

# The Roles of Ambassadors in Early Modern Diplomacy: The Promise of Digitised Seventeenth-Century Dutch Newspapers

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## Abstract

Despite a recent surge in scholarship recognising the vital role of women in early modern diplomacy, the role of women in Dutch seventeenth-century embassies has been completely overlooked. This significant blind spot in Dutch scholarship skews our view of how the Dutch Republic, a new player on the international stage, practiced its diplomacy. This essay focuses on the role of ambassadors, the wives of ambassadors, who joined their husband on a diplomatic mission. More specifically, it explores the potential of using digitised seventeenth-century Dutch newspapers as a valuable resource for finding more material to research the role of diplomats' wives in shaping Dutch and European diplomacy.

**Keywords:** ambassador, diplomacy, peace conference, family archives, newspapers, correspondence

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In 1679, the French court painter Henri Gascar was sent to the city of Nijmegen to capture the signing of the peace treaty between France and Spain a year earlier.<sup>1</sup> The painting offers a scene familiar to historians of early modern diplomacy: the male signatories and negotiators gather around a table (fig. 1). However, if we look more closely, we also see several women peeking through the back door to watch the signing ceremony. Despite a surge in studies in the past two decades on women in international politics, this painting continues to epitomise the discipline of diplomatic history, still largely seen and studied as a world populated by men, with women operating only in the background.<sup>2</sup>

Within the history of early modern diplomacy, an increasing number of case studies focus on the rise of ‘ambassadors’, women who accompanied their husbands on diplomatic missions.<sup>3</sup> Gemma Allen has demonstrated that English resident ambassadors were only occasionally accompanied by their wives at the end of the sixteenth century, but that in the following century wives began to join their husbands far more often.<sup>4</sup> Their increased presence in embassies is reflected in the appearance of the title ‘ambassador’ in different European vernacular languages to refer to an ambassador’s spouse.<sup>5</sup> With this new title also came ceremonial and political privileges at some of the larger European courts. There has as yet been no systematic examination of the ambassadorial wives in early modern Dutch diplomacy, so our current knowledge is largely based on a few English and Spanish ambassadors. We do not, for instance, even know whether it was common for women to join their husbands to their diplomatic posts in the seventeenth century, let alone understand

1 I would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their suggestions. For the negotiations at Nijmegen, see Bots, *The Peace of Nijmegen*.

2 Owens, *Erased*; Tickner, ‘Still Engaging from the Margins?’.

3 Bastian et al. (eds.), *Das Geschlecht der Diplomatie*; Sluga and James (eds.), *Women, Diplomacy*. For a recent overview on the topic, see James, ‘Women and Diplomacy’.

4 These are the only numbers we have so far: by end of the seventeenth century, 57 percent were accompanied by their wives: Allen, ‘The Rise’, 620.

5 Oliván Santalíestra, ‘Lady Anne’; Kühnel, ‘“Minister-like”’.



Fig. 1 Henri Gascar, *The Peace of Nijmegen, 1679*, oil on canvas, 161 × 274,5 cm, Nijmegen, Valkhof Museum, 1978.05.2.

their roles within embassies.<sup>6</sup> This dearth of studies stands in sharp contrast to growing attention for women and ambassadresses in European diplomacy and a large body of scholarship devoted to the roles and activities of women in other areas of early modern Dutch society, as is highlighted in the various contributions to this special issue. This gap implicitly reinforces the idea that women were not involved in shaping Dutch international relations.<sup>7</sup> The Dutch Republic was a new player in European diplomatic circles in the early seventeenth century, and I contend that it is crucial to include the role of women to understand how this new state and its representatives portrayed themselves on the international stage and how this influenced European diplomatic practices.<sup>8</sup>

So far, scholars recovering women's roles in early modern and modern diplomacy have relied primarily on diaries, thus highlighting that the ambassador and his wife shared diplomatic tasks as working couple.<sup>9</sup> This case study will instead explore the potential of seventeenth-century Dutch newspapers as a source from which we may start tracing the presence of women in Dutch embassies and subsequently explore their involvement

<sup>6</sup> A brief reference in Heringa, *De eer*, 14. In 2024, Rosanne Baars received funding from the Dutch Research Council (NWO) for her postdoctoral research project 'Women, Intelligence, and Diplomacy in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul'.

