



Parapsychological Collections in the KB

Integrated collection care for digital and physical collections

Anna Rademakers, May 13th 2014

Introduction

Historical background and collection profile

Part 1: Esoteric collections in the KB

Part 2: Collection care

Historical background

Library of Stadholder Willem V

1798: Library for Representatives of Batavian Republic

19th century: research library for the upper classes

20th century: more and more national functions

1974: (voluntary) national deposit

Collection Profile

Everything published in the Netherlands

Everything published about the Netherlands

Context and Reference Collection

Special Collections

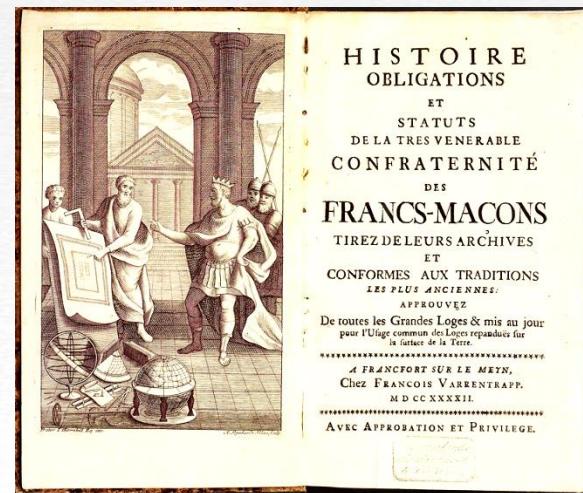
→ 110 km of library materials, of which 1.2 million publications in depot (since 1974), thousands of licenced databases & e-journals

Esoteric collections in the KB

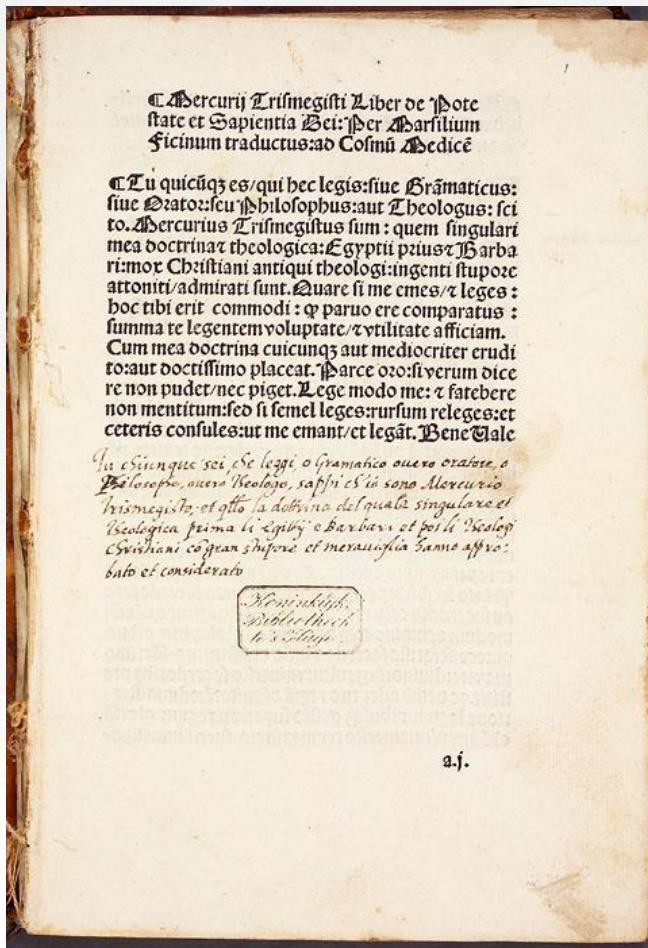
Parapsychology, Spiritualism,...

Witchcraft, astrology,...

Esoteric organisations: Rosicrucians, Freemasonry, theosophy,...

