

A walk around Venlo. I

The lovely spring days we now and then already experience prompt me, dear reader, to invite you for a walk. While winter this year, as it usually does, has kept us indoors through cold, snow, or rain, those short days, when the sun's powerful rays are sometimes unable to penetrate the dense clouds, nevertheless prevent many from taking advantage of the few suitable and available hours of the day. The temperature, which exerts such a significant influence on our bodies, lures us outdoors in spring; we feel involuntarily drawn to the open field, where we breathe in deep breaths of fresh air; seeing plants and trees awaken after their winter sleep awakens you from the worries of human life and work, which kept you locked up for several months; the bird's warbling...

But let me not delve further into the fantasy; everyone can do this for themselves, as long and as much as they wish. I wish to linger with you in the field of archaeology. However barren this field may seem to most, I trust too much in your interest in your native soil to dare to invite you as a companion for this "airing." You have heard of the objects found and excavations on or near Venlo's territory by Messrs. Hub, Michels, Colonel Rudolph, Lieutenant Ort (currently rhythm), and foreman Frans Deserière, of Mr. Dr. Boetzkes (at Wambach), and of the Medusa shield owned by the Lienders family. While these gentlemen had, until now, mostly been, so to speak, "practical" practitioners, the memory naturally comes to mind of our fellow citizen, Mr. Martin Jansen, who sadly passed away so early, possessed so much knowledge in the field of archaeology and, as a "theoretical" collaborator on the path of research, could have contributed so much.

One of the aforementioned gentlemen paved the way, namely Mr. Ort, who arrived in the city around 1970. His position gave him more opportunity than anyone else to become thoroughly familiar with the terrain, and his primary task was to produce a map of Venlo and its surroundings, at 1/8000, for the garrison office, which naturally led him into the field of archaeology. In Frans Deserière, he found his mentor, who provided him with information about mounds and ancient ramparts, whose regular layout had caught his attention. Deserière had urns that he had excavated himself, and he knew burial grounds. With him, Mr. Ort, usually on Sundays, explored the soil beneath Blerik, Grubbenvorst, Lottum, Tienraai, Meerlo, Baarlo, Kessel, and other villages, as well as the Jammerdaal heath near Venlo.

The positive results spurred him on to further his knowledge in this field. When he arrived in Leiden in 1879, he soon became acquainted with Drs. Leemann and Pleyte, director and curator, respectively, of the National Museum of Antiquities there, who provided him with helpful advice on how to give his research a more scientific direction.

In 1882, he received a request from Mr. E. Von Tröltsch, Kön. Wurtemb. major, foreign service, to, in the interest of science, hand over his work on Roman roads—consisting of a map of the region between Nijmegen, Birten, Aachen, and Tongeren, with indications of sites, and his many notes—to the anthropological society in Stuttgart, to assist in the design of a prehistoric map of Germany.

Mr. Ort felt he did not have to comply with this request; but it prompted him to prepare his work for the press. The first part was published a few months ago and deals with the Roman and other ancient roads north of the Rhine, between the Lippe and the Dutch border, between the Rhine and the Maas, and on the left bank of the Maas, as well as the land defenses in those regions. The second part, which will appear when interest permits, will contain a description of the discoveries made by him and others, and the old map at 1/50,000, which was requested from Stuttgart.

What lies scattered in hundreds of essays, magazines, books, and newspapers—a chaos from which it is difficult to obtain an overview—all the fragments, and everything in this area as far as our dearly beloved region is concerned, coupled with his many investigations and rich results, we now find compiled into a complete whole, for which we can be truly grateful to Mr. Ort.

I wished to take the proposed walk with you—already in its youthful greenery—primarily in his hand, freely taken here and there from the 150 pages, with additions gathered elsewhere, as best as possible in a form that will be enjoyable reading for the readers of this magazine.

Please, dear hikers, let's first have a hearty snack, light a cigar, and then we'll take our walking sticks and begin our tour.

It's good that we've chosen the early morning hour of a beautiful summer day, so we can get back before the sun rises high and makes climbing the mountains and hills even more difficult and tiring.

You all know that the main goal is to visit the areas Ort discusses, so we can only concern ourselves with other matters in passing. Along the way, I'll give you some

information about the Roman roads, so as not to waste time. And now, please, from here, along Lomstraat and across the Hellschriksel, outward. Perhaps you, gentlemen, will notice the name "hellschriksel," but the "hel" was added to distinguish it from the next street, the Maasschriksel, and because it borders the Geldersche Poort, which was formerly called the Helpoort (Hell Gate); from there, the Helbeek stream also flows just before the city. "Hel" means something like sloping or descending.

—"Say, host, do you know what kind of building that was, right there in front of us on the corner?" (We've just left the house and the questions are already starting.) Yes, my dear, that was St. Jacob's Church, which already existed in 1500, and in 1702, during the siege of the city by the Allies, was set on fire, largely destroyed, and never repaired. On this side, next to it, used to be the old men's house; the large building is now used as a warehouse and for other purposes. Across from there, somewhere, there lived a former turner, whose name is unknown, who is said to have invented bombs, which were first used in 1588 during the siege of Wachtendonk. Tests were first conducted there during the arrival of the Duke of Cleves, during a banquet, when one fell on a house on the old market square and started a fire. The bomber's house stood on Lichtenberg, a hill that received its name after the death of Valuas, a Bructeri general who settled here in 95 AD and is considered the founder of Venlo. He lived to be an old man, and according to history, he was highly respected by his people and the neighboring tribes, whom he often assisted with advice and weapons. His body was cremated, and the ashes were preserved in a statue. He must have lived on the hill at the corner of Houtstraat and Jodenstraat. After his death, the people honored his memory with offerings on the nearby hill; a fire always burned there, which is why it was called Lichtenberg. Ort considers Lichtenberg, as well as Laarberg in Velden and the hill near Velligerstraat, to be Roman watchtowers.

Just one more moment, please; it's too interesting. You see this new sloping street here; it's called Bergstraat and belongs to the Venlo Building Association. When the fortress was demolished here about 15 years ago, twelve skeletons were found in a row at the foot of this bastion, along with some parts of coffins; it is suspected that they were soldiers. That's the Lichtenberg here, to which a historical reminder from the siege of 1511 is still connected, when the people of Gelderland were besieged by the people of Brabant; surely you've heard of our Trui. Yes, something about it floats to mind, but I'll help you out; you've probably read The Siege of Venlo in 1511 by Van den Eertwegh. Gertruid Bolwater, as she was called, must have been one of those so-called dragoons. During that siege, when Zwartzenburg was the city commander, and during which, incidentally, the tower of St. Martin's Church partially collapsed, the city was stormed; the inhabitants defended themselves with unanimity, guarding the ramparts day and night. Our Trui participated in this and took the banner of an ensign who had already climbed the wall, and threw stones at the assailants from the rampart. The siege was lifted, says Slichtenhorst, because of the "fierce resistance and unbridled courage of the besieged themselves." But now, gentlemen, if I may ask, let's turn the corner and go past the back of the fort.

May I draw your attention to that ruin, the so-called "villa Büt." Fort Ginkel was built in 1731 by the then commander, Reinoud van Reede, Lord of Ginkel. — And if we turn around for a moment, across the Maas, you can also see the ruins of Fort St. Michel, to the left of De Staai House. It was built by the Spanish on Michaelmas Day, September 29, 1641, and completed in 1643. It cost 118,000 Brabant guilders, or approximately 52,000 Dutch guilders. And guess what it brought in? — 26,650 guilders. Look downstream: there lies the Broken Castle. It's unknown when it was founded; in Keuller's History of Venlo, it appears in 1511; its destruction must have taken place during the Eighty Years' War, namely in the first half of the 17th century.

And now, let's not dwell on this any longer; we have to cross the "Hoëgschoar" (translated as "Hooge Schoor," i.e., raised, washed-up land), through the meadow, the "Miëbaend," and traverse the Veldenschenweg.

Meanwhile, I can give you some information about land defenses and ramparts. The Romans, as I read in Ort, as well as the Germans, made clear boundaries on their borders, which were more or less defensible as needed. These boundary boundaries consisted of one or more ramparts with parallel dry or wet ditches. Professor Schneider has two names for them: "Gebrückgraben" (Bridge Trench) and "Pfahlgraben" (Pillar Trench). The first type is only known in the Netherlands; they run in separate, yet contiguous arms, which separate or enclose a terrain or region; They are planted with living trees to protect the defenders behind them; while, as with Roman roads, guard mounds for fortified observation and signal stations are located at equal distances from each other along these land defenses.

The Pfahlgraben form a continuous line and are so named because a row of interconnected posts provides shelter. Instead of guard mounds, this type of land defense is constructed with masonry stone towers, probably at the same distance from each other as the guard mounds. These can be found on the right bank of the Upper Rhine.

The Gebrückgraben were built by the inhabitants themselves, under Roman supervision, and they were also charged with the security duties. The Pfahlgraben, however, were constructed entirely by Romans alone, who also performed the guard duties. In many regions north and south of the Rhine, including Limburg and North Brabant, a large number of ramparts, mostly accompanied by small ditches, separate one region from another in a straight or curved line, or enclose one or more triangular or polygonal sections of land. Such rampart enclosures are found in hundreds in some places, although they are noticeably disappearing as the soil is increasingly reclaimed; they are found not only in places where there is good arable land, but in isolated heaths, forests, and marshes, they are even more numerous and, of course, more in their original form.

To understand the former purpose of these ramparts, Schneider refers to Tacitus, Germ. 16, where the following can be read:

"It is well known that the Germans do not inhabit cities, nor that they tolerate dwellings close together. They build away from one another and spread out according to their preference for a spring, a field, or a forest. They build neighborhoods, not in our manner, composed of coherent and connected buildings; each person surrounds their house with a space, either as a means of protection against fire, or because they lack the understanding of construction."

This shows that two types of dwellings must be distinguished among the Germans: a few widely spaced farmsteads, of which a triangular, quadrangular, or polygonal rampart still remains, and a type of village, which, however, differed greatly from Roman villages. Caesar already mentions such villages among the Menapii and Sicamberi, Tacitus among the Marsi and Catti.

The places where such villages once existed can now be recognized by the many ramparts, which intersect at various angles, thus forming areas on which the dwellings stood. Roads often ran through them, forming village streets, and they had ramparts and ditches of larger dimensions than the others. Ramparts separating a larger area should be considered boundaries between villages or between properties of clans or tribes, and often still are today, such as the land defense of Calbeck and that in the Jammerdaal heath near Venlo-Tegelen. It is true that in the time of Caesar, personal land ownership did not exist among the Germanic peoples, but after the conquest of these regions by the Romans, when the tribes were tied to a permanent residence and agriculture was increasingly expanded, we may assume that personal ownership quickly arose.

Gentlemen, let us now stand on this hill for a moment; in this vicinity we have several small ramparts, such as are unique and numerous between the Rhine and the Maas, especially at Cranenburg, Kleve, Goch, Calcar, and Uden, according to Schneider; To which Ort adds those of Venlo, as:

Between the Maas and the Stralen road: Veegtes, Kruisberg, Zwartwaterkamp, Groethof, Eikelveld, Hanenkamp, Hoogenkamp, Ketelberg, Voutenberg, Neurkenskamp, etc.; Between the road to Stralen and the one to Herongen: Lovendaal, Groothoogstraat, Arenberg, Genraai, on Rijnstraat, on the Kluis (old people still remembered that a hermit lived here), etc.;

And between the Kaldenkerker and Tegelschen road: on Jammerdaal, on the Kluis, Vrijenbroek, Kleinkamp, Wylrehof, Hulsforthof, Voordijk, Wittendijk, on Vindelsroad, etc.

The largest rampart in our neighborhood is on the other side of the Maas River; it runs from the marsh near guardhouse no. 6 of the Venlo-Horst railway line, in a semicircular shape, with the concave side facing southeast, in a southwest-to-northeast direction. It is over 2 meters high, 9 meters wide, and approximately 700 meters long. Locals call it the "Germanic rampart." Following the natural hills to the northeast, Ort continues, to near the main Venlo-Horst road, one sees another rampart like the previous one, hugging the upper edge of the hill and following an east-to-west direction, behind the farmsteads "de Saar" or "Laar" and "St. Jan," to the marsh "het Meir" east of "Berkterbroek." This section of the rampart has been broken down here and there by excavations, resulting from the reclamation of the heathland. In some places, I even found two ramparts standing one behind the other. In the southeast, there are also sections of ramparts, but I haven't yet been able to find any connection between them. The area between these ramparts is called "de Römer" (the Roman) and is a large Germanic cemetery, where, however, no trace of Roman occupation had been found until I recently had the good fortune to discover

205 many Roman potsherds and pieces of peat stone in the low-lying area called the Meir. According to a farmer living nearby, there must have been a mound in the middle of the Meir that was dismantled; many potsherds and pieces of stone that emerged were scattered across the fields.

210 See the chapel there in the Kruisbergen, also known as the Genooier Mountains. There lies buried Sister Agnes Maria Huyn van Amstenrade, renowned for her virtues, graces, and God's gifts. She lived in the Trans Cedron convent. Her body is said to be incorruptible.

215 Formerly, the Mariëndaal convent stood on the site of this chapel, a name now adopted by the Dominican nuns who settled on Gerritten last year. On the grounds over there between Genooi and Velden, called the Rummer, General Pichegru camped with his army in 1794.

220 Since we still have a long walk to go, we will not continue further along the Velden road to visit the Zwartwater, but will cross over immediately. Gentlemen, do you see that yellow house over there in front of us, on the left before Besjes, where those two tall trees, planted in 1769, I believe, stand in front of the door? It's called the "Spiker"; a ball serves as a keystone on the facade. It's an old mansion. The Groethof is right there.

