sanders



今日からの思い出

My mother studied Japanese Language and Culture at the State University in Bandung and scribbled down vocabulary and phrases in my notebook before I left for Osaka airport. Some were completely useless [ta dei ima: honey, I’m home!], but some I would eventually say with complete confidence [itada kimas: bon appétit] and others with a quick hesitation stutter [koréwa ikura deska: how much?].

My mind was always fixated on the periphery, concerned only with finding and later describing the tangible in excruciating detail. The notebook is unreadable now - to everyone but me. If you don’t share my peculiarly compulsive and useless need to document the images you see, then it’s no use trying to explain to you why I do it, but one reason I travel with a notebook is to distinguish what really happened from what didn’t. It’s what happens when I return to Asia; my vision gets cloudy and my mind fills in the gaps. I have to write everything down as it happens if I want to have the chance of not forgetting.

So, Japan. Remember? Of course, I do. I remember the hot air when I stepped out of the bus in Ube City. The heatwave had reached a new peak, and I missed having a regular cold cola (or just the option of having regular cola).

I was going to accompany Ayaka, a high-school senior full of bliss, as she went about her day. During the time I spent in the classroom I studied everything outside of it: the way the light hit the concrete, how the wires were suspended over the city. I turned up late everywhere that day. Unlike the students of Ube High School, I did not have loafers to slip in and out of, but touristy, white Nikes with double lacing. Before you enter the building, you take your shoes off and put them on again once you leave. For me, this meant an unexpected amount of tying laces. Somehow, I did show up in time to see a dance group perform— including Ayaka’s best friend (who was called - wait for it - Ayako). Later, while watching Kendo players fight each other with bamboo sticks in the gym hall, I experienced a surreal moment that had seemingly manifested from my thoughts. I was leaning back against a pack of rolled up mats next to Ayaka and I saw a student take a look at me before she walked over to a teacher to ask him something. Then, I watched her walk over to me. She addressed Ayaka - asking her something along the lines of “Is it okay?” to which Ayaka nodded. She turned to face me and casually introduced herself in native-level Dutch. She told me her name and said she was from Apeldoorn, where she had lived all her life. She was here right now because her parents made her attend high-school in Japan in the summer to keep her connected to her roots. She took me around the site, translated the signs for me and pointed out all the little idiosyncrasies only to mock them soon after, validating the cultural disorientation I felt in a way only a Dutch person could. I ended the day on a monkey island that doubled as a waterpark (I know), and I exchanged my contact info with Ayaka and Ayako, but I kept thinking of M. I tried to add her on Facebook, but she never replied - maybe she wasn’t real either, just a ghostly apparition I made up after all.

“REMEMBER?
OF COURSE,
I DO”



SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Text and images by Nurai Mertens



If I'm being honest here – and I've just decided that I am – I struggled quite a bit writing this. It's not easy trying to fit a four-month journey into 600 words. So I won't try to.

It's been more than two years since I got on a plane at Schiphol, together with one of my best friends, to start our trip through South-East Asia. Here was our planned route: we would start in Hanoi, Vietnam, and continue into Laos and Thailand. While we were there, we decided to throw in a few weeks in Cambodia as well.

I've been receiving Facebook notifications for the past few months, reminding me that two years ago I was either 1) lying on a beach underneath a parasol (my delicate, sunburn-prone skin did not agree with the heatwave that took place in Thailand when we were there) with a fresh coconut and a book beside me, 2) visiting a pretty temple or ruin of some sorts, 3) recovering from another hangover (the hostel we were staying at was having a party, and since we weren't going to get a good night's sleep anyway, we might as well join in, right?) or 4) eating something delicious (let's be real – one of the best parts about being on vacation is spending the majority of the day thinking of what you're going to eat next). I won't tell you everything we did because, while it's nice for me to recall those memories, I've heard it's not as fun for people on the receiving end... But one of the best things we did was take a cooking workshop in Thailand: Sammy's Organic Thai Cooking School in Chiang Mai. We spent a whole day on a farm outside the city, making delicious meals and napping in hammocks in between courses. In fact, one of the recipes we



made that day is included in this issue! I had dinner with my travel friend a few weeks ago, and we spent the night catching up, and talked a bit about our trip. We started looking at photo's, talked about the beautiful things we saw, laughed about everything that went wrong and our general clumsiness (though mostly mine), the nights we spent sleeping – or rather, not sleeping – in awful beds, things we fought about that seem so silly now, how it seems like it was just yesterday we were there, and how badly we wanted to go back.

Even though I look back at our journey now with nothing but fond feelings and some longing to go back, of course there are times when you're travelling and you're not happy. Four months is quite a long time, so it makes sense that you're not your best self the entire time. I remember being angry with myself, though, for wasting time feeling homesick, or just being tired, or sad, when I could be spending my time so much better – but looking back now, it's only natural that I'd feel like this from time to time. Things go wrong (you get food poisoning, or your phone stops working, or you find out you were massively ripped off by the cab driver who seemed so nice – all true stories), and it may seem strange, but even backpacking for four months becomes normal life after a while. This doesn't mean I didn't enjoy my time in South East Asia – I think because there were ups and downs, I was able to appreciate the special moments more; all the beautiful places we've been and the wonderful people we've met have made it completely worth it. I would do it again in a heartbeat.



The mountains have called to me ever since I was young, standing vigil far off in the distance, hiding the sun when it sets. Sitting on the village wall with my friends, waiting for the beautiful vista that came about at dusk never got tiring. It only fed my imagination, a hunger to see it from so high up, and maybe get as close to Xul's vessel as was possible for a mortal. The tantalizing thought was of course there for Runal and her million children as well, to see them shine clearer than ever on those white peaks.

The traders that passed through Ckih only made my fantasies grow wilder, earning me the reputation of having my head stuck in the clouds, which I've always found rather apt. They told me of the Mason's, the towering peoples who lived all over the Digrif range with their flaming cattle, and the green plains of Mares that stretch on and on till the feet of the Reppu Highlands, where the rough men of Droon reside.

I was always first to come greet and as the years went by I got to know many of them rather well, meeting all sorts. I clearly remember the first time I saw Shasha, a Marsh Walker, and being all of seven I was utterly struck flat by the fact that someone's skin could be grey. Much the same could be said the first time I saw Etir perform one of his fancy tricks, creating a small orb of light from nothing. An entertainer and small time practitioner of the Aetherium Arts, he introduced most of us to that aspect of life.

I myself have only dabbled a little, but planning on neither becoming a man of Faith, or a Word Warrior, I consider that enough. Besides, I don't possess much of a gift for it anyway, which would have most likely stopped most of my progress, not that that deterred Elum from following the words of Yks Eth and setting out on his Eternal Drift.



DIGRIF

Written by Vincent Potman

I suppose this trip to the Digrif range is its own sort of pilgrimage, although it is not due to any tenets or Gods. Some have said I'm a fool for not seeing my constant desire to see that place as a call from Arret, the Sculpted One, but seeing as I've never prayed to her I very much doubt it. Still, I am glad to finally set out on this journey that I've been planning for years now.

I debated on setting off with a group, but eventually decided against it because this is something I have to at the very least start on my own. So here I stand, at the gate, as ready as I am ever going to get. The day is a good one, a blue sky with some clouds here and there. Under the shade of one I say goodbye to my friends and my family. I look to the West, away from the place I've lived for 17 years, and at my destination, vigilant as ever.

A small breeze brushes my brown locks, and I take that as my cue to depart. So I walk, finding my pace, and keeping it for a long time. At some point I look back and see that Ckih has become part of the landscape, part of a different vista – it makes me smile. I start walking again, and as I listen to the crunch of the dirt beneath my feet I wonder if, when I truly have my head in the clouds and look back this way, my home will usher as powerful a call as is driving me now.

