

leyden through the ages

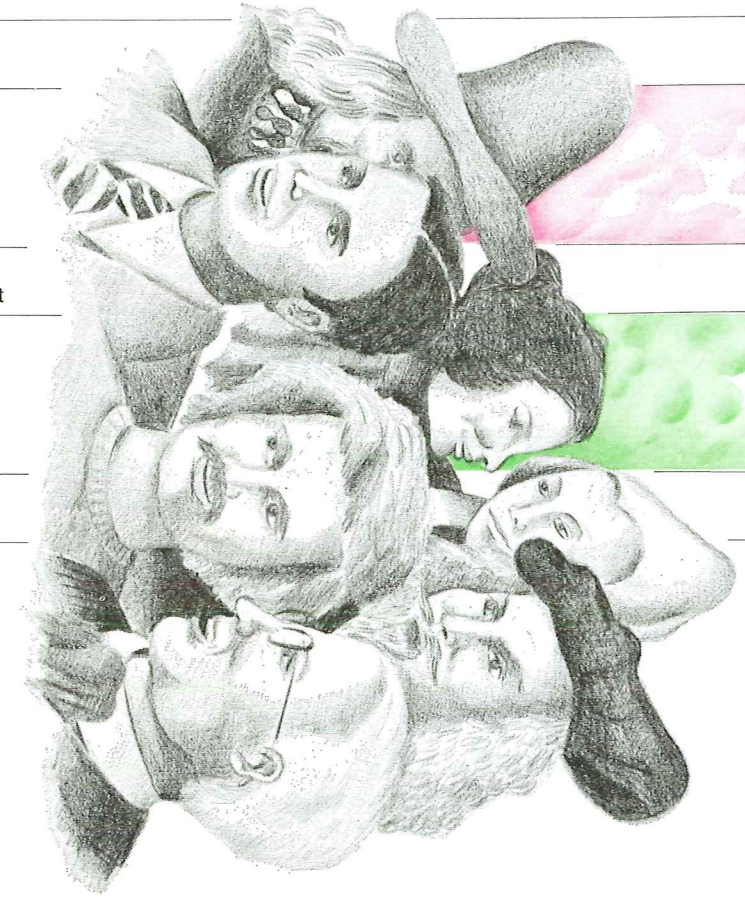
growth of
the city

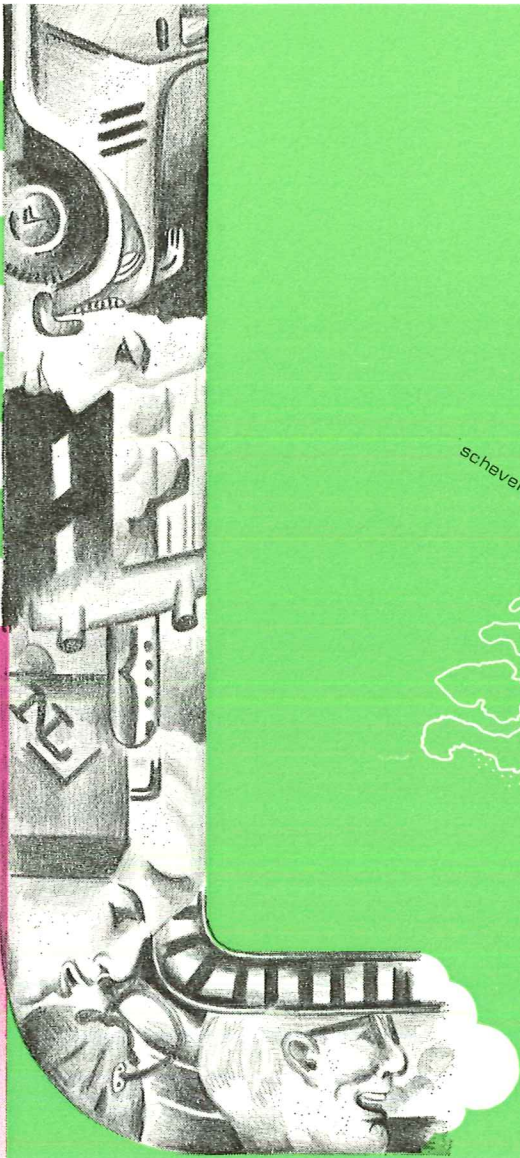


economic
development



culture and
university

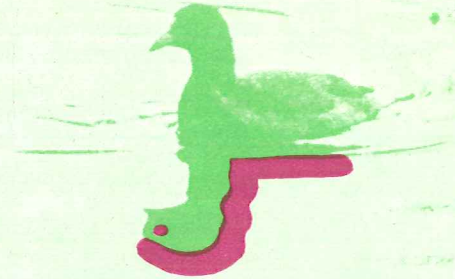




distance from Leyden to:

Amsterdam	.....	41 km
Utrecht	.....	56 km
Den Haag	.....	18 km
Rotterdam	.....	37 km
Haarlem	.....	30 km
Noordwijk	.....	10 km
Scheveningen	....	22 km

The history of Leiden is long and interesting, probably going back to the tenth century. Its city centre is the second largest in the Netherlands. Founded as it was in the delta of the Rhine, in the course of centuries it has grown not only in area, but also developed into the cultural and commercial centre which we know today.