225 There, Gerritten, the convent of the Dominicans, M.H., now called Mariëndal. Mr. Heutz, founder of the charitable institution that bears his name, used to live here; before him, it was inhabited by a certain Mr. Boymans, a member of the family that founded the museum of the same name in Rotterdam. If you go past the back of the convent, you arrive at the Ketelberg; try to find your way through the thin woods, and you'll have a magnificent view of the countryside behind the hill, with the Zwartwater, the Vaalkuilen, and the romantically situated amidst the woods, the

230 house of the... city forest ranger, which has been mentioned many times in recent months. But shouldn't we take a break now with the Jentjens ladies? Over a cup of coffee, which they make so well, I'll talk to you about what follows. Let's go sit "upstairs."

235 Mr.H., take a look through the window. Opposite here lies the recently renowned school building. From 1836 to 1860, Mr. Van Oeyen held sway there. It has since been closed. Currently, a little over a year later, there is a nursery school at the Sisters' house on Gerritten.

240 Behind the school, the Venlo-Gelder railway line—see right—runs across the land where the Spanish intended to build the Fossa Eugenia in 1625, the canal to connect the Rhine and Maas rivers, from Rheinberg past Kloosterkamp, Bruggen, Gelder, where it intersected the Niers, to Venlo. —In 1806, Napoleon I planned to connect the Scheldt, Maas, and Rhine rivers. On May 10, 1806, a decree was issued to construct

245 the "Great North Canal," as it was now called, from Antwerp via Herenthals, with an 8,000-meter-long branch to Lier, via Neerpelt, Loonen, Weerd, Meiel, and Venlo. From there, via Herongen, Louisenburg, Suchtelen, and Neerssen, it would extend to Grimmhausen near Neuss. The canal had a length of approximately 115,000 meters from Antwerp to Venlo, and 52,700 meters from here to the Rhine. Its width was to be 13

250 meters, and it was to be navigable for ships of 400 tons. The locks, each with a drop of 4 meters, on the Maas-Rhine section, were to be built: 1. on the Maas, 2. at Fort Ginkel, 3. between Forts Ginkel and Beerendonk (the latter was located approximately where Mr. Schram lives), 4. on the hill, in the municipality of Stralen, 5. at Herongen, 6. between Herongen and Louisenburg, 7. at Louisenburg, 8.

255 and 9. near the Rhine. — The entire undertaking would cost 20 million francs. In 1808, work began diligently; in 1811, it was halted due to the unification of Holland with France. Had this happened a year later, the canal between the Maas and the Rhine would have been completed, that's how far it had already progressed; 12.5 million francs had already been spent on it. Completion has been requested several

260 times by both Antwerp and Venlo, but always without success. A request made a few years ago is still more or less pending in Berlin and The Hague, but there is little hope of success. — A little further into the city, opposite the innkeeper G. Haanen, the upper part of a gauge still protrudes from the ground. I wouldn't want to withhold a fairy tale from you: there was a certain Hazenpoth, a contractor or

265 supervisor for the construction of this canal, who, after committing all sorts of deceitful acts, supposedly received his just reward in the other world and was doomed to ride through the air, from time to time, in a glowing chariot harnessed to four fiery steeds, along the entire length of the canal. Several farmers claimed to have witnessed such a thing at the time.

270 Dear Miss Jentjens, please! 15 cents for your delicious coffee. — Gentlemen, let us now take the road opposite, past the school, to reach the Herongerberg. In the

meantime, I'd like to share some Roman roads with you.

- 275 According to a Punician writer named Isidore, Habets writes, the Carthaginians, around the 5th century BC, were the first to build paved roads, and following their example, the Romans built major roads throughout their empire. However, they built them with great luxury and displayed incredible energy.
- 280 A large boundary marker, placed in the middle of the Forum, was the point of exit for all roads, which stretched southward, to the Euphrates (a river in Asiatic Turkey), to the Nile, to Gaul, to the dunes of the North Sea, and to the marshes of the Batavians, triumphing over all obstacles and connecting the capital with the most distant provinces.
- 285 The existing natural roads of the Celts and Germans, says Ort, were insufficient for the Roman armies and their followers, and were used under Caesar, improved, and where they passed through less favorable terrain, raised and dammed. When one considers that the Romans worked tirelessly on roads for six centuries in Italy and four centuries in the provinces, one understands that enormous sums were spent on them.
- 290 Roman roads, Hirschfeld reports, are divided into two types, depending on their purpose: 1. Military or consular roads, constructed and maintained by the State solely for military purposes, which usually ran in straight lines; 2. Vicinal roads, which were connecting roads built by farmers for their own use. These were only considered public roads if they connected several military roads.
- 295 These roads formed causeways, which ranged in height from 1.26 meters to 2 meters above the ground; in some cases, in very low places, they were even 4 meters high. This dam-like construction distinguishes them from all later roads; rainwater drained well; they offered an unobstructed view of the surrounding terrain, and one could better engage the enemy from a higher vantagepoint. Only in Rome was the dam-shaped form considered unnecessary.
- 300 On both sides of the central road, which was called an "agger," i.e., a dam, there were banks with a ditch, and usually side walls next to it. Sometimes, a footpath of flat stones can be found on both sides of the central dam, for example, at Andernach.
- 305 Oberst-Lieut. Schmidt states that on the Lower Rhine, the Roman roads consist of a high earthen embankment, covered with a 2 to 2.5 foot high layer of gravel, cemented with mortar. However, this is only true of the major roads, as no trace of mortar can be found on the road from Xanten to the Maas. Paulus, too, found the use of lime mortar on only a few of the many roads he examined; however, sometimes two or three
- 310 layers of gravel, separated by layers of clay, are found. Instead of gravel, crushed stones, compacted with intervening earth, have also been used. The most perfectly constructed roads also have a substructure consisting of large stones set in lime mortar, while the upper gravel layers also have a lime bond. The type of stone found in the region itself was usually used for these roads. However, if that type of
- 315 stone was too soft (e.g., sandstone), harder types were used for the upper stone layers (e.g., basalt, quartz, hard limestone, and gravel). According to Georg Hirschfeld, the total thickness of the stone layers, lime, mortar, and sand is 1.10 meters to a maximum of 1.25 meters. – In such roads, the lime is sometimes lacking in the substructure. On the same highway, the construction is not the same along its
- 320 entire length, but changes as the terrain or the increasing or decreasing traffic made it necessary.
- Very rarely, Ort reports, were the roads paved with large stones, and where one sometimes thinks one has found them, closer inspection reveals that the substructure has been discovered, while the upper layers were removed to create other roads.
- 325 The side walls served to protect the troops marching on the main causeway from enemy attacks; they consist solely of earth. Deviations occur in areas where something was superfluous or made their construction impossible.
- Hey, look, thank God we're on the Herongerweg. Those back roads are difficult to
- 330 walk on and usually dirty. –
- Now, gentlemen, we already know exactly what and how the Roman roads are. We don't need to track them down now, and for those who are interested, I refer you to Ort. He tells us that this requires knowledge of the various constructions, understanding how they have evolved after so many centuries, so that one can, one after another,
- 335 with sounding rod in hand, be able to follow a track once found through unpaved terrain.
- We have now arrived at the site of such a Roman road, namely the one from Venlo to Bisheim and Homberg on the Rhine near Ruhrort. I'll let Ort speak for himself:
- 340 From Venlo, a Roman road runs to Niederdorf, and where the road bends many times

near Herongen, it runs straight east to the Wankum road. A few years ago, the remains of the old road were still visible at Niederdorf and Herongen. At Wankum, the gravel dam was found next to the road, and a Roman gravestone was also discovered there. This road, which I know very well, was previously not considered a Roman road by me, but the assurance of the learned and accomplished researcher Professor Schneider that remains were visible near Niederdorf and Herongen a few years ago now leaves me in no doubt. I will provide some further details about this road, and one in another direction, which I previously thought was the Roman road. Just outside Venlo, a few hundred paces south of the road, lies a high piece of land, along the stream "the old Rhine," called the "Romerskamp" (Roman Camp); a little further on, near the lane leading to the Tichelarie, it is said that a headless man (Hazenpoth) is often seen walking at night, as are fiery horsemen, etc. Where the road climbs the hills, there is an inn called "in de stad Venlo," but on Buyx's map, that place is called "Lusseike"; On the hillside behind this house, next to the old postal road from Stralen, I found shards of Roman tiles and other Roman pottery in the ground. The road now heads northeast up the hills; the old road used to run straight east as a sunken lane, and when it reached the highlands, it continued in a straight line, without the slightest bend, until it reached the northern canal near Louisenburg. On the other side of this canal, a wide road begins that runs northeast to the church in Wankum. The road is now a paved road to Lusseike; the sunken lane has been extensively altered and used as a sand quarry. On the plateau, it forms a wide carriageway on the flat heathland, flanked by small ditches. Immediately within the woods, the side walls and ditches remain intact until they disappear into the heathland near Louisenburg, where Roman antiquities have been discovered. Further to Wankum, I don't know whether there are any remains of ramparts and ditches; on Buyx's map, a section of the road is drawn and bears the name "Brühlsche Strasse."

"From Wankum goes the main road," etc. — I can stop quoting further; it's no longer in our territory; it's Prussian there! Those interested in learning more should pick up the book "Oude wegen en Landwehren" (Old Roads and Land Defences).

Speaking of Herongen. This town is known for the St. Amandus spring or well. St. Amandus was Bishop of Tongeren, who was considered the Apostle of the Netherlands. At this well, he baptized pagans around the year 800; the well is located on an old Roman road.

Many Roman antiquities have been discovered between Herongen and Wankum. Prof. Schneider says that on the Boschberg, there are old graves, and about 300 paces south of the road lies the "Heidenkerkhof," next to the main road, where antiquities have been found. Geometer Buyx, of Nieuwerkerk, in his Antiquarian Map of the Gelderland Region, mentions a Roman camp north of Rehboch on the Schürkesbeek; about 100 paces northwest of there, on the Dambeek, Germanic burial mounds, and near Herongen, on Bekerstraat, Roman graves and antiquities.

Gentlemen, let us now return, to reach the other side of the city via Puteanusstraat to arrive, where it will become more interesting from an archaeological point of view.

(To be continued.) H.

A walk around Venlo. II.

Look, we are now at 't Zand. "Het Zand," some of you will probably say, 'I had imagined it quite differently than a complex of houses.'

Yes, gentlemen, a few years ago that was also a completely undeveloped area, a triangular, tapering lawn, stretching from the clubhouse "de Prins" to the road near the florist Vallen to the colonel. Besides the memory of the horse market and the fact that the infantry, the militia, and the nannies exercised here, there is another connected memory; namely, when Napoleon I was proclaimed Emperor of the French in 1804, he made a journey from the camp of Boulogne to Aachen, Crefeld, and also came to visit us Venlo residents on September 12 of that year. The Emperor, Keuller writes, accompanied by a mounted guard of honor, arrived in his chariot along the old Stralen road, mounted his horse at the Lusseikerweg, and, in order to avoid the Geldersche Poort, which was considered less than secure due to its dilapidated state, rode over the hilltop, even through trees and shrubs, the better to observe the fortress's position. Around ten o'clock in the morning, arriving at the Zand at the foot of the glacis, His Majesty was received by the civil authorities and a foot guard of honor, where he was presented with the keys to the city by Mayor Van den Vaero??.

For the sake of curiosity, I would also like to share the following about this visit. Entering the gate, Napoleon suddenly turned his horse to the left, probably

410 to escape the countless crowd awaiting him. He turned into the narrow street called
Floddergats (which later acquired the pompous name Keizerstraat), and, followed only
by the commanding officer of the engineers, headed for the Mariaweide monastery,
then owned by Mr. Lenssen (now by the Berger family). His entourage, which included
the Emperor's son-in-law Eugène Beauharnais, later Viceroy of Italy, Marshal Lannes,
415 Duke of Montebello, and several generals, rejoined him. Having circled the main
rampart, the Emperor proceeded to inspect the outworks, and having reached the lower
end of the Maaswaard, had he not been stopped, he would have ridden through the
harbor mouth, where there was more than six feet of water. A small boat, in which he
then embarked with the commander of the engineers, took him, at his command, across
the river, and a moment later, he was seen galloping on horseback across the
420 batteries of Fort St. Michael. Returning to this side, he proceeded along the Maas,
riding at Broesert through the water that flows into the river from the canals
there, to Forts Ginkel and Beerendonk. Finally, he returned to the city, accompanied
by those who had accompanied him on this hasty journey. After remaining there for a
few more hours, the Emperor climbed into his chariot, drawn by eight horses, and,
425 escorted by a strong detachment of the Imperial Guard, left the city, making his way
to the Hague near Gelder to spend the night there and continue his journey the next
day via Mainz to Paris. Beauharnais, Lannes, and all the staff officers in the
Emperor's entourage left only the next day and headed for Crefeld.

