



From Rijkssdorp Estate to NIAS Residence



*A Bit of NIAS History
by Jos Hooghuis*

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A Bit of NIAS History

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Preface

This booklet *From Rijksdorp Estate to NIAS Residence. A Bit of NIAS History* originates from short presentations I gave in the past few years before my retirement in 2013, mainly at the occasion of the opening of a research year or a semester. These were presentations about the history of the NIAS location, about the founding of NIAS, and about commemorative art works given as presents by the NIAS Fellows Association to the Institute. After my retirement I worked out my notes and did some additional research. With the expected relocation of NIAS from Wassenaar to Amsterdam it was a nice initiative of the Directorate to publish the part about the history of the present NIAS location. The future of the location might be uncertain but it is clear that NIAS has left its mark there for over 45 years.

Jos Hooghuis
Leiden, April 2016

From Rijksdorp Estate to NIAS Residence

A Bit of NIAS History

Although in the geographic heart of the densely populated metropolitan area named ‘Randstad’, NIAS is located in a secluded, somewhat remote and hidden corner of the small town of Wassenaar. Its four buildings at Meijboomlaan and Laan van Rhemen van Remenshuizen are situated in a neighbourhood called ‘Rijksdorp’. Tuck against the dunes it is bordered by de Wassenaarseslag in the south, the Katwijkseweg in the east and the *Lentevreugd* natural reserve in the north. The name ‘Rijksdorp’ was first mentioned in the 14th-century tax registers of the county of Holland for the rent that had to be paid for a farmstead by the name of ‘Rixdorp’ or ‘Rixtorp’. It might be that the name is derived from one of the early owners, Henrick Pieter Galenszoon, and would mean ‘Henrick’s farmstead’¹. Judging by old cadastral maps it seems that this farmstead survived through the ages—at least partially—right until the 1960s. It had been known as ‘the gardener’s lodge’ in recent times and was located on the present-day Van Bronkhorstlaan 11².

A house for Amelis van den Bouchorst

Rijksdorp is better known by the 17th century estate and the mansion that was built there in 1663. It was commissioned by Amelis van den Bouchorst, Lord of Noordwijk and Wimmenum (1613-1669). He was a prominent noble man who held many high positions in the Dutch Republic. He was Bailiff and Dyke Reeve (*dijkgraaf*) of Rhineland, Chair of the Nobility Representation in the Estates of Holland and President of the Estates-General at the time of the conclusion of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. This peace—to the Dutch better known as the Peace of Münster—marked the

1 Nimwegen, G.J. van, ‘Rijksdorp. De geschiedenis van een landgoed’, in: *Wassenaar... Toen. Een bundel historische schetsen*, Rijswijk 1982, p. 89

2 Van Nimwegen, p. 95

official independence of the Dutch Republic. When king Charles II paid an official visit to the Dutch Republic it was Van den Bouchorst who chaired the committee of the Estates-General that served as his host. He also was curator of Leiden University on behalf of the Nobility of Holland. He ranked number 50 in the list of the wealthiest people in the Dutch Republic in the mid-17th century with an estimated fortune of 554,000 guilders. This would be close to 5 million euros in 2012³. Van den Bouchorst lived in a stately house on Lange Voorhout in The Hague but his position also required a house in the countryside. Unfortunately, he did not have the disposal of the ancestral family castles so he had to create a new estate for himself. From the 1640s onward he had acquired several pieces of land in Wassenaar. In 1657 he bought the Rijksdorp Estate from Willem Bontius, a high army officer who had inherited it from his father Reynier Bontius, Professor of Medicine at Leiden University. Van den Bouchorst turned to the architect Pieter Post to design a mansion for him. Amelis was quite familiar with his work. Pieter Post was the architect of the building of the Estates of Holland in The Hague, but also of the palaces of Honselaarsdijk and Huis ten Bosch which he had designed for the Prince of Orange. Pieter Post was the architect too of smaller buildings such as the Weighing Houses of Leiden and Gouda.

Post designed a classicist building with an H-shaped ground plan. It consisted of two rectangular pavilions on either side with a long gallery connecting the two. It only had one story with a basement and an attic. The front and the rear of the building were identical with main entrances on both sides in the centre of the gallery. The centre of the house was marked by a square tower with an octagonal lantern on top. The pediments above the entrances contained Van den Bouchorst's coat of arms

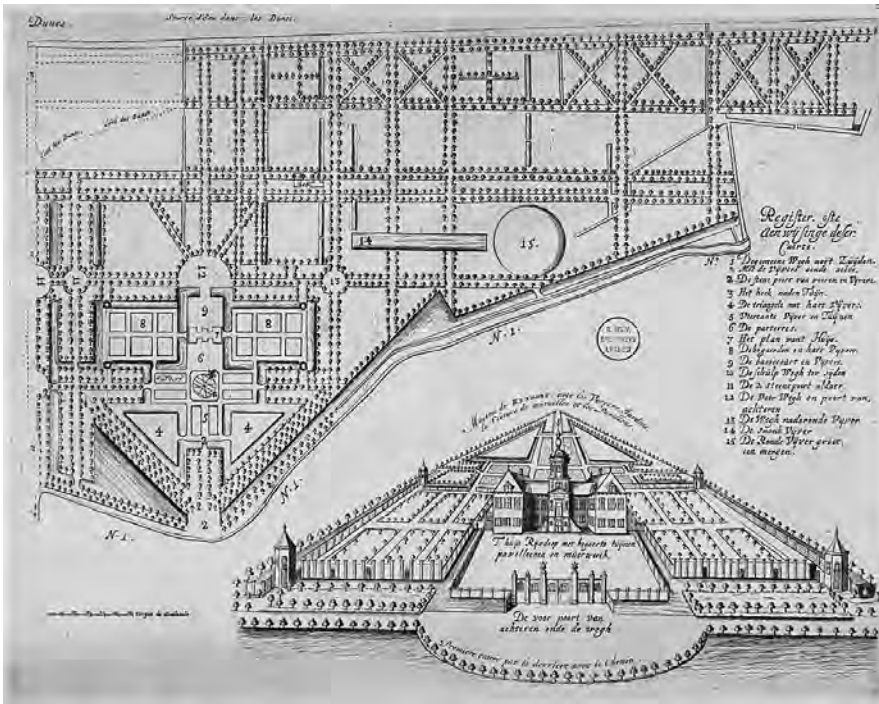
3 Zandvliet, Kees, *De 250 rijksten van de Gouden Eeuw*, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam 2006, p. 105; <http://www.iisg.nl/hpw/calculate2-nl.php>