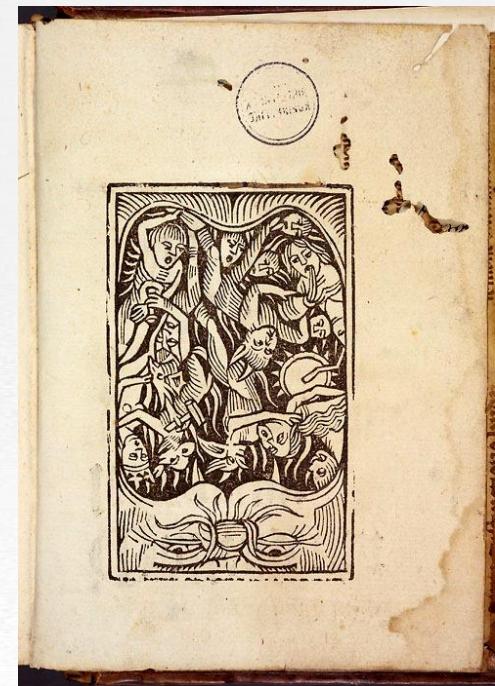
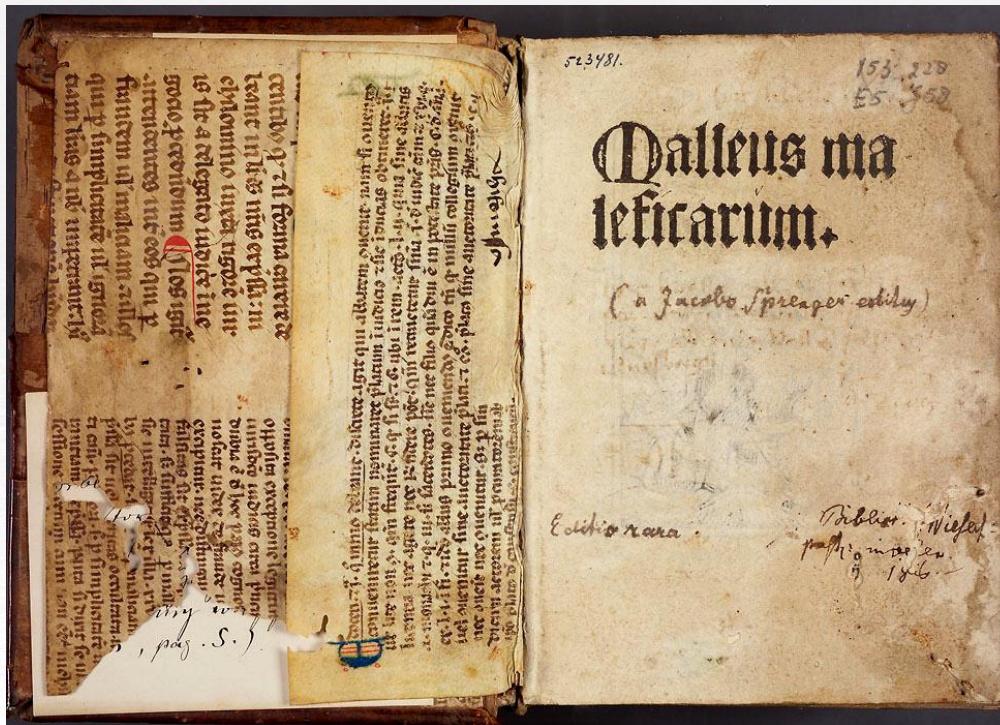