<sup>7</sup> Hagen's biography of Schimmelpenninck, *President van Nederland*, is an exception. She has devoted ample attention to the role of his wife Catharina. The same problem has been highlighted for twentieth-century diplomacy: Erlandsson and Van der Maar, 'Trouw aan Buitenlandse Zaken', 361-364.

<sup>8</sup> Helmers and Lamal, 'Dutch Diplomacy'.

<sup>9</sup> Baars, 'Constantinople Confidential', 154-158; Erlandsson, 'Off the record', 34-37.

in diplomatic affairs. I will rely mostly on the online repository Delpher, launched in 2013 by the Royal Library of the Netherlands, which provides access to full text digitised Dutch-language newspapers, books, and journals. For the seventeenth century, Delpher currently contains 14,385 digitised newspaper issues.<sup>10</sup> Before the digitisation of these newspapers, it would have been a gargantuan task to try and find references to women in these Dutch-language newspapers, as they often survive in very few copies dispersed across countless European libraries and archives. Yet it is important to keep in mind that Delpher does not offer a complete overview of the available material, so the higher prevalence of examples in this article from the second half of the seventeenth century might be simply due to the higher numbers of newspapers incorporated for this period.<sup>11</sup> Despite this resource having provided access to such an unparalleled amount of material for upwards of a decade, much of this material remains unexamined from a gendered perspective.

A partial explanation why such research has not yet happened may lie in the fact that digitisation often constitutes just the first step.<sup>12</sup> The digitisation of seventeenth-century newspapers did not make the texts easily searchable, as the OCR undertaken on the corpus is somewhat unreliable due to a combination of the black letter type used in the newspapers and the multiple spelling variants (such as *ambassatrice* and *ambassadrice*). Both these problems have been remedied through *Het Couranten Corpus*, an important citizen science initiative led by Nicoline van der Sijs and launched in 2022.<sup>13</sup> It thus seems high time to explore how newspapers can be used more fruitfully for research on early modern Dutch women in general, and their role in international politics specifically. This short essay is explorative and does not claim to offer a complete picture of the phenomenon but rather aims to show its potential and propose some new avenues for future research on women, politics, and diplomacy in early modern Europe.

### *Diplomatic Sociability*

It is crucial to consider the nature of newspapers as a source as they were, by and large, filled with reports on political, diplomatic, and military events.<sup>14</sup> In gathering information, newspaper editors and publishers relied primarily on incoming diplomatic dispatches and handwritten newsletters. As several historians have observed, ambassadors rarely referenced either the presence or involvement of their wives and daughters in diplomatic affairs in official correspondence.<sup>15</sup> Newspapers rarely give the proper names of women, and they are at times referred to as ‘ambassadrice’ followed by the last name of their husband, for instance ‘Mervouwe ambassadrice Heemskerck’ refers to Cornelia Pauw, the

<sup>10</sup> The downloadable overviews of incorporated newspapers are incredibly useful to researchers, as they may easily check how many copies of a specific title are included: [www.delpher.nl/](http://www.delpher.nl/) (Accessed on 9 November 2023).

<sup>11</sup> For caveats: Van Groesen, ‘Digital Gatekeeper’; Der Weduwen, ‘Towards a complete Bibliography’.

<sup>12</sup> Bunout, Ehrmann, and Clavert (eds.), *Digitised Newspapers*.

<sup>13</sup> *Couranten Corpus* currently contains thirteen Dutch-language newspapers, accessible via <https://ivdnt.org/corpora-lexica/courantencorpus> (Accessed on 10 February 2025).

<sup>14</sup> Der Weduwen, *Dutch and Flemish newspapers*, I, 5–24.