An illuminated shadow

You'd find her in the shadows,
of people who ceased to be.
The wind whispering through the willow,
the falling leaves of a tree.

But it seemed she wasn't meant,
to be the tears of someone else's cries,
and she regretted the time she'd spent,
living life through someone else's eyes.

That's when she knew,
she had to create her own identity.
She would never again be blue,
and that was her secret to serenity.

She became the sun.
Always shining, always bright,
and because she feared the darkness,
she became the light.

WORD OF THE BOARD

By Minthe Woudstra



Since living on my own (i.e. since receiving money from the government), I've made it a priority to travel, and I've set a goal to try and visit at least one new country or place a year. In these 5 years, I've visited (amongst others) Norway, Iceland, Spain, Denmark and Canada. In that regard, I would say I have reached my goal and that it started to feel a little easy. Therefore, I've set up a new goal which is quite the challenge.

The challenges: 12 countries in 12 months. Overambitious to say the least. Luckily, I'm not alone in this challenge and started it about 8 months ago with my boyfriend. We began with a summer road trip which brought us through 6 EU countries already, which gave us a fair start. Unfortunately, said boyfriend moved to Canada for a semester abroad, which on the one hand set us back a few months, but on the other hand meant I could visit him and gave us two new countries to explore: Canada and the US. Additionally, when he came back we treated ourselves to some well-deserved time (and sun) together and went to Spain, another country to add to the list.

As of now there are 4 months left of the challenge and we've started to feel the heat – not only do we have classes which take up travel time, but inspiration has started to fail us as well. This is where Albion comes in: The Big Trip. As you all know, Albion will go to Birmingham and Wales in April this year, and besides the fact that these places are pretty awesome, they also count as two new countries on our list!

The total score will come up to 10 countries after April, which leaves us with only two countries to go. We've thought about going to Japan in the summer, or going on a road trip to Ireland, and in between making plans we've started thinking about our next big traveling challenge: emigrating. We've already applied for a few universities in Scotland and Sweden. Let's see where that adventure will take us!

Don't get me started on...

Travel Trials

“CERTAIN THINGS ABOUT
THE PROCESS... CAN DRIVE
YOU MAD.”

To travel to another country and explore, there are very few things which are as fun and exciting, but on the flip side there are certain things about the process which can drive you mad. Planning and packing are two, I suppose, but the more you do them the more proficient you get at them, until they are no inconvenience at all.

No, the first real hassle that jumps to mind is when your carefully crafted plan is altered by things out of your control, like a delayed or perhaps even - horror of horrors - a cancelled flight. Sitting around for an extra hour or three in an airport, or even worse in the plane itself, can really get to you, especially if this is at the start of your trip. On the way back is also bad, but far less demoralizing. In any case, I'd always have something that can occupy your attention just in case. If its cancelled, well... that means talking to airline staff about alternatives, and speaking from experience I assure you that keeping your cool is in your best interest, as biting off the representative's head doesn't make the process go any faster.

In a similar trend the misfortune of your luggage being lost or delayed is next, and it's one that never fails to get under my skin, even more so than a missed flight. Being cool headed is again encouraged, but honestly feel free to put some bite into your speech because, frankly, I always find it amazing they can screw up something as simple as placing the right bag on the right plane. Can't blame this one on the weather, can they?

Jet lag is another, but thankfully how much you feel it depends on your handling of it, which means it is not something beyond your control. Avoiding too much coffee or wine helps, and if you arrive during the day keeping active and not napping should help you get acclimatized just a little faster.

There are more things which can drive you mad during a trip, such as car trouble if you've got one, or a hotel not turning out the way you'd hoped, but so long as they all don't pile up one after the other, dealing with it is part of the journey. Besides, some adversity makes for a better story.

Tea Time With...

Heidi Klockmann

Interview by Indie Reijnierse & Laurel Sanders

Photography by Laurel Sanders

Written by Indie Reijnierse

On a cold Friday morning, we made our way to the lovely village of Vleuten, to meet with yet another one of our beloved teachers, Heidi Klockmann. When we finally found her home, Heidi was waiting for us in the doorway and welcomed us in with much enthusiasm. Unlike Aaron Griffith, our previous Tea Time interviewee, and fellow American, she did not have bike helmets lying around in her hallway. "I'm Dutch now!" she exclaimed. Indeed, Heidi might be from California, but she's already lived here for long enough to learn the ways of the Dutch! Surprisingly enough, Heidi's place is decorated mostly with hues of red, something she wants us to know happened entirely by accident. "You see, my friend had this rug she wanted to get rid of." The most notable red item in the living room was a red scarf taped to the wall with the word 'Polska', a nod to her Polish boyfriend. While we admire her apartment, Heidi sets us a pot of Oolong tea. She brings out a bowl of grapes and a plate of freshly baked, American style cookies, which she made especially for us. How very sweet! As Heidi returns with the tea, we find our seats. For one of us, this means the couch. For the other, Heidi gleefully brings out a blue skippy ball.

What did you study?

"I studied linguistics back in 2005. When I started studying I actually didn't know that linguistics existed, so I started studying math, because that's what I liked and I was good at it. Then I discovered linguistics when I was taking another course, and then I did my BA in linguistics. I also did a minor in math, because I'd already taken a year's worth of math courses, so why not? After that, I came here. I did my research masters in linguistics at Utrecht University and then my Ph.D., and I'm still here."

What made you want to come to the Netherlands?

"So when I was a BA student, I opted for a year of studying abroad. When I first came here, I had no idea what Utrecht was, it was just a city in Europe that you could go to and where classes were in English, and I was like 'Oh another country!' Also, my mother is from Norway and she told me Dutch people were very nice, so I was like 'Okay!'"

Did you experience a big culture shock, or not?

"I don't know. At least, I don't think I was aware of it if I did. Everything was different, but that is kind of expected when you go to another university, you meet different



people and you're doing different things. So, culture shock? Maybe not. I know the first time it snowed I got so excited, I was like 'What is this wet stuff coming out of the sky? I've never seen it before!'"

There's no snow in California?

"No, not where I'm from. I'm from the desert, so it's hot!"

The Netherlands must be weird for you, then?

"You'd be surprised. At home it would rain twice a year. So every time it rained, we got really, really excited, and everyone ran outside and was like 'Woow!' I still had that kind of excitement with rain when I came that year."

What is this wet stuff coming out of the sky? I've never seen it before!

How long did that excitement last?

"To be honest, I think it took quite a while. Maybe 3 or 4 years. When I came back for the masters, I was still excited

by the rain. Actually, no, then it was the hail, because then I experienced hail and I was like 'Woow!' It was something completely new! When I came back, I actually lived in Houten for a couple of years and I would bike back and forth to Utrecht. I didn't enjoy the hail then, when I was in the middle of it, I was like 'Nooooo!'"



So what were you like as a student?

"I was kind of weird. I'd make a lot of sounds. That's probably not the right way to introduce myself as a student. [laughs]. So, I took a phonetics course and we had to learn all the sounds of the IPA chart, and I had like a 15-minute walk to my dorm and the entire 15 minutes I would be making sounds from the chart. Also, in high school I had these crazy friends. Not crazy in a bad way, they were crazy in a way of - let's eat a lot of sugary things, get really hyper, put sleeping bags on our heads and run into each other! - Yeah, so we'd do a lot of really stupid things that I thought was fun."

So when you went to college, did you find new weird friends, or did you meet different kinds of people?

"I made this one friend in the

beginning. I met her at orientation and then I just kind of followed her and I was a little bit like 'I like you, can we be friends?' Then I sort of latched on to her and she was cool and nice. Not like a stalker! [laughs] I think I got a lot of my friends through her actually, because she was really good at meeting people and talking to people and I wasn't very good at that yet. So we became friends in that orientation. I had the kind of friends you didn't go out drinking with, but you'd play video games with or sing karaoke."