Hermes Trismegistus



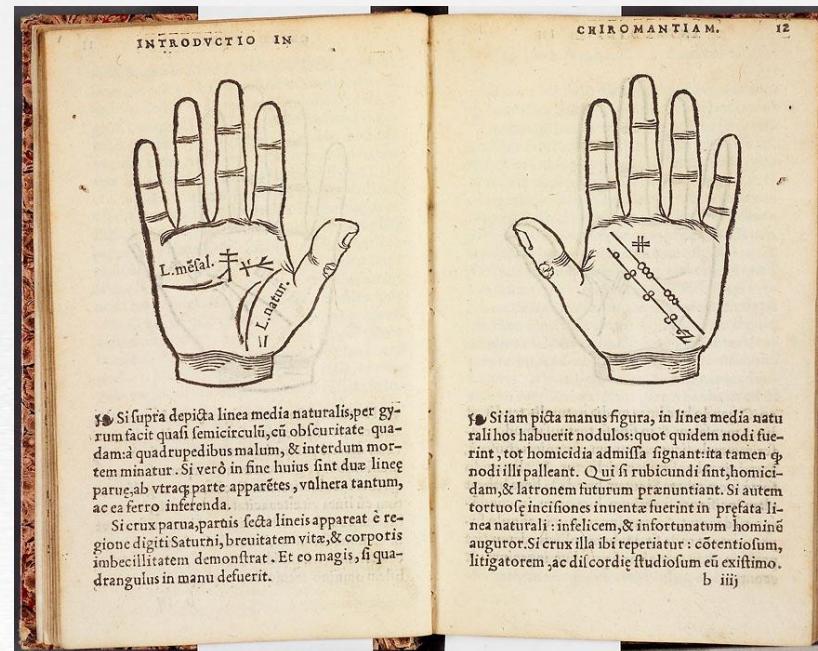
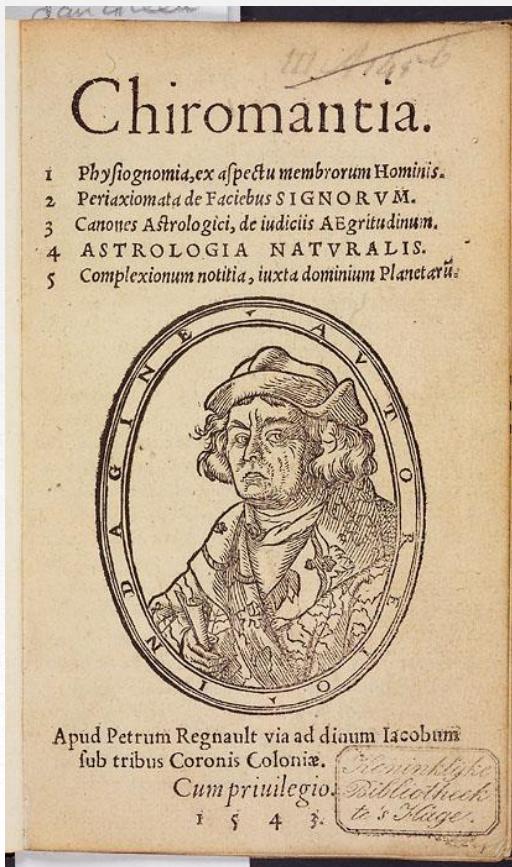
Hermes Trismegistus, Liber de potestate Dei, per Marsilium Ficinum traductus, 1494.

Witchcraft



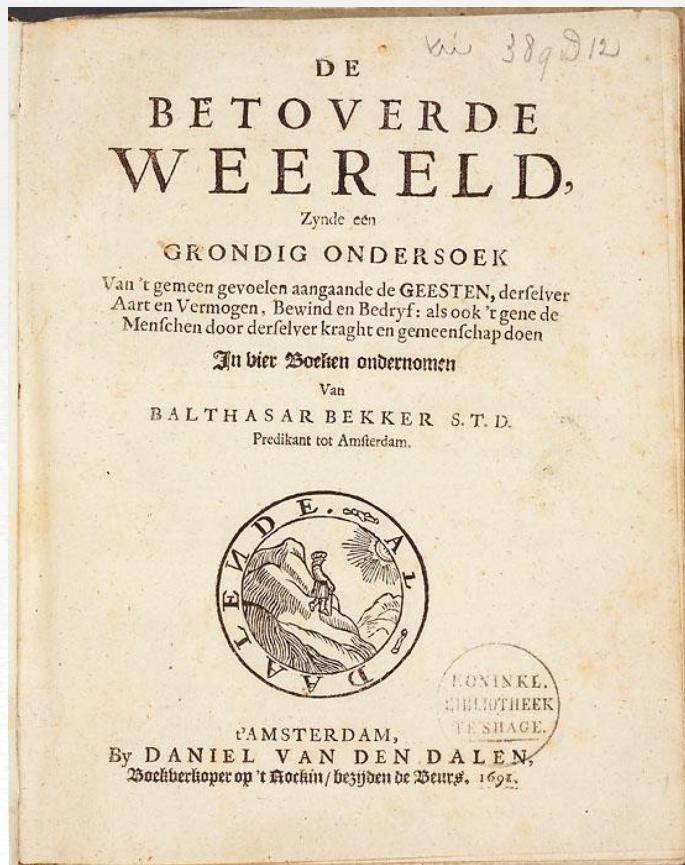
[Jacobus Sprenger en Heinrich Krämer], Malleus maleficarum [1511]

