

**PROGRAMME OF  
TEYLERS GODGELEERD GENOOTSCHAP  
AT HAARLEM**

**FOR THE YEAR 2018**

THE DIRECTORS OF TEYLERS STICHTING (TEYLER'S FOUNDATION) AND THE MEMBERS OF TEYLERS GODGELEERD GENOOTSCHAP (TEYLER'S THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY) announce an essay competition to be answered before May 1, 2021:

**Invited: Expositions on the theme 'Enlightenment and religion 2018 – 2028'.**

*Further information*

In the 1960s the renowned historian Peter Gay published his (soon classical) study *The Enlightenment: an interpretation*, in which he offered an interpretation of the Enlightenment as a secularizing force in society. His view has led to a debate on the character of the Enlightenment that is still ongoing today.

For the 2018 Teylers competition essays are invited in which a concept for future Enlightenment research is developed. The starting point could be a retrospective sketch of insights on the Enlightenment that have emerged from the debate since Gay's monumental work. This sketch could then be the launching pad for a prospective *exposé* on the study of the Enlightenment. In what direction or directions could Enlightenment studies develop? Are there specific fields that deserve closer exploration? In other words, what ambitions can we formulate for further research? In these questions the emphasis is explicitly on the relationship between the Enlightenment and religion. This is a fitting perspective, as it links up with the ideas of founder Pieter Teyler van der Hulst -- the 240th anniversary of whose death is commemorated in 2018. It also fits the early phase of *Teylers Godgeleerd Genootschap* (Teylers Theological Society).

The required *prospective* dimension of the essays originated from the idea that in the run-up to the 'Teyler-250' celebrations in 2028, it will be interesting in the Teyler context to pay attention, in one form or another, to the theme of "Enlightenment and religion" -- for instance via one or more seminars in Teylers Museum. Besides *Teylers Godgeleerd Genootschap*, *Teylers Tweede Genootschap* (Teylers Second Society) and Teylers Museum could also be involved in the planning and organisation.

Last but not least: the essay should be written in a style and format that makes it accessible to a wider interested audience, such as visitors to the Teylers Museum and mature ('Lifelong learning') students.

*Entries should consist of either one extended study, in the form of a text prepared for publication, or of several publications, most of which should have appeared in the three years prior to May 1, 2021. In the latter case entrants should also submit a hitherto unpublished text, written especially for the competition, in which the earlier publications are placed in a broader academic context.*

### *General Information*

Pieter Teyler van der Hulst (Haarlem, 1702-1778) was a Dutch merchant. In his will he stipulated the founding of an important museum together with *Teylers Stichting* (*Teyler's Foundation*). Part of this Foundation are two learned societies, each of which presents a yearly essay competition. *Teylers Godgeleerd Genootschap* (*Teyler's Theological Society*) is one of these learned societies. It organizes essay competitions in the field of theology, philosophy of religion and religious studies.

### *Procedure*

- In order to qualify for the competition, candidates should submit four copies of their entry to the Directors of *Teylers Stichting*, Spaarne 16, 2011 CH Haarlem, Netherlands, before May 1, 2020. Entries received after that date will not be taken into consideration.
- The essays must be in English, French, German or Dutch. Because of the stipulations of Pieter Teyler's will, the essays may not mention the author's name but should be identified only by a motto. The entry should be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the author's name and address, with the motto on the outside.
- To avoid a long wait before hearing the result of the evaluation, in case an award has not been made, authors are required to send together with the sealed envelope an open envelope containing the name and full address of a person with whom Directors of *Teylers Stichting* may enter into correspondence confidentially.

### *Evaluation*

- The evaluation will be carried out by the members of *Teylers Godgeleerd Genootschap* (Prof. Dr. M. Barnard, Prof. Dr. H.L. Beck, Prof. Dr. E. Jorink, Prof. Dr. A.B. Merz, Prof. Dr. M. Popović, Prof. Dr. E.G.E. van der Wall, vacancy).
- The evaluation will be communicated within seven months from the final date of submission in the form of a recommendation to the Directors of *Teylers Stichting*, who will decide within one month whether or not to give an award.
- This decision is final.
- All candidates will be notified by the Directors as soon as a decision has been made.

### *Award*

- The award consists of a gold medal struck from the seal of the *Godgeleerd Genootschap*.
- In addition, a foundation that does not wish to be publicly identified will grant the sum of € 4500 to the author or authors of the winning entries to use as they see fit.
- The medal will be awarded to the winner(s) at a special ceremony in the *Teylers Museum* at Haarlem.
- Professional journals and the press as well as other interested persons and institutions will receive ample advance notice of the award ceremony.

### *Publication*

The authors themselves will arrange for publication of their work, mentioning that it has received an award from *Teylers Stichting*. If desired, *Teylers Stichting* and its theological

society may consider lending assistance.

Editors of websites, scientific journals as well as other bodies wishing to draw the attention of their readers to the essay competition, are urged to advise interested candidates to consult the program for full details.

*The programme of Teylers Godgeleerd Genootschap is available free of charge on request from Directors of Teylers Stichting, Spaarne 16, 2011 CH Haarlem, Netherlands, or can be consulted on: **[www.teylersmuseum.nl](http://www.teylersmuseum.nl) en [www.teylersstichting.nl](http://www.teylersstichting.nl)***