1. Design of Rijxdorp mansion by Pieter Post (1662)

with a black lion in a silver shield. The house slightly resembled 'Sorghvliet' or 'Catshuis', the Dutch prime minister's residence (designed by Lodewijk Huygens, son of Constantijn) from 1652. We are well informed about the design of the house since Post's drawings were published (Ill. 1). Amelis had his private apartments in the northeastern pavilion, while the southwestern pavilion was reserved for receiving important guests, with a large dining room and a reception room. All rooms were lavishly decorated with painted ceilings and gold leaf finishings. The central hall had a marble floor while it offered a spectacular open view into the tower which had baroque paintings on the inside.

The design of the garden had to take into account the sharp bend in the road now called Katwijkseweg. In



2. The Rijksdorp estate by Van der Aa (1715)

order to reach a symmetrical solution Van den Bouchorst created two triangular ponds on either side of the private or rear entrance of the house which was on the side of the Katwijkseweg (Ill. 2). The southwestern pond still is there today, while the northeastern pond is a grass field now. The central axis of the garden led from the house northwestwards to the dunes. The official entrance was on the side of the dunes. Coming from the south from the town of Wassenaar one would go via Wassenaarseslag (then called *Schulpweg* or Shell road), turn right through the gate into present-



3. Coat of arms of Amelis van den Bouchorst. Collection CBG

day Vleysmanlaan leading to the central axis which is present-day Van der Doeslaan. Turning right through the main gate one would enter the *basse cour* with orchards and ponds on either side⁴. The bird's eye view of the house with plan of the gardens published by Van der Aa in 1715 not only shows a large round pond and one rectangular one indicated as 'pike pond' but also two small buildings which are considered to be parts of the old farmstead Rijksdorp. The Rijksdorp mansion was located in the centre of present-day Pieter Postlaan, while the lane closest to the dunes, 90 degrees from the end of the central axis is present-day Meijboomlaanlaan and Bontiuslaan.

4 Terwen, J.J. en K.A. Ottenheym, *Pieter Post (1608-1669) Architect*, Zutphen 1993, p. 105
 5 Goudeau, J.P.M., 'Jan Weenix en de lusthof Rijksdorp te Wassenaar' in: *Jaarboek Vereniging Die Haghe*, Den Haag 1994, p. 39, endnote 13

Amelis van den Bouchorst did not live long to enjoy his Rijksdorp estate. He died in 1669, and was buried in St. Jacob's Church in The Hague (Ill. 3). He was not married and had no legitimate issue. The Rijksdorp estate was inherited by his sister's son Unico Ripperda. In the following 150 years ownership of Rijksdorp changed many times. One might pick out a few of the later owners. First of all Jacob Emmery Baron van Wassenauer, Lord of Zuid-Waddingsveen, Mayor of Leiden and a member of the Leiden Municipal Council (1674-1724) (Ill. 4). He did much to embellish the estate, among other things by adding cascades to the garden. A painting by Jan Weenix, *Still life with dead game and fruits*, most probably commissioned by Van Wassenauer⁵, and now in de Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, shows Rijksdorp in the background (Ill. 5 and 6). From a drawn reconstruction of the mansion by Goudeau one may conclude that its appearance must have been rather stately. Definitely stately enough to host Czar Peter the Great. Van Wassenauer's brother the Admiral Jan Gerrit had a meeting with Czar Peter in The Hague in March 1717, and a few days later the Czar, accompanied by the admiral, visited Rijksdorp and had dinner there⁶.

The last owner of the Pieter Post house was Leiden merchant and distiller Abraham Hartevelt Jr. He demolished the house in 1824⁷. The name was given to a new house built in 1835 by a later owner of the estate, Baron Johan Willem Huyssen van Kattendijke. This house was located a bit further north on the site of the former farmstead 'Kokshorn'.

It seems that in the decades that followed much of the area remained the same, be it that many more trees were planted—many of which have survived today. Even the round pond and the pike pond remained intact and were intensively used, more in particular as trout

6 Waegemans, E., *De tsaar van Groot Rusland in de Republiek. De tweede reis van Peter de Grote naar Nederland (1716-1717)*, Leuven 2013, p. 117.

Information kindly provided by Dr. Alexey Kraykovskiy (St. Petersburg), NIAS Fellow 2010/11

7 Goudeau, Joh.P.M., F.M.Ch.M. Janson, Paul de Kievit en Robert van Lit, 'De Rijksdorpen' in: *Jaarboekje voor Geschiedenis en Oudheidkunde van Leiden en omstreken*, Leiden 1984, p. 125 and p. 152, end-note 6



4. Jacob Emmery Baron van Wassenaer, by Theodorus Netscher (ca.1720). Duivenvoorde Castle, Voorschoten. Photo RKD

farm, by one of the later owners, Count Gaspard of Limburg Stirum, in the 1890s⁸. The new house Rijksdorp was demolished in 1919⁹.