430 But let's return to our archaeological layout. From here, a Roman road runs from 't
Zand, which Mr. Ort traced to Hinsbeckerbroek. I'll give him the honor of speaking
to you:
On 't Zand outside Venlo, a branch of the road that runs from there to Kaldenkirchen
branches off to Leuth. A few hundred paces from this junction, the road divides
435 again, one branch running to Leuth, the other to the large heathland used as a
parade ground. This last arm climbs the hills as a wide dirt road and has a rampart
on the plateau on its right. It doesn't run parallel to the road, but forms a sharp
angle with it at the edge of the hill, forming the southern boundary of the exercise
grounds. The road reaches the heathland about 120 paces from that boundary. This
440 rampart is marked on Buyx's map as a land defense. Research has shown me that about
25 meters from the first rampart, a second runs parallel to it. A road is thus
formed between the two ramparts, separated from the ramparts by narrow side ditches,
which in turn are separated from the surrounding terrain by a side ditch.
Notwithstanding the fact that German researchers state that all Roman roads were
445 narrow causeways, the information provided by Mr. Jos Habets has shown us that in
southern Limburg there were irrefutably wider Roman roads, and Mr. Van der Rit
mentions, 60 voeten (in Dutch feet) the fixed width of Roman roads in Belgium, which
sometimes reached 100 feet in places with heavy traffic; we therefore obtain a width
of over 17 and over 29 meters, the latter figure including the ramparts and ditches.
450 The road runs precisely in the direction of the towers of Venlo and Hinsbeck; I
followed it to near the banks of Schrollick Lake and the Hinsbeckerbruch, where I was
stopped by the marshy ground; it intersects the Herongen-Leuth road almost at a
right angle. Extending the road, towards the Venlo side, is a footpath through
marshy terrain behind the gardens of Het Zand, past the Panhuis, where the land
455 called "Romerskamp" lies. In the direction of Hinsbeck, on the other side of the
aforementioned lakes, we find a sandy road, which connects to the present-day road
to Hinsbeck at the Hombergen. Antiquities were found along this road: probably on
the station grounds in Venlo, Roman pottery and tear bottles. At Hoogen Dries, just
a few steps south of the road and near the lakes, Buyx notes Roman antiquities on
460 his map; near the Hombergen, east of the lakes, I investigated a cemetery where I
found Germanic urns and Roman potsherds. I left one of these urns with the forster
of Count von Schaesberg, who lives near the Hombergen. This man also owns Roman
pottery, which he claims originates from the aforementioned cemetery. It is
noteworthy that the extensions of the Roman roads already described and those listed
465 below in Venlo all end between the old market there and the Lichtenberg, thus near
the old ferry (or Staai) across the Maas and not opposite Blerik (Blariacum).

We'll soon reach the next roads, gentlemen, but take a quick look over there, that
tall house in front of the hill; it's Stalberg. The architectural style still more
470 or less reveals that the lords of Stalberg used to live here, several of whom served
as mayors. The same can be said of the adjacent house, "Aan Vinken."
And there, against the slope of the hill, that white house, nestled in greenery, is
called "Aan de Zeven Bronnen" (At the Seven Springs) because there are seven
springs. The former owner, Mr. Bontamps, had planted a vineyard there in 1833-36, as
475 did his neighbor Verwins, who built the house Maagdenburg and converted that now
dilapidated property into a magnificent pleasure garden. Hence the name "Aan de

Wijnbergen" (At the Vineyards). But the grapes that grew there, although the product must have won an award at an agricultural exhibition, were never used beyond vinegar production. So the fable of the fox was quite fitting here: those grapes are too sour.

In that area on the hill is also the Galgenberg, where our grandparents once saw lifeless evildoers slumbering.

Gentlemen, let us now turn right onto the road past Thywissen's mill, which leads us to the so-called sanctuary of the Venlo "moetwormen" (moles), that is, diggers. Meanwhile, I must share with you a fairy tale, which Michels tells of this somewhat mysterious place, but very interesting for those who love natural beauty, in the Limburg Legends: In earlier times, in the vicinity of Venlo, near the Ondersten Houtmolen, by the basin of Venlo's fountain, a fireman walked every night. The residents of the area had to give him a cartload of sand, a pair of tin shoes, and 7½ stuivers every year. One day, a servant from the Bovensten Houtmolen (Upper Wood Mill) came out of town late one evening. Arriving at the water basin, he saw a man standing on the hilltop. Thinking it was a comrade, nicknamed "Dikke" (Fatty), he shouted, "Dikke, give me some fire!" The fireman then followed him, but the servant galloped his horse and had just entered the barn of his mill when the fireman caught up with him. In the morning, a coal-black hand was found outlined on the barn door.

Let us first return to the Roman roads.

From Venlo, a highway ran to Kaldenkirchen, passing close to the mill. Beyond the border town, it divided into two branches, one of which led via Breyel, Speck, Boisheim, Dulken, past the Pohlhut on Viersen, etc., to Neuss. The other branch behind Kaldenkirchen ran over Bruggen, Niederkruchten, etc., to Julich, between Aachen and Cologne.

So we have three roads starting from Venlo: the first via Herongen, Wankum, etc., to Binsheim-Orsoy and Homberg; the second to Hinsbeckerbroek; the third to Kaldenkirchen, with two branches to Neuss and Julich.

If you look at these on the map, the first runs northeast, the second east, and the third southeast.

Now there's a fourth Roman road from Xanten to Tudderren near Sittard and on to Coriovallum (Heerlen). This intersects the first three: the first on this side of Herongen, the second on the hill near the Seven Springs, and then runs along this side.

The road from Leuth, and intersects the third just behind Kaldenkirchen.

The first Roman road from Venlo left Herongen on its right, thus running between Herongen and 't Zand near Stralen. There it is intersected by the Xanten-Tudderren road. From this point, the latter road, originating in the southern part of Niederdorf, where Roman antiquities have been discovered, continues as an old grassy path with gravel tracks through the fields and then through the woods, past Louisenburg, where Roman antiquities have also been found, and finally across the heath, where it suddenly ends. Prof. Schneider found no further traces in the Herongenheide. Only where the Venlo-Hinsbeck road intersects the Herongen-Leuth road did he find the path back into the woods, about 400 paces from the road, as a low gravel ridge that can be followed to the west of Leuth, where Roman antiquities have been discovered. From Leuth, the main road merges with the road to Kaldenkirchen; from there, under the name "Ravenstrasse," it continues here and there with side ramparts, first through fields, then through the woods, heading south, and reaching the Weissen Pfahl in the Maas valley. It now follows the German-Dutch border past several burial mounds and is called "Prinsendijk" or "Prinsenbaan." At the end of the Bruggenerbosch, where the road turns slightly to the left, it enters Dutch territory; the gravel dam is clearly visible on both banks of the Zwalm. — We won't follow him any further.

Buyx, however, draws three roads from Pont: one to Arcen, one to Stralen and Tegelen (probably referring to the so-called old postal road), and one to Wachtendonk.

Leemans and Habets also suggest a road that connected with the other side of the Maas at Venlo or just below the city.

Gentlemen, I hope the walk through the woods and over the hills, with its picturesque valley and water basins, has made you less aware of the dryness of this description. We are now standing before the Jammerdaal heath, with its Germanic and Roman antiquities. Here's what Mr. Ort has to say about it:

Now I must describe another site of Roman and Germanic antiquities, which, like Lusseike, is situated on the hillside that begins at the Noorderkanaal (North Canal), leaving Venlo one kilometer to the west, and extending in an almost straight line to the aforementioned Bruggenerbosch (Brugge Forest), sometimes very close, as

545 near Venlo, sometimes further away from the Maas, as that river takes its course.

This site bears the name Jammerdaal Heath and lies near the borders of Venlo and Tegelen. It is a high heathland; in the northwest, steep hillsides, with marshy terrain below, form the border. In the northeast, a stream flows, forming two basins and a narrow valley, the Jammerdaal. To the south runs a landwehr approximately 550 2,000 meters long, while on the east side, between the stream and the landwehr, access is blocked by the Venlo-Kaldenkirchen road, which, as I described earlier, is of Roman origin. The construction of the Venlo-Kaldenkirchen railway line has caused many changes here, especially on the east side, but because the road runs through 555 the stream valley, the plain itself has remained in its original state. A sunken road, which after a few steps divides into two branches, provides access to the heath on the north side; a second road, running south from the Bovensten Watermolen, must be of later date, as many of the burial mounds in which I found Germanic urns lie on the road; a third road, which originates from the Kaldenkirchen road, soon 560 heads towards Gasthuishof and Kaldenkirchen and, I believe, is also of lesser importance. West of Leuth, a road begins, first heading south, then west near Brand and the Rosenhaus. Near the latter house, it connects to the aforementioned landwehr, continuing along both sides of it until the landwehr ends at the hillside. However, the road descends as a sunken lane with many twists and turns into the Maas 565 valley, running past Hulsfort to the Venlo-Roermond road and to the Maas river opposite Holt-Blerik. Habets believes this road is the connecting road or diverticulum between the two roads on the opposite banks, as mentioned above. South of the landwehr lies the Oelishede with the Oelishof, apparently derived from Olla (pot); while it is noteworthy that in the vernacular of Venlo and Roermond, a 570 wide earthen pot is still referred to as an oelis. Especially in the mountain slopes bordering this heathland up to the Tegelen-Kaldenkirchen road, large excavations were made to obtain earth for the production of roof tiles, tiles, etc., which are called "pot holes." A great many Roman roof tiles, urns, and other pottery have been unearthed, including some from the Middle Ages, of which I have several examples; 575 the largest bakery appears to be in

I remember having been to the Jammerdaal, near the Lower Water Mill; just behind the mill, the miller's son, Mr. Hubert Michels, excavated a multitude of medieval pots.

580 In 1879, the same gentleman was fortunate enough to discover a Roman pottery on the Jammerdaal heath. It had an elongated, triangular shape, and contained numerous already fired vessels with decorations, including unfired ones, but entirely formed of clay. A few weeks after the discovery, I visited the site; a large pile of shards of broken pottery lay next to the partially recast bakery, while about 30 paces to 585 the north, broken Roman roof tiles lay scattered about. Apparently, the potter's house or hut was once located here; indeed, after a careful examination of the hillside, Dr. W. Pleyte, who accompanied me, and I even found the exit leading from the house to the foot of the hills where the potting soil had to be obtained. A few minutes northeast of this site, I had previously discovered a Germanic cemetery with 590 large and well-preserved burial mounds. Urns with and without lids were excavated there by Fr. Deserière and myself and are now in the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden.

On the heathland between the Jammerdaal and the railway line to Kaldenkirchen, as well as immediately south of the landwehr, I found Roman potsherds, also of terra 595 sigillata. I discovered the foundations of buildings between the landwehr and the Oelishof, where a building appears to have stood, next to which lay a funnel-shaped well. At the intersection of the landwehr and the German border line, where a chapel appears to have stood, I found ordinary stones in both places, so that, during this cursory investigation, I concluded that both sites had contained modern buildings. 600 Mr. Hubert Michels, accompanied by Dr. Boetskes, who lives at the nearby Wambach Castle on the Kaldenkirchen-Tegelen road, has further investigated the aforementioned location. This investigation attracted the attention of the landowners, namely the regents of the Roman Catholic almshouses in Venlo. They prohibited the investigation but continued with it. According to Michels, a cellar 605 was discovered, constructed of loosely stacked marl blocks, while a cast wall was built around the outer walls of lime, pieces of tiles, and bricks. He writes to me: "According to my father, a sheepfold once stood on that site, from which the bricks and lime containing the blueing, which you noticed, must have come." He further reports that a coin of Hadrian was found under the roof tiles of the aforementioned 610 potter's house, which was brought from the finder by the prostitute Boetskes. He also mentions that the gentleman discovered an old grave in the Wambach garden near the two lime trees. The urns were broken and are kept there. This Wambach castle,

located on the Tegelen-Kaldenkirchen road, is very old and was called "the farm to Wambeke" in 1326. As early as 1829, Mr. Justen explored the area on the Oelisheide and apparently found a Roman grave there, without specifying the exact location; he believes the heath I described was a Roman army camp. Mr. Peeters, who mentions this, also states in his description of Tegelen that the Roman road from Colonia Traiana to Coriovallum passes through Tegelen, without specifying its exact course. A closer and very careful examination of the road will be necessary before its course can be accurately determined, but I will share my suspicion. I believe the road from the Paesmühle ran along "the Nachtigal" to the Noorder-Kanaal, as Schneider describes it up to that point; this road is listed by Buyx as the old road from Straelen to Venlo (on old maps it's called Postweg, until past the road to Kaldenkirchen) and follows the hillside in a straight line to Lusseike. I think the main road took this direction, running past Lusseike and a few hundred paces past the Zeven Brons to the small exercise grounds, along the Kaldenkirchen road. It crossed this ground diagonally and descended the hills as a sunken lane, passing the Ondersten watermill, from the Jammerdaal into the Maas valley, and continuing past Tegelen, possibly through the Mergelstraat, past Belfeld, Reuver, etc., along the Maas bank. It's possible that more will later be known about this road from the papers left by Mr. Guillon in Roermond, but as long as the Dutch government hasn't purchased his collection of antiquities found on Dutch soil, along with these writings, there's no chance of that happening.

Mr. Ort believes that the "Sablonnes" station is located near Ons Zand. "Jammerdaal" is a modern name, which according to the locals, it originated when a worker was buried alive while building a well that collapsed, and he was heard groaning and moaning without being able to offer help. Ort doesn't think it's unlikely that this heath also used to belong to the Zand.

If we now return across the road crossing to Tegelschenweg, you'll be able to see some of the farmsteads just mentioned.

"Hey, host, turn around! What kind of building is that up there on the hill? We didn't notice it before." – My good friend, please forgive me, but one fool can ask more questions than ten wise men can answer. They call it "Casino."

Ahead of us, in a somewhat straight line, as seen from the road crossing, lies Wylrehof; There, further south towards Tegelen, was the Hulsforthof, and further inland, "den Rooden Haan," which was set on fire in 1794 during a Dutch sortie when the French were near the city.

