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BOOK REVIEW

On the conversion of Indians and Heathens

Ineke Loots – Joke Spaans (eds.), Johannes Hoornbeeck (1617-1666), *On the conversion of Indians and Heathens. An annotated translation of De conversione Indorum et gentilium* (1669), [*Brill's Studies in Intellectual History* 290/21], (Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2018), *Johannes Hoornbeeck (1617-1666), On the conversion of Indians and Heathens*, ISBN: 978-90-04-25544-9, List price: Euro 129 / US\$ 149

Hoornbeeck's *On the conversion of Indians and Heathens* is of decisive significance for the history of theology of southern Africa. It is pre-eminently a primary source that offers direct access to 17th-century reformed thought and consideration regarding the proclamation of the Christian faith. *On the conversion of Indians and Heathens* is the product of Hoornbeeck's academic teaching between 1662 and 1664 at the University of Leiden. Under his supervision, 23 students published 31 disputations (in brochure format) on the subject of the conversion of non-Christians. Ultimately, these disputations formed part of the final text of the book, published in 1669. One single volume containing the 31 student disputations is extant in die Old Library of the Magdalen College, Oxford.

Several of Hoornbeeck's students signed up for service in the overseas trading areas. Since the beginning of the century, the Dutch merchant companies (West-India and East-India Companies) established ventures and posts in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Hoornbeeck's teaching thus informed and shaped the ministry of his students far beyond the borders of The Netherlands and the



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