It is worth mentioning that the name Rijksdorp was also used for a another house by the name of 'New Rijksdorp' built by the father of Count Gaspard, Count Martin of Limburg Stirum, in 1895. This building, however, was located in a different area of Wassenaar at Berkheistraat near the old centre of town. It was demolished in 1984¹⁰.

8 Van Nimwegen, p. 113

9 Van Nimwegen, p. 117, Goudeau, Janson, Kievit, Van Lit, p. 132

10 Goudeau, Janson, Kievit, Van Lit, p. 150



5. Jan Weenix *Still life with game* (1714). Rijksmuseum Amsterdam



6. Jan Weenix *Still life with game* (1714), detail of Rijksdorp mansion and estate

From Estate to Residential Area

The last private owner of the Rijksdorp estate, Baron Dirk Jacob Gijsbert Jan van Pallandt, acquired the area in an auction in 1900. He also was the owner of nearby Duinrell and Meijendel. He came up with the idea to turn the former estate into a residential area. As Alderman of Wassenaar he was in a position to advocate this plan, and in 1913 the Wassenaar Municipality gave its blessing. This was in line with the general trend in Wassenaar at the time to develop rural areas and large estates into villa-parks, such as Groot-Haesebroek, Oud-Wassenaar and De Kievit. The entire Rijksdorp area of 48 acres was sold to the newly founded Real Estate Development Company C.F.A. Jonkers & Co. Mr. Jonkers had been a pioneer in real estate in the Netherlands. The area was divided up in lots, and Mr. Jonkers built himself a house at Meijboomlaan 4, 'De Witte Hoogt', designed by A.H. Wegerif in 1925. One of the earliest houses, however was built in 1922/23 on a lot between Meijboomlaan, Van der Doeslaan and Laan van Rhemen van Rhemenshuizen. It was bought by Mr. Gerard del Court van Krimpen and his wife lady Marie Adèle van Loon. They came from the east of the Netherlands, near Arnhem, and wished to settle in the Hague area. They chose Samuel de Clercq (1876-1962) as the architect of their new house. Several decades later this would be the NIAS Main Building.

The Del Court van Krimpen Family

Gerard del Court van Krimpen, usually called 'Gerry', was born in Haarlem in 1889 as son of Aelbrecht del Court van Krimpen and Marie Henriëtte Prévinaire. His father was Dyke Reeve of Velserbroek (now part of Groot-Haarlemmermeer). He married lady Marie Adèle Erneste (May) van Loon in Doorn in 1914.



7. Abraham del Court and Maria de Kaersgieter, by Bartholomeus van der Helst (1654). Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam

The Del Court family had its roots in the southern Netherlands, notably the present-day Belgian province of Limburg. Being Protestant Servaes Pietersz del Court moved to the northern Netherlands around 1620. The family was very successful in both the cloth production and its trade, and was active in Leiden, Gouda and Amsterdam. Servaes' son Abraham, born in 1623, is

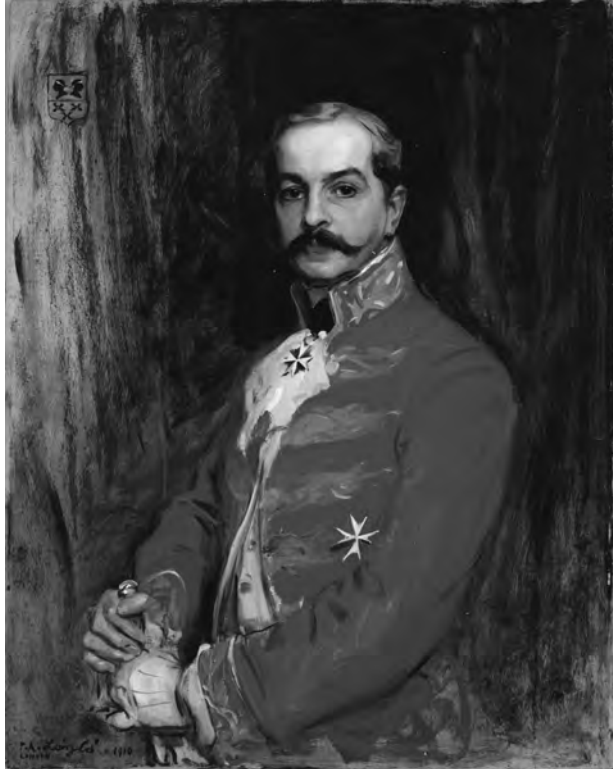
known because of the famous marriage portrait of him and his wife Maria de Kaersgieter, by Bartholomeus van der Helst (1654). This painting is now in the Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen in Rotterdam (Ill. 7). Abraham died without issue, and the family line was continued by his younger brother Jacob. A later Abraham del Court (1723-1759) broke with the mercantile family tradition and studied Law at Leiden University. He became alderman and also president alderman in his hometown Amsterdam. Through his marriage to Anna van Barneveldt, Lady of Krimpen, he acquired the fiefdom of Krimpen aan de Lek. His descendants have called themselves 'Del Court van Krimpen' since. Abraham's son Martinus Gerard was a member of the Estates of Holland and also a member of the revolutionary 'Patriots' movement. He was partly responsible for the incident at Goejanverwellesluis in 1787—well known in Dutch history—where Princess Wilhelmina of Prussia, wife of Stadtholder Prince William V of Orange, was detained. Martinus' descendants seem not to have been interested in political activities. His son Aelbrecht Arent used his public positions to stimulate improvement of agricultural techniques and conditions of cattle breeding and forestry. In the 19th century several members of the family died without issue. The result was an accumulation of wealth in the main family line. So by the late 19th century the family was very well to do¹¹.