When the Belgian General Daine approached Venlo at half past three in the afternoon of November 10, 1830, with nearly 1,300 men, in addition to about 30 horsemen of the so-called Maas Cossacks and a multitude of people armed in various ways, a halt was ordered at the avenue near Wylrehof. There, the second shot from the fortress killed a surgeon-major's horse. The attackers, who outnumbered the city's garrison by some 800 men, had only 4 field guns, 2 six-pounders, and 2 howitzers for artillery; They settled between the Maas and the house "Den Roskam," better known as Stevenshuisje, whose entrance used to be on the opposite side; the old road ran behind the house. On our way back to the city, gentlemen, I can tell you something about the large Roman road on the other side of the Maas, which ran from Tongeren to Nijmegen, as described by Mr. Ort:

According to Habets, it leaves the church in Buggenum on the right, goes to the hamlet of Groot-Hansum near Neer, first along the bank there, and on to Kesseleik, through Kessel, which is very rich in Roman antiquities, to the hamlet of Ooien, which he leaves on the left, through Baarlo, past Berkt Castle and Laarbroek to the watermill. Habets reports that Guillon found the path in Kesseleik near the Noldissenhof, running past the chapel at that farmstead and continuing towards Kessel along the banks of the Maas.

Between Baarlo and Blerick, it is recognizable by the gravel and a side wall. At Blerik or near that village, the third Roman station of Blariacum was located at a distance of 12 leagues from Catualium. Leaving Blerik, the path veers slightly away from the Maas and heads towards the chapel of St. Anna, in a straight line past Oud-Soest and Gebroken Slot to Grubbenvorst, leaving the church there on the right. Its course is indicated in the field "het Reuveld" by the corn, which quickly turns yellow due to the hard subsoil, especially during dry summers. It passes Marianne's farmstead, which used to be an inn where the Nijmegen post stopped, and continues through Lottum, Broekhuizen, Broekhuizervorst, Ooien, Blitterswijk, and Wansum to Geisteren...

Locations of Roman antiquities, writes Mr. Ort, are in Buggenum, where a cemetery lies next to the highway, yielding primarily Frankish artifacts; in Neer, where Germanic urns, and at a place called "the Roman camp," Roman coins from Augustus and

Nerva, Roman pottery, and a bronze mirror were found; in Kesseleik, west of the road near the Kappersberg, lies the Hunekesbosch, the place itself called "Oude Kamp" (Old Camp); here, next to a high old rampart, Deserière discovered a Roman cemetery, of which I have pottery; A very large stone axe, found here, is now in the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden (in 1884 this forest was cleared and the ground dug up; according to reports, a great deal of Roman pottery and urns were found there); in Kessel, from where the Guillon collection contains medals of Constantinus Magnus, Constantinus II, Valentinian I, and Theodosius; and in the Museum in Leiden, a Roman altar stone dedicated to Minerva, Juno, and Hercules. Between Kessel and Baarlo, west of the road, near the inn "De Nachtegaal," I found a Roman cemetery full of shards of Roman pottery. On one side of the cemetery runs a road parallel to the road, on the other side a road to Roggel called "de Keizersweg" (the Keizersweg); the cemetery lies at the sharp angle they form. Mr. Verhaeg from Baarlo told me that he had heard from his father that during the construction of the road, this area was excavated and yielded so much pottery that the road was covered with shards. Between this and the previous burial ground, near Kappersberg, lies another cemetery, from which Colonel Rudolph from Venlo possessed some objects: a Roman

I donated a pot from there to Dr. W. Pleyte for the Rijksmuseum. This cemetery, which Mr. Rudolph only gave us a general overview of, also lies west of the road, near the Pandu house, but I have not explored it. Between these three Roman cemeteries, west of the road, there is hardly a piece of land without Roman potsherds. The acknowledged fact that the Romans buried their dead very close to public roads, combined with the fact that Kessel must certainly have been a prominent place during Roman rule and was probably the Castellum Menapiorum, which is not mentioned on the Peutinger map, leads me to suspect that this place was not on the main route, but on the riverbank road, which had connecting roads with the highway at this point and which riverbank road is now considered the highway.

In Baarlo, a hoard of gold and silver Roman coins was found near the church in 1830, and in Blerik, a Roman knife handle, as well as many Germanic urns, was discovered in three different cemeteries. During my last visit to this village, in December 1883, I was told that during the demolition of a house near the Town Hall, a cellar built entirely of sandstone was uncovered. The village secretary then informed me that a similar cellar had been uncovered during the excavation for the Town Hall's foundations, containing a now-vaulted well. Nothing more could be traced of this. Furthermore, I found Roman potsherds between the watermill and the village; in a dry spot in the marsh "het Meir" near guardhouse no. 8, where a hill once stood, I also found Roman potsherds and pieces of tuff. This location is located an hour northwest of the village. From the road to Horst, north of Blerick, just past milestone no. 1, a road heads north through the lowlands east of St. Anne's Chapel. In most places, the road has two side ramparts with ditches and ends at a small, high sandy plain. This point is called "den Scherpenberg" (the Scherpenberg), and apparently, due to remaining sections, a large hill once stood here. In the sand there, I found a fragment of a Roman roof tile, a piece of terra sigillata, and other Roman pottery shards.

A Roman shield was found at Holt-Blerick on the Sprinkbeek or Molenbeek stream; however, this site is more than 2 kilometers from where the main road is still located. Between the aforementioned watermill and the village lies a section of that old riverbank road with two side ramparts, which, at a distance of 20 meters, were found to be about 20 meters apart. Between Blerick and Grubbenvorst the road runs past the Germanic cemetery "de Wienkelder", described by me in P. L. XIX. I made my suspicion known there and then that the main road would not have run via Grubbenvorst and Lottum, without denying the existence of a Roman bank road in that direction; on the Rhine, one often sees a road following the bank, but also that wherever that bank road does not run over very high ground or makes a large detour, a second road was constructed alongside it, which is considerably shorter, as it runs in straight lines and does not have to navigate the bends of the river. I believe that in several places, as I have already noted near Kessel, a second road was constructed alongside this main road, and that this was also the case between Blerick and Geisteren. I believe the main road can be traced back to the old postal road to Nijmegen, running from the Blerick-Horst road, at milestone No. 4, past the farmstead "bij Marianne" across the Thienraaier- and Zwolgenerheide to Tienraai; further on to Meerlo and Geisteren. The first cemetery along this road, called "De groote Tomben" (The Great Tombs), is "bij Marianne" and lies slightly north of the house, right next to the postal road and not on the road along Kaldenbroek, which Habets identifies as the main road. I have explored this burial ground several times and have found only Germanic urns, which are now in the National Museum of

Antiquities in Leiden.

750 The second is located on the Thienraai- and Zwolgenerheide, is extensive, and is dotted with large, well-preserved burial mounds. I acquired Germanic urns from this cemetery through excavations conducted there by Deserière; a medal of Trajan is noted in Guillon's catalogue as originating from Zwolgen.

755 Deserière discovered a third cemetery on the Wansummerheide, west of Wansum and Meerlo; he gave me two urns from this location as a gift, one richly decorated, the other made of very fine red clay. The latter contained metal fragments, probably from a fibula.

A site containing fragments of Roman pottery is located at milestone no. 4, at the beginning of the road on the north side from Bleri[c]k to Horst.

760 On the riverbank road, the only site for objects from that period is Lottum, where a denarius of Claudius I and a bronze coin of Valentinian I were found. At the site on the Maas where the old church once stood, remains of a Roman building and a tombstone have been discovered, of which only "IANI LM" remains, which ended up in Guillon's collection.

765 Schneider reports that a Roman castle once stood in Lottum, which, after being destroyed, was rebuilt by Julian. This site is also not mentioned on the Peutinger map, probably again because it was not on the main road, but on the riverbank road. Finally, Mr. H., I would like to share with you what a well-known archaeologist recently told me: "I believe Limburg had three Roman main roads, one from Maastricht to Jülich or Julich, which bisects the province at its widest point. From this road, along the left bank of the Maas, ran the road from Maastricht to Nijmegen; and on the right bank, the road from Coriovallum via Tudderden to Xanten. – Undoubtedly, both roads, which bisected Limburg at its longest, were connected by some side roads, or rather connecting roads. But I believe that some of the roads labeled as

775 Roman date from the period of the Frankish emperors."

And now, Mr. H., we are back home from our walk, without having tired ourselves too much. If my talking has perhaps required too much effort from you, please don't blame me so much. Too attached to my native soil, I couldn't control myself. I thank you for your patience with me.

780 H.

"Errare humanum est," dear reader! The following comments were made to me regarding the first part of the previous issue, which I would like to "rescue from oblivion."

785 1. The name Helpoort has nothing to do with "sloping, descending"—that phrase was slipped in at an unguarded moment—but it comes from St. Helenapoort, just as the Cologne gate was formerly called Laur- or Laarpoort, because, as even older people can remember, a St. Lawrence stood above it. See Keuller, Geschiedenis van Venlo, p. 345.

790 2. Northwest of Voorst Koekerslo, bordering the hamlet of Den Boekend, and west of Veldenkamp, where it is believed the old Blariacum was located, running along the stream and close to the spot where the beautiful shield with the head of Medusa was found a few years ago, ramparts are also visible, which are not mentioned in ritm. Ort's work.

795 3. I mistakenly placed a bullet as a keystone on the facade of the "Spiker." The bullet lies on the house of De Kaat, between Hendrikken and De Veegtes, which anyone interested can see at any time.

H.

Submitted.

800 Mr. Editor!

In the essay "A Walk around Venlo," published in your widely read Weekblad of April 11th, several points appear taken from ritm. Ort, which I cannot ignore in silence. Ritm. Ort says, among other things, that a road from the Bovensten Houtmolen runs south, which he believes to be of a later date, and that there are burial mounds on the road in which he has allegedly found Germanic urns. – His Honor is mistaken, because there are only two burial mounds on this road; one of these mounds was examined by Mr. Fr. Deserière and contained a broken urn, the fragments of which were scattered across the heath; the other mound was examined by me and contained a completely intact and very beautiful urn, which is still in my possession.

810 It is mentioned regarding the Roman pottery on the Jammerdaal heath, or rather on the table hill, opposite the water, called "Rosdommel," in the immediate vicinity of the Tegel potholes, which I was fortunate enough to discover in 1879, that it was of an elongated triangular shape. This is incorrect; it had a perfectly square shape, as it measured 1.90 meters (6 Rhine feet) long and just as wide.

815 Rhythm Ort further states that a few weeks after the discovery, he visited the site with Dr. W. Pleyte, who accompanied him. After a careful examination of the

mountainside, they found the exit leading from the house to the foot of the hills where the potting soil had to be collected. This is impossible, because immediately after excavating the pottery, I made a detailed drawing of the site, showing the kiln, house, and exit leading to the place where the potting soil had been collected. I showed this drawing to the two aforementioned gentlemen before they visited the site, to which I also accompanied them. It is further stated: A few minutes' walk northeast of this site, I had previously found a Germanic cemetery with large and well-preserved burial mounds; urns with and without lids were excavated there by me and Fr. Deserière and are now in the Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. - This aforementioned road, running south, belongs to this Germanic burial ground and bears the name of Siberia. Messrs. Ort and Deserière did indeed examine some of these burial mounds, but found nothing except a few broken urns, the fragments of which remain scattered across the heath to this day. Ritm. Ort himself testified to this in a letter dated February 17, 1880, in which he wrote: "Dear Michels, I was very pleased to receive a letter from you, especially since I learned that you were successful in your excavations. - There seems to be much still in the ground in that area of the watermills; it's a pity I'm no longer here to jointly dedicate our efforts to that work, especially since I still don't own anything from the Jammerdaal." - After that time, no further excavations were carried out here, and therefore no urns from this burial ground can be found in Leiden. Considering that I have sufficiently demonstrated the sincere truth, I have the honor to be
Your Servant
HUBERT MICHELS
Venlo,
Ondersten Houtmolen, April 16, 1885

To Mr. H., author of "A Walk Around Venlo".
I read your aforementioned treatise with great pleasure in issues 14 and 15 of the Venloosch Weekblad, which the editors were kind enough to send me. Your interest in the ancient history of the region in which Venlo is located has become apparent to me, and therefore some information and further reflections on the matters you have addressed may be welcome.
In my "Old Roads and Land Weirs in Limburg and Adjacent Regions," I wrote on page 128, I reported that Prof. Dr. J. Sohneider in Düsseldorf considers it probable that the Venlo-Gennep-Groesbeek and Hollendoorn road is of Roman origin, and that I have discovered a Germanic burial ground south of this Ossenbergh; this was probably the burial place of the first inhabitants of the village of Velden.
Are you familiar with the legend of the Ketelberg? If not, I will share it with you. About ten years ago, an enormous stone lay on the hill, the top of which was more than a meter deep in the ground. Farmers from the surrounding area told me that it was generally believed that a treasure was hidden beneath this stone, and because it was immovable due to its weight, they had dug it under, but without finding anything, but the stone had sunk increasingly deeper. Was this stone a boundary marker or did it belong to a grave? These are questions that are probably no longer resolvable.
I know some details about the place name "Lusseike." In earlier centuries, trees, and especially oaks, were used as boundary markers because of their longevity; signs or names were carved into the bark, and in the Middle Ages, family crests. In a large part of Germany, these trees are called Loch Loich, Lâh, or Lachbäume; however, in the regions where the Franks lived, they are called Lus, Laus, Luis, and Leweseiken.
In a copy of the old Weisthums of the Kempener Mark, taken in 1650, this name appears: "Fort van den aldene Dieck op Lewes Eicke, vort van Lewis Eick op die durre Eick" (Ford of the old Dieck on Lewes Eicke, Fort van Lewis Eick op die durre Eick); these are the trees that the "lex salica" calls "arbor signata." Since Louis the Pious (814-840), more than any of his predecessors, ensured the maintenance and regularity of the boundaries of the national forests, etc., it is obvious that the place name Lus, in connection with oak, heath, or mountain, is associated with Louis, while on the Lower Rhine it is written as Luis, and in England, Lewis.
The Lusseike near Venlo also appears in 1360 as a point from where the boundary line of Stralen's jurisdiction ran in a straight line to Leuthermühle; the point where that line intersects the Roman road Venlo-Hinsbeckerbruch was then called "Cruitshoum." This point must have been near the Herongen-Leuth road, between the latter village and the Venlo-Hinsbeck road. I do not know whether the name is still known there. It is noteworthy that places with names containing "Lus"-Luv-or "Lewes"-are almost always sites of Roman antiquities; this is also the case with our