<sup>15</sup> Desenclos, ‘Women’s Place’.

wife of Coenraad van Heemkerck.<sup>16</sup> These instances highlight that the specific term was also adopted into the Dutch language mainly in the second half of the seventeenth century.

Printed newspapers can help to establish whether wives accompanied their husbands on a diplomatic mission. For instance, in July 1686, the newspaper *Oprechte Haerlemsche Courant* reported that Cornelia Pauw had already returned from Spain to The Hague, adding that upon her arrival she had received visits from various important people.<sup>17</sup> Pauw thus returned a month earlier than her husband from the court in Madrid, where they had been living for six years. Using newspapers we can track her whereabouts: she stayed in The Hague when her husband was sent as resident ambassador to Constantinople (1692-1694), but did join him on his last embassy to Paris (1698-1701).<sup>18</sup> These traces offer researchers important clues to further investigate the roles of women in ambassadorial missions. Such an approach can be illustrated by the following example: in March 1676, a newspaper included the report that Hiëronymus van Beverningk's wife stayed in Nijmegen. Van Beverningk was a seasoned and very successful diplomat, and had at this moment been entrusted with negotiations for a series of separate peace treaties in Nijmegen between the Dutch Republic and different European powers including Spain.<sup>19</sup> Given that we know very little about Johanna Le Gillon (fig. 2), his wife, some historians have presumed that she stayed at their home in Gouda while Van Beverningk carried out his duties as negotiator.<sup>20</sup> Newspaper articles, however, suggest the opposite: Le Gillon was already in her husband's temporary lodging in Nijmegen before the foreign delegates had arrived in the city.

Why is it important to know whether she was accompanying her husband? Due to the temporary nature of peace conferences, and the absence of a court, aristocratic society had to be created on the spot. Ambassadorial wives played a crucial role in the arranging and managing of hospitality events. Organising dinners and other type of festivities were important ways to project soft power but also provided equally vital moments when matters could be discussed in less official settings.<sup>21</sup> The *Amsterdamse courant* included a report that the Danish ambassadress Karen Krabbe had organised festivities and a ball on 10 March 1677 in Nijmegen for all the other ambassadorial women present in the city.<sup>22</sup> Such a female-only gathering was meant to forge personal connections and foster goodwill, crucial elements in helping to broker peace. During peace negotiations, festivities were a recurrent phenomenon, and newspaper editors frequently reported on such events. In October 1677, for instance, Magdalena Stenbock, the wife of the Swedish ambassador

<sup>16</sup> I have chosen to use the proper names of these women as much as possible in the main text. To identify them, I have used Schutte, *Repertorium*. To avoid confusion about which issue I am citing I have chosen to transcribe their seventeenth-century headings (including the variant spellings) instead of referring to the standard title: *Utrechtse Vrydaegse Courant*, no. 35, 2 May 1698.

<sup>17</sup> *Extraordinaire Haerlemse Donderdaeghse Courant*, no. 27, 4 July 1686.

<sup>18</sup> *Utrechtse Vrydaegse Courant*, no. 35, 2 May 1698. Her whereabouts in Paris are reported in *Extraordinaire Haerlemse Donderdaegse Courant*, no. 40, 18 April 1699, and her arrival in The Hague in *Oprechte Haerlemse Dingsdaegse Courant*, no. 41, 25 April 1699.

<sup>19</sup> Troost, *Hiëronymus van Beverningk*, 33-45.

<sup>20</sup> Troost, *Hiëronymus van Beverningk*, 142.

<sup>21</sup> Oetzel, 'Räume des Informellen', 49-66.

<sup>22</sup> *Amsterdamse Saturdaghe Courant 1677*, no. 11, 13 March 1677.