Lady Marie Adèle Erneste (May) van Loon was born in Doorn in 1891 as daughter of Louis Antoine van Loon, partner of the banking firm Hope & Co. and Adèle Tachard. Her parents' portraits were painted by Philip de László and are now in the Van Loon Museum in Amsterdam (Ill. 8 and 9). De László also made a charcoal portrait of May during her mother's sitting for her painted portrait in 1901¹². May's parental grandmother

11 Aalst, G.M. van, *Inventaris van het archief van de familie Del Court van Krimpen, (1506) 1611-1779*, Nationaal Archief, Den Haag 1986, pp. 12-14

<http://www.genealogieonline.nl/west-europese-adel/>

12 Grever, Tonko, *de László in Holland. Nederlanders geportretteerd door de internationale sociëtysschilder Philip de László (1869-1937)*, Zwolle 2006, p. 35; The De László Archive Trust <http://www.delaszloarchive-trust.com/>



8. Louis Antoine van Loon, by Philip de László (1910), dressed in the red uniform of the Utrecht Nobility. Museum van Loon, Amsterdam

was the extremely wealthy banker's daughter Louise Borski. Her aunt Thora van Loon-Egidius was *Dame du Palais* of Queen Wilhelmina from 1896 to 1945 and her father's aunt Henriëtte Insinger-van Loon had the same position for Queen Emma.

The Van Loon family derives its name from Loon op Zand in Brabant. Willem Jansz van Loon (1537-1618) fled to the north in 1579 at the time of the Dutch Revolt



9. Adèle van Loon-Tachard by Philip de László (1901).
Museum van Loon, Amsterdam

against the Spanish Hapsburgs, first to Rotterdam and then on to Amsterdam. Originally he was engaged in herring trade but he soon became a merchant of all kinds of commodities. The two Moor's heads in the coat of arms—added in the late 16th century—testify of the trade overseas, especially the Levant¹³. Willem Jansz was one of the founders of the Dutch East India Company VOC in 1602, and he as well as many of his descendants

13 http://www.metvanloon-naarbuiten.nl/?page_id=838



10. Gerry del Court van Krimpen, best Dutch golf player in the Germany-Netherlands match, won by the Dutch with 6 to 1, in September 1926. Collection Spaarvestad, Nationaal Archief, The Hague

were directors of the VOC. The family was also active in city governance and several Van Loons were mayor of Amsterdam. Willem Jansz's son Hans founded a shipping insurance company which proved to be highly profitable. No wonder that the family also became active in banking. The family was raised to untitled peerage ('*jonkheer*') by King Willem I in 1822.

Gerry del Court van Krimpen (Ill. 10) and May van Loon had five daughters: Martine (1916-2010), Renée (1919-2002), Theodora (Dody, 1921-2006), Violet (1926-2008), and Adèle (Topsy, 1920-2013).

Martine was a very close friend of young Princess Juliana (1909-2004), who was Queen of the Netherlands from 1948 to 1980. She married Willem Röell, Private Secretary to Juliana's husband Prince Bernhard, in 1937, only three months after Juliana and Bernhard had married (Ill. 11). The Röell family was related to the Del Courts as well as the Van Loons, and had close ties with the royal family. Willem Röell, an agricultural engineer by training, who originally had been Forester and Master of the Hounds to Queen Wilhelmina, had played an important role in the courting period of Juliana and Bernhard before their engagement became official. Juliana and Bernhard both attended Martine's wedding in Wassenaar. This was a real society event which widely was reported about in the newspapers. The marriages of Martine's sisters Renée—to Harry Linthorst Homan, in later years Commissioner of the Queen in the Province of Friesland (Ill. 12)—and Violet—to military Henri de Jonge van Ellemeet—were also society events. Juliana and Bernhard attended Renée's wedding in Wassenaar in 1940, while Juliana and her daughters Beatrix and Irene attended Violet's wedding in Wassenaar in 1949—Princess Irene as a bride's maid¹⁴. Gerry and May's

14 <http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten>



11. Martine del Court van Krimpen and Jhr. Willem Röell on their wedding day in the Municipal Hall of Wassenaar, 2 April 1937. Photo: Collection Spaarnestad, Nationaal Archief, The Hague

daughters Dody and Topsy married to Philips lawyer Albert Swane and military Frits Mollinger respectively.

Martine was so close to Princess Juliana that she accompanied her and the little princesses Beatrix and Irene—together with her little daughter Renée—to Canada during the Second World War (Ill. 13). Martine's husband stayed behind as Intendant of Soestdijk Palace to administer the possessions of the royal family. From Juliana's letters to Bernhard it appears that Martine had very strict views about the upbringing of the children while Juliana was inclined to be very permissive. Usually, Martine had her way and Juliana gave in¹⁵.

15 Fasseur, Cees, *Juliana & Bernhard. Het verhaal van een huwelijk. De jaren 1936-1956*, Amsterdam 2008, pp. 84 and 85



12. Renée del Court van Krimpen and her husband Harry Linthorst Homan, Commissioner of the Queen for the Province of Friesland, 1960s.