885 Lusseike.
On page 68 of "Oudewegen enz.," I mentioned that I discovered shards of Roman tiles and other Roman pottery there. Since then, two bronze Roman coins have been found there: one by Augustus with an altar and "Provident" on the reverse, minted under Tiberius, and one by Domitian, minted in 95 or 96 during his 17th consulate. Among
890 the aforementioned rubble, I also found shards of Germanic urns and a large iron nail and ring. I'm not aware of any other such place name near Venlo, except in Holt-Blerick, where a plot of land between the village and the road to Maasbree is called Op de Luis, and the road next to it is called Luisweg. I also encountered such a name in Kaldenkirchen as a group of houses, located west of the town, on the
895 road to Tegelen, is called im Luys.
A few weeks ago, when I was standing by the sunken road "de Voerdijk," where the landwehr of the Jammerdaal heath ends and near which the square pottery (triangular is a misprint in my book, which I believe I brought to your attention by postcard before printing in the Weekblad) is found, I saw that a gently sloping exit leads
900 into the sunken road, and that its extension runs first across the bare heath and then further as an almost straight road along the Oelishof to the houses "im Luys" and Bracht. Presumably, this road has some significance, as it provides a short connection between the Jammerdaal heath (Sablonen) and the Roman road Venlo-Juliacum, heading south. In my book, I failed to mention that between 1875 and 1878
905 I excavated Germanic urns on the heathland immediately adjacent to the pottery, and that in those same years and also in 1881, I unearthed the urns from the burial ground south of the upper watermill. (In the latter year, two urns and a lid were found.) Five burial mounds are clearly visible in the road that runs through this cemetery. Although partially leveled by time and sod-cutting, they are still quite
910 visible even to a less trained eye.

I have deliberately conducted my visits to the Jammerdaal heathland in recent years as secretly as possible, for the following reason. One Sunday morning, I visited the foundations of the Roman building near the Oelishof, which I had known about for
915 about nine years. Lo and behold, a few days after returning home to Breda, I read in the newspapers that... foundations of a Roman building had been discovered near Venlo.

Now that I'm discussing the Jammerdaal heath with you, I would like to briefly
920 refute the points discussed by Mr. Michels in issue 16 of the Weekblad. I do this exceptionally and otherwise take no notice of such writings, whose purpose is other than to promote the interests of science.
Regarding point 1, there are five, not two, burial mounds in the road south of the upper watermill. Moreover, M. contradicts himself in this regard.
925

Point 2: I already mentioned the triangular or square bakery. Point 3. Mr. Dr. W. Pleyte and I investigated the bakery before we arrived at M.'s, and we went there again with him afterward. He hadn't seen the exit, nor had he concluded from the pile of roof tiles he found that there had been a house there; Mr. M.'s memory
930 sometimes fails him, as is more evident in the last and fourth points.
Mr. M. quotes a phrase from a letter of mine, written in 1880, which reads: "... especially because I don't own anything from the Jammerdaal valley yet." This phrase must refer to the valley itself, as I remember that M. once wrote to me that he had found a small cellar in the valley; or rather, I meant that I no longer owned
935 anything from the Jammerdaal heath at the time, as the urns were in the Museum. - Mr. M. visited my home in December 1877, a few days before my departure for Deventer. I showed him urns from various burial grounds, including those from the Jammerdaal heath. These objects inspired him to go there to search. On that occasion, I gave him an urn from the Romer in Blerick.
940

M. seems to have forgotten this, but enough about that. I'd rather share with you some details about the surrounding heath.
Near the east side of the sunken road, which runs southeast behind the lower mill to the heath, lies a very large natural stone in the coppice, not far from the pond. It
945 has now sunk quite deeply into the ground. Upon examination, it turned out that this stone rested on smaller stones; whether it served any purpose, as with the one from the Ketelberg, is difficult to determine. Immediately behind that same watermill, a great deal of medieval pottery has been unearthed by the miller's son, Mr. Michels.

950 As you know, south of the landwehr, in the Jammerdaal heath, lies the Oelis or Potheide heath. I discovered that this heath is separated on the south side by a second landwehr from the arable land situated near the Tegelen-Kaldenkirchen road.

This landwehr runs approximately west to east, from boundary marker no. 450 along the border, to close to the Zollhaus am Schwan, always approaching the first landwehr that joins the road at the Rosenhaus. Whether these two landwehrs had extensions towards Leuth, and whether the ramparts at the "Brand" farmstead are connected to them, I dare not yet determine. Opposite Wambach, the second landwehr consists, in a small section, of two ramparts.

n, which enclose an elongated area, which, according to Dr. Boetskes, is called "the beugelbaan" (the ring road). This name struck me, as last summer I investigated a Roman road in the Kondelwald, near Alf aan den Moesel, which bears the name "Kegelbahn."

And now, finally, a few words about the information you mentioned from a well-known archaeologist, who believes that many roads considered Roman are of Frankish origin. Limburg must have been at least as populated in the first centuries AD as it is today, as is evident from the large number of pagan burial sites already known; and how many have escaped the attention of those who take an interest in such matters and publicize them when something is discovered? Such a population needed many roads for mutual communication, while the castles on the Maas were certainly connected to those on the Rhine by roads, since the Romans designed and constructed the entire network of highways with a military purpose.

I have described in detail in my book how the Romans built roads; they did not, of course, pay the same attention to local or vicinal roads as they did to major highways, but for identifying such roads, the discovery of antiquities, especially of cemeteries, is of the utmost value, as it is known that they buried their dead immediately adjacent to the roads.

The roads I have described all bear the hallmarks of Roman roads or pass by more than one cemeteries.

Did the Franks also have a road structure that makes their roads distinguishable from others? I very much doubt this, and others agree with me, e.g. Mr. Peigné-Delacourt, who stated at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute in Rome on April 20, 1863, that research showed three types of ancient roads in Belgica Secunda. The first type was Roman, the second Gallic, and the third Merovingian. According to him, the latter established connections between princely possessions. They were generally 20 meters wide and mostly without any architectural foundation, as a result of which they will soon be impossible to trace.

It is well known that the Franks restored Roman roads that had fallen into disrepair, and as an example, I must refer you to pages 59 and 60 of my book, where the Karstrasse or Karlstrasse in Lobberich and Hinsbeck is described.

If the name of a road does not establish its Frankish origin, then one can only assume that it belongs to that period; Even finding Frankish antiquities doesn't guarantee certainty, as the Franks settled almost everywhere in ancient Roman settlements.

If the editors of the Venloosch Weekblad would like to publish this letter, I would be very pleased, as this increases the likelihood that people who have found something and read about the great interest some people have in ancient objects will share it.

Sincerely,
BREDa, ORT.

May 6, 1885. Rhythm. K.M. Academy.

[from: Yearbook of the Society of Dutch Literature, 1908]

Biography of Johannes Apollonius Ort.

"Look, there's a piece of Roman road."

"How do you know that?"

An explanation followed. About 25 years ago, I met Captain Ort, an antiquarian, during a horseback riding tour we took in the vicinity of Breda, where we both worked as teachers—he also as head of education for the cavalry—at the Royal Military Academy.

Some time later, he offered me the opportunity to view his treasures—his urns, his tableware, his coins—in his home.

Now, as a result of that closer acquaintance, which continued in later years, and primarily at the urging of his widow, I venture to comply with the honorable request of our Society's board to write an obituary of the deceased Colonel Ort. I must first confess that, as a non-expert, I am unable to place his merits as an antiquarian in the truelight of his work. I will therefore confine myself to the information and communications provided to me primarily by his widow, and to a few

notes concerning the writings he published.

Johannes Apollonius Ort was born in Woudrichem on May 2, 1842, the eldest son of the rather large family of Dr. W.F. Ort and Miss S.G. Hanegraaff. He received his early education there at a regular primary school until the age of 12, and continued his

education at the then well-known boarding school of Mr. Kattenbusch in Gorinchem,

and subsequently at the Royal Military Academy in Breda. On June 22, 1861, he was born on the 19th of June.

At the age of 18, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Dragoon Regiment.

His clear intellect, his gift for communication, his unusually cheerful disposition, his independent yet compliant nature, and his good military qualities—although he could, in his time, express his disapproval of existing conditions or measures taken quite vociferously—quickly made him stand out to his superiors as an officer who

could and should be considered for special duties. Thus, from 1870 to 1872, he was

an instructor in military subjects at the cavalry's main course in Haarlem; from

1874 to 1877, the last year he was appointed captain, he held the position of 1st

Lieutenant-Adjutant in the 2nd Hussar Regiment; in 1879, as captain-instructor, he

was charged with training the horses and educating the recruits in his regiment.

From 1880 to 1887, he was head of instruction in cavalry subjects and horsemanship

at the Royal Military Academy.

As a senior officer, he was later regularly appointed to serve on the commission for

the cadet officer examination; and when his turn came for a regimental command, and

the then instructor at the riding school, considered particularly qualified, wanted

to retain him as a colonel in that position, the board of directors showed him their

appreciation for his merits by appointing him to colonel, above the rank (on a

lieutenant colonel's salary), a distinction never again bestowed upon him. After

four years in command of the 1st Hussars in Deventer, he retired in April 1899.

Even in his childhood, he had demonstrated his inquisitive spirit through avid

reading and collecting antiques. The curriculum at the Academy at the time was not

very well-suited to keeping that spirit alive; and the young, cheerful cavalry

officer, having broken free, along with so many others, from the oppressive bonds

with which the outdated educational system in Breda held the cadets in check,

initially found too much enjoyment in the free social life, among jovial comrades,

to consider devoting himself to study immediately. To be, in every respect, the

carefree—if necessary, daring—cavalryman—his illusions in those years went no

further.

In 1870, when he became a lecturer at the Haarlem academy, however, he had to dig

out the books, and in 1874, once again stationed in Venlo, a military assignment, as

it were, naturally pointed him in the direction in which he would further develop

his academic skills. In all garrisons,

the officers had to produce maps of the garrison town and its surroundings at a

scale of 1/8000. Ort was to do this in Venlo. Upon completing this task, his dormant

spirit of inquiry revived. The terrain, already so familiar to him from his

horseback rides, now had to be examined even more closely. Inquiries had to be made

with the inhabitants of the countryside and heathland; information was given to him

about hills and old ramparts, which had already attracted his attention by their

regular layout; finds were shown to him: old bronze objects, old vessels or shards

thereof, urns, and coins; old burial places were pointed out to him... His mind had

discovered what—besides his military duties—would occupy and fascinate him for the

rest of his life. The map was drawn, but the terrain remained his field of

exploration. Wherever he went later—and cavalry officers frequently changed

garrisons—the area was crisscrossed, surveyed with a searching eye, excavations were

conducted, and meticulous records were kept of everything he found and learned about

archaeology.

At the beginning of his investigations in Venlo, he met Frans Deserière, a foreman

of the Venlo-Boxtel railway, who seemed to know him so well that he suggested they

conduct joint investigations from then on. The extent of this simple worker's

assistance is best illustrated by the statement in one of his writings that Dr. W.

Pleyte, the well-known curator (later director) of the National Museum of

Antiquities in Leiden, stated in a report to his director about Deserière: "One of

the subordinates, a foreman on the Venlo-Boxteler road, is one of the most advanced

individuals in the field of archaeological research in this region. He devotes all

his spare time to the investigation of various antiquities and is very skilled and

meticulous in excavating urns and other objects. It would be desirable if this

person, F.D., could be retained for such purposes for the benefit of Limburg's

ancient history."

With this "expert," Ort successively investigated the villages of Blerick,

Grubbenvorst, Lottum, Tienraay, Meerloo, Baerlo, Kessel, and several others, as well

as the Jammerdaal heathland near Venlo, achieving positive results.

1090 After his marriage to Helena Catharina Grobbee in October 1876, Grobbee was often his faithful companion in his explorations. Fully sympathetic to her husband's amateur studies, she accompanied him on his walks and hikes and was present at his excavations; afterward, she attentively followed and weighed his combinations or conclusions regarding the information obtained and the discoveries made. When Ort was transferred to Deventer as a captain in 1877, he had already amassed a

1095 considerable collection of urns, jugs, coins, etc., in Limburg, in addition to the many with which he had enriched the museum in Leiden. In 1879, he took up garrison duties in Leiden. "There, I soon enjoyed the friendship of Dr. C. Leemans, director of the National Museum of Antiquities, and Dr. W. Pleyte, curator. They most courteously provided me with the information I requested

1100 and also pointed the way to a more scientific direction for the research we continued. A large number of publications, including the Bonner Jahrbücher and the Publications du Limbourg, which I received for reading, clarified many things I had noticed but not thoroughly understood." I took notes during this study whenever it concerned locations in Limburg or near the Dutch borders, and drew a map at 1/50,000

1105 of the region between Nijmegen, Birten, Aachen, and Tongres, on which I placed the Roman roads and a colored marker at each site to indicate the period to which the found objects belonged. This, however, was solely for my own use... it prompted me to prepare the notes and the map for the press. Dr. Leemans and Dr. Pleyte, through their help, have considerably lightened my workload, and I hereby openly express my

1110 sincere gratitude to both gentlemen. He had opened up a new field of work. The investigations along the fields and roads would be processed in the quiet study or the living room. While Ort was working on this, his main work, his first publication appeared in 1882: "Places in the municipality of Blerick (Limburg), where prehistoric, Germanic, and Roman objects

1115 have been found." In the "Publications de la Société d'archéologie dans le duché de Limbourg," Volume XVIII, the learned Limburg state archivist Jos. Habets had described the Roman road from Tongeren to Nijmegen along the left bank of the Maas and the sites of Roman, Germanic, and Frankish antiquities near that road. Among other things, it was mentioned that excavations had taken place at the Römerheide in

1120 Blerick at the time, with the aim of searching for hidden treasures in that municipality, and that even officers from Venlo had participated. Hardly had he read this when Ort took up his pen. He knew all about it: "I consider myself called, but also qualified, to provide some more precise information about one thing or another, but primarily about this fact." And amidst the descriptions of

1125 the various finds and locations, he recounts how in 1874 he found several people digging in various places on the heath, who told him they were searching for a treasure, supposedly hidden in a beautiful, red earthenware jar with a lid; they had heard about this from a pastor. "There" (in connection with other circumstances)—he writes—"a light came on for me; the pastor of Ittervoort, who had searched in vain for the Roman settlement at

1130 Blerick, now hoped, without cost or effort, to find that settlement by having the farmers search for him; he had therefore given them the description of a Roman jar made of terra sigillata. I brought this to the attention of these people, who immediately stopped searching." He concludes the booklet with the words: "I have

1135 hereby provided the further information I promised, and have cleared the Venlo garrison, as well as that good foreman Frans Deserière, of the blame heaped upon them."