As we've done with every teacher we've interviewed so far, we express our fascination with the American school system. Heidi emphasises the difference and tells us about her experience.

"Well, we do have cheerleaders, pompons, marching bands, the whole lot. It's very fun to have that, I like the American school system. In my BA programme you had to take 10 courses that were completely unrelated to what you did, so 4 of them had to be science, 3 history and 3 something else, so I took oceanography as one of them. I studied the ocean currents, that was really cool. So I learned about the animals in the sea, and about the different oceans. Well, it was more complicated than that, but it wasn't like going to the sea and measuring currents."

What kind of excursions do you have when you study linguistics?

"So you go to a dark room, with a sound booth... [laughs] No, we didn't really have excursions. As a BA student I participated in this course called field methods, and we had a speaker of a language called Garifuna, who came from somewhere in Central America and we would give him a sentence, and he would translate it to his language. We would take notes and we'd try to figure out his grammatical system, the phonology and the

syntax. So that was kind of like an excursion but then in the classroom, it was cool. It's not measuring the ocean, but it's real data!"

The theme of the issue is travelling. Have you travelled some place that really left an impression on you?

"For sure, but I think it's different when you go to a place for a day or a week, versus when you go to a place and you spend a lot of time there. Lots of places I've been are really striking and interesting. I haven't been to that many where I can really say I've seen a lot of it yet. In January we went to Rome and we saw the Colosseum. That was something really striking and beautiful, but we did not really see much of Rome, as we were in this tourist tunnel."

Somehow we end up talking about Poland, and Heidi tells us she often goes there to visit her boyfriend's family.

Would you say it's become like a second or third home?

"Yeah, especially with my boyfriend's parents. When I'm there, they treat me like I belong there, so that's very nice."

It's cool that people can have multiple homes all over the world like that.

"That kind of happens when you move a lot, you get disconnected from the place you grew up and you change. You go to a new place, you make it your home and then you move somewhere else and then that's your new home."

Would you recommend doing something like that?

"Yeah, it's fun! If you want to, yes! It's nice because you get a wider perspective of the world."

Can we ask you how you met your boyfriend or is that too personal?

"No, you can ask! When I was here for the year of study abroad, we had like 6 weeks

of vacation in January. I had a friend who was studying abroad in Budapest, and she also had 6 weeks of vacation, so we said 'let's travel around!' So we did that, and we couch surfed in Frankfurt and Paris and so on, and then we couch surfed in Krakow, and that's how I met my boyfriend. He was my couch-surfing host! Then, as soon as I graduated my BA, I bought a one-way ticket to Poland, which my mother was questioning very much."

Heidi then almost tips over from laughing when she recounts another story from her student days.

"So when we did this little trip of travelling around Europe, we went to Berlin for New Year, and we didn't book a place to stay. We ended up sleeping in the Burger King!"

"I WAS PRETTY PROUD AFTER, I WAS LIKE 'I SLEPT IN A BURGER KING!'"

How did that happen?

"Well, we were two girls in a big city that was a giant party, and we had a bottle of wine. We thought we had to go to where the ball was or something like that. We went from tram to tram to tram, but we were a little tipsy too, so we just ended up somewhere and we walked, and at some point, it was the New year. Then we were like 'We're tired, let's go back to the main station and we'll just hop on trains.' So we found our way to the main station and we slept in the Burger King. It was fun! At the time we were a little bit miserable, we were like 'Where are we?' I was pretty proud after, I was like 'I slept in a burger king!'"

Is there a place you still want

to visit?

"I want to go to South America!"

Where do you want to go?

"Everywhere!"

A whole tour?

"Of course, I want to go everywhere! I always think 'How cool would it be to buy a car and be there for half a year and then just drive all over the place.' But you kind of need time and money, and I haven't found enough of either of those, so in reality, I'll probably have to pick a couple places and make that happen, but it would be so cool to do something like that!"

Do you have any interesting habits or hobbies?

"My hobby is sitting on the floor, actually."

At this point, we abandoned our seats and all sat down on the floor.

"I saw this table at the Kringle and I was like 'Wow, it's a sitting table, that is so amazing!' I still need the nice little pillows so you can have something to sit on, we only have one now. This used to be the cat's pillow. When we lived in the previous apartment we had the neighbour's cat and he had his own pillow!"

We laugh and ask her what the neighbour's cat was doing in their house. Heidi tells us that he spent entire days there, and says she misses him. She adds that they sometimes visit, just for the cat. She doesn't even know her neighbour's name!

"WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE, WE'RE NOT CAT STEALERS."

We ask her if she knew the cat's name, upon which she replies: "Yes, his name is Pierre. We were so surprised, we were like 'Pierre? That doesn't fit at all!'" "We thought for a while, 'Can we ask our neighbour if we can have his cat? No, that's too inappropriate, we can't ask him that. We'll just have to say goodbye, we're not cat stealers.'"

What kind of music do you like?

"I just listen to stuff. I go on binge-listening sprees. It's a little bit like books, I get very obsessive. Now I'm on Spanish music."

Why? How did that happen?

"I don't know, but I'm there." [laughs].



Do you have any favourite books?

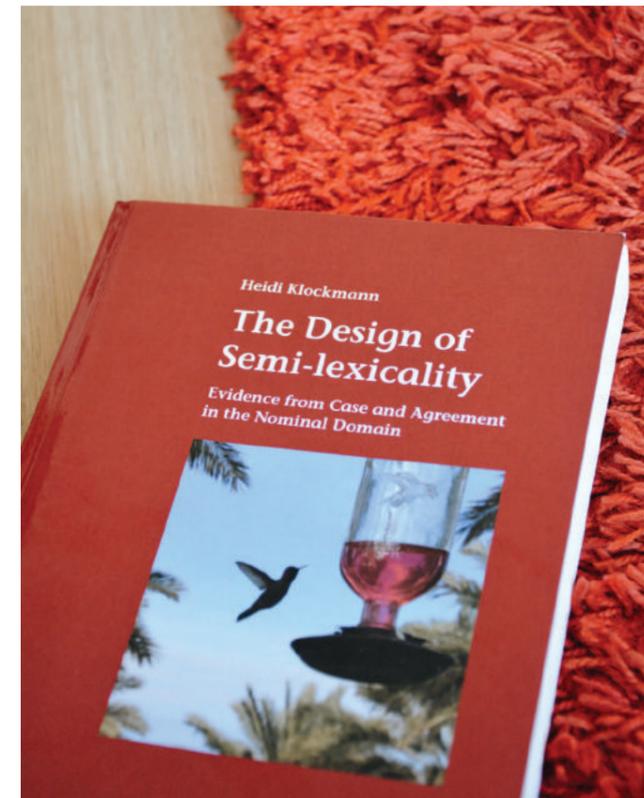
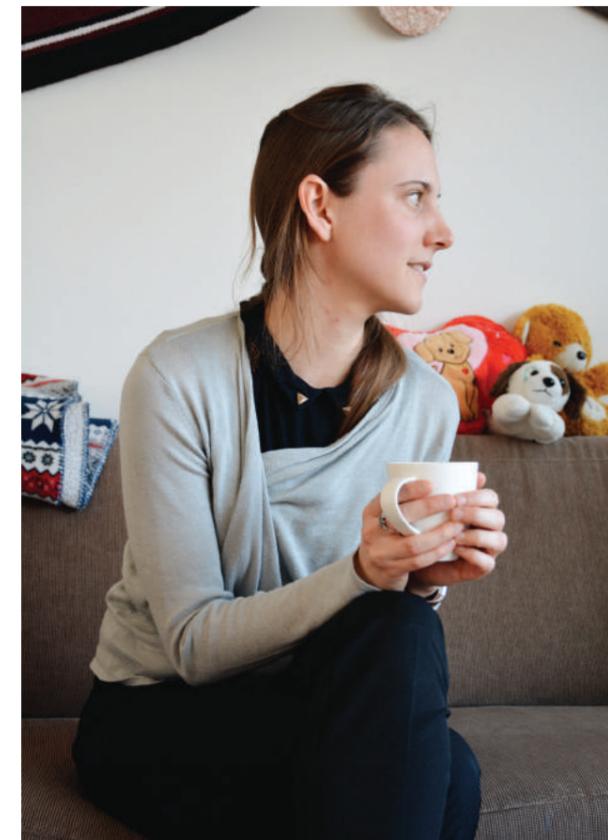
"I used to read fantasy books, I liked Tad Williams a lot! I haven't read fantasy books in a long, long time, because I don't usually have the time. When I read, I get really obsessive and I have to read the entire book usually in one sitting. I know that'll happen, so it's dangerous to start reading the long books. Most fantasy books are like 500-600 pages, so I've been avoiding them, because if I start reading them I won't prepare the seminars anymore."