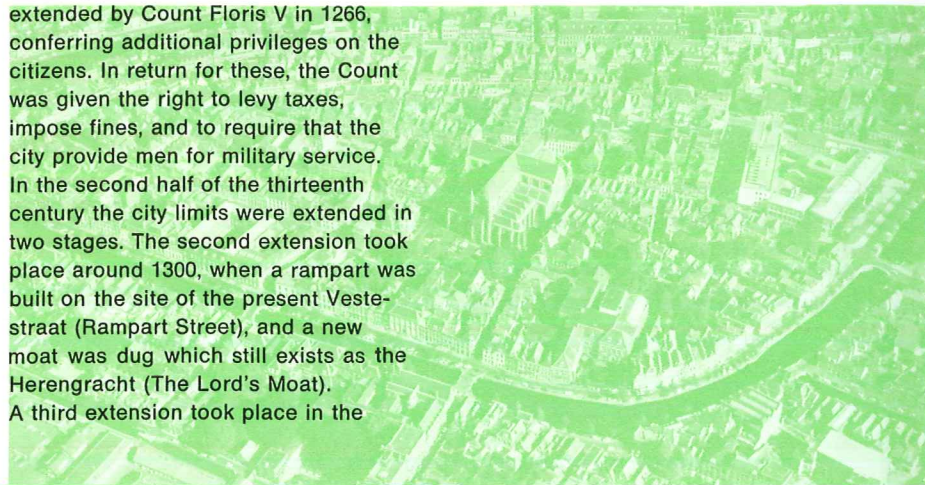
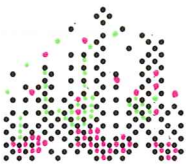
The Romans built a military road on the left bank of the Rhine, leading to the sea at Katwijk, following the route of the present Hoge Rijndijk, Breestraat and Noordeinde. In about the year 800, three farm hamlets existed in this out-of-the-way corner of the Frankish empire, known as Leithen-on-the-Waters. They were probably situated eastwards of the present city, in or near the modern town of Leiderdorp. About a century later the Counts of Holland settled here, and in the twelfth century a defensive stronghold was built on the island between the Old and the New Rhine. Leiden developed as a market centre, and was granted its City charter at the beginning of the thirteenth century. At that time it consisted of the area between the river Rhine and the Rapenburg and Steenschuur canals.

The City charter was confirmed and extended by Count Floris V in 1266, conferring additional privileges on the citizens. In return for these, the Count was given the right to levy taxes, impose fines, and to require that the city provide men for military service. In the second half of the thirteenth century the city limits were extended in two stages. The second extension took place around 1300, when a rampart was built on the site of the present Veste-straat (Rampart Street), and a new moat was dug which still exists as the Herengracht (The Lord's Moat). A third extension took place in the



middle of the fourteenth century along the Mare. A second major street was built, now the Haarlemmerstraat, in addition to the older Breestraat (Broad Street).

Duke Albrecht of Bavaria authorised



further city extensions in 1386, west and south of the Rapenburg and Steenschuur.

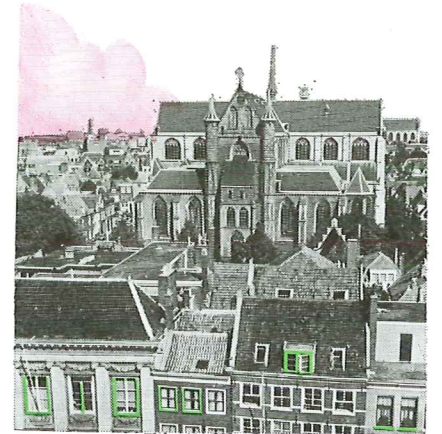
In 1420, during the civil wars known in the Netherlands as the "Hook and Cod Quarrels" (Hoekse en Kabeljouwse Twisten), the Burggrave of Leiden was deposed, though he retained part of his income.

