

# COMPETITION PROGRAMME 2020

## TEYLERS TWEEDE GENOOTSCHAP

### HAARLEM

In keeping with the *Teylers Stichting's* 200-year-old tradition of promoting academic research, the Directors of this foundation *Teylers Stichting*, together with the members of the *Teylers Tweede Genootschap* (Teyler's Second Society), have decided to hold a competition for the year 2020 on a subject relating to history of science.

#### SUBJECT

We invite a study which illustrates and analyses interactions between the sciences and the humanities in the period after 1700.

#### BACKGROUND

In his Rede lecture of 1959 the British novelist and physicist Charles Percy Snow discussed – and criticized – the split of the Western intellectual world into two separate cultures, the sciences and the humanities. In his view, representatives of these cultures live in different spheres, a fact that hampered mutual communication. He held such dialogue to be a requirement for coping with many urgent social problems.

The dichotomy between the sciences and the humanities has deep roots. In the early modern period, the *studia humanitatis* already distinguished itself from the study of nature and the related mathematical sciences. This distinction was embedded in institutions such as the *Académie Française* and the *Académie Royale des Sciences*. In more recent times, due to advancing specialization in academia, it became ever more difficult for scholars to make meaningful contributions to both domains.

None of this takes away the fact that connections between these separate domains have persisted up to the present day. In the wake of Anthony Grafton several historians have pointed out the deep connections between early modern humanism and the investigation of natural phenomena. A much more recent example of fruitful interaction is the crucial role of the work of the linguist Noam Chomsky in the development of the theory of formal languages within computer science. Yet, such examples are relatively scarce. Most historians of science or knowledge tend to focus on the political, socio-economic, religious, or – more broadly – the cultural context in which processes of knowledge formation are situated, while ignoring direct interactions between separate fields of academic knowledge.

What is required here is an original historical study that contributes to our understanding of the interaction between the sciences and the humanities in the period from 1700 onwards. This may include influences of a conceptual or methodical nature of the humanities on the sciences or vice versa. Such influences should be illustrated by means of concrete examples, preferably supplemented with an analysis that transcends the specific case or cases concerned. Alternatively, one could think of a synthetic study

that sheds more light on what connects, rather than separates both spheres of knowledge.

#### FORM OF ENTRY

**Entries should consist of either one extended study, in the form of a text prepared for publication, or of several publications, most of which have appeared in the three years prior to 1 January 2023. For the second option, the entrants shall be either the sole author or one of the principal authors; the entrants must also submit an unpublished text, written specifically for the competition, which sets out the earlier publications in a broader academic context.**

#### PROCEDURE

In order to qualify for the competition, candidates should submit four copies of their entry to the Directors of the *Teylers Stichting* (Spaarne 16, 2011 CH Haarlem) by **1 January 2023** at the latest. Entries received after that date will not be considered. The texts should be submitted in either Dutch, French, German or English.

In accordance with the provisions of Pieter Teyler van de Hulst's will, the author's name must not appear on the unpublished texts. Instead, the texts should be submitted anonymously, identifiable only by a maxim or saying. Entries should be accompanied by a sealed envelope, marked with the maxim that identifies the entry and containing the author's name and address.

#### JUDGING

The judging will be carried out by the members of the *Teylers Tweede Genootschap*, who will submit their recommendation to the Directors of the Teyler Foundation within four months of the closing date for submissions. The Directors' decision, which will be made within one month, will be final. All candidates will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

#### PRIZE

The prize consists of a gold medal struck from the *Teylers Tweede Genootschap's* dies. The medal will be awarded to the winner(s) at a special ceremony in the *Teylers Museum*. Professional journals and the press, and possibly other interested parties and institutions, will receive ample advance notice of the award ceremony.

#### PUBLICATION

Responsibility for publication rests with the author of the winning entry, although the *Teylers Stichting* and the *Teylers Tweede Genootschap* may consider lending assistance. On publication, reference should be made to the fact that the text has received an award from the *Teylers Stichting*.

## INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the secretary of the society (see below). Journal editors and others who wish to draw the attention of their readership to the competition, but who do not wish to print the competition details in full, are urged to advise intending candidates to consult the programme for full details of the competition. Copies of the application form are available from the secretary and on

[www.teylersstichting.nl](http://www.teylersstichting.nl)

For more information about Pieter Teyler van der Hulst, the *Teylers Stichting* and its related institutions, such as the two learned societies, the museum and the almshouses, please consult *Teyler 1778-1978* (Haarlem 1978) and *De idealen van Pieter Teyler. Een erfenis uit de Verlichting* (Haarlem 2006) and [www.teylersstichting.nl](http://www.teylersstichting.nl).

## CURRENT COMPETITIONS

- Competition 2018 (art history): call for an original study demonstrating how prints were disseminated, used and valued (closing date 31 December 2020).
- Competition 2019 (numismatics): (closing date 31 December 2021): call for a study of the convergence of technical innovation and artistic development in the work of early modern die cutters and medallists, which focuses on craft aspects that influence the physical and visual design of their coins and medals.

For full details of the competitions, apply to the secretary and see

[www.teylersstichting.nl](http://www.teylersstichting.nl)

## SECRETARY

Dr. Y.L. Bleyerveld: [bleyerveld@rkd.nl](mailto:bleyerveld@rkd.nl)

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions should have reached the Directors of the *Teylers Stichting* (Spaarne 16, 2011 CH Haarlem) before 1 January 2023.

MEMBERS OF *TEYLERS TWEEDE GENOOTSCHAP*

Prof. dr. W. van Anrooij, Professor of Dutch Literature before Romanticism, Leiden University

Dr. Y.L. Bleyerveld, Senior Curator Drawings and Prints c. 1500-1800, RKD – Netherlandish Institute for Art History, The Hague

Prof. dr. F.H. van Lunteren, Professor of History of Natural Sciences at Leiden University

Drs. A. Pol, former Curator of Medieval and Modern Numismatics, Geldmuseum, Utrecht

Prof. dr. ir. W. van Saarloos, former director KNAW and Professor of Theoretical Physics, Leiden University

Prof. dr. N.C.F. van Sas, emeritus professor of History after 1750, University of Amsterdam

Prof. dr. L.E.M. Vet, former director of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) and emeritus professor of Evolutionary Ecology at Wageningen University



Medal of the *Teylers Tweede Genootschap* (gold, 72 mm, c. 120 g, 14 carat); dies by J.G. Holtzhey, 1778:

- beneath the radiant all-seeing eye of Providence are Physics with her globe and compass, Poetry with her lyre, History with her book, Drawing with her brush and palette, and Numismatics bearing a tray of medals; OMNES ARTES QVAE AD HVMANITATEM PERTINENT HABENT QVODDAM COMMVNE VINCVLVM (all arts and sciences relating to human civilisation share a common bond)

- in a laurel wreath DOCTRINAE PRAEMIVM EX TESTAMENTO PETRI TEYLER V D HVLST HARLEMENSIS NATI DIE XXV MARTII MDCCII DEFVNCTI DIE VIII APRILIS MDCCCLXXVIII (prize for scholarly achievement in accordance with the last will and testament of Pieter Teyler van der Hulst of Haarlem, born 25 March 1702, died 8 April 1778).