"Send me recommendations though, really! You guys can send me recommendations and then.."

In a year we'll hear back from you.

"Yeah, or Monday!" [laughs]

After having talked for over an hour, we end the interview and chat for a bit, before heading back to the university. While we finish the plate of cookies, she laughs and says she's not very good at baking and hopes her hair isn't in there. Nonetheless, she still offers us some cookies for the road, and who are we to deny free freshly baked cookies? Heidi, thank you for the lovely interview, the hospitality and the cookies, of course!



HUMANS OF ALBION



Anna de Roest (20) from Amersfoort

After high school I really wanted to study at university as soon as I could, so I never really felt the need to travel very far. I might, after I finish my bachelor, go backpacking in South-America. The destinations for this year's Big Trip are Cardiff and Birmingham, because we never go to Wales! That's why I wanted Cardiff. We also wanted to do something in England, something doable, and that's Birmingham. I hope that the people joining us will become even better friends. Travelling creates a bond between people that you can't really have at home. Usually when you see a friend, you see each other for a few hours. When you travel together, you can't really ditch each other. You have to do everything together. That's what I like about it.

BOOKSHELF WITH BAUKJE



Interview by Nina van de Voort
Photography by Tess Masselink

Another Phoenix issue, another Bookshelf. For this one, we interviewed a well-known face within Albion, both by firsties and older members. The one and only Baukje Harmsma!

What's your favourite recent read?

Oh, that's hard. Let's see what I've read recently. Well, I haven't read all of the books here but there is a poetry book, *Standing Female Nude* (Carol Ann Duffy), and there are some nice poems in there. I marked the ones that I liked, and then I marked my favourite on the other side of the page so I can access it easily. I do that with all my read poetry books, actually. And my most recent read is a book for class, which was *Gulliver's Travels*.

What's your favourite reason to read?

That's a good question. To escape this world I think, but not because I especially want to escape this world, but sometimes life is a bit boring or a bit much and then just to go into some-

one else's life or take a step out of the moment and dive into another moment or another world.

Do you have a favourite genre?

I think romance is quite nice because I'm quite a desperate romantic. I like romance, though the book or poem or anything doesn't really have to revolve around the romance itself. If there's a little bit of love and romance involved, that's nice. I don't ship people often, I just enjoy the romance that's there canonically. The only characters that I do want to be together are Neville and Luna from Harry Potter. I don't understand why Rowling didn't do that, it makes me quite mad. I don't understand the OTP between Draco Malfoy and Harry Potter. Even Hermione and Ginny make more sense to me than Draco and Harry. I do like the fact that they don't hate each other anymore at the very end, they just smile at each other and they're like "we made peace with the past".

What makes a good book according to you?

If there are lots of details about nature, or long descriptions

about nature. That's why I love *Vaslav* (by Arthur Japin) so much; there are a lot of descriptive nature scenes and it makes me relaxed in a way. And if the book is happy, I don't like books that are too depressing.

What's your go-to book?

God. Let's see. At night, before I go to sleep I read *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*. I love reading them when I'm tired because they're short. I don't like reading stuff and then not finishing what I read, but those stories are just short and comfortable and sweet. I mostly like "The Fountain of Fair Fortune", it's so cute. And "Babbitty Rabbitty and her Cackling Stump", it's so funny. The Harry Potter books are probably my "go-to" books. I don't read the whole series, I just grab a book, open it on any random page and start reading.

What's a trope you find over-used in the books you read?

John Green books' tropes. When I was a teenager, about 14 or so, I loved his books because they were relatable and when I look back on them now, they're just predictable. Except for two, which I like. There's Will Grayson, Will Grayson (co-writ-

ten with David Levithan), and that's not predictable and different from everything else. That was nice. And then there's *An Abundance of Katherines*, which also isn't really predictable. Most people love the other ones and hate those, but I love them. I also feel like John Green doesn't really explain mental disorders very well, he kind of romanticizes them. I don't think he does that on purpose, but I do feel like he does it. It definitely did for me when I was a teenager. So that's definitely a common theme that I don't like. Love and depression don't go together in books. It's too predictable and it's not how real life works. I just hate it, it makes me really angry. Makes me want to throw those books at the walls.

What's one author or book, or both, you haven't read yet but would really like to read?

Well, there are a lot on my bookshelves actually. Most of these books are books that I want to read but I never get around to them because I always reread the books I've already read rather than reading a new book. I definitely want to read *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson. A lot of people love it, but I haven't read it yet. I also really want to read *The Girls* by Emma Cline. This is definitely the one I will read first when I want to read something new. It seems really interesting and fun and it's also really, really pretty.

What's one location that you've read about in a book that you would love to travel to?

[points at her Harry Potter series]. I also want to go to the secret garden, from *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnet. I watched the movie a lot when I was a child and then I just one day decided to buy the book and I loved it even more. So I would like to go there.

If you could live in one fictional world, which one would it be?

I mean, is that even a question? Harry Potter! I would love to go to Hogwarts for six years, and then do an exchange to *Beauxbatons* for a year. I really want to walk in those uniforms because they're so lovely.

What's a good book you've read wherein travelling is central?

Well, in *Vaslav*, travelling is quite important. The story is about Peter, a servant to *Vaslav* (who is a great ballet dancer),



and his family. They live in a valley, and *Vaslav* takes Peter out to travel because Peter has left the valley. Travelling is quite a big theme because he wants to travel the world and he doesn't have the means. And then *Vaslav* goes somewhere and he takes Peter with him, and they go places and he sees the outside world - *Vaslav* is basically his way out of the valley and then eventually at the end of the story [SPOILER ALERT] he leaves the valley and his old life behind to travel. So it's a really big thing within the book.

Which book would you would have with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

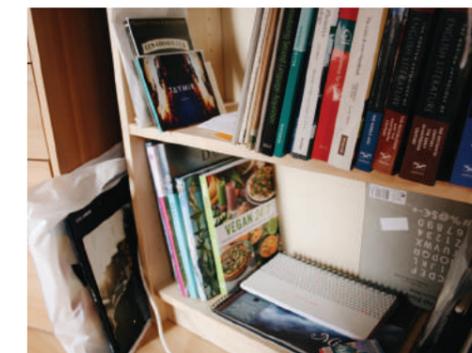
Robinson Crusoe, because he also ends up on an island! No, I'm just kidding, but that's so hard, because there's so many books that I love, but I don't think I would be able to read any book over and over again. Maybe Harry Potter, but then I would take the whole series. Is that allowed? Or do I have to pick one? Because if I had to pick one, I'd pick *The Order of the Phoenix*, because I love how Hogwarts is just more present in that one, and how it's more like normal teenage life. Plus, it's also really long.

