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Wim Klever

**THE SPHINX**  
**Spinoza reconsidered in three essays**

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The *new* studies collected in this volume are dedicated to heterogeneous subjects.

The *first* essay concentrates on Spinoza's physics of which it stipulates the revolutionary character insofar it presents his refutation of inertia as a property of matter.

The *second* paper develops Spinoza's naturalistic and anti-elitarian epistemology on occasion of a secret Dutch manuscript possessed by his publisher. Both questions (inertia and *Arcana Philosophiae*) are placed and discussed in the appropriate historical context of Amsterdam's early enlighteners.

The *third* article might seem to be intended as a provocation, but is merely an unusual description. It provides the elements for the reconstruction of Spinoza's political realism: the national-socialistic feature of shockproof societies.

*About the Author:*

Apart from Dutch translations of and commentaries on texts of Spinoza (*Tractatus de Intellectus Emendatione*, *Tractatus Politicus*, *Ethica*, *Tractatus theologico-politicus*, the last one under the title *Definitie van het Christendom*, Delft 1999) Klever published various articles in scientific journals and a few monographies on historical circumstances and systematical tenets of the 'new Spinoza': *Een nieuwe Spinoza in veertig facetten* (Amsterdam 1995) and *Mannen rond Spinoza 1650-1700, Presentatie van een emanciperende generatie* (Hilversum 1997). He also discovered and published the political treatises of Spinoza's master, Franciscus van den Enden (Amsterdam 1992). He is well known for his physicalistic interpretation of the *Ethica* and for his refusal to divorce Spinoza from Lodewijk Meijer in the question of 'Science as the interpreter of Scripture'.

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CONTENTS

I

SPINOZA'S PRINCIPLE.

THE HISTORY OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CRITIQUE

OF THE CARTESIAN HYPOTHESIS ABOUT INERTIA AS A PROPERTY OF MATTER

Introduction	3
Ch.I The partisans of inertia: Galileo, Descartes, Newton	8
Section 1: Inertia put on the agenda	8
Section 2: Inertia raised to a principle by Descartes	10
Section 3: Inertia as a mathematical construct in Newton's	

	<i>Principia Mathematica</i>	16
Ch.II	Inertia as the target of Spinoza's critique on Descartes	21
	Section 1: The early <i>Letters</i> and other sources	21
	Section 2: Spinoza's pseudo-defense of Descartes in <i>PPC/CM</i>	28
	Section 3: Inertia explained in the physical frame of the <i>Ethica</i>	51
Ch.III	Descartes' hallucination according to Cuffeler	66
	Section 1: The <i>Pantosophaie Principia</i> as an elaboration of Spinoza's logic and physics.	66
	Section 2: On the nature of motion	71
Ch.IV	Descartes' hallucination according to Overkamp	76
	Section 1: Scandal around a medical doctor	76
	Section 2: The critical expositor of Descartes' text	77
Ch.V	Tschirnhaus taking advantage of Spinoza's legacy	84
	Section 1: Correspondence with Spinoza (1674-1676)	84
	Section 2: Capital failures in Descartes denounced in <i>Medicina Mentis</i>	86
	Section 3: Correspondence with Huygens (1687)	90
Ch.VI	De Volder defending the relativity of inertia against Leibniz	92
	Section 1: Spinozism on a Leiden chair	92
	Section 2: Leibniz' scholastic proposals	96
	Section 3: De Volder in conflict with Leibniz	99
Ch.VII	Toland plagiarizing Spinoza's critique	109
Appendix:	Aristotle's 'counterfactual' ( <i>antiperi stasis</i> ) realized	117

## II

### ARCANA PHILOSOPHIAE.

#### TENSION IN THE AMSTERDAM CIRCLE

#### BETWEEN VAN DEN ENDEN / BOUWMEESTER AND SPINOZA?

Section 1	Rieuwerts' communication on a 'Dutch Manuscript' in his possession.	121
Section 2	Borch's annotation about an artificially composed 'Dutch writing' in the Amsterdam circle around Van den Enden.	127
Section 3	Johannes Bouwmeester and his ambiguous relation to Spinoza.	130
Section 4	Why did Bouwmeester translate Ibn Tufayl's novel about Hayy?	137
Section 5	Good theatre (teaching by amusing) as Bouwmeester's life project.	143
Section 6	Van den Enden the fighter for the interests, the freedom and enlightenment of the common people.	146
Section 7	<i>Philedonius</i> as Van den Enden's sketch of the mind's development towards knowledge of the highest things (with a selection of the text).	154
Section 8	A crack in Spinoza's 'system' or the recuperation of Van den Enden's influence via Bouwmeester's question?	168
Section 9	Spinoza's demonstration of the Van den Enden / Bouwmeester thesis.	172
Section 10	Conclusion.	176
Appendix	A manuscript of Van den Enden in the possession of Latréaumont.	178

## III

### SPINOZA'S NATIONAL-SOCIALISM

Section 1	Introduction	180
Section 2	Spinoza's nationalism	182
Section 3	Spinoza's socialism	184
Section 4	Conclusion: national-socialism.	191

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