The Dutch Revolt and Catholic Exile in Reformation Europe

The Dutch revolt of the sixteenth century sparked one of the largest refugee crises of Reformation Europe. This book explores the flight, exile and eventual return of Catholic men and women during the war. By mapping the Catholic diaspora across northern Europe, Geert H. Janssen explains how exile worked as a catalyst of religious radicalisation and transformed the world views, networks and identities of the refugees. Like their Protestant counterparts, the displaced Catholic communities became the mobilising forces behind a militant International Catholicism. The Catholic exile experience thus facilitated the permanent separation of the northern and southern Netherlands. Drawing on diaries, letters and evidence from material culture, this book offers a penetrating picture of the lives of early modern refugees and their agency in the Counter-Reformation.

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Preface

The idea to write a book about early modern exile first emerged when I emigrated from the Netherlands in 2005. In the following years, academic positions and visiting fellowships in the United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany enabled me to develop my ideas in stimulating international environments. In Cambridge in 2008/9 I was fortunate to teach a course on early modern refugees, which encouraged me to pursue a comparative approach to the topic. I eventually completed the book at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and I thank my colleagues there for their support. Living and working in different countries has been a real privilege, which has also made me more alert to the effects of migration and globalisation in our modern society. Hence, this book is about the experience of exile in a bygone age, but it is also informed by the thoughts and experiences of a travelling academic in the twenty-first century.

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Abbreviations

ARAB  Algemeen Rijksarchief, Brussels
ARSI  Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu, Rome
BMGN  Bijdragen en Mededelingen betreffende de Geschiedenis der Nederlanden
BN    Biographie Nationale
CBL   Centrale Bibliotheek Leuven
EAD   Erfgoed Archief Delft
HAK   Historisches Archiv Köln
NA    Nationaal Archief, The Hague
OKKN  Oud-Katholieke Kerk Nederland
RAG   Rijksarchief te Gent
RL    Regionaal Archief Leiden
SAA   Stadsarchief Amsterdam
SCJ   Sixteenth Century Journal
TvG   Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis
UA    Utrechts Archief
UBA   Universiteitsbibliotheek Amsterdam
Governors-general in the Low Countries, 1559–1609

1559–67: Margaret of Parma
1567–73: Don Ferdinand Alvarez de Toledo, duke of Alba
1572–73: Don Juan de la Cerda, duke of Medina Celi (designate)
1573–76: Don Luis de Requesens
1576–78: Don Juan of Austria
1578–92: Alexander Farnese, duke of Parma
1592–94: Peter Ernst of Mansfeld
1594–95: Ernest of Austria
1595: Pedro de Fuentes
1596–98: Albert of Austria
1598–1621/33: Albert of Austria & Isabella of Spain (sovereigns)
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