What book would you recommend to your fellow students?

First, I would recommend *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. It really gives an insight into autism. The story is so funny and great, and I also really

like how there's so many small, little details and pictures in this book that make it so interesting, so that's a fav. Then we have *The Gift of Love* by Martin Luther King Jr., which is about his victories and the entire civil rights movement in America. It's really interesting, if you love politics like I do, then you will love this. Another one is *The Secret Garden*. Not many people know that one, I don't know why. It was a big part of my life; it might have been a bigger part of my life than Harry Potter, but I kind of forgot about it when I got older. But it's a brilliant book, read it! So, let's see... *The Secret Garden* would be my number one recommendation, then *Vaslav* my second, *A Gift of Love* my third and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* would be my fourth. Good day, y'all!

"I DON'T LIKE READING STUFF AND THEN NOT FINISHING WHAT I READ"



The Secret Life of Walter Mitty

“THE CINEMATOGRAPHY IS SIMPLY GORGEOUS.”

By Tess Masselink

Have you ever wandered around with your head in the clouds, imagining things that are very unlikely to happen in real life, and because of this you seem like a very absent person? Walter Mitty, portrayed by Ben Stiller in this 2013 movie, certainly has. His life is quite ordinary. He works as a photograph negatives supervisor for the magazine LIFE. Nothing really exciting ever happens to him, except in his imagination. One day, the picture which the main photographer, Sean O’Connell, had meant to be the last cover of LIFE before it would become an online magazine, is nowhere to be found. Walter could lose his job over this and decides to go looking for Sean O’Connell in order to find the missing photograph. The photographer is an adventurous person, however, and never stays in one place for long. Walter must thus go on a wild journey to Greenland, Iceland and the Tibetan Himalaya and chase after Sean O’Connell. While doing this, he is forced to face the real world and not drift off to his imaginary world.

The cinematography in this movie is simply gorgeous. There are many shots from a birdlike point of view of Greenland, Iceland and the Himalaya which show their beauty extremely well. There is one particular scene in which Walter longboards down a long road on Iceland. The weather conditions of this scene, combined with the music by José González and the incredible location make this scene to be awe-inspiring. And on top of that, Ben Stiller’s acting is as delightful as ever!

So, if you’re ever in need of an evening with a seriously good movie full of gorgeous scenery and with a beautiful story, this is the movie for you!



Simon vs. the Homo-Sapiens Agenda

“WHY IS STRAIGHT THE DEFAULT?”

By Nina van de Voort

Simon vs the Homo-Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli is one of the books that I actually fell in love with. Simon is a story about a closeted gay teen (Simon Spier) having an online friendship with the mysterious Blue, who also happens to be a closeted gay teen. Both of them go to the same school, but they have no idea who the other is. One day, an e-mail Simon sent to Blue falls into the wrong hands and Simon finds himself being blackmailed. He has to help his blackmailer date one of his best friends, or be outed to the whole school. Basically, your average romance fluff but with two guys instead of your typical heteronormative love story, and just a teensy tiny bit of drama and mystery to spice things up a little. At the beginning of the book only Simon’s friends know he likes boys – and Blue, of course. To Blue, he talks about all sorts of things: their families and friends, but also the big stuff, such as coming out. Through Simon, the book also makes you think about the heteronormative (and cis and white) social standards in today’s world. Why is straight the default, and why is it that only non-straight people have to come out? And why is coming out such a big deal anyway?

The writing in the book is easy to read: no big words or layered thoughts, just straightforward – exactly how a teenager would think. That doesn’t only make the book easy to read, but also really quick; perfect if you’re not feeling up to heavy loaded books. It’s written in two different ways: through normal text with dialogues and action, but also through the emails that Blue sends Simon and vice versa. That way, you get the complete picture of Simon’s life: his life out in the open as a person and his secret life as a boy who likes boys.

Simon is a contemporary book with pop-culture references, crushes, endings and beginnings of friendships, support, and family love. Perfect to read for Valentine’s Day, if you’re in the mood for a bit of a romantic, contemporary story with relatable characters. And of course, one of the big plusses of this book: it’s one written within the LGBTQ+ spectre.

And, if you don’t feel like reading the book or want to see more: there’s also a movie coming out on March 18.



The Crown

By Emma Wasser

4 3 2 1

“EVERY DETAIL DRAWS THE READER IN AS IF THEY THEMSELVES ARE PART OF THIS PERIOD OF HISTORY.”

When I was visiting my friend in Belfast in November 2016, the first season of The Crown came out. We binged the whole season in the four days that I was there, and I kind of forgot it existed until last October, when Netflix announced season two was going to be released on December 8th. And boy, season two did not disappoint.

Just like in season one, the décor, costumes, locations, and hair and make-up are so gorgeous and spot on. The show had a 110-million-pound budget, and they made good use of it. The writer, Peter Morgan, did an amazing job incorporating emotion and drama into historical facts and events. The thing that makes season two stand out is that the characters show even more personality, wit, and development.

Season two continues where it left off in season one. In the sixties, Elizabeth (Claire Foy) has to revive and modernize the monarchy to prevent that the people lose interest. Throughout the whole season, there are many significant moments for the British monarchy, such as the first televised Christmas Speech, and the loss of former colonies. Apart from that, you can really see the characters age and develop.

I could not binge this new season, because I was doing my fulltime internship when it came out. I did, however, recommend it to everyone around me, including all my colleagues, housemates, friends, parents, cousins, people at the grocery store, and now also you.

I know what many of you are thinking: Oh God, another costume drama. But no. It does not feel historical, and I think that is one of the strengths of The Crown. It feels like you are watching regular people with regular problems, only they carry the weight of the crown on their shoulders (and heads).

Finally, I would also like to give a shout out to William Conaugh, the dialect coach on the show. He taught all the actors to speak with a posh and weird English accent, influenced by German, and he could not have done a better job. GO WATCH IT.

By Vincent Potman

With Paul Auster being my favorite author, reading 4 3 2 1 - his most recently published book - was an absolute must. The fact that it tackled the what-if scenario, the different turns the life of one individual can take, only reaffirmed my interest, since I’m an absolute sucker for that stuff. So the 1,070 pages that make up this book were not daunting but inviting, like the call of a siren. I answered gladly and devoured the book within a few days.

The book describes the life and times of Archibald Isaac Ferguson, born on the 3rd of March 1947 to Rose and Stanley Ferguson. The point of divergence is that first breath, his life going down four simultaneous but entirely different paths. Each one is as richly described as the other, each one a vivid world that is alive, every detail drawing the reader in as if they themselves are part of this period of history. Each Ferguson is clearly the same person while just as clearly being their own individual, the subtle changes affecting the events and people in his life so that these too are different and yet familiar.

In this fashion the world of the mid to late 20th century is shaped with words, each branch devoting itself to a different view of life in America - especially New York - but when taken together, it forms a cohesive whole that explores topics such as the Rosenbergs, JFK, Martin Luther King, the Vietnam draft, and much more. Indeed, all that prismatic detail results in sentences that run on, setting a rhythm that is kept up throughout, time not stopping for any of the Fergusons or the reader.

It is a book wherein Auster displays his strength: his vocabulary and attention to detail, his subtle humor, the romanticizing of the mundane things that shape an individual’s life. Moments are created this way, loaded with meaning and feeling, the different takes revealing a core truth: the same moment can be all-consuming in one case, and background noise in another.

All in all, while reading it is something that will take time, given its size, I can guarantee that it is well worth it, as 4 3 2 1 contains four deeply interconnected stories which together form a splendid bildungsroman, brimming with history.