Chiromancy



Joannes ab Indagine (1467-1537),
Chiromantia, 1543

Pamphlet war

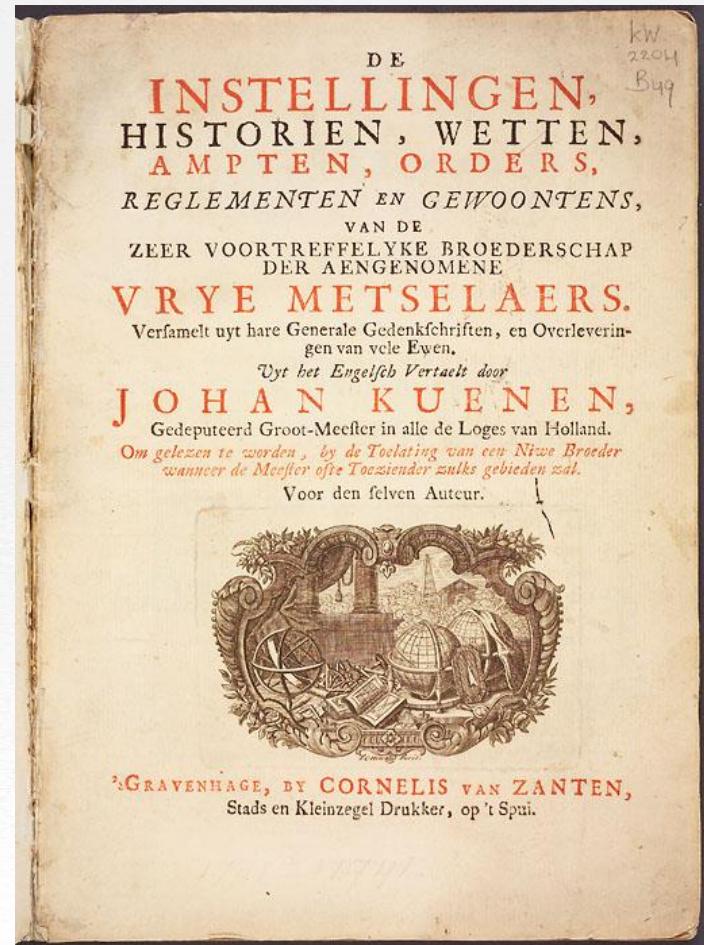


Balthasar Bekker, De Betoverde Weereld, 1691

Freemasonry

In the Netherlands:
first in the Hague (1734)

James Anderson, transl. J. Kuenen,
De instellingen, historien, wetten,
ampten, orders, reglementen en
gewoontes van de zeer voortreffelyke
broederschap der
aengenomene Vrye Metselaers, [1736]



Freemasonry



De allerverborgenste geheimen van de hoofdgraden der metzelarij,
ontdekt/ vert. uit het Engels, [s.l.] : [s.n.], 1786.

