influence of James, and consequently oversimplified the dynamics of their thirty-seven year relationship.

Rayne Allinson
University of Melbourne
doi: 10.1093/notesj/gjl144
© The Author (2006). Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org

JAN VAN DER NOOT: A MISTAKEN ATTRIBUTION IN THE SHORT-TITLE CATALOGUE?

THE sixteenth-century Dutch poet Jan Van der Noot is known to have produced two texts while living in London. The first is a series of Petrarchan ‘visions’ in verse and prose, collected under the title Het Theatre of Toon-Neel (1568); the second is a miscellany of occasional pieces known as Het Bosken (c.1570–1).1 Aside from French and English translations of Het Theatre, these texts are usually considered the full extent of Van der Noot’s output during his exile.2 However, a third work is also attributed to him in Pollard and Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue: The Governance and Preservation of Them That Fear the Plague, printed by William How in 1569 (STC 18600). The STC assigns this to ‘Van der Noot, Jan, ca.1538–ca.1596’, along with three versions of Het Theatre. Yet while The Governance is undeniably the work of one ‘John Vanderne’, this does not appear to be the man responsible for Het Theatre and Het Bosken. Internal evidence suggests that The Governance was in fact produced by an earlier writer. The title-page and preface of the text assert that its author was admitted into England ‘by the Kynge his highenesse’. While it is not clear whether this refers to Henry VIII or Edward VI, it does at least imply that the writer was in England before Edward’s death in July 1553. This does not correspond with the known facts of Van der Noot’s life: he did not arrive in England until 1567, when a botched coup forced him to flee Antwerp.3

The annals of the College of Physicians offer a more likely candidate for authorship of The Governance. The college records refer to an earlier Dutch émigré, also by the name of Jan Van der Noot, who was examined twice in 1553 for practising medicine in London without a licence. Each time he was ‘rejected because of his ignorance’ and punished accordingly. In the first instance, after a hearing on 24 February, he was fined £50; on the second occasion he died before any sentence could be passed, shortly after 14 November.4 Given his medical pretensions, and his presence in England at the appropriate date, this figure is more likely to be the ‘Phisicen and Surgion’ responsible for The Governance. Consequently, there can be no connection between this work and the Van der Noot of Het Bosken, beyond William How’s apparent wish to capitalize on the later writer’s fame.

Ben Parsons
University of Sheffield

Bas Jongeneelen
Fontys University of Professional Education, Tilburg
doi: 10.1093/notesj/gjl145
© The Author (2006). Published by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. For Permissions, please email: journals.permissions@oxfordjournals.org


2 Het Theatre was famously translated by Spenser and Roest in 1569; see Jan van der Noodt, A Theatre for Voluptuous Worldlings, ed. L. S. Friedland (New York: Scholar’s Facsimiles and Reprints, 1936).