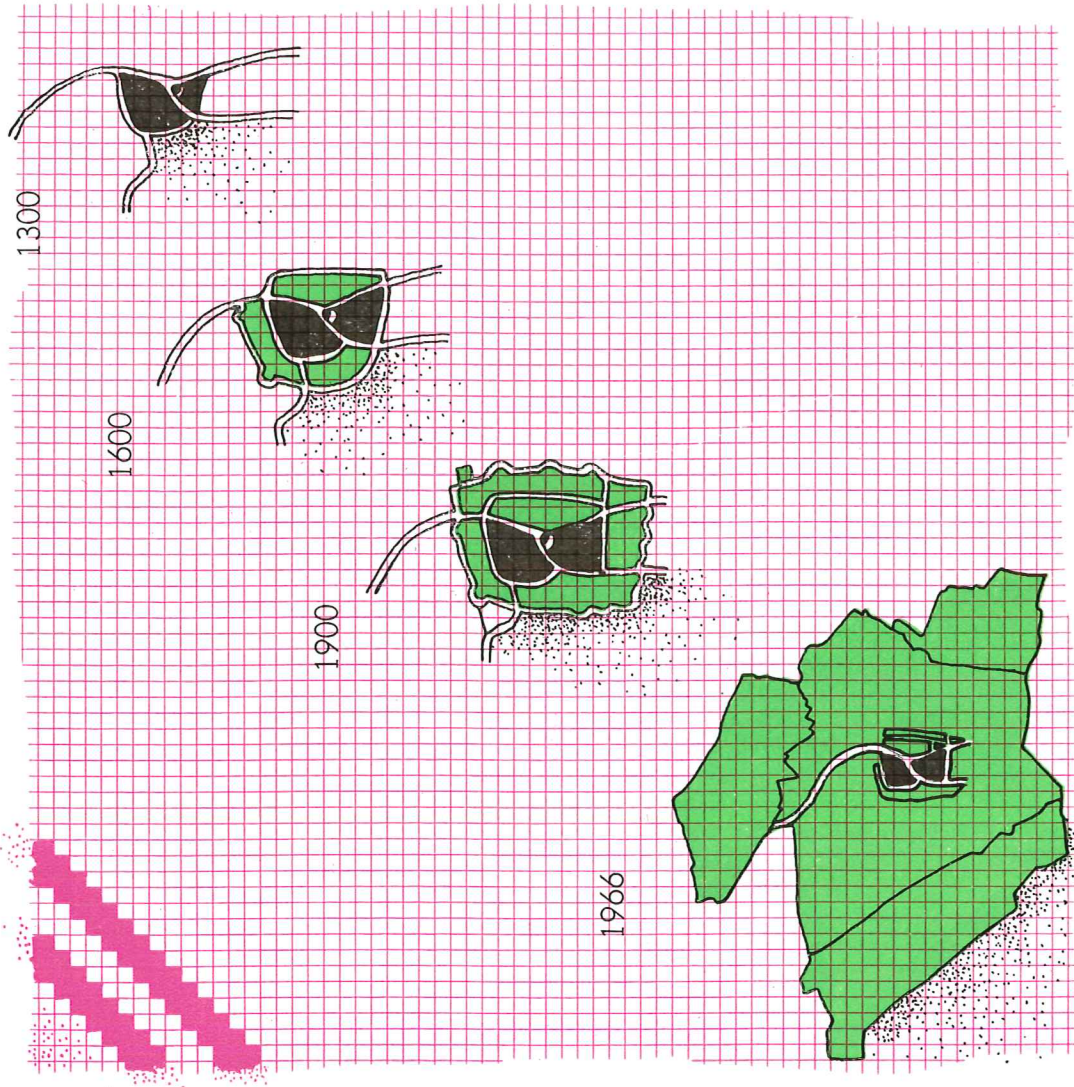
By the middle of the sixteenth century, Leiden had become a well-fortified city surrounded by a series of canal moats, now known as the Galgewater (Gallows moat), Oude Singel (Old canal), Herengracht (Lord's moat) Geregracht (Crooked moat - filled in in 1880), Zoeterwoudsesingel (Zoeterwoude canal) and Witte Singel (White canal). The area of that day is now Old City.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Netherlands were ruled by princes of the Burgundian and Habsburg dynasties, including Philip the Good, Charles V and Philip II of Spain. Rebellions against these foreign rulers were frequent.

The Calvinists and the Catholics had been enemies since the iconoclastic riots of 1566, but they formed an alliance in opposition to the tyrannical rule of Philip II at the commencement of the Eighty Years War (1568-1648). Hope was personified by Prince William of Orange, whose first attempt at liberation of the Netherlands failed in 1568. Rebellion against Philip began in earnest when the Sea Beggars

captured Brielle in 1572 after they had been denied by Queen Elizabeth the refuge they had enjoyed in English ports. This was followed by declarations of support by other cities in the northern Netherlands, including Flushing, Enkhuizen, Dordrecht, Leiden and Haarlem. The first free assembly of the States of the Netherlands was held in Dordrecht in the same year, when Prince William was elected Governor with the title of Stadholder. Fernando Alvarez de Toledo, Duke of Alva, had been appointed by Philip II as Viceroy of the Netherlands, and he now advanced via Mons, Malines, and Maastricht to attack the province of Holland from the East. He captured Zutphen and Naarden and besieged Haarlem, where the starving population surrendered after seven months. The city of Alkmaar held out. This set-back





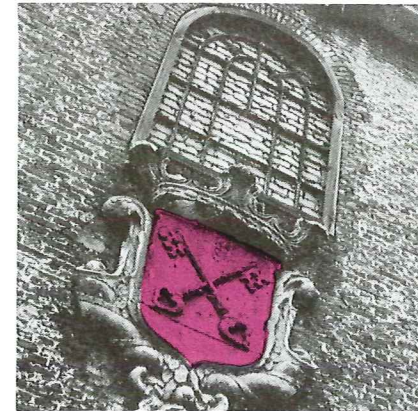
1581

12000 inhabitants

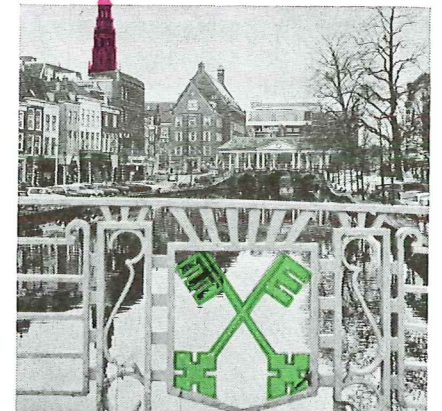
to the Spaniards is regarded as the turning-point leading to their final defeat.

