

STEFFKENS and HOTMAN

Dietrich Steffkens and Nicolas Hotman qualify for mention in the same breath, on three counts. Firstly, they are intimately connected in the Goëss MSS (A-ETgoëss MSS A to C). Secondly, it is to the same MSS that we owe our knowledge of far larger lists of works, of both composers, than have ever been published before. Thirdly, Steffkens and Hotman, well known to Constantijn Huygens, are mentioned, together with Walter Rowe, in a single letter of Huygens, drawn to the compiler's attention by Hirschfeld and Vellekoop.

Steffkens' works are presented here; Hotman's start on page HOTMAN-1.

From Huygens and other sources, it is clear that Steffkens signed his name in the German style: 'Stoeffken'. He was better known in the Anglicised version, Steffkens or Steffkins, and, as Steffkens is the form mostly found in the Goëss MSS, we have adopted it. At the same time, to preserve the distinction between Dietrich and Frederick, we have taken for Frederick the spelling 'Stepkins' which is the one used by Falle in the relevant MS.

In LYRA D, the possibility was floated that the principal hand in the Goëss MSS could well be that of Steffkens. However, Crawford and Holman consider it certain that the small group of pieces from sequence no. (72) to no. (77) in Goëss 'B' (i.e. Airs 106, 104, 103, 102, 91, 92), four of which are attributed to 'Sto' or 'Stoeffken', is in the composer's hand. If that is true, another contender must be found for Hand Q, and the names of Huygens and Hotman readily suggest themselves as possibilities.

In LYRA D, also, the link between the Goëss MSS and US-NYp MS Drexel 5551 (Ms leaves bound into the back of a copy of SIMPSON 1659), in relation to Airs 1-5 and 8-15, was noticed. Goëss 'A' is dated 19 Octobre 1664; the ten airs, present in both sources, are marked in Drexel 3551 'A suite of Mr Steffkins he gave me October yr. 1664'. It remains desirable to know who owned Drexel 3551 at that time.

Numerous letters to and from Huygens testify to Steffkens' presence in the Netherlands at times between 1648 and 1659. Ashbee has located English public records which indicate that Steffkens was in London c.1628-1642 and 1660-1673, and we look to North (NORTH W p. 298) for confirmation of the friendship between Steffkens and Jenkins, dating, perhaps, from those years.