

The Spring 2005 Issue – XPAT Review

MEDIA: **Recommended Reading** **Only in Holland, Only the Dutch**

If you come to the Netherlands from another western country, once you get off the plane and take a good look around you, you think 'this is going to be easy'. The Dutch look awfully familiar, speak excellent English and seem to have the same way of interacting. One woman once remarked that she suffered far more from culture shock in the Netherlands, however, than she did in Saudi Arabia; there, the people were so obviously different that she was quite prepared.

For the thus-naïve among the newcomers, or those who are well aware of how different life will be here, or simply the curious, this book is a great, complete and yet informal guide on life among the Dutch.

Tolerance, egalitarianism, consultation (*overleg*), birthday parties, language, individualism, social space... they all 'pass the review' as the Dutch would say. But the book is more than just an easy summary of what the writer came across, as he easily intermingles history with folklore, with history and with his own personal discoveries – all sprinkled with a dose of humor.

Taking you on a trip through his life in the Netherlands, Marc Resch makes us grateful for his powers of observation and capacity to remember all that assaults you consciousness and subconsciousness alike. Normally, at the end of the day, you are merely thankful that you made it home in one piece and to have remembered where you live. Much of your impressions are lost and many of the questions you ask yourself during the day go unanswered. Half of the stories and impressions you had resolved to share with those back home fade away, leaving you groping around, trying to sort them out, wanting to tell your tales.

Now, with *Only in Holland, Only the Dutch* in hand, your memories will be triggered, many of your questions will be answered and you will be ready to out there and explore some more...

Author: Marc Resch. Published by Rozenberg Publishers. ISBN 90 5170 800 9. To order online: www.hollandbooks.nl.