

influence of James, and consequently oversimplified the dynamics of their thirty-seven year relationship.

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JAN VAN DER NOOT: A MISTAKEN ATTRIBUTION IN THE SHORT-TITLE CATALOGUE?

THE sixteenth-century Dutch poet Jan Van der Noot is known to have produced two texts while living in London. The first is a series of Petrarchan 'visions' in verse and prose, collected under the title *Het Theatre oft Toon-Neel* (1568); the second is a miscellany of occasional pieces known as *Het Bosken* (c.1570–1).¹ Aside from French and English translations of *Het Theatre*, these texts are usually considered the full extent of Van der Noot's output during his exile.² However, a third work is also attributed to him in Pollard and Redgrave's Short-Title Catalogue: *The Governance and Preservation of Them That Fear the Plague*, printed by William How in 1569 (STC 18600). The STC assigns this to 'Van der Noot, Jan, ca.1538–ca.1596', along with three versions of *Het Theatre*. Yet while *The Governance* is undeniably the work of one 'John Vandernote', this does not appear to be the man responsible for *Het Theatre* and *Het Bosken*. Internal evidence suggests that *The Governance* was in fact produced by an earlier writer. The title-page and preface of the text assert that its author was admitted into England 'by the Kynge his highnesse'. While it is not clear whether this refers to Henry VIII or Edward VI, it does at least imply that the writer was in England before Edward's death in July 1553. This does not

correspond with the known facts of Van der Noot's life: he did not arrive in England until 1567, when a botched coup forced him to flee Antwerp.³ The author of the plague-tract settled in London at least fourteen years before the author of *Het Theatre*: the two cannot conceivably be the same figure.

The annals of the College of Physicians offer a more likely candidate for authorship of *The Governance*. The college records refer to an earlier Dutch émigré, also by the name of Jan Van der Noot, who was examined twice in 1553 for practising medicine in London without a licence. Each time he was 'rejected because of his ignorance' and punished accordingly. In the first instance, after a hearing on 24 February, he was fined £50; on the second occasion he died before any sentence could be passed, shortly after 14 November.⁴ Given his medical pretensions, and his presence in England at the appropriate date, this figure is more likely to be the 'Phisicion and Surgion' responsible for *The Governance*. Consequently, there can be no connection between this work and the Van der Noot of *Het Bosken*, beyond William How's apparent wish to capitalize on the later writer's fame.

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¹ Jan van der Noot, *Het Bosken en Het Theatre*, ed. W. A. P. Smit (Utrecht: HES Publishers, 1979).

² *Het Theatre* was famously translated by Spenser and Roest in 1569: see Jan Van der Noodt, *A Theatre for Voluptuous Worldlings*, ed. L. S. Friedland (New York: Scholar's Facsimiles and Reprints, 1936).

³ C. A. Zaalberg and S. S. Hoogerhuis, 'Jan Baptista van der Noot', in *De Nederlandse en Vlaamse auteurs van middeleeuwen tot heden met inbegrip van de Friese auteurs*, ed. G. J. van Bork and P. J. Verkruijsse (Weesp: De Haan, 1985), 413–14.

⁴ Margaret Pelling and Frances White, *Physicians and Irregular Medical Practitioners in London 1550–1640*, Oxford Studies in Social History (Oxford University Press, 2003), 88. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=17887>.