Martine's husband Willem was shot by the Germans in 1942. Both Martine and her daughter Renée settled in Canada after the war, while Juliana and her daughters returned to the Netherlands. Martine remarried the Canadian diplomat H.F. Feaver. Her daughter Renée married the Canadian lawyer Thurlow Bradbrooke Smith. She is the godmother of King Willem-Alexander. When



13. From left to right: Renée Röell, Martine Röell-del Court van Krimpen, Princess Margriet, Princess Juliana, lady Sophia Feith (nursemaid), Princess Beatrix, Princess Irene. Canada Spring 1945.

Photo: Collection Royal Archives

she could not attend the christening of her godson in 1967 she was represented by her grandmother Lady May (Ill. 14). Renée and her husband attended Willem-Alexander's marriage in 2002 as well as the festivities of the abdication of Queen Beatrix and the inauguration of King Willem-Alexander in 2013.

One thing is clear, the Del Court van Krimpen family was totally devoted to golf. Gerry's father Aelbrecht was the founder of the present location, dating from 1908, of the Rosendaelsche Golf Club, on the grounds of his estate Delhuijzen. Gerry's daughter Renée and his son-in-law Harry Linthorst Homan were the founders of the Golf & Country Club Lauswolt in Friesland where Renée was an honorary member. Daughter Dody, Mrs. Swane, was a pioneer for women's participation in



14. Christening of Prince Willem-Alexander, Huis ten Bosch Palace, 2 September 1967. At far left: Lady May del Court van Krimpen, *née* Van Loon, representing her granddaughter Renée Röell, godmother to the young prince. Photo: Collection RVD, Nationaal Archief, The Hague

golf and organized the first European Country Teams Championships for Women. She established the Mrs. Swane Cup for Women at Golf Club De Dommel in Brabant. Her son Victor Swane was the best amateur golf player in the Netherlands in the 1970s and her grandson Robin Swane is a professional golf player.

Gerry himself started his career as golf player at his father's Rosendaelsche Golf Club. When in 1915 the Dutch Open was held for the second time Gerry was the winner. He was nine times winner of the NK Matchplay and winner of the NK Mixed-Foursomes in 1937. There is a picture of Gerry taken during the Germany-Netherlands

match in 1926, won by the Dutch with 6 to 1, where Gerry was the best player in the game (Ill. 10). Gerry was also a designer of golf courses. The first one he designed together with the English golf course architect Harry S. Colt was for the Royal Hague Golf & Country Club—the oldest one in the Netherlands, dating from 1893—in the 1920s. He expanded its 9 holes to 18. It deserved him a memorial tablet. Six more golf course designs would follow, all in the 1920s and 1930s. His name is also associated with the Del Court Foundation, to support those professionally engaged in the golf sport, and the Del Court Cup¹⁶. Gerry was a member of the board of the Netherlands Golf Committee, and when he stepped down as secretary-treasurer after 23 years in 1939 this was reported in the daily *Het Vaderland*. He was praised for his promotion of golf in the Netherlands and for the successful organization of many national and international tournaments. Furthermore, he was labeled as the best player in the Netherlands¹⁷. It would have done him great pleasure to know that very near to his house in Rijksdorp an 18 holes golf course would be constructed in 1984, the Wassenaar Golf Club Rozenstein.

The House at Meijboomlaan 1

Samuel de Clercq (sometimes spelled: de Clerq) was active as an architect in the Hague/Wassenaar area as well as in the east of the country where the Del Court family came from. He was a graduate of the Technical University in Delft and had his office in The Hague (Ill. 15). His style was strongly influenced by H.P. Berlage and the Amsterdam School and had developed into the so-called New Hague School of which he was a protagonist. De Clercq was an architect of villas and country-houses but also of office buildings and social housing projects. In Wassenaar one can find several of De Clercq's villas at



15. Architect Samuel de Clercq. Photo: Collection NAI

¹⁶ http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerry_del_Court_van_Krimpen (27.07.2013)

¹⁷ *Het Vaderland* 23 February 1939

Buurtweg, Groot Haesebroekseweg, Van Ommerenlaan, and Schouwweg. Perhaps his most remarkable 'social housing' project was the so-called WAVO-park for the Wilhelmina Alida Foundation of Philippus J. van Ommeren and his wife Wilhelmina Alida de Voogt. It is a crescent-shaped building with 28 living units for people from the higher middle class who had fallen into financial difficulties. The Van Ommerens also commissioned the 'Johannahuis', a rest home for elderly ladies, also at Schouwweg like the WAVO-park. Another social housing project was garden-village Kerkehout with houses for working class people. De Clercq designed two of the six blocks, and A. Broese van Groenou the other four.

De Clercq was not averse of some eclecticism in his designs, but it seems that he sometimes had problems with the wishes of the Del Court family. He did not feel completely free in his design and had to include details he himself was not pleased about. A characteristic aspect of the house are the high chimneys, some of which are purely decorative, and which are reminiscent of English country houses (Ill. 16). A few years later De Clercq would design a house in Doorn, 'De Diepwel' (1929-1930) close to where the Del Court family had lived, which shows a high resemblance with the house in Rijksdorp, yet with only one high chimney¹⁸. The Del Court house included a double garage, which later would be enlarged with an extra floor and attic to serve as a gate keeper's lodge¹⁹. It has a characteristic, covered outdoor staircase leading to the entrance on the first floor. Other characteristic elements are the buttresses and the shape of the chimney. It now bears the name of 'Uilenest' and serves as accommodation for NIAS Fellows. When the house was built the address was Van der Doeslaan 1a; the name Meijboomlaan was given by the Municipality only in 1925²⁰.

