

Blogging about the History of Rendering!

Beautiful and Touching!



Anne-Marie Oudejans next to a rendering cooker.

Believe it or not, there exists a blog about rendering! Anne-Marie Oudejans from the Netherlands is a retired Chemical Engineer who has written her first book in Dutch about the history of rendering.

"As an engineer I find it scientifically interesting to study the development of machinery and processes as well as the many different uses of rendered products over time," Anne-Marie explains. "As I dug deeper and deeper into the very sparse literature about this "hidden business", I got increasingly touched by the human stories that were associated with this for society so important industry.

If you want to read more:

The Invisible Industry, Frank Burnham, National Renderers Association, 1978

The Original Recyclers, Frank Burnham, National Renderers Association, 1996

Essential Rendering, David L. Meeker, National Renderers Association 2006

Anne-Marie Oudejans' blog (Dutch/English):
<http://historyofdestructieoranimalrendering.com>

In the Middle Ages in Europe, the communities grew larger, and more animals were kept as livestock or beasts of burden. Gradually, it became known that dead animals could cause danger to the health of humans, and special people were designated to the task of removing the dead and sick animals from the villages. These people, later referred to as "skinner", who did the very unpleasant job of cleaning up, were for a long time treated as outcasts and were isolated from the rest of the society. They were for example not allowed to shake hands with other members of society."

Anne-Marie thinks that these historic prejudices still have an effect on the rendering business today. *"Even though the rendering industry is taking care of a huge environmental waste problem, recycles potentially dangerous material into safe and valuable products and thereby takes responsibility for public health, the rendering industry remains a quiet and hidden business that is often referred to in negative terms", Anne-Marie explains.*

Anne-Marie Oudejans would be interested in receiving information about the history of the rendering industry. You can send it to her email address cat.1.boekje@kpnmail.nl.

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You can order Anne-Marie Oudejans' book here (only in Dutch) www.vermeerbestseller.nl or in your bookstore.



Parent Duchatelet: "Les chantiers d'équarrissage de Paris" 1832. Cutting out and rendering fats from carcasses was often women's job. Notice her baby inside the carcass!