Loans, gifts and legacies

1992: Loan of a part of the books from the library of the
Theosophical Society

1939: Legacy of R.A. Reddingius

1990: Legacy of G. Zorab

1991: 15 m books and magazines from the library of the
Freemasonry

1998: Gift Croiset van Uchelen (300 books and a page from
Gulden Vlies-manuscript)

George Zorab (1898-1990)



Zorab Archive

Parapsychology

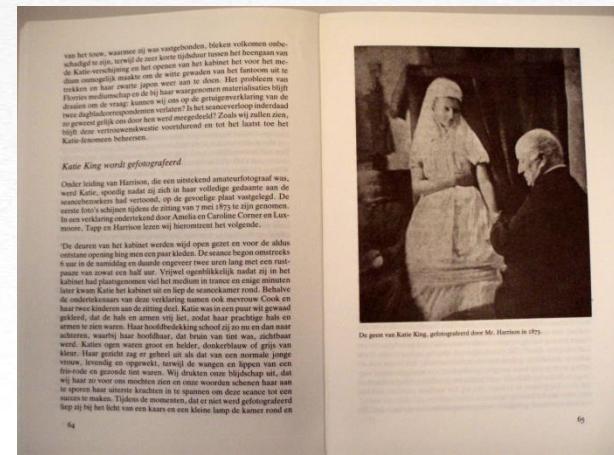
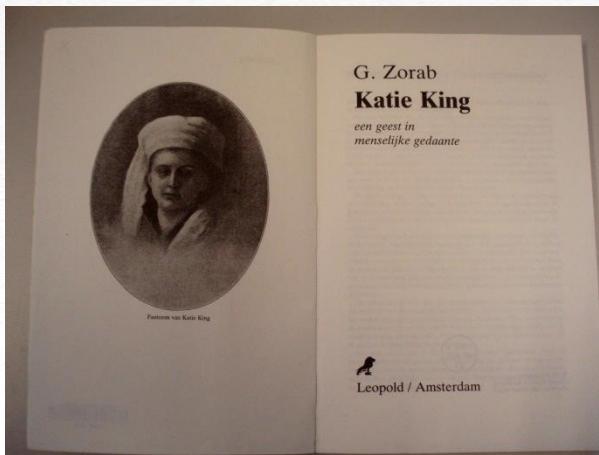
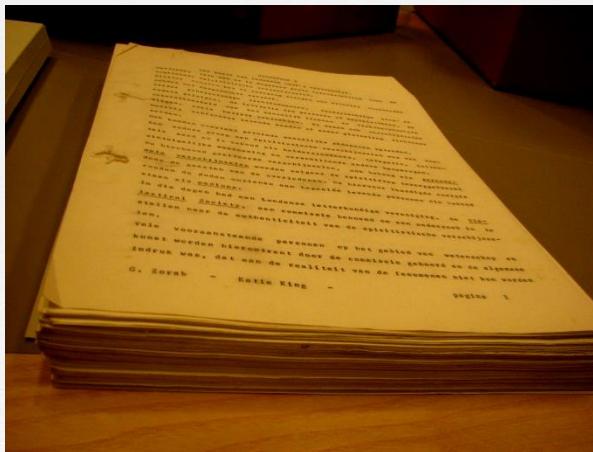
Including:

319 letters
4 typoscripts
Autobiography

And much more



G. Zorab, Katie King (1988)



Gifts Johan Borgman Foundation



Collection care

- Integrated collection care for digital and physical objects
- Classification of collections into larger lots
- Valuation of collections
- Risk indication
- Different levels for collection care
- Care redirected from the most valuable collections, to those where the highest loss of value is indicated



Primary criteria

1. Informational value: this value refers to the content of collections as a source for research
2. Aesthetic value: the artistic value of collections
3. Historic value: this value is based on the (relative) age of a collection
4. Social value: the collection was of significance to one or more groups in society



Secondary criteria

1. Use: The actual use that's being made of a collection
2. Completeness/uniqueness: the extent to which a collection is complete, rare or unique, in comparison to other collections
3. Condition: this value refers to the physical or digital state of a collection (functionality, authenticity)
4. Provenance: this value refers to the person or organization the collection is from. The value depends of the extent to which the provenance of a collection is known.



Counting values?

