



# Accolade

*Newsletter of the Sovereign Order of St. James in Holland  
Issue 4 of the 18th year, December 2025*

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## **Editorial**

Was it a turbulent year for the Order, that past year? Certainly! But above all, a year in which this old organization was rejuvenating and renewing. The year 2026 will also be characterized by changes! We will keep you informed!



## **1. An encounter with Haarlem's past on November 1, 2025**

One of the good intentions of our Order is to meet more often. This is to strengthen the mutual bond and to deepen the shared historical knowledge. A visit to medieval Haarlem fitted in with this. After a thorough preparation by Gert Kol and Floris de Boer, we were taken to the Grote Markt on Saturday 1 November, where the weekly market was taking place at that time. The atmosphere of past centuries is still very much present, thanks to the many stately homes and other monumental buildings that surround the market.

We had the promise that in the Town Hall the usually hermetically sealed Gravenzaal would be open for viewing this morning. It was therefore a great disappointment when we were

informed that the hall would remain closed. Fortunately and especially thanks to the tenacity of Gert Kol, the door finally opened. The town hall has a beautiful interior in itself, but in this room you will return to the art of the 15th century. All the reigning counts of Holland – up to and including Emperor Maximilian – are presented. The stained glass and the walnut interior give an impression of a medieval palace. Haarlem celebrated the "Kunstlijn 2025" festivity this weekend. More than 215 participating artists showed their work at studios, museums, galleries and iconic locations. For this reason, most of the historical monuments were also free to enter. The tourist office was also furnished with prints and objects. The art days in Haarlem were a nice change from New Year's Eve. After lunch in the Grand Café Brinkman we made a tour through the impressive old St. Bavo church. Nowadays much has been restored there after the destruction during the iconoclasm. Especially the choir with the coats of arms of the Golden Fleece Knights was very impressive. Afterwards, some of us visited the St. John's Church. This medieval building, which has been withdrawn from worship, currently houses the North Holland archives. It was once the seat of the Haarlem commandery of the Order of St. John. Contrary to what you might expect from the word "archive", the interior of this church has become a fantastic combination of presentations, exhibitions, objects and materials.

**The Kapittel of the Order and the editorial staff of Accolade wish you all a very fine Christmas and a good beginning of the year 2026! Those in our ranks who are ill, those of us who have good reasons to worry about their health or those who have recently lost a beloved one, we wish you all the possible blessing and force.**

## **2. Knight's Day Schoonhoven 27 September**

How this day would go, that was a surprise for everyone. With the arrival of the many foreign guests who came from far away, a new chapter has been added to the long history of our Order. Our regular location for the Knight's Day, the Hotel-Restaurant Belvédère, was almost bursting at the seams. The bilingualism of the entire meeting is also a new development in our knighthood.

During the introductory liturgy, with our spiritual advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Guido Brugge. KJH, GV, as a pastor, we took the time for reflection and deepening. Then a start could be made with the second part of the day, the investiture. This was divided into four parts: the installation of Gert Kol as commander, the knighthood for a large number of new knights and ladies, the installation of Bob Juchter van Bergen Quast as coadjutor of H.H. Prince Georg zu Bentheim und Steinfurt, and finally the granting of the order of merit to Messrs. Kilian David Grütter and Dustin Plantholt. There was a new cloak for all the knights and ladies

present and all newly installed. The new ladies and knights naturally received the beautiful, new (and manufactured in Schoonhoven!) badges belonging to the new dignity.

It is both gratifying and amazing to see how quickly fraternization can actually arise. The gathering after the investiture was extremely animated. Both the Dutch and the foreign members eagerly took the opportunity to get acquainted with newly installed ladies and knights or to further intensify the existing contact. Of course it was appreciated to have our picture taken with our governor and patron the Prince of Bentheim. At least we heard the cameras clicking regularly. Lunch and dinner were excellently provided by the Belvedere restaurant. That has always been the case, but the large size of the company warrants an extra compliment this time. After dinner, ZDH Prince Georg zu Bentheim und Steinfurt expressed his positive feeling about how the day had gone in an enthusiastic speech. Afterwards, the taxis arranged by Bob Juchter van Bergen Quast to Dordrecht were ready, where hotel accommodation had been arranged for the foreigners, who appreciated it.

In conclusion - writes the editor-in-chief of this Accolade - much praise is due to our grandmaster, commander and coadjutor for the hard work they have done. Soon we will evaluate the day, but first everything has to be given a place. Anyone who wants to contribute is welcome!

### **3. New treasurer Annelies Jansen**

The Chapter of the Order and the board of the Foundation Sovereign Order of St. James in Holland have been expanded to include the position of a treasurer. Mrs. Dame Annelies Jansen has been appointed to this position. To the right of this text you see her coat of arms.



### **4. The Haarlem Counts' Portraits**

Viewing the famous portraits of the counts of Holland in the Haarlem City Hall was without a doubt the highlight during our excursion on November 1th. We wrote about this under point 1 above. Historians are always happy when they find sources from the period from the eleventh century onwards regarding the counts of Holland. The answer to the question "What did those counts really look like"? has never been given. The artists in question have intensively searched for examples that were as authentic as possible. They often used the example of the

depicted faces on the panels, which once had a place in the Carmelite monastery in Haarlem. But were these the real images drawn from living reality ?

In the series Dutch history in words and images, the book *De Haarlemse gravenportretten* (The Haarlem Counts' Portraits) was published on this question. Wim van Anrooij was the final editor of this hefty study, which was published in 1997 by Uitgeverij Verloren in Hilversum. Our own Foundation (nowadays: section) Historical Research Holland published the *Gravenboek Holland* in 2021, in which



the question is broadened. It turns out that over the centuries a large number of series of these portraits have been made, depending on the year of creation whether the series was complete or only included a few "houses" (families). For those who want to delve deeper into it, we have – apart from the references mentioned above – the following tips.

We are happy to send the *Gravenboek Holland* written by Albert de Bruijn on request (see colophon). The shortcut [Dutch history described and depicted The Haarlem counts' portraits Wim van Anrooij, Literature. Volume 14 - DBNL](#) of the Digital Library for Dutch

Literature provides a summary of the state of the research. The accompanying illustration comes from the work *Counts and countesses of Holland 1518* by Jacob Cornelisz. van Oostanen. In folio's with a long horseman's procession, this has become a true masterpiece.

### 5. Where do we meet Saint James?

In this new series, we call on our readers to search for Saint James during holidays and travels. We start with the Casa de las Conchas in Salamanca (Spain), a house from the 16th century of a knight in the Order of Santiago, Rodrigo Aria Maldonado.



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*The editors of Accolade consist of Floris de Boer, Albert de Bruijn, Gert Kol, John Ooms and Michiel Schillhorn van Veen. The editors welcome contributions from members. Accolade is published quarterly in Dutch, English and (on request) German. In addition to Accolade, an annual publication is published by the Section (formerly foundation) Historical Research "Hollant" (SHOH). Until 2023, the designation "Newsletter" was used for this purpose. As of 2024, this name has been changed to: "Studia Historica Hollandiae". The site of the Order is:*

[Order of Saint James.](#)

***Appendices to the Accolade 2025, no. 4***

The organ of the Sint Bavo in Haarlem



The Gravenzaal in the City Hall of Haarlem



From right to left: ZDH prinz Georg zu Bentheim und Steinfurt, Grootmeester Albert de Bruijn en ZDH prinz Max zu Bentheim und Steinfurt.



ORDE VAN ST JACOB IN HOLLAND



INVESTITUR 2025 SCHOONHOVEN