Two years later, in 1884, his aforementioned work, "Old Roads and Land Defences in Limburg and Adjacent Regions," appeared. This work can be considered somewhat of a

1140 supplement to Pleyte's "Dutch Antiquities from the Earliest Times to Charlemagne," which does not address Limburg and Brabant. This work describes the Roman and other ancient roads located north of the Rhine, between the Lippe River and the Dutch borders, between the Rhine and the Maas Rivers, and on the left bank of the Maas River, as well as the land defenses in those regions. The scholarly approach is

1145 particularly evident in the preceding thirty-odd pages of notes concerning: Roman roads in general; the distribution of roads to their destination; road construction; road direction; road tracing; road measurements in the Roman Empire; Peutinger's map and Antoninus' travel book; the course of the lower Rhine and the Waal in Roman times; canals and dikes. And it certainly benefits the work that a skilled military

1150 man chose this subject for discussion. Even more than the major highways, also built in our country on Napoleon's orders, the Roman roads are primarily military roads; and thus, the details, for example, of direction and construction, would likely have been more accurately appreciated by a military-trained eye than by a less expert. Be that as it may, the work was released to the world with the following highly

1155 favorable preface by Leemans and Pleyte: "A book like this needs no recommendation. Diligently and judiciously compiled from widely scattered data, supplemented by our

own research, the work is a primary source for anyone who wishes to continue this research and is interested in the history of their country. It is an introduction to the study of antiquity for the entire Netherlands, a perspective not yet explored.

"May it receive the interest it deserves and that will make it possible for the second volume, with the proposed archaeological map, to be published." How many in the Netherlands will buy a work on Roman roads in Limburg? The answer to that question will likely also explain why the wish expressed in the last section of this preface could not be fulfilled. Ort had envisioned following this first work with a second, "consisting of an alphabetical glossary of sites with a more or less precise description of the find and of the site itself," and later with an archaeological map, produced at 1/50,000, as mentioned above. These were never published.

This must have disappointed him, but the Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde (Society of Dutch Literature) offered him membership shortly thereafter (1886), which must have been proof to him that his work had attracted more attention than the publisher believed.

The previous year, he had contributed a piece to the work presented to Dr. Leemans, as an antiquarian, on his 50th anniversary, entitled: "Der Römerort Sablones," which, according to him, should be located on the Jammerdaal heath. In the early nineties, we find Major Ort in 's-Hertogenbosch. There, too, he would leave the mark of his tireless work, his ever-expanding research into everything related to the history of the ancient Netherlands. In the winter of 1891/92, he organized and cataloged the collection of antiquities in the museum of the Provincial Society of Arts and Sciences, for which the board of this society presented him with a certificate with a silver medal minted in his name in recognition of services rendered. The printed "Proceedings" of this society for the years 1891-93 still preserve a lecture by Ort, delivered at the general meeting of November 10, 1892. He would have liked to "provide a critical review of the region we inhabit, with regard to the various peoples who settled here in ancient times, in connection with the objects found from those times, the land defenses that separated the tribes, and their traffic routes."

"However, it has not been possible for me, as I was only in garrison here for a short time and the hours my professional duties left me free to devote to antiquities were too few, to achieve such a result; but what is not yet, I hope will one day be."

Those last words typify the persevering amateur worker: what we cannot do today, we will do tomorrow. That evening, he confined himself to showing the society's members some antiquities from the museum, describing them in all their details, and investigating, in connection with the sites and local conditions, what conclusions could be drawn from them regarding times long past.

Wherever he went to garrison, he continued his research, and thus gradually amassed a wealth of information. One thing led to another. "It is an introduction to the study of antiquity for the whole of the Netherlands," Leemans and Pleyte had said of his "Old Roads and Land Defences in Limburg." He was also compelled to arrive at this study of antiquity naturally; and so, after his retirement in 1899, his "Architectural Notes, Mostly Relating to the Netherlands and its inhabitants" is in print. In five major and minor installments, covering 340 pages:

- I. a. The confluence of the Maas and Waal rivers during Julius Caesar's reign.
- b. Caesar's campaign against the Usipetes and Tencteri.
- II. c. The Marsi and their land.
- III. d. Oldenzaal during the Salian Franks.
- 1210 e. Crhepstini 2.
- IV. f. The Germanic god Mars.
- V. g. The Roman left-bank roads of the Rhine in the Batavian region.

Anyone who works through these studies will understand how much work and thought underlies them. For what we are presented here is not copyistry. Far from it; the oldest sources are being explored. First, the Greek and Roman writers are consulted, then he investigates what well-known historians have thought they read from these stories, which leave so much to be desired in terms of clarity; and in the chaotic confusion that must have repeatedly presented itself to his mind, light first comes to him from his walks, his astute observations of the terrain to which the described actions or situations pertain. There he lets the roads, the woods, the houses, the cemeteries, the ancient monuments, the stones speak to him, and he understands their language; there he listens with rapt attention to the stories of the still uneducated, superstitious country dwellers, preferably the oldest among them, who

1225 tell him of the white women, of the charades, of the werewolves, of the gray foal,
of "the Gluinige" from whose eyes, nose, and mouth fire spews, and whom they
themselves have seen. All of this is meticulously recorded, carefully considered,
connected, and checked against the oldest maps. Only then is a personal opinion
developed, often deviating from what experts had previously accepted as truth, or
1230 copied from others.
Anyone who works this way has earned the right to be called an antiquarian.
A single example. To determine the place of residence of the Marsi, the work begins
with a report on what Strabo and Tacitus have handed down to us about this people,
"whom we know, under that name, only through the description of the campaigns of
1235 Germanicus in the years 14, 15, and 16 AD." This is followed by the opinion of some
thirty German and Dutch historians, whose accounts of this place of residence vary
between Texel and Holstein, between Friesland and the Lahn.
Given that "the invasion of Germanicus in the autumn of 14 AD..." teaches us that
the Marsi must have lived in such a region that the Bructeri, Tubantes, and Usipetes
1240 had the opportunity to gather quickly between the Rhine and the Roman army, which
retreated from the Marsi region to that river," it is then deemed necessary to first
conduct an investigation into the habitats of these three tribes, "in which the
years in which this story took place should not be overlooked."
And when the conclusion is drawn: "the only region where—according to my view—the
1245 Marsi could have lived and which meets all the requirements that can be established
by Tacitus' historical account is the province of Overijssel"—then it is still
"necessary, in order to make this as clear as possible, to examine not only this
country itself, but also that between its southern borders and the Rhine, from an
archaeological perspective." Thus, the land defenses and old roads in those regions
1250 are retraced on the map and in the terrain, after which Germanicus's journey in the
year 14 can be followed without difficulty. As a further indication, the following
is given: "From all the above, it appears that the area of the Marsen must have been
located north of the Hallerlandweer (municipality of Zelhem), and indeed at about a
day's march's distance from it."
1255
However, our researcher is not yet satisfied with this. At the beginning of his
study, the supposition is made that the name Marsen could have been derived from the
land they inhabited: from the marsen, low-lying places or hollows on the heaths,
filled with water and surrounded by a narrow strip of grass, or from marschgrond,
1260 low-lying, marshy and fertile land, often called mersch in the Middle Ages; While
Tacitus's account mentions that the highly venerated sanctuary of Tanfanae (in
Marsland) was razed to the ground. He therefore believes that the soil name "Mars"
and an old tradition concerning the site of the temple of Tanfanae can provide
further clues regarding the boundaries of the then-Marsland, and therefore lists all
1265 the places in Overijssel and Drenthe where the word "mars" appears, which is
frequently the case there, in order to determine the approximate extent of the
ancient Marsland.
He cannot yet say with certainty where the temple (of) Tanfanae once stood. A legend
places it on Tankenberg near Oldenzaal, certainly the oldest town in the Marsen and
1270 Tubantenland. He will discuss this in a subsequent note.

The following note: "Oldenzaal during the Salian Franks and the old courthouses,
names of farms and traditions in the Marken Berghuisen and de Lutte" (published
1901), is the most extensive (200 pages) and, in the various walks along roads and
1275 neighborhoods outside Oldenzaal, provides, especially for a layperson, a good idea
of how an antiquarian can draw his conclusions from everything he encounters on his
way, from the simple names of farms.

Here too, a few examples.
1280 "Three kilometers south of Oldenzaal"—as we read on p. 153 - "The highway to
Enschede is intersected by a stream that rises approximately east of the Ulenkotte
farm in the "elfter lescap" of the Lutte common."
.... (p. 156) "The Ulenkotte is associated with the night owl. This bird possesses
prophetic powers; its plaintive call signals the approach of death; it is a bird of
1285 misfortune, and in the wild hunt led by Wodan or Holda, two owls sometimes fly at
the forefront."
.... (p. 157) "From this circumstance, I deduced that there must be a burial ground
near the Ulenkotte." I actually found burial mounds a few hundred meters behind the
Kotte, behind the nearby Christmas House...'
1290
As promised, in this note, the author returns to the expression used by Tacitus:
'templum quod Tanfanae vocabant', and provides a detailed explanation of why he does

not, like Van der Aa and Weeling, Grimm, and Van den Bergh, believe in a goddess Tanfanae, but believes that Tacitus should have written 'Tancfanae,' which would
1295 have meant 'sacred place of judgment'; that furthermore, the dolmens on Tancenberg (near Oldenzaal) together formed the templum Tancfanae, and that these dolmens were razed to the ground by the Romans in the year 14. In the following study, "The Germanic God Mars," he is identified as the deity who represented law in the Templum Tancfanae and also as the progenitor and legislator of the Marsi, which means that
1300 any derivation of this folk name from marsch- or marsland must be discarded. In the fifth or final volume of notes (published in 1904), pending further action by private individuals or the government, a preliminary investigation is conducted into the Roman left-bank roads in Batavian land. Regarding this, we read the complaint at the beginning: "There has never been a regular investigation into the Roman roads in the Netherlands; I even doubt whether any attempt has been made to follow the trail
1305 found of them at Kesteren. In Germany, both the public and the government are more interested in such matters, as I have often personally witnessed." Ort has done his part to fill this gap. Before the publication of this last volume, he had felt he should weigh in on an old controversial issue. On January 22, 1903, my learned friend Prof. Blok had given a lecture at the first meeting of the "Oud-Leiden" Association on the ancient history of the University City, and among other things, had announced as the outcome of his research that the city had no right to call itself Lugdunum.

1315 Ort had also been garrisoned in Leiden, and naturally—one might say—he had included this point of contention in the scope of his research. That March, his "Lugdunum" appeared in print, in which, after a 20-page argument, he concluded:
1. According to the road measurements provided by Roman geographers, a place called Lugdunum formerly existed within the present-day city of Leiden.
1320 2. This place name means courthouse on a dune. 3. This courthouse, located on and near the Pieterskerkhof, was still used by the count's court in the Middle Ages. Its local organization and the place names there and around it undoubtedly point back to the old Germanic situation. Oud-Leiden can therefore be peaceful. It was and remains the home of Lugduno.

1325 An interesting struggle between the professional historian and the amateur antiquarian!

In the first yearbook of Oud-Leiden (1904), Prof. Blok, as promised, elaborated on his notes in a piece entitled "Lugdunum Batavorum," in which he maintained his
1330 opinion, expressed in the earlier lecture, against Ort's view. This was followed by an excerpt from Ort's brochure "Lugdunum" as a second piece. The reasons given by the latter - mainly derived from the local location according to the Peutinger table and the travel book of Antoninus, as well as from the meaning of the word Lugdunum - were weighed in the first part and found wanting; attention was drawn to (alleged)
1335 errors; and finally—albeit with a somewhat overly strong conviction of being right—"after this digression on the assertions and assumptions in Mr. Ort's brochure, I took leave of it with gratitude for the good intentions."