In 1573 Leiden, the most densely populated city in the province of Holland, was besieged by the Spaniards under Valdez.

The siege was temporarily raised in the spring of 1574 when Louis of Nassau invaded the Netherlands (battle of Mook), but the city was not finally relieved until the autumn. On October 3rd. the Spaniards were finally driven off by the Sea Beggars under Boisot, who had flooded the surrounding countryside by breaking the dykes. Boisot's flat-bottomed boats sailed into the city with supplies of herring and white bread for the starving population, a third of which had died from hunger and disease during the siege. October 3rd. has since been celebrated as a



City festival, with processions, pageants, and a symbolic distribution of herring and bread. Leiden had 12,000 inhabitants in 1581. The city was further extended in 1610, 1644, and 1659. In 1670 its area within the ramparts was 169 hectares, and there were 70,000 inhabitants. From 1700 onwards the population declined to 50,000 and to a mere 30,000 at the end of the eighteenth century. The French occupation heralded a decline in the city's prosperity. After the revolution in 1795, a Liberty Tree was planted in the Breestraat in front of the City Hall. The population had dropped to 28,500 by 1815, and some 10,600, thus over a third of the inhabitants, were reduced to beggary. Many houses were pulled down to avoid taxation. The City council forbade this in 1805. Two years later a large area



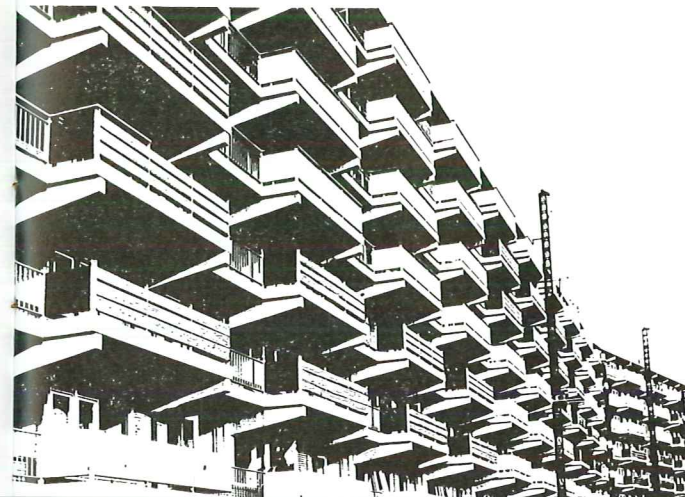


of the city was reduced to rubble when a boat loaded with gunpowder, moored at the Steenshuur, exploded on January 12th., killing 151 people, destroying 250 houses, and damaging most of those which remained standing. The Cloth Hall (Saayhal), dating from 1538, stood at the spot where the explosion took place, and was not seriously damaged. It was consecrated as the Church of St. Louis, and still exists as the Lodewijkskerk. The open space around the Steenshuur created by the explosion is also known as the Ruins. A large area of it was used to create the Van der Werff park, named after the Burgomaster who refused to surrender the city to Valdez in 1574. The city walls and ramparts were pulled down in the nineteenth century and the vacant space was used to create public gardens and parks. Many of the moats forming the defensive system were filled in, providing additional space for the increase in traffic, and at the same time removing the continuing threat of epidemics from their stagnant water. The Van der Werffstraat, Nieuwe Beestenmarkt (New Cattle Market), the Doezastraat, and the Kaiserstraat date from this time. By 1900 Leiden was in urgent need of further space. Employment was increasing, and the population had risen from 30,000 to 60,000. The city limits were extended considerably in 1896 at the expense of the neighbouring towns of Oegstgeest, Leiderdorp, and



Zoeterwoude. This additional area proved inadequate, and further increases in population necessitated yet further expansion. Under Burgomaster de Gijselaar, the city area was increased to 1,261 hectares in 1920. Houses were now built outside the area of the old city defences, and the population continued to increase. Numerous mutual associations were created to build housing outside the canal moats, in the new residential areas of Noorderkwartier, De Kooi, Tuinstadswijk, Transvaal, and Haagwegkwartier. The population had increased to 90,000 by 1950, and the building of extensive new districts was commenced at about this time. Zuid-West, with 18,000 inhabitants, dates from this period. After many years' delay, proposals to increase the city area from 1,261 to