- Give marks 1-10 for primary values
- Give marks 1-5 for secondary values
- Multiply
- Use weighing factor for the relation between both

Risks?

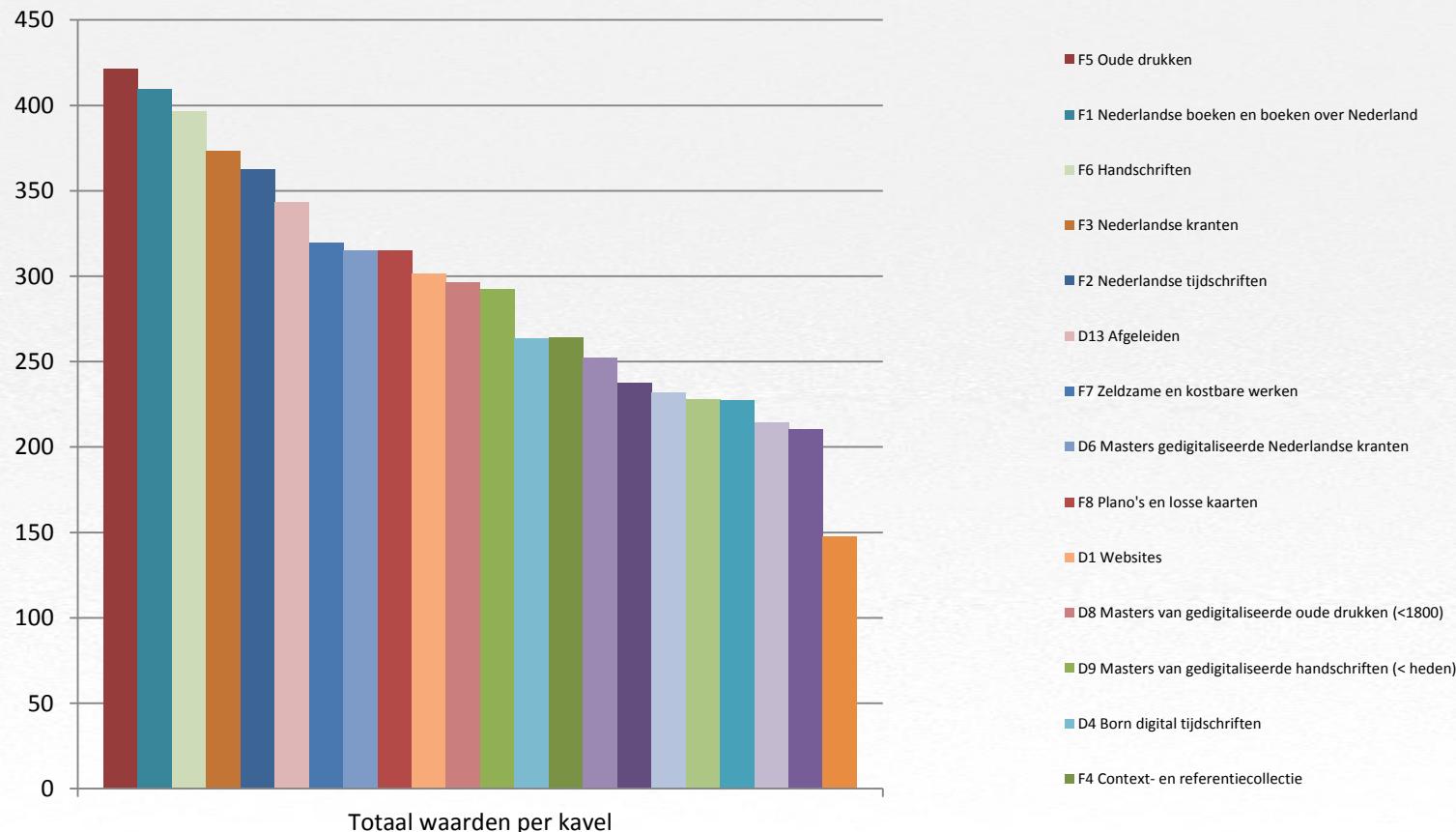
- Certain risks apply to certain values
- Quantify and compare
- Indicate impact

