

Book Review

Only in Holland, Only the Dutch

*An in-depth look into the
culture of Holland and
its people*

by Marc Resch. 2004.
Rozenburg Publishers:
Amsterdam. 341 pages,
Paperback.



On page 41 the author states that he “... attempted to become as Dutch as I possibly could.” The sometimes awkward writing in this book is perhaps a testament to the extent the author identifies with the country that is his subject. His overuse of the words 'this' and 'even' are common in English translations by Dutch speakers. Nevertheless, *Only in Holland, Only the Dutch* answers many of the questions those of us living in the States — especially those of us who are second and third generation Dutch-Americans — have about modern Dutch culture. For example, why does my aunt greet me with three 'air kisses' instead of one? And what is with all the cheese?

Included in the book is a comprehensive overview of the history and origins of the country — written in informal language — which helps to provide a context for understanding why current Dutch culture has evolved the way it has.

Mr. Resch touches on almost every aspect of what it means to be Dutch and provides explanations from his unique perspective as both Dutch insider and American.

—Arend A. Vander Pols