18 Roding, Michiel, *S. de Clercq (1876-1962), A. Broese van Groenou (1880-1961). Smaakvol, kloek en bescheiden*, Rotterdam 2005, p. 193

19 See Hugenholtz, W.R., 'The NIAS Buildings' in: W.R. Hugenholtz, ed., *22½ Years of NIAS*, NIAS Wassenaar 1994, p. 34, 35

20 Biographical notes S. De Clercq, NAI; *Het Vaderland* 4 June 1925



16. Del Court van Krimpen villa in Rijksdorp, rear side. Photo: Collection NIAS



17. Keystone of Del Court van Krimpen villa laid by Martine del Court van Krimpen, 4 November 1922. Photo: Johan Kwantes



18. Coat of arms Del Court. The arms of Krimpen aan de Lek have not been incorporated. Collection CBG

To May van Loon the new house must have been very modest. She spent her childhood years in ‘La Forêt’, the villa of her parents in Doorn with a household staff of 50. It was famous for its horse stables. The nearby house of her grandparents Hendrik van Loon and Louise Borski, ‘Hydepark’, was even more impressive and truly palace-like. Her grandparents also had a villa in Cannes where they were the neighbours of the Rothschilds²¹.

It was Martine who as a girl of 7 laid the keystone of the house in the top centre of the arched main entrance door (Ill. 17). The stone shows a two-towered house and the initials ‘M.A.B.d.C.v.K.’—Martine Ada Barbara del Court van Krimpen—and the date ‘4-XI-1922’—4 November 1922. Next to the K. are the three horizontal crescents from the coat of arms of Krimpen aan de Lek. The two-towered house might be an inaccurate interpretation of the castle with two high embattled

21 Cleverens, R.W., *Herinnering aan mevrouw Van Loon-Egidius, dame du palais voor H.M. Koningin Wilhelmina voor Amsterdam*, Middelburg 1981, passim; www.metvanloonnaarbuiten.nl (16.07.2013)

towers in two quarters of the Del Court coat of arms (Ill. 18). One year later Martine's sister Renée, who was only four then, laid the keystone of the double garage (Ill. 19). Within the frame of a two-towered house the stone shows the initials 'R.H.d.C.v.K.' which stands for Renée Henriëtte del Court van Krimpen, and the date '11-IX-23', 11 September 1923. Here too the three crescents from the Krimpen arms are added.

The entrance hall gave access to the dining room on one side of the half-open main stairway and to the drawing room and smoking room on the other side (Ill. 20). The smoking room lead into a veranda at the back of the house. A photograph testifies of the neo-rococo interior of the dining room and its nice stucco ceiling (Ill. 21). The walls had coverings with Arcadian scenes. The only thing left of this lavish interior is the ceiling. In the NIAS days this room would first be the director's and rector's office and later become a meeting room. Judging by a photograph the interior of the drawing room and smoking room was more contemporary but with the touch of an English country house (Ill. 22). These two rooms and the veranda are now the NIAS Library. The north wing was reserved for the kitchen, the laundry and the servants' room. The main room on the first floor was the nursery room—now the NIAS Common Room. This floor further contained the master bedroom—now a meeting room—with adjacent bath room and dressing room, and bed rooms for the children; the one next to the nursery is now the office of the NIAS Rector. Guest rooms were located in the north wing where now staff offices are. The attic had bed rooms and servants' rooms²². Els Glastra van Loon-Boon, NIAS' first Deputy-Director, recalled how important the space in the attic was for creating offices for NIAS Fellows²³.



19. Keystone of double garage/gate keeper's lodge laid by Renée del Court van Krimpen, 11 September 1923.
Photo: Jos Hooghuis

²² Hugenholtz, p. 32

²³ Glastra van Loon-Boon, J.E., 'NIAS in Retrospect', in: W.R. Hugenholtz, ed., *22½ Years of NIAS*, NIAS Wassenaar 1994, p. 25



20. Del Court van Krimpen villa, entrance hall. Photo: Collection NIAS

The Del Court family must have spent happy times here, especially in the days of Martine's and Renée's weddings. The war changed everything, though. As mentioned earlier, Martine's husband Willem was shot by the Germans. Gerry and May's sons-in-law Harry Linthorst Homan and Albert Swane were active members of the resistance movement. Els Glastra van Loon-Boon remembered that she brought news to Gerry and May that their son-in-law Harry safely had arrived in England using an escape line²⁴. Then in January 1943 the family was given four days to vacate the house. This was part of a decision by the Nazis to vacate the whole area following plans to construct a defense system of bunkers

24 Glastra van Loon-Boon,
p. 30



21. Del Court van Krimpen villa, dining room. Photo: Collection NIAS

along the coast. One of the bunkers is still there at Van der Doeslaan near Meijboomlaan. The family moved to villa 'Schoonoord' in 's-Graveland where Gerry died the following year at the age of 55.

Mrs. Del Court van Krimpen returned after the war but not for long. She rented out the house, first to the First Dutch Boys Town 'Boys Ranch', a Catholic organisation for boys from Surinam and Indonesia, and in 1952 to a pension for repatriates from the Dutch East Indies²⁵. Finally, in 1955, May del Court, who then lived in Marlot, in The Hague, and her daughters sold the house for an amount of 102,201 guilders to the newly founded Police Training School for the Province of South-Holland.