1985
120,000
inhabitants



2,317 hectares were approved, and became law in 1966, though too late to enable the building planning contingents which had been authorised for 1966 and 1967 to be used. Quite serious problems were created thereby, the population of the city now having risen to over 100,000. This building hiatus caused a drop in population in the early seventies, from 102,534 in 1968 to 96,813 at the end of 1973. Building was started in 1970 in the Merenwijk. This new district, to the north of the city, is planned to house about 20,000, and the first sub-section, the Slaaghwijk, was completed in 1973. Most of the 1,500 flats are already occupied, and a start has been made on the construction of a large number of one-family houses in the Zijlwijk and Leedewijk subsections. About 500

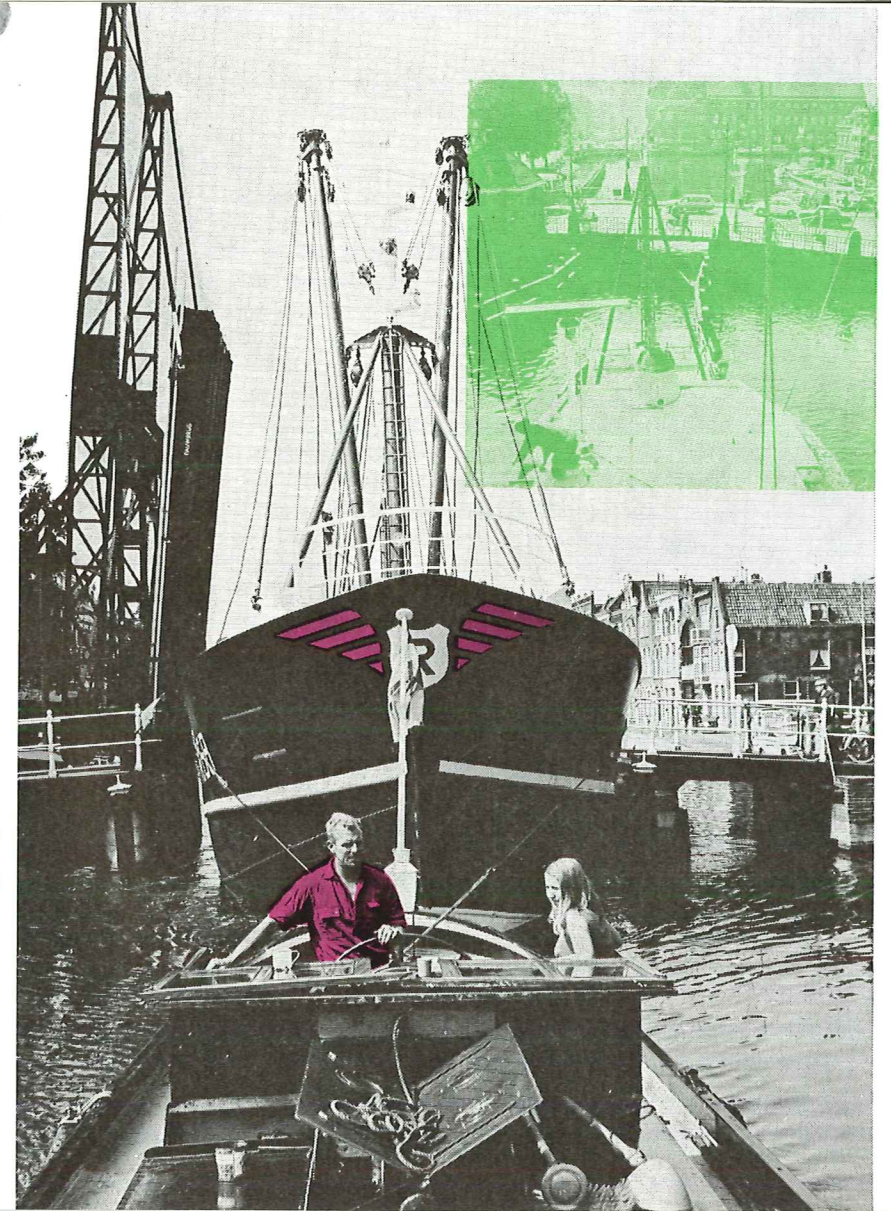
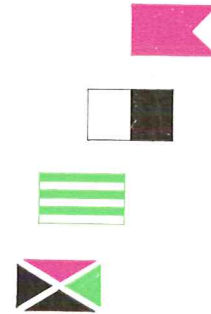
flats are planned for the Morskwartier, and these are being completed at a satisfactory rate. The Stevenshofpolder, near Voorschoten, was annexed to Leiden in 1936, and is intended for residential building, though this is at the moment in the early planning stage. This development is the last area now available for expansion. It is expected that the population of the city will have grown to 120,000 by 1985.