Fig. 2 Caspar Netscher, Private reception of the Dutch ambassador van Beverningk by the Spanish queen regent Maria-Anna of Austria on 2 March 1671, 1671-1675, oil on canvas, 70 × 79 cm, Amsterdam, Rijksmuseum. Johanna le Gillon is placed in the foreground of the painting, but we know she had not joined him on his embassy to Madrid.

hosted a ball in Nijmegen; one month later Dorothy Osborne, the wife of the English ambassador, followed suit to celebrate the successful marriage negotiations between William of Orange and Mary Stuart.<sup>23</sup> This last celebration was a highly significant event: Osborne had acted as a go-between facilitating the marriage negotiations and their successful conclusion signalled to all negotiating parties in Nijmegen an Anglo-Dutch rapprochement.<sup>24</sup> In current scholarship, it is primarily eighteenth-century salons and spa towns that have been considered as settings in which women were able to undertake unofficial diplomatic

<sup>23</sup> *Oprechte Haerlemse Saturdaegse Courant*, no. 42, 16 October 1677; *Oprechte Haerlemsche Dingsdaegse Courant*, no. 46, 16 November 1677. Stenbrock became well-known for hosting parties: Lindström and Norrhem, 'Diplomats and Kin', 72-74.

<sup>24</sup> Her involvement is based on comments by Temple in his *Memoirs*, pp. 154-155. Thanks to Jacob Baxter for bringing her involvement in brokering the marriage to my attention.

activities.<sup>25</sup> The role of women and the interplay between sociability and diplomacy at these large European peace conferences, so many of which took place in the Dutch Republic from 1648 onwards, requires further international research.<sup>26</sup>

### *Honour*

Newspapers allow us to establish more firmly whether a wife joined her husband on an (extra)ordinary mission, and can also be used to start searching for additional archival material left by these women. In March 1690, for instance, newspapers reported on the death of Peter Battier, the Dutch extraordinary envoy in Madrid, and reports of the transportation of his body to The Hague by his wife Johanna Agnes van Lintelo were published over the following months.<sup>27</sup> The Van Lintelo case has proven particularly rich. The family archive still contains Johanna's account book of her journey from Madrid to The Hague.<sup>28</sup> She recorded her monthly expenditure on the interleaved blank pages of a printed almanac for the year 1690. Keeping track of her expenses was important, as upon her arrival, she submitted requests to the States-General for the payment of her husband's salary and for the reimbursement of the costs incurred on her long journey.<sup>29</sup> Once Van Lintelo had returned to The Hague in June 1690, she continued the practice of recording her costs, including for funeral arrangements and the payment of messengers, and even the salaries of her maidservants. When she had settled her many debts, she crossed them out in her almanac.<sup>30</sup> The almanac thus offers additional information about female household management as well as wages for a variety of individuals (including women) in noble Dutch families and ambassadorial households. Scholars have argued that bookkeeping and accounting in almanacs was a relatively common activity and practice for elite women in early modern England.<sup>31</sup> This specific source, then, is not just of interest to historians of diplomacy, but also to other disciplines, highlighting the potential of this resource to help trace the ambassadorial wives, and in doing so providing additional source material often kept in family archives.

These ambassadors appear often in newspapers when their husbands are not present. This observation concurs with plenty of other evidence we have for other social groups of women: they become far more visible in early modern sources when they become a widow. When her husband passed away, Johanna Agnes van Lintelo surfaces in the archives of the States-General, for example. She wrote a letter from Madrid informing the States-General

<sup>25</sup> Dyrmann, 'Spa Diplomacy', 1035-1047.

<sup>26</sup> Brunert, 'Intercession als Praktik', 209-225; Hagen, *President van Nederland*, 145-148, 172-177.

<sup>27</sup> The first report of his death is in *Amsterdamse Saturdaegse Courant*, unnumbered, 11 March 1690. See also *Oprechte Haerlemse Dingsdaegse Courant*, no. 11, 14 March 1690.

<sup>28</sup> Arnhem, Gelders Archief, Familie van Lintelo 44, Aanteekenboek van Johanna Agnes van Lintelo, 1690.

<sup>29</sup> The Hague, Nationaal Archief (hereafter NA), States-General (hereafter SG) 3322, Resolution, 9 September 1690, fol. 313v. See also NA, SG 7549, request by Van Lintelo submitted on her behalf by Beekman, 9 September 1690.

