

KETELAAR, ERIC

(*1944)

NATIONALITY: DUTCH

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: NETHERLANDS

EDUCATION

- Master of Laws (LLM), Leiden University, 1967
- Doctor of Laws (LLD), Leiden University(cum laude)

AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION

Archival theory and methodology; archival legislation; appraisal; digital archiving; archival profession

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD

Eric Ketelaar belongs to the most influential archival thinkers in international level in the present time. In national level he served as President of Royal Society of Dutch Archivists, Chairman of the Steering Committee on Automation, president of the Records Management Convention of The Netherlands, General State Archivist (National Archivist) of The Netherlands, Director of the Dutch State School of Archivists, professor of archivistics at the University of Leiden and University of Amsterdam. In international level a.o. Ketelaar served as Secretary for Standardization of the International Council on Archives, Secretary of the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives, Chairman of the Program Management Commission of the International Council on Archives and also as Acting President of International Council on Archives and Director of DLM Forum. Ketelaar wrote UNESCO guidelines of archives and records management legislation. In the field of archival theory is most important Ketelaar's concept of "social and cultural archivistics" and a new notion of "archivalization".

CAREER HISTORY

- Secretary for Standardization, International Council on Archives (ICA), 1980–1984
- General State Archivist (National Archivist) of The Netherlands, 1989–1997
- Inspector General of the State Archives Service of the Netherlands, 1997–2001
- Chair of Archivistics, Department of History, University of Leiden, 1992–2002
- Professor of Archivistics, Department of Mediastudies (Archive and Information Studies), University of Amsterdam, 1997–2009
- Vice president and president, Royal Society of Dutch Archivists
- Chairman, Program Management Commission, ICA, 1996–2000
- Member, European Commission on Preservation and Access, 1994–2000
- Acting President, ICA, 1998–2000
- Honorary President, ICA, 2000

- Chairman, DLM Forum, 2012-
- Editor-in-chief, *Archival Science. International Journal on Recorded Information*, 2001–2013
- Editor, *Archival Science. International Journal on Recorded Information*, 2014-

HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

Eric Ketelaar is renowned Dutch archivist and archival thinker. He studied law and history of law at the University of Leiden and first worked as assistant lecturer of Legal History at Leiden University. He quickly moved from being secretary of the Archives Council, director of the Dutch State School of Archivists, to becoming assistant to the General State Archivist. In the mid-1980s he became State Archivist in Groningen. From 1989–1997 he was General State Archivist (National Archivist) of The Netherlands, thereafter Inspector General of the State Archives Service of the Netherlands (1997–2001).

Ketelaar was a professor of archivistics in the Department of Media Studies (Archive and Information Studies) at the University of Amsterdam (1997–2009) and Department of History at the University of Leiden (1992–2002). At the national level, Ketelaar served as the president of the Royal Society of Dutch Archivists, chairman of the Steering Committee on Automation, president of the Records Management Convention of The Netherlands, and director of the Dutch State School of Archivists. Internationally Ketelaar served as secretary for Standardization of the International Council on Archives, secretary of the International Conference of the Round Table on Archives, chairman of the Program Management Commission of the International Council on Archives and as acting president of International Council on Archives (1998–2000) and Director of DLM Forum (2010–2013).

Ketelaar prepared several guides to archival repositories in the Netherlands for which he also received the Hendrik van Wijn medal. He wrote *UNESCO guidelines of archives and records management legislation*. He is member of editorial board and former editor-in-chief of the leading international archival, *Archival Science*. He published over 350 articles and books. Besides archival legislation, his most significant contributions to the field of archival theory are his concept of “social and cultural archivistics,” which defines and looks at the contextual continuum of records creation, processing and use and “archivalization,” describing the socially and culturally determined choices of what one considers worth to be archived. Ketelaar speaks about archives as ‘repositories of meanings’ and investigates how are these meanings are created and re-created. In much of his work, Ketelaar is thus quite close to many concepts and approaches typical for postmodern archival research.

AWARDS/HONORS

- Member of Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences
- Chevalier de l’Ordre d’Arts et des Lettres, France, 1987
- Officer of the Order of Oranje-Nassau, Netherlands, 2003

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES

- Archival and records management legislation and regulations: a RAMP Study with guidelines, UNESCO, Paris 1985.
- The Archival Image: Collected Essays, Hilversum 1997
- Netherlands: archives, libraries and museums. Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences, 3rd edition, 2010 (coauthors Frank Huysmans, Peter van Mensch)
- “Archivalisation and Archiving”, in Archives and Manuscripts 27, 1999, pp. 54–61.
- “Archivistics Research Saving the Profession”, in The American Archivist 63, Fall/Winter 2000, pp. 323–340.
- “Tacit Narratives: The Meanings of Archives”, in Archival Science 1, 2001, pp. 131–141.
- “Ethnologie archivistique”, in La Gazette des archives 192, 2001, pp. 7–20.
- “Recordkeeping and Societal Power”, in Sue McKemmish, Michael Piggott, Barbara Reed & Frank Upward (eds.), Archives: Recordkeeping in Society, Wagga-Wagga 2005 (Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies, No. 24), pp. 277–298.

AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY/DATE OF SUBMISSION

Mikuláš Čtvrtník, Mai 2015

SECONDARY SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY

Biography based on two curriculum vitae: <http://cf.hum.uva.nl/bai/home/eketelaar/cve.html> and <http://fketelaa.home.xs4all.nl/index.html>, accessed May 2015

Čtvrtník, Mikuláš. “Eric Ketelaar”, in Archivní časopis 60, 2010, Num. 4, pp. 386–394.

Čtvrtník, Mikuláš. “Eric Ketelaar“, in Archiwista Polski, Nr. 3 (67)/2012, rok XVII, pp. 129–137.

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Susanne Belovari, December 2015