economic development

From time immemorial Leiden has been the centre of a prosperous agricultural area. Situated as it is where land and water routes converge, it developed, from about 1100 onwards, as an important trading centre with its own market. The little country town was populated by farmers, craftsmen, and merchants, and had a lively free market on Saturdays which attracted trade from a wide area of the surrounding country. We are reminded of the market subdivisions by some of today's street names - Botermarkt (Butter), Vismarkt (Fish), Korenbrug (Corn bridge), Apothekersdijk (Apothecaries' Canal), Boommarkt (Trees). There were also annual fairs, of which the 'Kruismarkt' (Cross Market) licensed by the Count in 1303, is the best known. In the course of time the character of the city changed. Markets continued to



form an important part of the local economy, but from the fourteenth century onwards these were overshadowed by a rise in industry. Almost all of this industry consisted of cloth-making, and this was subject to violent fluctuations in its prosperity. Count Floris V encouraged the settlement of cloth weavers from outside the city by exempting them from tolls and canal dues for ten years. The City government issued detailed bye-laws to regulate the cloth trade. Originally, local wool was used, but from about 1400 onwards the Leiden cloth merchants were buying the finer qualities available at Calais, where the English wool staple had been set up shortly after 1346. Wool was also purchased elsewhere, and valuable links with foreign markets were established. In 1400 more than 9,600 cloths were being made by about a thousand workers. Weavers, dyers, fullers, spinners, and combers worked in their own homes under the close supervision of the clothworkers' guild. Leiden cloth was marketed in the North Sea countries, in the Baltic, and in the Hanse cities. Leiden had become reasonably prosperous, and the income of the City treasury continued to rise. However, not all its inhabitants shared in this prosperity, for about half of the thousand clothworkers owned no property, and some hundred of the families suffered real hardship. Hospitals for the ragged and homeless were founded at this time, and the



3 October 1574

Holy Ghost poorhouse was built. Some of the wealthier citizens had houses built specially for the free use of the needy elderly.

The Leiden textile industry experienced many ups and downs. Imports of raw wool and exports of cloth were restricted from 1422 onwards by the quarrels between Holland and England. In 1428 Duke Philip prohibited the import of English cloth and spun wool in order to protect local trade and industry. Plague epidemics, and frequent floods, were normal hazards of that period. Between 1476 and 1530, annual production varied between 19,000 and 28,000 cloths. A decline then set in which continued until the city was besieged in 1573, and there were strikes and riots in the third quarter of the sixteenth century, accompanied by much poverty. By 1573 production of cloths had declined to a mere 1,000.

One of the major causes of this decline was competition from abroad, and Leiden plumbed even lower depths during the two Spanish sieges. A remembrance and thanksgiving service has been held in the Church of St. Peter on October 3rd. each year to commemorate the raising of the siege in 1574.

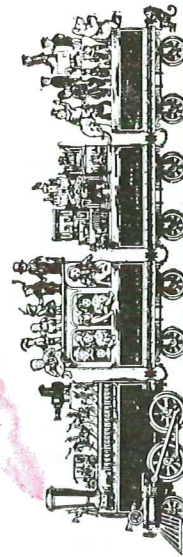
The raising of the siege heralded the start of a period of prosperity. Flemish and Walloon refugees from the southern Netherlands, still occupied by the Spaniards, settled here, adding



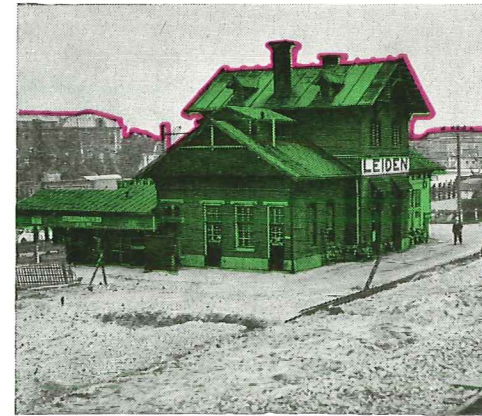
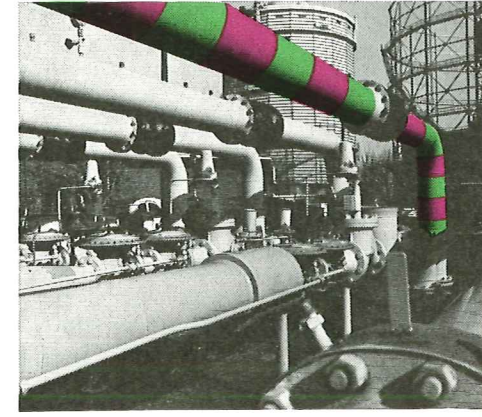
stimulus to the textile industry. Leiden says, fine serges, fustians, and other textiles, resumed their flow throughout the trading world. This prosperity continued until 1670. In that year Leiden had become the second city in the provinces of Holland, with 70,000 inhabitants.

After the start of the English wars in 1672, a decline in the fortunes of the once-powerful city set in, relieved only by occasional short periods of prosperity. The population decreased, the number of clothworking establishments dropped from 80 in 1735 to 25 in 1755, and the number of looms from 1,000 to 150.