<sup>30</sup> She used a copy of *Comptoir Almanach*.

<sup>31</sup> Connor, *Women, Accounting*.

of her husband's death.<sup>32</sup> Yet it was Pecquin, the embassy secretary, who informed the Spanish court of Battier's death. He immediately requested that the States-General sent him letters of credence, as without an official ambassador all the negotiations with the Spanish king were suspended. Following the logic of representation in early modern diplomacy, the States-General were now not represented in Madrid, as the title and office could not simply be passed onto someone else.

Van Lintelo seems to have been preparing to return to the Dutch Republic, and almost apologises for having to write a second letter to the States-General. She explains that her hand was forced due to exceptional circumstance: she details an attack she had suffered from the embassy personnel of Maria Rosina Sophia of Dietrichstein, the imperial ambassadress in Madrid.<sup>33</sup> Apparently, the relationship between Johanna's husband and the imperial ambassadress had been quite strained and now, according to Johanna, Maria Rosina Sophia wanted to take revenge. The pretext was that the imperial ambassadress felt that one of her ladies had not been treated with sufficient respect by Johanna, and she had thus sent her stable master and lackeys to the Dutch embassy. These men even drew their weapons. Their actions were, according to Johanna, an insult to the States-General. As she was still consulting with acquaintances whether she should complain to the king about her treatment, she requested guidance on what to do next. In signing this specific letter, she added the word *bedroefd* (which can be understood as saddened, grieved, distressed, or sorrowful) to the normal closing signature, indicating that she was quite shaken by the entire experience.<sup>34</sup> The actions of the imperial ambassadress's personnel could have led to a diplomatic incident, as the embassy secretary in his letter stressed that the coat of arms of the States-General had been in full display on the embassy building.<sup>35</sup> The king had even allowed her to keep these on the house. State symbols were a crucial aspect in early modern diplomacy, as their presence helped to determine whether this was a personal attack against Van Lintelo herself or an attack on the Dutch Republic. There was no agreement among contemporaries for how long an envoy's widow can gain preceding rights and ceremonies.<sup>36</sup> The States-General, however, deferred action on the matter, presumably calculating that it was not worth causing a stir as Van Lintelo was going to leave Madrid soon. Nevertheless, her letter to the States-General offers a unique lens into the gendered world of early modern diplomacy. It was not simply one where women hosted sociable events for one another and were able to smoothen the process of peace talks, as we have seen in the case of the peace conference in Nijmegen, but equally one where the honour, rank, and social prestige of individuals of the ambassadorial household led to violent confrontations between women and their servants.

32 NA, SG 7086, Van Lintelo to States-General, Madrid, 22 February 1690.

33 For more information, see Oliván Santaliesra, 'Judith Rebecca', 105-116.

34 NA, SG 7086, Van Lintelo to States-General, Madrid, 8 March 1690. She signed her letter 'Onderdanichst gehoorsaamste en bedroefde dienaar J. Agnes van Lineto Douariere de Batter'. Her earlier letter included 'Onderdanichst gehoorsame dienaers'.

35 NA, SG 7086, Pecquin to States-General, Madrid, 30 March 1690, reports that the heraldic symbols of the States-General were only taken down on the day Lintelo left. Also included in *Oprechte Haerlemse Dingsdaegse Courant*, no. 17, 25 April 1690. On the importance of these symbols and embassy buildings, see Ebben, 'Het Staatse ambassadegebouw', 41-42.