But Ort was not the man to let himself or his brochure be taken away in this way. If he had dared to challenge a professor of history, it was because he was firmly
1340 convinced that his opinion was the correct one, and after having first considered the matter from all sides. In the Nederlandsche Spectator 1904 Nos. 10 and 16, he therefore provided evidence that his armor was stronger than his opponent had thought, and that it was not so easy to find its weak points. In this refutation, Ort's solid knowledge, his originality, and even his personality are particularly
1345 evident. Those who knew him hear him, with the somewhat screeching voice that was sometimes characteristic of him, emphasizing every word, utter the sentence before he wrote it down: "Do you now understand, Professor, why I want nothing to do with that god Lug 1 in my determination of Lugdunum?" He concluded his reply by sharing a letter he had received from Mr. Espérandieu in Paris, dated August 15, 1903, which
1350 contained, among other things, "In the next number of the Revue que je dirige 2, you will find a small copy of the brochure Lugdunum. It is possible that your conclusions are not accepted by the whole world: the Celtic language is so obscure that all opinions, whether they are justified or sufficiently justified, are permissible. But the new ideas that you express to a large extent over others and
1355 are to be seriously considered.

Professor Blok has left the final word to Ort. I will certainly reserve judgment on who should be awarded the palm of victory in this matter; but I believe the above has conveyed Ort's work in the field of antiquity, insofar as he has expressed it
1360 publicly. His writings demonstrate sound study, a keen ability to combine ideas, and

above all, fresh originality. The author follows his own path. He certainly takes note of what others before him have said on the subject at hand, but he allows himself to be influenced by none of them, and he doesn't hesitate to draw conclusions that contradict what renowned antiquarians had proclaimed to be established. It is therefore understandable that his insights will not be accepted as "the truth" by everyone, especially when they concern actions and situations that must be unearthed from obscure accounts from twenty centuries ago. He never lacks grounds for his assertions; sometimes he even overwhelms them, which makes reading his writings somewhat tedious, which certainly cannot be classified as light reading. But he didn't intend to provide them either. And it was no easy task for him to compile these notes. He had to first devote himself to the study of Latin, Greek, and even Celtic and ancient Germanic; He had to acquire knowledge of Roman, Greek, and Norse theology and mythology; he appears to be familiar with ancient Germanic and ancient Dutch legends and traditions, and with folklore. Only his keen eye for the terrain is related to his military, particularly cavalry, work for which he was trained from an early age. The rest he had to learn on his own, aided by a few good friends, especially Dr. M.E. Houck of Deventer; while he frequently corresponded about Celtic expressions or obscurities with Messrs. Espérandieu in Paris and Mr. C.A. Serrure in Brussels, the latter (since deceased) visiting him several times.

Only friends and acquaintances know of his work in the field of numismatics. Through his research in the vicinity of his various garrison towns and through his travels abroad to Trier, Constantine, Badenweiler, etc., during which he naturally did not neglect to become acquainted with everything worth seeing in the field of antiquity, he gradually acquired an extensive collection not only of Roman and Germanic weapons, tools, urns, jars, jugs, etc., but also (through both finds and purchases) of primarily Roman consular and imperial coins, numbering approximately 2,000 varieties. He judiciously compiled a catalog of these, following the classification of Cohen's well-known works: "Description générale des monnaies de la république romaine, communément appelées médail"

The Consulates. Paris, chez M. Rollin 1857, and the Historical Description of Monies struck under the Roman Empire, together with the appeal of Imperial Medals. Paris, chez M. Rollin 1859.

The oldest coins in the collection are three from Campania (minted 268 BC); one of the most important is a denarius of P. Lucinius Stolo, minted 17 BC and originating from the collection of Dr. Phil. Paul Becker, Director of the Lyceum Richelieu in Odessa; of Vitellius, there are three denarius coins and two medium bronze ones, one of the first found in Tiel-coins that are relatively rare because that emperor reigned for less than eight months. Several coins were found in our country, such as in Nijmegen, in the vicinity of Gorinchem, between Woudrichem and Almkerk, in Lusseike outside Venlo, in the Maas River at Andel, etc. Three are listed in the catalog as having been found in Leiden: a medium bronze of Nero, a medium bronze of Trajan, and a large bronze of Marcus Aurelius.

The entire collection – as an expert assured me – appears to have been compiled with great knowledge and care. It will be sold in Amsterdam by Mr. Schulman.

The collection of Germanic and Roman antiquities will remain together and will find its place in the antiquity room in Oldenzaal, founded by Mr. P.J. Gelderman, whose establishment Ort largely initiated, and whose expansion he always followed with interest.

He continued to devote himself to his amateur studies until his death. After his retirement, having settled in The Hague, he was inevitably drawn to the association "die Haghe," of which he became a member and board member. He had intended to give a presentation at one of the association's meetings in preparation for the excavations at Arendsburg near Voorburg (the former Hadriani Forum), which would likely have begun under his leadership in the spring; however, a brief illness suddenly ended his working life on February 8, 1908.

Thanks to his colleagues in the field of archaeology, but no less so to his many friends and acquaintances, including those from non-military circles, the warm-hearted, always cheerful former colonel will not soon be forgotten. Only she knows what he meant to his dearly loving wife, and it will be her greatest comfort to continue to remember that. His merits were recognized by the government with his appointment as an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau; while, besides being a member of our Society, he was also a member of the Frisian Society of History, Antiquity, and Linguistics, of 'Gelre', the Association for the Study of Gelderland History, Antiquity, and Law, of the Provincial Society of Arts and Sciences in North Brabant, of the Bonner Verein, and was also a foreign associate of the Société

Naspeuringen van Paul Theelen: A walk around Venlo; Catualium.

numismatique de la Belgique.

1430 G.J.W. Koolemans Beijnen.

1 The former foreman still lives in Blerick near Venlo.

1 From his introduction: Old roads and land defenses in Limburg and adjacent regions. Leiden, E.J. Brill. 1884.

1435 1 Roermond, J.J. Romen and Sons. 1882.

1 Published separately as an offprint in 1894 in 's-Hertogenbosch by the Muller Brothers.

1 The first appeared in Deventer at the Deventer book and lithography studio, the others in The Hague by the Van Cleef Brothers.

1440 2 A word appearing on the Dutch section of the Peutinger Table, or world map of Castorius, which Ort explains as "tombstones."

1 Prof. Blok believed he should explain the word Lugdunum from Celtic, in which language, according to some, the word Lug denotes a well-known deity. Ort explained the word from Germanic.

2 Revue épigraphique du midi de la France.

1445 I can say that it is a privilege for those interested in the dispute to have witnessed the battle between two such powerful champions.

April 11, 1884 [...] ACQUIRED: From Captain J. A. ORT:

1450 - Baked earth. Large urn, with a wide belly, small base, wide opening; with burnt human bones and a piece of bronze wire. Height 33 cm, medium 25 cm. Found between Rooth and Dubbroek, near Maasbree (Limburg).

- Small jar with a flat base and wide opening, the rim decorated with indentations. Head 3.2 cm, medium 6 cm.

1455 - Urn, with an upright wall and a slightly inward-curving rim decorated with impressions. Height 18 cm, medium 15.5 cm. From the Jammerdal heath near Venlo.

- Urn, with a wide belly and opening. Height 21.5 cm, medium 19 cm. Found as furrows.

- Part of an urn, like the previous one, decorated with impressed circles. Found as furrows.

1460 - Bowl, smooth and polished with a flat bottom, which served as a lid for the previous pot. Height 7 cm, medium 22 cm. Found as furrows.

- Urn, rough workmanship, with a flat bottom, very wide belly, and narrow opening. Height 20.5 cm, medium 16 cm. Found at Schandeloo on the Ossenbergh.

1465 - Urn, roughly worked, with a wide belly and a straight rim. Partially filled with bone. Height 23 cm, medium 18.5 cm. Found on the Reumer near St. Jan, near Blerick (Limburg).

- Very large urn with a flat bottom, a spherical belly, small, upright, rim decorated with nail impressions. Height 30 cm, medium 22 cm. Found on the Reumer near Blerick.

1470 - Bowl of glossy black, with a flat bottom and a straight rim, which served as a lid for the urn. Height 9 cm, medium 20 cm.

- Urn with a flat bottom and a wide opening, two projections on the belly. Height 20 cm, medium 18.5 cm. Found on the Reumer, near Blerick.

1475 - Large urn, glossy black, with a small base, wide belly, wide opening, and a standing rim. Height 24 cm, medium 20 cm. Found on the Heldensche Heide (Limburg).

- Part of the rim and body of a small jar with a single handle, found in the previous urn.

- Two tapered jars, with narrow bellies and wide openings, the rim decorated with nail impressions. Heights 26 and 26 cm, medium 22 and 21 cm. Found in Swolgen

1480 (Limburg).

- Urn, roughly worked, with hand-forming visible on the outside, the rim with nail impressions. Height 24 cm, medium 20.5 cm. Found as furrows.

- Roughly worked and poorly fired urn, with burnt bones. Height 24 cm, medium 22 cm. 22.5 cm. Found at the Wienkelder in Grubbenvorst (Limburg).

1485 - Urn of finer earth and harder baking material with small, flat bases, a wide belly, a wide opening, and a raised rim. Height 17 cm, medium 20 cm. Found in Grubbenvorst (Limburg).

- Small, compressed jar with a wide belly and a wide opening. Height 6 cm, medium 7 cm. Found in the previous urn.

1490 - Portions of the belly and rim of a very rough urn; the rim had indentations. Medium 16 cm. Found south of Middelraai near Grubbenvorst.

- Small jar, red. Height 8 cm, medium 8 cm. Found in the Kaldenbroek in Grubbenvorst.

1495 - Urn, polished on the outside, with a small, flat base, a wide opening, and a raised rim, with burnt bones. Height 18, medium 19 cm. Found at the old Rinkesfort fortress near Baerlo (Limburg).

- Bowl with a projection on the side; lid of the previous urn. Medium 22 cm.

Naspeuringen van Paul Theelen: A walk around Venlo; Catualium.

- Small jar with a rounded base and narrow opening. Height 3.5, medium 3 cm. Found in the previous urn.
- 1500 Bronze - Part of a decoration with a needle (perhaps from a dress pin?). Width 2.8 cm. Found as furrows.
- Baked earth. Urn of rough baking. Reddish-brown, the rim decorated with finger impressions, wide opening, flat base. Height 23, medium 22 cm. Found at Montfort near Genouwe (Limburg).
- 1505 - Brown-black bowl, with a raised rim and flat base, as lid of the previous urn. Height 9, medium. 23 cm.
- Bowl, smooth brown, with a raised rim, small flat base. Height 10 cm, medium 21 cm. Found in Tienraai (Limburg).
- 1510 - Urn, brown, with a wide raised rim and small flat base, rim and body decorated with depressed lines. Height 22 cm, medium 17 cm. Found between Wanssum and Mierloo (Limburg).
- Urn, light red exterior, smooth with a spherical body. Height 20 cm, medium 19 cm. Found as furrows.
- Bronze. - Three burnt fragments of a decoration, found in the previous urn.
- 1515 CATUALIUM, the Mansio along the Roman road Tongeren-Nijmegen
- November 9, 1889 CATUALIUM, the Mansio along the Roman road Tongeren-Nijmegen. The Roman road, which ran for centuries from ADUACA TONGRORUM to NOVIOMAGUM, with its stopping places or mansions TERESNE, CATUALIUM, BLARIACUM, and CEVELUM, has recently been extensively retraced by various archaeologists.
- 1520 His E.M. Habets locates TERESNE at Mulheim, a hamlet of Eijsden (Belgium), and Lord Ort also accepts that location for TERESNE.
- According to these gentlemen, TERESNE means Ter Eise: "on the Eis," thus by the water.
- BLARIACUM is apparently Blerick, perhaps Hout-Blerick.
- 1525 GEVELUM was present-day Guijck [Cuyk].
- The endpoints ADUACA TONGRORUM and NOVIOMAGUM correspond to Tongeren and Nijmegen. Where, then, is CATUALIUM located?
- His E.M. Habets locates this mansion at Heel; Lord Ort at Horne.
- Numerous Roman and Frankish antiquities have been unearthed at Heel, Horne, and
- 1530 Melenborg (near Buggenum).
- The distances between the stopping places are, according to PEUTINGER's map, from: ADUACA TONGRORUM(1)-TERESNE XVI League = 34,500 m
- from TERESNE-CATUALIUM XLV » = 31,108 »
- » CATUALIUM-BLARIACUM XII » = 26,664 »
- 1535 » BLARIACUM-CEVELUM XXII » = 48,884 »
- » CEVELUM-NOVIOMAGUM the rest.
- Mr. Ort says:
- "Also, Mulheim and Heel are not 31 km apart, but 25.5 km apart and 31 km apart."
- "bring me to Horne" (p. 125).
- 1540
- Therefore, Catualium cannot be the whole place, according to Mr. Ort and in my humble opinion.
- Mr. Ort further states (p. 122):
- "Mulheim-Horn = 30,000 m; Mulheim-Melenborg 32,500 m."
- 1545 Therefore, in my opinion, neither of the last two places mentioned can be Catualium, even though the three points mentioned are still so different.
- Many antiquities have been found; after all, I assume the Romans measured very accurately.
- 1550
- Aided by the Publications d'Archéologie etc. de Limbourg, in which numerous archaeological discoveries were published by Mr. Habets, and by the work "Oude wegen en Landwerken in Limburg" (Old Roads and Land Weirs in Limburg) by Ort and a detailed map of the Duchy of Limburg, I take the liberty of sharing my opinion regarding the
- 1555 location of CATUALIUM.
- It is striking how the old names, however corrupted or shortened, are still in use today.
- Examples:
- TERESNE=TER EISE, now Eijsden; (Mulheim).
- 1560 BLARIACUM=Blerick; CEVELUM=Cuyck.
- NOVIOMAGUM=Nijmegen; CASTELLUM=Kessel.
- I reasoned that perhaps there wasn't a neighborhood, hamlet, or even a single house bearing the corrupted or abbreviated name of CATUALIUM, located somewhere between
- 1565 Kessel and Maaseyk? Neither Horn, Melenborg, nor Heel would be suitable, as one can

Naspeuringen van Paul Theelen: A walk around Venlo; Catualium.

see immediately.