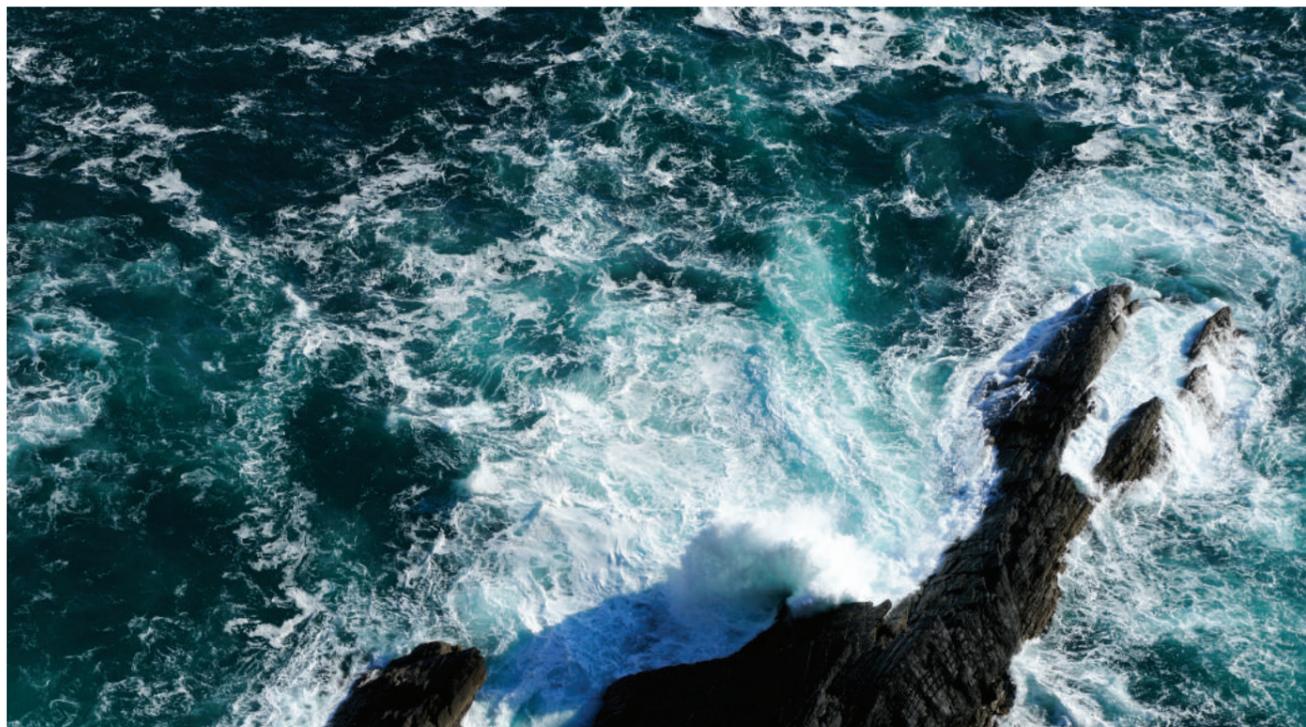
SHOWCASE: Paradise Found

By Angela Kroes

Going through these pictures I took in Ireland last year when I was on holiday with my dad brought back some really good memories. We started our trip in lively and culturally rich ol' Dublin, after which we rented a car and went wherever we wanted to go. Along the way, we encountered some of the extremes Ireland has to offer: from the busy streets of Galway to the beautiful landscapes that evoked a peaceful feeling. That being said, here are some pictures to give an impression of the things we've seen!



Dublin – The Temple Bar. This is one of the most famous pubs in Dublin! Live Irish folk music and dancing people in a crowded bar guarantees a good time!



West-coast of Ireland – The Wild Atlantic Way. The WAW is a long route along the west coast of the country, starting in the south-west and ending in the north, near the Northern-Ireland border. The ocean really was wild.



County Offaly – Clonmacnoise. Ominous graveyard vibes at an ancient monastery.



West-coast of Ireland – The Wild Atlantic Way. It was the sunniest day we had had so far, and I was riding shotgun with the windows down. Every now and then, we'd stop for a while to take a good look at views like these!



Galway – Aside from riverdancing girls and a band playing songs from The Little Mermaid soundtrack, we came across a street poet!



County Clare – The Burren. This moon-like landscape used to be the bottom of a tropical ocean millions of years ago!

miNOR & maSter maRket

CELTIC Languages and CULTURE

By Caitlin Kroot

Originally, my plan was to study Celtic Languages and Culture. It still interested me but I decided that English would be a better study for me, mainly because it seemed broader at the time.

While planning my second year I found some free time and decided to fill it with something that still held my interest: Celtic Languages and Culture. It has been an interest of mine for quite a while, and it started way back when my parents chose my name: a Celtic name. I read a lot about Celtic myths and legends and decided that it would be great to learn more about it. I started being all excited about all of the myths and legends I would be able to learn about, but it quickly started to become clear that that would not be the primary focus of the minor.

The first block brought me an 'Introduction to Celtic studies', which mainly focussed on the history of the Celts, easy right? Well up until that point I didn't know the Celts where anywhere else then on the British Isles and surprise! They were literally everywhere. I think my only saviour at this point was the teacher who told about it like it was the most amazing story ever and who did include the stuff I came for: Myths and Legends.

When you're done struggling through that block you can finally start focussing on the early manuscripts, which includes some King Arthur shizzle! (I got the possibility to write on Celtic influences in Harry Potter as well which was really great).

Another great thing about this minor is that you won't have to miss your fellow English students because in the final block you get to follow 'Great Medieval Heroes' with them.

I think the minor Celtic is actually in some ways really close to VP3 because it studies a lot of adaptations as well, and the influence of the Celts in the modern world. However, it does broaden your view a bit beyond the usual Shakespeare works.

ma LITERATURE today

By Suzanne Hoogstraten

When I had to decide which master I wanted to do, it was very clear to me that it had to be "something with books", but I knew I did not want to pursue an academic career, so the Research Master was not going to be the right choice for me. I went to look for other literary masters that involved a more practical view on literature and that is how I found Literature Today.

The master's name already says a lot about its focus: literature today. This means that the courses are about the different ways in which literature is used today. This can vary from writing reviews to judging literary prizes to learning about the heritage industries behind Jane Austen, the Brontës, and James Joyce, but also the more theoretical aspects of literary critique and world literatures. And most importantly, learning about the publishing industry. Although the master is quite new and needs some improvements in a few areas, I have enjoyed my courses tremendously. The teachers are very enthusiastic (if you are planning to do this master you will see some familiar faces on the teaching staff) and the courses were very interesting and involved many new topics that I had not encountered before during my BA.

However, the main reason I chose this master was the fact that it includes the possibility of an internship, which is what I am doing now. This is a great way of preparing for the job market and enables you to learn so much about life and work outside academia. I have just started interning at MEIS & MAAS, a publisher of children's books and magazines, as a Marketing & PR intern and I am already learning so much about how to put a book on the market. Many of my fellow students also have places at different publishing houses, literary magazine VERSO, the feminist bookstore Savannah Bay here in Utrecht, and more.

If you are looking for a master that combines academics with a preparation for the literary job market, I definitely recommend this master to you!

Q & Alumni with EVA OVERMAN

Interview & text by Alessandra Polimeno

For this edition of Q&Alumni, we interviewed Eva Overman, former Chair of Albion. She started her degree in 2004. By the end of 2010, she had finished her Bachelor with a minor in 'Management and Organisation', a year abroad in Liverpool with the Harting Scholarship, a year on the Albion board, and her master's degree. She currently works in Rotterdam as a project leader but still lives in good old Utrecht where she offered us some of her time for this interview and gave us some very good advice that applies to more than just your studies.