36 Kühnel, 'The Ambassador is Dead', 1006.



## Conclusion

While newspapers offer us only small bits of information, the inclusion of these reports highlight what was thought to be important information for seventeenth-century readers. The movements and social activities of diplomatic agents was increasingly considered newsworthy and thus started to appear more frequently in newspapers. As such, these newspapers provide scholars with further opportunities to trace the social world of embassies in The Hague. There were also reports on touristic visits, such as the imperial agent Lisola taking his wife Cécile to Amsterdam, and reports about important festivities at embassies.<sup>37</sup> For instance, in 1674 Margareta Ehrenstéen, the only daughter of the Swedish ambassador in The Hague, married Nils Gyldenstolpe in the Swedish embassy in The Hague in the presence of several prominent figures, including William Temple and Dorothy Osborne, the English ambassadorial couple, according to the *Haegse Dinghsdagse Post-tydinge* (fig. 3).<sup>38</sup> A next and much-needed step would be to include the French-language newspapers printed in the Dutch Republic (so far by and large still excluded from digitisation initiatives in the Netherlands), which were read by the political elites throughout early modern Europe and may offer other or even more material to work with.

These newspapers provide us with clues of how to turn to other source material that may offer more information to reconstruct the role of women within early modern embassies. The additional archival material unearthed in case of Van Lintelo shows that such an approach allows us to study the ambassadorial households and the power relations between foreign embassies in specific European cities in more depth. The death of an ambassador in office seems to be a particularly fruitful moment to study the history of diplomacy, as it allows us to uncover those individuals running an embassy who are most of the time not present in the official records.<sup>39</sup> Newspapers offer us a quick way to trace reporting on these deaths and provide interesting points of departure to find additional material written by the ambassadorial wives. In 1697, for instance, another Dutch ambassador, Adriaan van Citters, passed away in Madrid.<sup>40</sup> A letter that his wife Josina Parduyn wrote to one of their children have survived in the family archive.<sup>41</sup> The same archive also contains material about their wedding, and personal and official letters both received and sent by the couple during their time in London and Madrid, as well as material concerning Parduyn's return journey from Madrid to The Hague.<sup>42</sup> Such additional archival material is valuable for reconstructing how diplomatic couples maintained their network and

37 *Extraordinaire Haerlemse Donderdaeghe Courant*, no. 7, 14 February 1669. The word used in the newspaper is 'gemaeline', not ambassadress, because her husband was not officially appointed as an ambassador by the Holy Roman Emperor.

38 *Haegse Dinghsdagse Post-tydinge*, no. 72, 6 November 1674.

39 Kühnel, 'The Ambassador is Dead'.

40 *Oprechte Haerlemse Saturdaegse Courant*, no. 18, 30 April 1697.

41 Utrecht, Het Utrechts Archief (hereafter HUA), Family Des Tombes 787, Josina Parduyn to Caspar van Citters, Madrid, 6 December 1696; HUA, Family Des Tombes 734, Josina Parduyn to one of her children, Madrid 11 April 1697.

42 HUA, Family Des Tombes 719 and 722, Correspondence of Josina Parduyn and Arnoud van Citters, 1689-1701. HUA, Family Des Tombes 734, contains a detailed itinerary of her journey (including where she ate and slept).

Prince van Condé ghedetscheert is. Soo aenstonts komt een expressie uyt de Armee vande Geallieerden met bericht, dat deselve al voor 2. uyren was opgebroocken en soude deselve desen nacht te Clophern inde Breusch campen, waer van men morgen verder naricht verwaght, ofte deselve in 't geheel na de Opper Elzas ofte ten deele na dese Rhyndrugge na beneden sullen passeren.

Frans fort 31 October. De brieven van Straesburgh op heden gekomen, sprecken niet anders, als dat de Franscalles ten platen Lande ruinerden en bedorven, ende dat sich miser en meer op haer voordeel retireerden na Lotheringen. In deselvs Armee waeren veel siecken, die Turenne met wagens daeglijcks liet wegh voeren. Sedert een tijdt herwaerts was de Franse Armee door de roode Loopt seer verwaght. Uyt het Leger van de Geallieerden waren tot Straesburgh eenige weynigh siecken gebracht, dat noch in goede stand was, hebbende by alle occaen getracht Turenne alie af breuck te doen, doch dat alijdt op sijn voordeel was getreect.