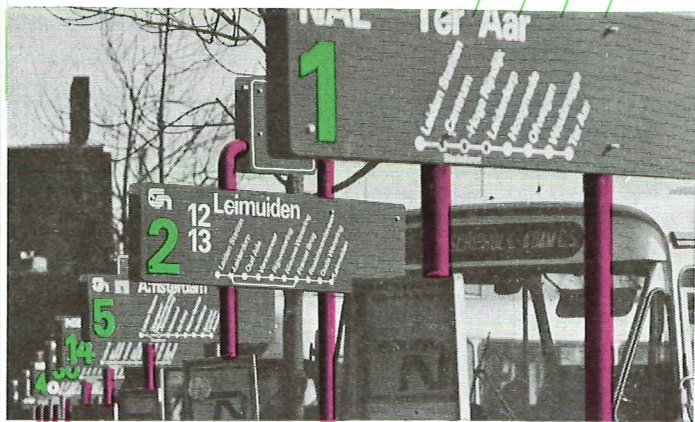
In 1795 one third of the population was on poor relief, and this total rose further during the French occupation. Thereafter, industry slowly recovered. Home-workers moved to factories and,



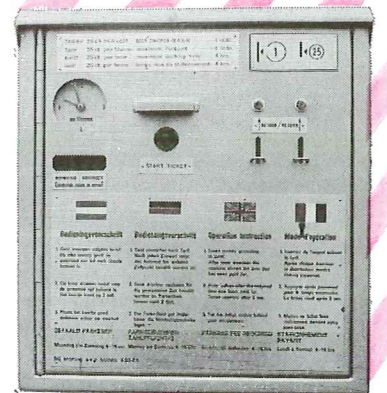
with the advent of steam power, these factories were built mainly in the poorer districts, their tall chimneys altering the whole profile of the city. Railway lines were opened, to Amsterdam in 1842, to The Hague in 1843, and to Woerden in 1875. The first railway station was opened in 1843. A horse-drawn tramway service was started in the city centre, and an iron foundry and gasworks, opened in 1846, were further signs of progress towards modern times. Public health was improved when a piped water supply from the sea dunes was installed in 1874, following earlier experimental use of this water in the city. Less salubrious were the activities of Goeie Mie, the Leiden poisoner. She made her living by insuring the lives of children and invalids, and then proceeding to poison them. 27 of her 102 'patients' died under her ministrations. The electricity works were opened in 1907, and by 1924 The Hague could be reached by electric tram. The Zijl swimming bath was opened in the same year. The speed-up in industrial development caused the older labour-intensive factories to be replaced by modern and highly-mechanised plants, requiring less labour, but at higher wages. The City council decreed that industrial extensions might be established only in specially designated areas. Metalworking, both as a light industry and in shipbuilding, has been a notable development since the



second world war. Alongside these and the textile industry, production of foodstuffs, jams, and preserves, bookbinding and printing, and the building industry all employ considerable numbers of the city's labour force. One important function which Leiden fulfils is that of city centre for numerous smaller towns in the coastal districts and bulb growing areas. These facilities include street markets twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the cattle markets on Mondays and Tuesdays, the hospitals, the shopping centre, and the city's cultural and educational facilities. Since 1970 two new industrial estates have been opened up. Some concerns are already operating in De Waard, and a start has been made in De Grote Polder, in co-operation with the town of Zoeterwoude.



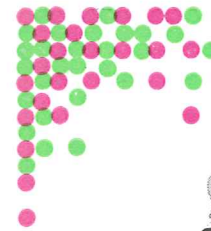
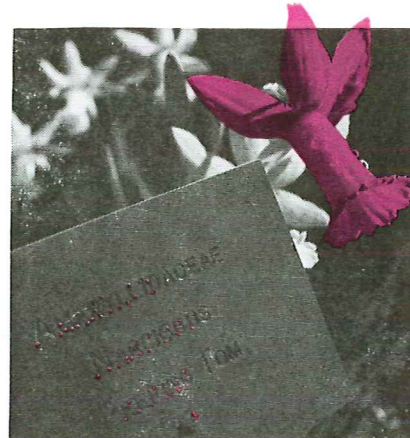
Leiden has for years had to contend with serious budgetary deficits. Money is needed to improve the old city centre, which has been long neglected, and which after Amsterdam, is the largest in the Netherlands. Extensive slum-clearance is necessary, and the city's many canals and moats require costly maintenance, especially for the restoration of the quay walls. Improvements in the sewage system are long overdue. Adding to these problems is the fact that the city area is small, and it is built on marshy and unstable land. Subventions from central State funds have been insufficient to cope with all these problems. Also, for many years past, there has been a continuing trend among the well-to-do citizens towards neighbouring towns. There is thus a marked imbalance in the population structure, and in consequence the average income of the inhabitants is low. In 1973 approximately 35,000 were in employment, in trade and industry, study, education, medical and social service, service industries, transport, hotels and restaurants, and other occupations. Of this total the City Corporation employs 2,500, the University 4,500, and the University Hospital, 2,500. About 2,000 of Leiden's shops, offices, and other businesses are in the city centre.



A small chapel was built near the Count's estate between the present Breestraat and Rapenburg, and dedicated on September 11th 1121 to Saints Peter and Paul. St. Paul has disappeared from the Leiden scene, but St. Peter has become the city's patron. A prominent feature of the city's coat of arms is the crossed keys of St. Peter, and Leiden is commonly known as the Key City. Within the area of the second extension of the city limits, the Bishop of Utrecht authorised the building of a chapel in 1315, dedicated to St. Pancras the Martyr. This was enlarged later when it became the parish church of St. Pancras. It still exists as the Hooglandse Kerk. The Church of St. Peter is older, and these two are the largest parish churches in the city.