Can you give an outline of the jobs you had after you graduated?

I started in 2010 as a policy officer at the University of Amsterdam at the Humanities faculty, on Education and Communication. Then I had several jobs where I worked as project leader, which included projects for the Ministry of Education. I currently work part-time at the University of Rotterdam as a project leader of a program that supports master students in their personal and professional development. The other half of the week I work on several Young Adult Literature projects, including writing articles for *Levende Talen Magazine*, giving masterclasses to university and secondary school students, and writing academic articles which hopefully will culminate in a PhD someday.

These are quite varied jobs. How did you get here?

The first step was to figure out how to best play the hand I was dealt. That

means you have to get to know who you are, accept and cherish all things that make you 'you', and learn how you can play all those 'cards' to your advantage – and where you might need others to help you. Another thing that helped me get my first job was my minor 'Management and Organization'. They were looking for someone who could relate to the humanities, but also had an organizational background. My minor and extracurricular activities, such as a board year and going abroad, made me attractive to them.

So doing what you love might help you get a job?

It's important to do what you value, but also to value what you do. This applies to your job, but also to your studies and everything else in life. During my studies, I did a lot of things, not because they looked good on my CV., but because they enriched my life. In the end, those things did help me land the jobs I have had. The flipside of the same coin is that there are difficult days when nothing seems to go right, or you have to do or learn things that are hard. It's then that you need to appreciate what you have been able to do - because that is what enables you to do what you love.

You said you were on the Albion board for a year. What did this year teach you?

It was a very formative year. I had to accept certain aspects about myself that I didn't really like. I'm an organizational type, and I can be a bit competitive and directive. I realize now that these can be useful things, but when you are not really aware of them or don't accept that they are a part of you, you can't use them properly. This can cause you to overplay your hand, and then these strengths become a drawback. The board year helped me to accept that part of myself and learn how to make better use of these traits. Another valuable thing about a board year is that it makes you feel that you are



part of a community and gives you a sense of belonging and appreciation.

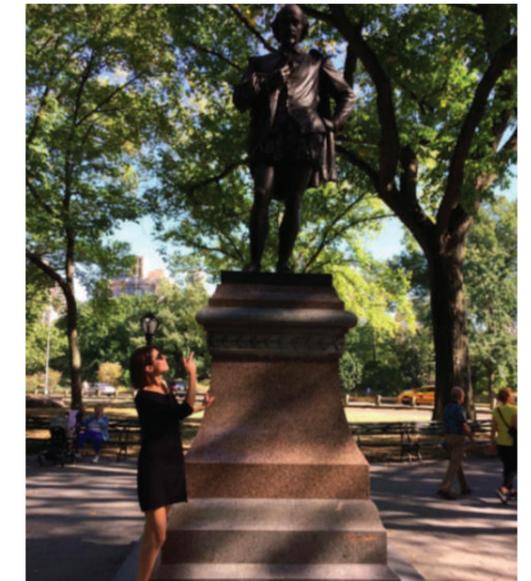
What about the year abroad?

Everyone should do it if you've got the chance! I personally feel that you can't really understand the culture you're studying unless you've lived in that country for a while.

When I went to Liverpool, I didn't expect there to be many cultural differences, because come on, it's the UK. I studied English and spoke the language. But it was such a shock! I was not at all prepared for all the kind of subtle social differences there are. I needed to reevaluate my cultural identity, how this other culture worked and how this culture enriches you, which was very informative. I felt like a different person when living in the UK, and part of that person is still with me. Being away from social pressures was a liberating experience as well – all the choices I made there were based on what I wanted, and not on what other people were expecting of me. I've been living in two countries in a way ever since.

What does a day as a project leader look like?

It starts with a great idea, such as a program where students can develop professional skills. My first job is to help the commissioning company and stakeholders to further define why this project is important and what goals need to be achieved. I then try to learn as much as I can by doing research and talking to people who have experience in the area. I have to make a project plan that clearly describes the 'why', 'what', 'how', and 'when' of the project. Once that is done, I can start preparing the execution of the project. One of the things I love about my job is that I get to meet a lot of interesting people, and often get the chance to take part in the programs I manage. It has offered me unique chances to learn new things and work on my own professional and personal development.



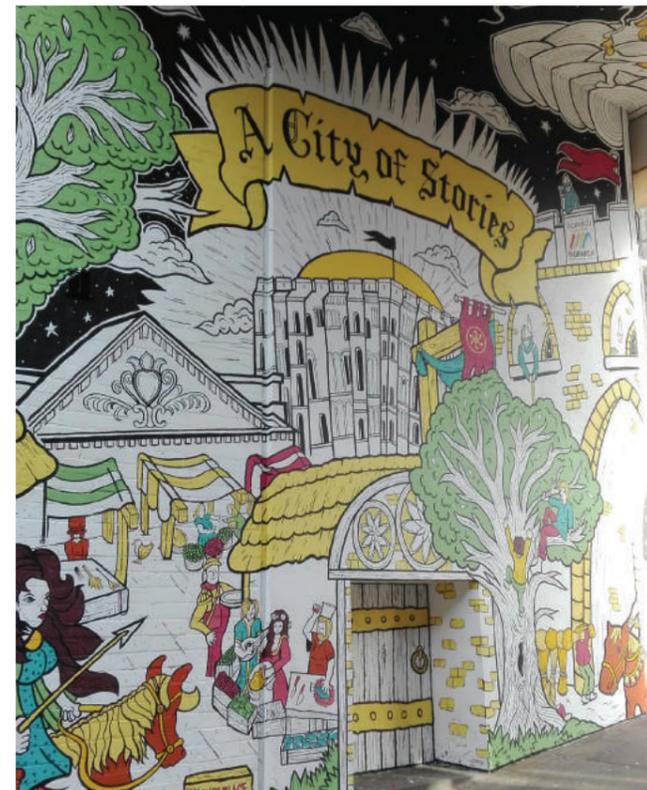
What about the future? Do you want to keep doing what you're doing?

I really like what I do as a project leader. Professional and personal development of people is important to me. However, I sometimes miss one substantive element in the work I do now. I really love literature - my first ambition as a little girl was to have read all the books in the village library. I think literature - and the studying of literature – can give us new perspectives to the society we live in. It can, for example, help us become aware of who is included and who is not, who is in a dominant power position and who isn't. It can also help us navigate difficult discussions. That is why I decided last year to start working on a part-time basis. The extra time that this has given me, has given me the opportunity to work on several literary projects. This has not only resulted in some freelance assignments, but also gives me new inspiration and energy, which I think positively influences my performance in Rotterdam as well.

As for my future plans? As a project leader, I mainly work 'behind the scenes', so to speak. I make sure that all the necessary conditions are met for the 'actors' to give a star performance, and for the 'audience' to enjoy it. Giving lectures, writing articles, and giving several radio interviews about Jane Austen - for which I am immensely grateful to dr. Paul Franssen, who made that happen - has given me the secret ambition to one day be part of the 'on stage' crew. I hope that I can combine the two worlds, and ideally add the literature I love so much in the mix. As I have finally started to accept that life really is 'what happens to you while you were busy making other plans' though, I am trying to stop saying 'I want to be this or that in a few years' time' and make every day count by doing something I like and value – however small – in the here and now.

Albioneers Abroad

By Alyssa Vreeken



Dear Reader,
I arrived here in Norwich, England on the 5th of January, so it has been little over two months now. It took a while for me to get settled, especially in terms of participating in traffic. I brought my bike, but it was a challenge to cycle to school since traffic is backwards. Now, I'm really starting to enjoy living in England. I don't live on campus, but instead, I live in a house a bit further away, with four other UEA (University of East Anglia) students (two natives, one American and one student from Hong Kong, though she seems native). I was a bit hesitant at first as they had been living together since July, but now I feel like I belong here as well. They celebrated my birthday with me in February and even bought me a cake, which was a nice gesture. They are doing their best to introduce me to the lifestyle of an English student (not only by taking me to pubs).