25 Van Nimwegen, p. 125



22. Del Court van Krimpen villa, drawing room with exit to the veranda (left) and entrance to the smoking room (right). Photo: Collection NIAS

The Police Training School

The Police Training School was set up in 1955 by 15 mayors in the province of South-Holland in order to provide a one year training course for police men teaching various disciplines including sports. The drawing room and smoking room were turned into a dormitory while other rooms served as class rooms and canteen. The school was an immediate success, and soon many more municipalities in South-Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht joined the training school. This required a substantial extension of the house with the aim of having a capacity for 100 students. In 1960 a new wing

designed by the Wassenaar architects J.C. and A.J. Bolten was added on the south side. It had a new hall and stairway, four class rooms, two offices and a library on the ground floor and dormitories on the first floor. The drawing room and smoking room were now turned into a canteen and class room. The official opening was done by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. E.H. Toxopeus. The success continued and another extension was required. In 1966 a timber building was added on the north side containing four class rooms. Finally, the school had to look for a more spacious location. It left Wassenaar in 1968 and moved to Leusden. The house was put up for sale²⁶. For many years thereafter inhabitants of Wassenaar referred to the building as 'the Police School' (Ill. 23).



23. Del Court van Krimpen villa in the days of the Police Training School, with the new wing from 1960 at left and the timber building from 1966 in the centre. In the upper right corner the 'Ooievaarsnest'. Photo: Collection NIAS



24. The 'Ooievaarsnest' (Stork's Nest). Uitgave kantoorboekhandel 'Het Anker', Wassenaar. Collection NIAS



25. 'Het Ooievaarsnest'. Photo: Collection NIAS

The 'Ooievaarsnest'

Another NIAS building, the 'Ooievaarsnest', at Meijboomlaan 2 is less connected with one single family. The building lot was bought by a real estate company that also had the house built. It originally was designed as a double villa. The two original front doors are still there: one is now the service entrance on the corner of Meijboomlaan and Laan van Rhemen van Rhemenshuizen, and the other is in the coffee corner of the restaurant, opening to the restaurant terrace. The present kitchen on the ground floor was the living room of one of the two villas. In 1928 the house was converted into a single villa. Part of this conversion was the creation of the present entrance and the large staircase. The second floor became the main floor then. After the Second World War the house was confiscated as enemy property, and auctioned in 1947. During the auction period the house opposite the street at Laan van Rhemen, burned down. That very same day the owner of the burned-down house, Rotterdam banker Anthony van Hoboken bought Meijboomlaan 2. In 1951 he sold the house to the *Zuid-Hollandsche Bond van het Wit-Gele Kruis*, a health care organisation which established a training school for Catholic midwives at Meijboomlaan 2. As a result, the interior changed considerably. The site of the present-day food counter, where originally a bedroom and bathroom had been, was turned into a chapel. The rest of the second floor contained a class room, a dining room, a recreation room, and the office of the rector. The lady principal had her room on the third floor, where we now have a two-room apartment, and previously the NIAS Bar was located²⁷. It was in this period that the house was given its name *Ooievaarsnest*, 'Stork's Nest', and the plaque of the Virgin Mary was attached to the façade



26. Plaque of the Virgin Mary next to the front door of the 'Ooievaarsnest' (Stork's Nest). Photo: Dindy van Maanen

next to the front door (Ill. 25 and 26). A local book shop produced a nice post card of the house (Ill. 24). The training school remained in the house until the 1970s.

It must have been an odd situation in the 1950s and 1960s, with young policemen and midwives living at Meijboomlaan, yet strictly separated by a canal. The present-day foot bridge was not there yet.

The NIAS Buildings

The three buildings described above are now NIAS property. The Del Court van Krimpen villa was purchased by Leiden University in 1970 for the yet to be founded institute for advanced study using funds made available by the Ministry of Education and Sciences. The house became NIAS property on 31 May 1972²⁸. This included the timber building which served NIAS as restaurant, kitchen, conference room and recreation room. When NIAS bought the house it was stipulated that the timber building would be pulled down. Therefore, a new wing on the west side of the Del Court villa was added in 1977. It was designed by architect J.L. Gelderblom and contained a conference room on the first floor and four offices on the ground floor (Ill. 27). A few months earlier, in 1976, the *Ooievaarsnest* had been purchased to accommodate the NIAS restaurant and kitchen. It also contained bed rooms for fellows and communal bath room facilities. The timber building was pulled down and put up for sale in 1978²⁹.

The first fellows arrived at NIAS in September 1971. At the time, the former gate keeper's lodge was still under reconstruction. Fellow George Simpson urged that the lodge should be given a name once the reconstruction was completed. As a matter of joke a large board with the name 'Simpson Hall' was fixed to the façade at the official opening of the lodge. George Simpson was so flattered that one did not dare to remove the name³⁰. Soon it was forgotten where the name originated from, and in 1993 the name was changed to *Uilenest*, 'Owl's Nest', a reference to the NIAS logo and to the owls in the Rijksdorp area. Originally, the 'Uilenest' contained four bed rooms and

28 Uhlenbeck, E.M., 'The Birth of NIAS' in: W.R. Hugenholtz, ed., *22½ Years of NIAS*, NIAS Wassenaar 1994, pp 20 and 22; Hugenholtz, p. 34; Hugenholtz mentions 1971, but in the Notary Act of transfer to the Royal Academy (KNAW) of 17 June 1991 the year 1972 is stated.

29 *De Telegraaf*, 30.03.1978

30 Glastra van Loon-Boon, p. 27

a communal kitchen for fellows on the ground floor, and accommodation for the family of the concierge and head of the kitchen staff on the second floor and the attic. Now there are two two-room apartments for fellows with communal kitchen on the ground floor while the second floor apartment is rented out to fellows (Ill. 28).