Ceulen 2. November. Eenige Brieven van boven berichten, dat Turenne sijn na Lotheringen hadt getreect, vrelende door de Geallieerden overvallen te werden, andere melden dat noch in sijn oude poelen lagh; dat de Geallieerden aen 't opbrecken waren en andere saken meer, alsoo de voorige daer ontrent over al was opgegeven; Turenne soude het Franse secours noch niet bekomen hebben. Den Generael Souches wert hier verwacht, om sijn reys van hier na Wenen te vervolgen. De laetste Brieven van Wenen sprecken niet vande Prince Willem van Furstenberg, als dat deselve noch als voorre blijft gedetineert. De laetste brieven van Regensburg seggen, dat de Ryx Armee in 't kort marcheren sal na 't Leger vande Geallieerden.

Luyck 2. November. De Grave van Souches sijndena Wenen geroepen, is het Commando van de Keyserlijke Armee gegeven aen den Grave Spork, gelijck ons van sijnent wegen heeft laten andienen. Aen dewelcken de Staten van 't land dienvolgens hebben gesonden den Donheer van Cleef en den Baron van Samar, die gisteren tot dien eynde van hier sijn vertruken. Ondertuschen heeft den gemelte Generael Spork gesommeert de Steden van het Landt, om te contribueren, en onder anderen afgevoerd van de Stadt van St. Truyen 20000 rations Broodt, beloopende tot de somme van 7777 Rijckdaelders. Men verwacht wat de voorn. Heeren de Cleef en de Samar uytgerecht sullen hebben, soo noopende dese saecke als andere raekende dit Landt. Den Intendant van den Koningh van Franckrijk tot Philippeville heeft doen weten aen den Intendant van den Koningh van Spaignen tot Namen, dat by alden den Grave van Monterey de Male niet open wil laten, van boven Namen tot Luyck, ghelijck het is ghepermittert om leghe, sijn Majesteit van Franckrijk in ghelijcks de liberteyt van deselve Reviere onder Luyck niet sal permitteren. De Franse Armee onder den Prince van Condé in de Winter quartierien geleght sijnde, seggen dat noch eenige Troepen na Maestricht willen detacheren.

Luyck 2. November. De Fransche schijnen Mafeyck noch niet te willen verlaten, sy doen soo wel daer, als tot Maestricht grote voorsae brengen. Hier is tydinghe dat de Hollandische en Spaenische met de Keyserie sich te samen voegen, tot wat eynde is noch onbekent, doch sommige seggen, dat de Keyserliche in de Winter quartierien pleyden, 't welck sy in 't Landt van Gulick souden hebben.

#### NEDERLANDEN

Cleef 3. November. Dese middagh ten een uyte arri-

veerden alhier de 2. Ceur Brandenburghe Prince, Wefel, geacompagneert van den Baron de Swerin, sullen alhier de geheele Winter verbyleven.

Brussel 31 October. De drie Armeen van de Geconfeereerden, soo men hier seght, soude weder te saemen rucken, sonder dat men weet tot wat deseyn. Den Heer de Grati, Envoye van Luyck, heeft alhier Audientie ghehad by den Grave van Monterey, raekende 't werck van Dinant, ende sijn Excellentie heeft betuyght deselvs geproponeerde in acht te nemen, sullende de informatien, dewelcke hem ter handen sijn gestelt, nader doen examineren.

Aernem 3. November. Gisteren en ergisteren sijn alhier eenige Troepen gepassert gaende na Over-Ysel, en oock de Bagagie vanden Generael Rabenhaut, sijnde sijn Excellentie in Persoon noch tot de Graef, alwaer alles weder herfelt wort in voorigen staat, en gaen de persoonen en Borgeren daer uyt gevluht, nu weder derwaerts.

Amsterdam 4. November. Sijn Hoogheyt den Heere Prince van Orlaigne verstaecten tot Amerongen te sijn ghearriveert. Van boven schynen de Brieven meerder Oorlogh in andere Landen te voorigen. Eenige Troepen marcheren na de Winter Quarterien.