My first impression of UEA campus? The buildings are quite static and cold, entirely made of concrete blocks. Nothing at all like the buildings I'm used to in the city centre of Utrecht. Though it reminds me of the Uithof a little bit (only less glass and more concrete). There's a Waterstones on campus which sells classics and school books, and the personnel already knows me by name, which is fun. Maybe most importantly, they have gender-neutral toilets on campus, in the bars, and in some of the uni buildings. Apparently, this is part of their LGTBQ+ friendly policies.



Classes are really different to what I'm used to at UU. I'm taking two courses in creative writing and one in science-fiction literature. However, I have no lectures, only three-hour seminars, one per course per week. So needless to say, I have a lot of free time on my hands. It isn't as busy or as strict as the courses back home due to the smaller workload. Where our blocks are 10 weeks, here the semester consists of 10 weeks' worth of classes, a few revision weeks, and the exam period (though I won't have to take any exams). This gave me the opportunity to become a member of societies in my free time, namely the Disney society, which has a viewing almost every week, and the creative writing society, which has workshops every week, and open mics every once in a while. A very different, but pleasant university experience.

Unfortunately for me (and other students), teachers are currently participating in a strike. I'm not entirely sure about the details of it, but it is due to the fact that some new development may cause all uni staff to lose 40% of their pension. This is not limited to my university but nationwide. Needless to say, they are not happy about it and do not intend to take it without a fight. It has been about 2,5 weeks now and it will continue for however long it takes (though it might be over by the time you read this). I sincerely hope that it will end soon because this is not what I came to the UK for, though I understand the situation.

By Juul Kruse



I cried at the airport. I didn't think I would, but I cried just after my parents and brother left and I was waiting in line for security. For over half a year I had prepared for this moment: going abroad for a year. I would not just be studying but also teaching. In contrast to the first five months of pure excitement, the last month was different. I think I used the phrase "Oh, yes! I'm going away in a month", up until a week before I was going. I was dreading the unknown. What if Irish people weren't nice at all? What if the school was horrible? What if the housemates were awful? What if I got run over on the first day because I forgot they drive on the left side of the road there? -yes, I was pretty irrational-

I had a delay of more than four hours. I had only brought one book in my luggage, I'd finished that after hour three. Without my book my mind ran wild: What if the delay caused me to not get into my accommodation that night? What if there would be no one on the campus? Is there even a hostel near my campus? Would I have to sleep on a bench? With a suitcase and two backpacks? Once the plane touched ground again I honestly think I was trembling. I'd missed the airport bus I'd booked, and the three that followed it. It was pouring, I kept falling over because of the weight of my backpacks, and I couldn't find the bus stop. In the end, all was fine. The bus driver was nice and didn't mention the different times on the ticket. Once in my college town, there were students waiting for me to help me get to the reception.

The apartment was nice, even if it resembled a combination of waiting room and prison a bit too much, and the stores were still open.

During that one month, and the annoying trip to get here, I'd used up all my fears of being abroad. I'd experienced all the homesickness I could ever get, whilst still in the Netherlands. Once I was here, and immersed myself in the massive group of other international students, who all felt the same as I did -and I know this sounds like a cliché- I was absolutely loving it.

I love the great people I have met here, from all over the world, but especially the Irish, who are, apparently, not horrible at all. I love the different kinds of modules I'm taking. I love the teaching. I love the fact that I drink even more tea here than I used to. I love Dublin, I love the mountains around me, I have loved, and still love, this year. To be honest, I'm dreading going home, and yet, I'm also looking forward to it, because it meant that I can start preparing to do it all over again.



PHOENIX SERVES

DISHES FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD!

Recipes and text by Nurai Mertens, Lola van Scharrenburg & Emma Wasser
Photography by Laurel Sanders & Nurai Mertens

S'MORES DIP

Serves 6-8

Ingredients

- 1 bag of marshmallows
- 1 bar of milk chocolate
- 1 roll of digestive biscuits

Method

Preheat your oven to 200 °C. Line a baking dish with pieces of chocolate, and then fill the rest of the dish with marshmallows. Place the dish in the oven (preferably at a grill setting) and bake the s'mores until the marshmallows have browned, approximately 5 minutes. Serve with the remaining biscuits to dip.



THE ULTIMATE NACHOS

(Thanks to my friend Iris)
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 jar of HAK Mexicaanse Bonenschotel
- 1 bag of nacho's (I like the round ones from Apie)
- 1 container of sour cream or crème fraîche
- 1 bag of grated cheese (preferably some sort of spicy cheese)
- Optional: ground beef

Method

If you use ground beef, fry it in a pan with olive oil, onion, garlic, and taco seasoning. Then put it in an oven dish, and top with half of the HAK mixture. Cover with sour cream, cheese, and nachos. Put the other half of the HAK mixture on top, and repeat the steps above until you run out of ingredients. Put in the oven for about 20 minutes on 200 degrees Celcius (or until the cheese has melted and you can't control yourself anymore). Enjoy!

TOM Kha gai

(Thai Coconut Soup), courtesy of Sammy's Organic Thai Cooking School

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 400 grams of your favourite mushrooms, shredded
- 1 stalk lemongrass, cut into large chunks and softly smashed
- 1 tablespoon finely-chopped ginger
- 1 onion, sliced
- 4 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- 2 kaffir lime leaves (or some extra lime juice if you can't find them)

Juice of 1 lime

- 1 tablespoon coriander (optional, I don't want your dish to taste like soap)
- 1 chilli (you can add more or less, depending on your preference)
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- A pinch of salt
- 800 ml coconut milk

Method

Put the coconut milk in a saucepan over medium heat. Add lemongrass, ginger and onion, stir occasionally. Add mushrooms and tomatoes and cook for a few minutes. Add kaffir lime leaves, and season with fish sauce, sugar, salt, lime juice, and chillies. Garnish with coriander and spring onion. Don't forget to take out the lemongrass and leaves!



NIGERIAN VEGETABLE CURRY

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 500 grams red potato, quartered
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 5 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 200 grams frozen peas
- 2 bell peppers, chopped
- 250 grams green beans, ends trimmed
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, chopped
- 1 tablespoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon salt
- jasmine rice, cooked, for serving

Method

In a bowl, add the potatoes, and fill the bowl with water until the potatoes are covered. Boil until the potatoes are cooked but still firm. In a large pot over medium heat, add the olive oil and 3 tablespoons of curry powder, and mix thoroughly. Add the onion, and once it has softened, add the peas, red bell peppers, green beans, carrots, and jalapeño pepper. Next, add the potatoes, along with 300ml of the boiling water. Season with salt, pepper, and the rest of the curry powder, and mix thoroughly. Then bring the curry to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to low. Simmer the curry on low heat until the vegetables have softened to your taste and serve with jasmine rice.



CALENDAR

April

- 12th Efteling
14th-21st Big trip to Cardiff and Birmingham
25th AcCie: Search for the Holy Grail
Feest Royaal en Máximaal
30th Symposium

May

- 3rd Monthly Drinks
8th Verdiepingspakettenmarkt
9th SportCie event
15th Night of the Professors
24th Commissievergadering
29th Open podium
30th Humanities League
31st Studying in the UK information event

June

- 4th Commissiemarkt
6th Party: Let's Go
12th Monthly Drinks
13: SportCie event
22nd-24th Ledenweekend
26th ALV
27th-28th SUDS Big Play

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