The *Conference Building* is the outcome of various plans to construct accommodation for fellows on the NIAS grounds. The construction of terraced cottages was one of them. Replacing the 'Ooievaarsnest' by a modern, more efficient building was another. Finding accommodation for fellows had been a problem from the very beginning. Fortunately, Deputy-Director Els Glastra van Loon-Boon was met with sympathy when she approached the neighbours with a request to rent out rooms³¹. In later years some neighbours would still fondly remember having had Professor So-and-so as boarder. Over the years NIAS has rented accommodation all over Wassenaar and even in Leiden of which the houses in Van Polanenpark have been rented permanently from the beginning.

The Conference Building was designed by architect Maarten S.M. Grasveld of LIAG Architects in The Hague. Originally, the roof of the central part of the building which contains a large conference room which can be divided in two by a flexible wall and an entre-sol, formed diagonal lines with the roofs of the two wings, containing 23 studios and one service room. Following objections by the neighbours about the height of the new building the roofs of the wings were made less high which resulted in the curved roof lines. When making the design Grasveld was asked to include the Persian Rose Garden which was donated by former fellow Kenower Bash. Therefore, the building had two entrances on the north side leading to two exits on the south side which would give access

31 Glastra van Loon-Boon,
p. 27



27. Del Court van Krimpen villa in the days of NIAS. At right the new 1977 wing.

Photo: Dindy van Maanen

to the Persian Rose Garden³². In the end, a different, more sunny place was chosen for the Rose Garden. The Conference Building was officially opened by the State Secretary for Education and Science, Dr. Job Cohen, on 1 November 1993. The original idea was that the entre-sol would serve as a foyer. This never was effectuated. To create extra space the glazed veranda was added in 2002 (Ill. 29).

It was not just the construction of the new wings to the Del Court van Krimpen house and the Conference

32 Hugenholtz, p. 37



28. The former double garage and gate keeper's lodge, now 'Uilenest'. Photo: Jos Hooghuis

Building which changed the appearance of the location. The Persian Rose Garden, designed by Annette Brandes with tile murals by Marie Balian of Armenian Ceramics in Jerusalem now dominates the back garden of the Del Court van Krimpen house. It serves as a quiet place for contemplation. One of the outer walls is decorated with a plaque in honour of Els Glastra van Loon-Boon. She was NIAS' first Deputy Director from 1970 to 1980. The plaque was created by Constance Wibaut. Hidden in the trees and bushes along Van der Doeslaan one finds 'Speckmann's Corner', an open space between the trees with a sculpture in steel by Herbert Nouwens. It was



29. NIAS Conference Building with glazed veranda. Photo: Collection NIAS

created in honour of Professor J.D. (Hans) Speckmann, Chair of the NIAS Board from 1983 to 1988 and Chair of the alumni organisation NFA from 1992 to 1997.

Then, very prominently in front of the Conference Building, one finds a sculpture by Peter Kattenberg entitled 'Trophy'. It was donated by the NIAS alumni at the occasion of the official opening the Conference Building. It symbolises the chariot of knowledge, drawn by the scholar and reaching for higher aspirations. One wheel is directed towards the skies while the other one—made of stones—is connected to the earth.

For the past 45 years, all these buildings and the Staff working there have served the work of the NIAS Fellows, the outstanding scholars who—more or less released

from teaching and administrative duties—could fully concentrate on research in an inspiring international, interdisciplinary setting. This idea is well illustrated by the poem @NIAS written by Writer-in-Residence 2009/10 Maria van Daalen. It was painted by Henk Ribot on the west wall of the Conference Building at the occasion of NIAS' 40th anniversary (Ill. 30). It is a poem about life at NIAS and the battles a NIAS Fellow has to fight. The English translation of the text reads as follows³³:

@NIAS

How the tree-shadows cross the lawn
ambling, encircling, never stopping. Standing
still like a beech among bushes. The will
to grow is a Law: of living, but what

do we know of the birds that nestle between leaves
and branches within us? Is there tender
happiness ready to hatch? It strains
to emerge here where the sun's slanting rays embrace us.

Between us eggshells drop
to the earth. To ken the seasons
is as impossible as bearing the crown:

do you feel our heart flexing with each gust of wind?
Getting used to the renewed every morning.
Endure. A storm is brewing. Do not fail.

Indeed, a perfect way to characterize life at NIAS in
Rijksdorp, Wassenaar, the place NIAS is so strongly
connected to.

* * * * *

33 Translation by Maria
van Daalen and Petry
Kievit-Tyson



30. Wall Poem @NIAS written by Writer-in-Residence 2009/10 Maria van Daalen and painted by Henk Ribot. The wall poem was a present by the NFA to NIAS at the occasion of NIAS' 40th anniversary in 2011 and painted on the west wall of the Conference Building by Henk Ribot. Photo: Dindy van Maanen



About the author

Jos Hooghuis (1948) has an M.A. in History from Leiden University. He was a member of the NIAS staff from 1977 to 2013. His last position was Head of Research Planning & Communication.



This publication entitled, *From Rijksdorp Estate to NIAS Residence. A Bit of NIAS History*, gives a brief account of the history of the buildings and surrounding area where the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences is currently located. It was written by historian Jos Hooghuis, who worked at the institute for more than thirty-five years.

NIAS stimulates and facilitates innovative excellent research in the humanities and social sciences, and at the interface with other disciplines. Through its fellowships and workshop programme, NIAS acts as a meeting place for scholars. It offers time to think, study and write and the opportunity to interact with colleagues from around the world. In the summer of 2016, NIAS will relocate to Amsterdam.