Conservation levels

- Valuation + risk indication = level of preservation
 - Conservation levels designed to prevent loss of value
- Specific actions will mitigate specific risks and prevent specific loss of value



Per lot



Physical decay

Veroorzakers van verval



Fysische krachten



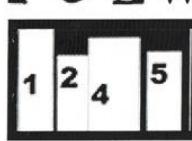
Dieven, vandalen



Vuur



Water



Zoek



Plaagdieren



Chemische schade



Licht



Incorrecte temperatuur



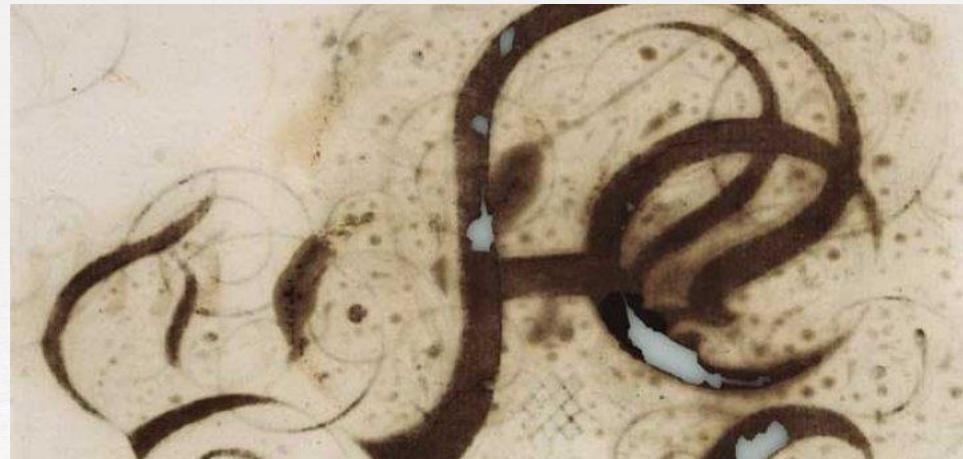
Incorrecte luchtvochtigheid

Metamorfoze

Ongoing decay

1840-1950

Ink corrosion
Copper corrosion
Acidification



Metamorfoze

Preservation of paper collections

Transfer to another medium by means of digitization

Protected from handling, but still available for the public!



Google project

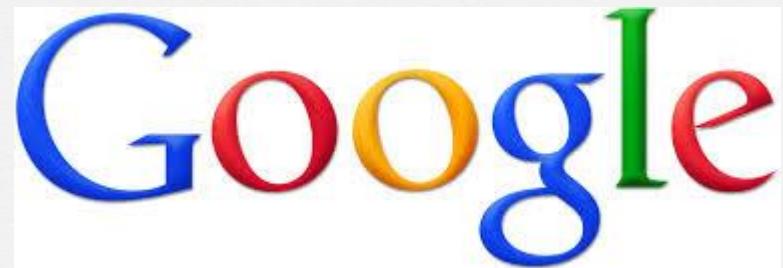
Private-public cooperation

160.000 books

18th, 19th and early 20th century

Copyright free

Available on Google Books and
Website KB (delpher.nl)