East of Grathem lies a hamlet bearing the characteristic name of CATERT.

In my opinion, after measuring it on the map, this place meets the distance requirements better than the three mentioned.

1570

If my guess is correct, then we should look for the old road from Ittervoort further west, and a side road must have passed Heel and Horn.

On Wednesday afternoon, May 15, 1889, I set out for the Chapel under the Linden Trees in Thorn.

1575

In front of the chapel (east side) runs the old road, indicated by Mr. Habets as the main road towards Panheel. If I can find an old Roman road running slightly west of the chapel, more in the direction of Grathem, I thought, then that road probably passes Catert, and then Catert is the manor CATUALIUM I'm looking for.

1580

The innkeeper, Renier Snickers, at the chapel assured me that behind the chapel (westward) there used to be a road called the Roman road.

A big step closer to my goal, I thought. He is immediately willing to accompany me, point out the way, and give his opinion regarding the direction.

Let's follow that road.

1585

Where the chapel lies beneath the Linden trees, the branch to Panheel seems to have diverged from the main route.

1590

All that remains of the main road at its beginning is "a raised path, with a manure cart passing here and there, running behind the chapel's sexton's garden towards the cross with the lime tree in the Thornerveld near Santfort," thus heading north.

The path is elevated and slopes to the west and east. The cobblestones of the old road can be seen several meters to the left and right in the arable land.

1595

The road must have been very wide, but certainly not as wide as the position of the pebbles would suggest; after all, these would have been moved several meters by the harrow.

About 1000 meters north of the chapel stands the aforementioned cross with the lime tree. There lies a most significant intersection.

1600

Our path is suddenly interrupted there by a sunken crossroads, and at the foot of the southern section, deep within the sunken road, stands the cross.

There, in that sunken road, no fewer than six roads converge.

a from Grathem (sunken road).

b from Thorn (a sunken road).

1605

c from Hunsel, via Santfort (a sunken road).

d A field path in the direction of Wessem.

e A field path in the direction of Heel.

f Our footpath, the remnant, a very elevated path.

The piece of arable land north of the cross, where the northern part of our road ends, bears the name Venuskamp.

1610

(This last name was given to me by Mr. Rubens of Hagenbroek.)

1615

The road, now interrupted here, takes a slight turn to the right at Venuskamp and continues for approximately 250 meters behind (east of) the house "de Riet," where the new road passes in front of the door (west). It remains recognizable by the high ridge and the gravel, although from Venuskamp onwards, no footpath accompanies it or remains of it.

I followed this road until behind the farm "de Riet," when evening forced me to return home.

1620

On Sunday, May 19th, I continued its course and was convinced, even more than two days earlier, that I had found CATUALIUM in CATERT.

That hamlet lies another 2,000 meters from "de Riet," and the road, running from the cross at Santfort, maintains the direction I took from there, apparently directly towards that neighborhood. On Sunday, May 19th, I set off in the morning, heading north through Hunsel towards De Riet. Following the gravel layer behind (eastward) that farm in the field, I reached milestone 44, through arable and clover fields, on the French-built Paris-Hamburg road, or, if you prefer, Maastricht-Venlo. Along that main road, the track becomes less distinct, but is still visible.

1625

Soon the old road approaches the first houses in the Houthem neighborhood. One of the farmers is happy to act as a guide, but he...

1630

Never heard of an old road.

The Neer, coming from Hunsel as a wide stream, forms a delta 10 minutes' walk north of Grathem, near Houthem. The right branch turns southeast past Panheel to Wessem.

- 1635 The other branch continues its way to Haelen. Our old road must therefore cross the right branch at Houthem. This spot is clearly visible. To cross this branch at right angles, a small turn to the east is necessary just south of the stream. The road continues in this direction for a while, crossing the stream, before turning left (westward) again, almost in line with the direction: Kruis [=Cross] te Santfort, mile marker 44.
- 1640 Until several years ago, according to the farmer mentioned above, there was a bridge at the spot where the old road crosses the stream. The entire area where it crosses the stream alluvium bears the most striking traces of lowering. Indeed, the bases of the fairly large trees there stand well over half a meter higher than the surrounding land or pasture. Let us return to the road. It runs northwest through
- 1645 the barren Houthemerveld, where it is extremely difficult to find, only to enter the Caterveld at the end of that field.
- Catert consists of only two farmhouses. The southern one is not suitable, but the other is. It is located 40 to 50 meters from the Neerbeek stream, west of milestone 45 on the road, a 20 to 25-minute walk from the center of the municipality of
- 1650 Grathem. Both Houthem and Catert are civilly part of the municipality of Heel; the streams there separate Heel from Grathem. At Sibert Seuntjes's farm, the farmer, the owner of the property, answers our questions with the utmost willingness. His son, Mathieu, immediately agrees when I express my wish to conduct some investigations with a spade. The generous housewife refreshes the unknown, tired, dusty, and sweaty
- 1655 "gentleman" with a delicious glass of fresh cow's milk.
- As I approached the house, I noticed the remains of ditches in the meadow south of the current residence, enclosing a fairly large plot.
- When I asked if there had been any ponds here in the past, they replied that they were now largely filled in, but still clearly visible, and that pools remained here
- 1660 and there. The previous house, they explained in response to my questions, stood where a small garden now stands and had only been demolished a few years ago. That house fell outside the meadows enclosed by ditches. The farmer's son also told me that he had unearthed half a pot the previous autumn.
- I then went with him to that spot, right in front of the door of the new house,
- 1665 about four meters away (east). From the very first turn, I saw wood ash, shards immediately emerged from the ground, and looking around, I spotted shards of Roman urns or tiles everywhere.
- It was Sunday, so I decided against further excavation. Now I had to continue my search.
- 1670 Right where the new house is located, the road heading north seems to have left Mansio CATUALIUM. It now runs in a direct direction to the Exaten house near Baexem, leaving the monastery on its left. From Catert to Exaten, it runs along the left slope of a natural range of hills, and a cart track remains of the old road. A lot of sand must have been pushed across the road there, because the gravel layer is
- 1675 very deep.
- Yet, it came to light while clearing a hedge just north of Catert and 't Catertveld. Besides the remains of ponds, the urns, and the name (which points to the stopping place CATUALIUM), I can also report that a few years ago, the farmer Sibert Seuntjens unearthed a silver coin the size of half a guilder, and his neighbor,
- 1680 while harrowing, unearthed a gold coin, both believed to be of very ancient date. Whether the place was favorably situated from a military perspective, I cannot possibly determine. However, I would like to point out that the manor was bounded to the south at some distance by the stream to Panheel, to the west by the stream to Haelen, and to the east by the deep Heelderpeel, from which it was separated by a
- 1685 ridge.
- If this spot I have indicated along the Neerbeek is the old CATUALIUM, which I no longer doubt, then I hope that science will benefit from the publication of this discovery.
- After all, then, after accurate measurements, one can determine the exact location
- 1690 of the other mansions.
- Several roads also lead from Catert towards the east.
- a A wide main road to Beegden.
- b A second road past the southern house in Catert towards Heel; this one leaves Catualium from the south.
- 1695 c From the southernmost house in Houthem, an old sunken road leads to Heel.
- Tungelroy. P. MATH. PEETERS.
- (1) The spellings FERESNE and CEVELUM are considered incorrect on the Peutinger map.
- 1700 Again, Catualium.
- A brief observation on Mr. Peeters's essay. We will not discuss his research,

because to do so, we would have had to visit and walk the same route he took, which did not happen. But we cannot fail to mention that the hamlet of Katert appears to us to be located outside the direction of the Roman Maas road; this road indeed ran
1705 past the chapel of Thorn, past Heel, Beegden, and Horne. This is indicated by the direction the road also took elsewhere; it never leaves the bank of the Maas, as evidenced by the investigations carried out by Messrs. Jansen, Guillon, and Habets, and further by the uninterrupted series of Roman objects discovered along that
1710 route. If a Roman building actually existed at Katert, as Mr. Peeters claims, then a side road may well have led there, but the main road, the via strata, constructed by the Romans to protect the Maas River and connect Tongeren with Nijmegen, never left the banks of that river so far.

Finally, a comment on the quotation from a contribution by Mr. Ort, who believes that Heel is not 31 kilometers from Mulheim-Eijsden. The question here is not how
1715 far Mulheim is from Heel, but rather how far the Roman foundations under the Mulheim area are from these or those Roman foundations located under the municipality of Heel. There is something vague and uncertain in Mr. Ort's view, as formulated here. Where is Heel, where is Mulheim, on the map? If one starts measuring from the western border of Mulheim to the eastern border of the municipality of Heel, one
1720 will likely find a distance of more than 31 kilometers, especially if one takes into account the direction of the road and the bends and curves it has made along its course. Indeed, many things must be considered when calculating the distances on Peutinger's map, and it is often the method of arithmetic that gives rise to the differences of opinion among the authors. Pour comprendre il faut connaître is the
1725 case here.

Meanwhile, we thank Mr. Peeters for his interesting article.
The Editors of the Maasgouw.

October 6, 1934: Archaeological discoveries in Hout-Blerick in the 19th century.
1730 The small hamlet of Hout-Blerick, located fifteen minutes south of Blerick, opposite Tegelen, deserves the attention of antiquarians, wrote the learned national archivist Jos. Habets in his time, specifically because of the following two
1735 discoveries: First, it is in Hout-Blerick that traces of a Belgo-Roman settlement can be found. Twenty minutes from the Maas River in the direction of Maasbree, not far from the last houses, called "Doovend," lies a field, situated higher than the rest, called Veldenkamp. This name was given in memory of one of the last owners, named Van Velden. Over an area of twelve to fifteen acres, one finds Roman
1740 antiquities, pieces of tiles and pottery, building blocks, red cement, wood ash, and fragments of iron. Alongside this field flows the small river called "de Breebeek," where the famous head of Medusa, discussed shortly, was found. According to Greek and Roman mythology, Medusa is one of the three so-called Gorgons. These were three sisters named Sthenyo, Euryale, and Medusa.

They were hideous creatures, surrounded by a belt of hissing serpents; on their heads they had dragon scales; their large, sharp teeth protruded far; their claws
1745 and wings were made of copper. So terrifying were they that their mere sight could turn a human to stone. They lived at the very edge of the Western Ocean. The hero Perseus, who led the fight against these monsters, cut off the head of Medusa, the only mortal of the three, while she lay in a deep sleep. From Medusa's torso sprang the winged horse, Pegasus. Swift as the wind, Perseus, who had leaped
1750 onto the Pegasus, sped through the air and flew over Africa. Blood still dripped from Medusa's head, and the drops that fell to the earth there turned into serpents. When Perseus wanted to rest a while near the giant Atlas, who, at the spot where the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet, carried the pillars of heaven on his shoulders, and was not received hospitably at all, he was annoyed. He held up the
1755 Medusa's head, and Atlas was immediately transformed into a rocky mass, its crown rising into the clouds.

A Medusa's head was therefore not an inappropriate symbol on a warrior's shield. But after this digression, let us return to the Veldenkamp and the Breebeek. Around
1760 1861, the owner of the land had begun removing the tiles and brickwork from that field and placed them in the small river. This fact attracted the attention of several antiquities enthusiasts, who began to examine the ruins. In 1879, Messrs. Pleijten, curator at the Rijksmuseum in Leiden, and J. A. Ort, lieutenant in the 4th Hussar Regiment, formerly garrisoned in Venlo, conducted some excavations at that site, the results of which are unknown.

1765 The second discovery made in the vicinity of Hout-Blerick is that of a precious Medusa head and horse harness decorations in bronze. This discovery occurred around the autumn of 1872 in the Breebeek, a few meters from the Beldenkamp substructures. A worker digging in the stream found this treasure at a depth of 9 to 10 feet underground. He sold it to the goldsmith J. G. Lienders in

- 1770 Venlo, who still owned it in 1879.
This treasure contains the following objects: A very beautiful "umbo," or navel from a Roman shield. It is a copper plate, fire-gilded in the shape of a disc and richly sculpted in round molding. Its diameter is 26 centimeters. The rim of the "umbo" consists of a wreath of oak leaves interspersed with acorns. The center of the navel
- 1775 consists of a Gorgon head in raised sculpture, exquisitely carved. It is of majestic beauty, with a terrifying appearance like all the Medusa heads. The eyes are wide open. The beautiful proportions of the face recall the beautiful Greek style. The curls of long hair encircle the head. Below the head, she wears a short beard. Snakes are coiled in her hair, forming an elegant knot beneath the child. Two
- 1780 serpent heads emerge from beneath two small wings that adorn the hair; a third slants over the center of the forehead. On top of the head, the artist has placed a flower bud. This richly adorned head is surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves, from which hang acorns; it is similar to the one that forms the edge of the navel. Below the sculpture is a garland of leaves and small petals.
- 1785 The Medusa head is one of the most common representations on ancient shields. Homer places a Gorga on the shield of Agamemnon. Phidias appears to have decorated the shield of Minerva with the same symbol. This representation can also be seen on the shields of Mars, Achilles, Victory, the Amazons, etc., which adorn Roman and Greek vases. Several holes are found in the rim
- 1790 of the navel, which appear to have been made either by an arrow or by the nails that served to attach it to the shield. The depiction of our Medusa head is nothing unusual. The only thing worth mentioning is that it wears a short beard around the chin. But even that fact is not without antecedents. This Medusa head must date from the first century AD.
- 1795 Seven other bronze objects were found alongside the aforementioned shield navel, which were part of a horse harness. These are, firstly, a decoration of the collar with two rings through which the reins pass; then another set of rings for the reins. All these objects have small holes to allow the nails to pass through and show genuine traces of gilding.
- 1800