's Gravenhage 5. November. Sijn Hoogheyt den Heere Prince van Orlaigne na 't veroveren van de Graet na het gros van onse Armee in Brabant vertrackt sijnde, seggen Veydagh gearriveert te sijn van Turnhout tot Elz, en den volgende dagh tot Amerongen en Zoell, dieht by Uytrecht. Invoegen gemelte sijn Hoogheyt alhier alle uyren te gemoet geien werdt, om den welcken te sien ende te ontangen, men seer verlanght. De Heeren Staten van de Lande en Provincie van Uytrecht hebben by een Expressie een bekeide Missive gheschreven aen sijn Furstelijke Genade den Heere Prins Maurits van Nassau, met oires van deselvs Logement tot Uytrecht na behouren te willen lasten approprieren, verwachtende sijn aankomte aldaer met verlangen, gemelte sijn Furstelijke Genade doet ter ocaen van de vreughe vuyringe over de veroveringe van de Graet, oock eenige vreughe Teekenen in sijn Logement verveerdigen, daer van de particulariteyten per naelten. Den Heere Blaspijt, Gheheymen Raedt ende extraordinaris Envoye van den Heere Ceurvorst van Brandenburg, werdt in het laetste van dese week alhier verwacht. Voorde Donderdagh avondt heeft sijn Excellentie den Heere Eersteyn, Ambassadeur van de Kroon Sweden, sijn oudtste Dochteren houwelijk gegeven aen Mr Nicolas Guldenholpe Secretaris van sijn Majesteit van Sweden, 't welck geschied in het Logement van gemelte Ambassadeur, by forme en maniere in Sweden gebruyckelijc in presentie van veele persoonen van qualiteit en Uytcheemle Ministers, voornamentlijck van den Ambassadeur en Mevrouw de Ambassatrice van Engeland met alle deselvs, Suite 1. ende nae dese ghepasseerde huwelyc Ceremonien, was aldac een Bach, alwaer de Cavaliers en Dames dien geheele nacht sijn diverteerden. Den Heere Heugh, extraordinaris Envoye vande Kroon Deenmarcken is van hier een keer na Brussel gaen doen, ende in tegendeel is alhier aengekomen den Broeder van den Heer Haacke, extraordinaris Envoye vande Vorsten en Princen van Lunenburgh. P. S. Gisteren heeft meer gemelte sijn Hoogheyt tot Amerongen gegeten, en werdt van dese nacht of op morgen hier verwacht. Dese namiddagh heeft men alhier 't Geselut op de Vyverbergh begonnen te brengen, ende de picktonnen tot de bewulde vreughe vuyringe overal te distribueren.

's Gravenhage, by CHRISPINUS HOECKWATER, Boeck-verkooper woonende in de Pooten in de gromme-Tent, den 6. November, 1674.

Fig. 3 Haegse Dinghsdagse Post-tydinge, printed in The Hague on 6 November 1674, with a report about the marriage of Margaretha Ehrenstéen with Nils Gyldenstolpe in the Swedish embassy. Copy held in Russian State Archives, scan available via Delpher.

family ties whilst being abroad, and for understanding the roles Dutch women played in shaping these connections.

Wives of diplomats are not the only women mentioned in these newspapers. A potential avenue for future research is to examine on a more long-term basis how different women appear and are represented in these newspapers and other European newspapers. The numerous advertisements placed in seventeenth-century Dutch newspapers may offer an excellent starting point to get a sense of the different groups of women appearing in this medium, and to analyse whether there are some significant changes between the seventeenth and eighteenth century.<sup>43</sup> Lastly, and more broadly, it seems that the history of early modern news has not yet addressed the question how early modern society constructed information as gendered. As this essay has shown, there is still a lot of work to be done to research this question within the history of news, and to acknowledge the repercussions this has for our current ways of writing about early modern communication.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Der Weduwen and Pettegree, *The Dutch Republic*, have published the first 6,000 advertisements in Dutch newspapers until 1672.

<sup>44</sup> When studying the representation of women in news, scholars have focussed primarily on murder pamphlets, a particular type of sensationalist publication narrating tales of female murderers: Aronson, *Female Criminality*.

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