Koninklijke Bibliotheek
Nationale bibliotheek
van Nederland

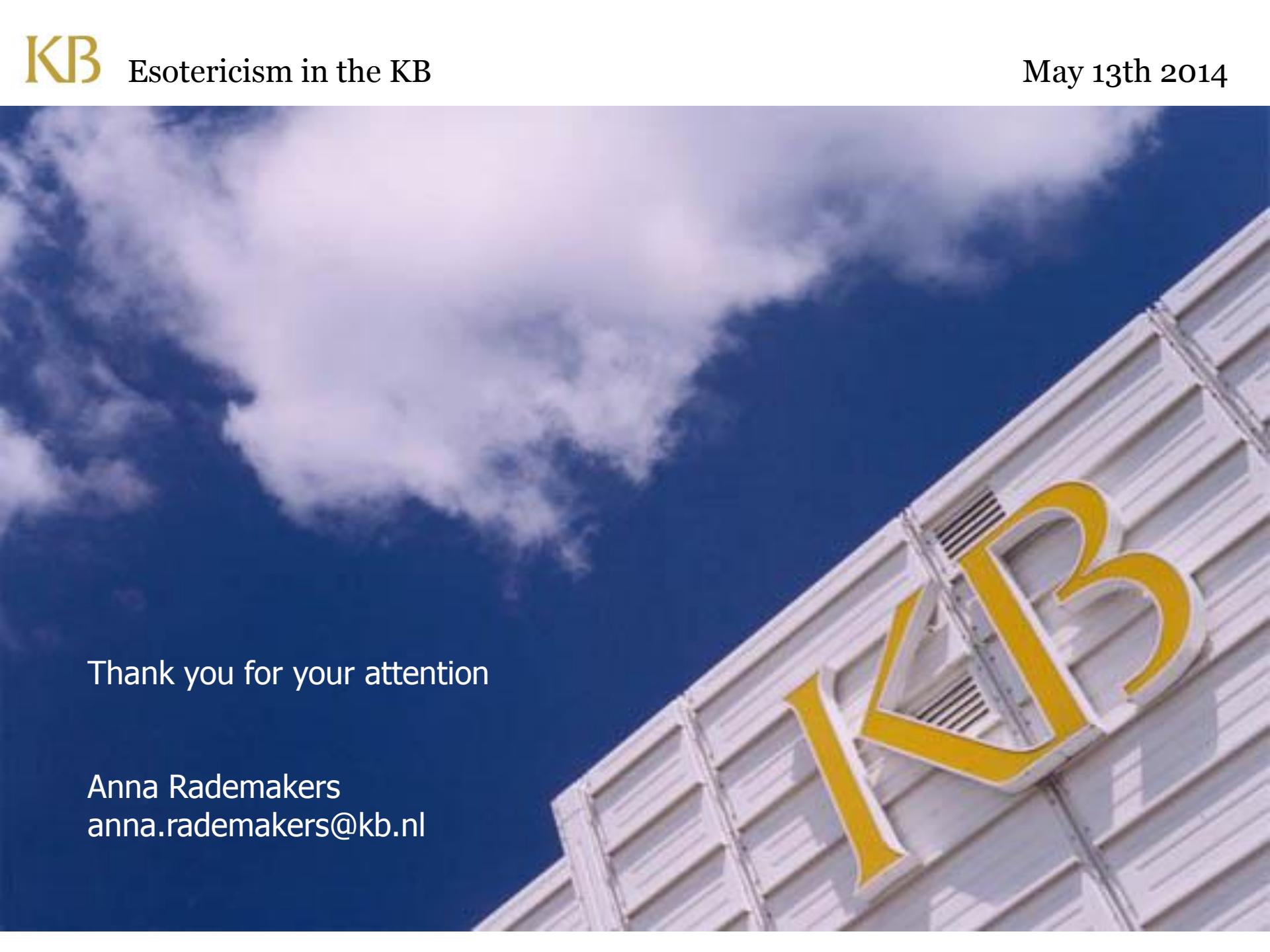
Screenshot of the Delpher Boeken website showing a search result for 'spiritisme'.

The search results page displays the title of the book: "Het spiritisme of het geloof aan stoffelijke manifestatiën van geeste..." from 1861. The page includes a thumbnail image of the book cover, which features the title and author information.

Search bar: Zoeken in boeken uit de 18e en 19e eeuw

Search results: Resultaat 1 van 30

Book details:
Title: HET SPIRITISME,
OR
HET GELOOF AAN STOFFELIJKE
MANIFESTATIËN VAN
GEESTEN,
verdedigd en bestreden.
Author: E. S. WITKAMP,
KONINGSPLEIN, TE AMSTERDAM.
Year: 1861.



Thank you for your attention

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