The Witte Singel and the western end of the Zoeterwoudse Singel were dug in 1389. The Dominican Jacobines White Nuns built a nunnery on the Rapenburg which was completed in 1440. The nunnery chapel still stands, and has been in use as the University headquarters building since 1581. Prince William of Orange founded the University to mark the courage and loyalty of the citizens during the Spanish sieges, and it was officially opened on February 8th. 1575. The fine front of the City Hall was designed by Lieven de Key, and built in 1597 and 1598. The Hortus Botanicus (Botanical garden) was laid out in 1594. The

original area of 1.2 hectares, since enlarged to 2.5 hectares, was planted out by Dirk Outgaertssoon Cluyt under the direction of Professor Carolus Clusius. A group of English Protestants, the Pilgrim Fathers settled in Leiden in 1609, as refugees from the religious persecution of King James I of England. John Robinson, their leader, studied here at the University, and William Brewster set up a printing press in Leiden on which he produced theological works which were smuggled to England. Brewster and his party sailed from Delfshaven in the 'Speedwell' in 1620, joining the 'Mayflower' at Plymouth in England when the 'Speedwell' proved unseaworthy. The combined expedition landed on the Cape Cod peninsula on November 19th. Robinson remained behind, and died in Leiden.



The University attracted many famous scholars, among them the philologist Heinsius, Snellius, the mathematician and astronomer, and Clusius, who planned the botanical garden. By 1660 there were 2,000 students in attendance, all adding to the prosperity of the local traders, and to those providing accommodation for them. Many of the architectural gems of Leiden date from this prosperous period. Such are the stately houses on the canals, the public weigh-house (De Waag), the City Carpenter's Hall (Stadstimmerhuis), the Latin school, the



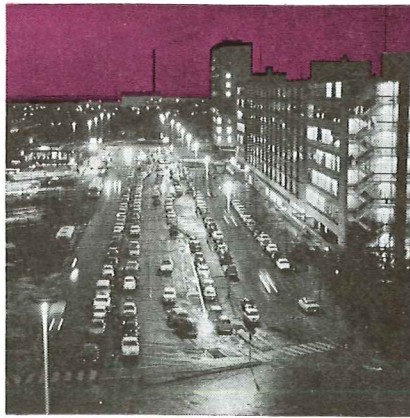
Mare church, and the Cloth Hall (Lakenhal).

Leiden's painters are world-famous, though most of them left the city in search of more profitable fields elsewhere. Lucas van Leyden's 'Last Judgment' can be seen in the Cloth Hall. Rembrandt van Rijn was born and worked here, as was his pupil Gerard Dou. Jan van Goyen and Jan Lievensz. were also Leiden men.

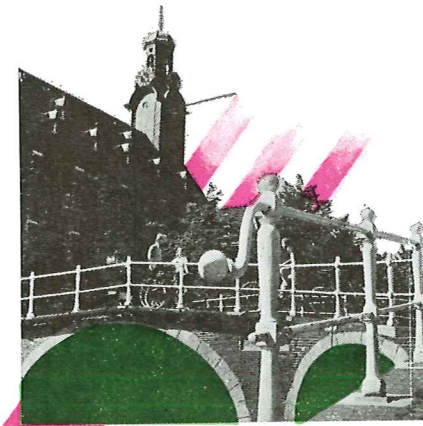
At the end of the seventeenth century Leiden and its University were worldfamous. A contemporary traveller describes the city as unique in the world for the number of bookshops to be found here. 'There are whole streets of bookshops'.

For a time during the eighteenth century the reputation of the University continued to grow, thanks largely to the widespread fame of Boerhaave in anatomy, medicine, physics, chemistry, and mathematics. The painter Frans van Mieris continued the Leiden artistic tradition. Academic and artistic life were, however, affected by the general decline in the city's prosperity later in the century, and during the French occupation the many privileges which had been enjoyed by the students and professors were terminated. Their exemption from excise duty on coffee, tea, wine, and beer ceased, and they were subjected to the normal City taxes.

At the end of the nineteenth century the University recovered its high



reputation, thanks among other things to the work of Lorentz, the physicist who numbered Einstein among his students, Buys-Ballot in meteorology, and Kamerlingh Onnes, the physicist and Nobel prizewinner. The number of



students increased to an extent that additional accommodation became urgently necessary. The medical faculty increased greatly in importance, and attracted many specialists. After successive moves to the former Church of the Beguines (now the University library), the Walloon Library, and the former Walloon orphanage, it was moved in 1873 to the Hospital on the Morssingel which now houses the ethnological museum. Professor Kaiser was the prime mover in establishing the observatory in the Botanical Garden, alongside the Witte Singel, in 1860. Other University buildings elsewhere in the city originate from this period.

Musical activities included the formation of the Musis Sacrum and Sempre Crescendo societies. The music school was founded in 1834, and



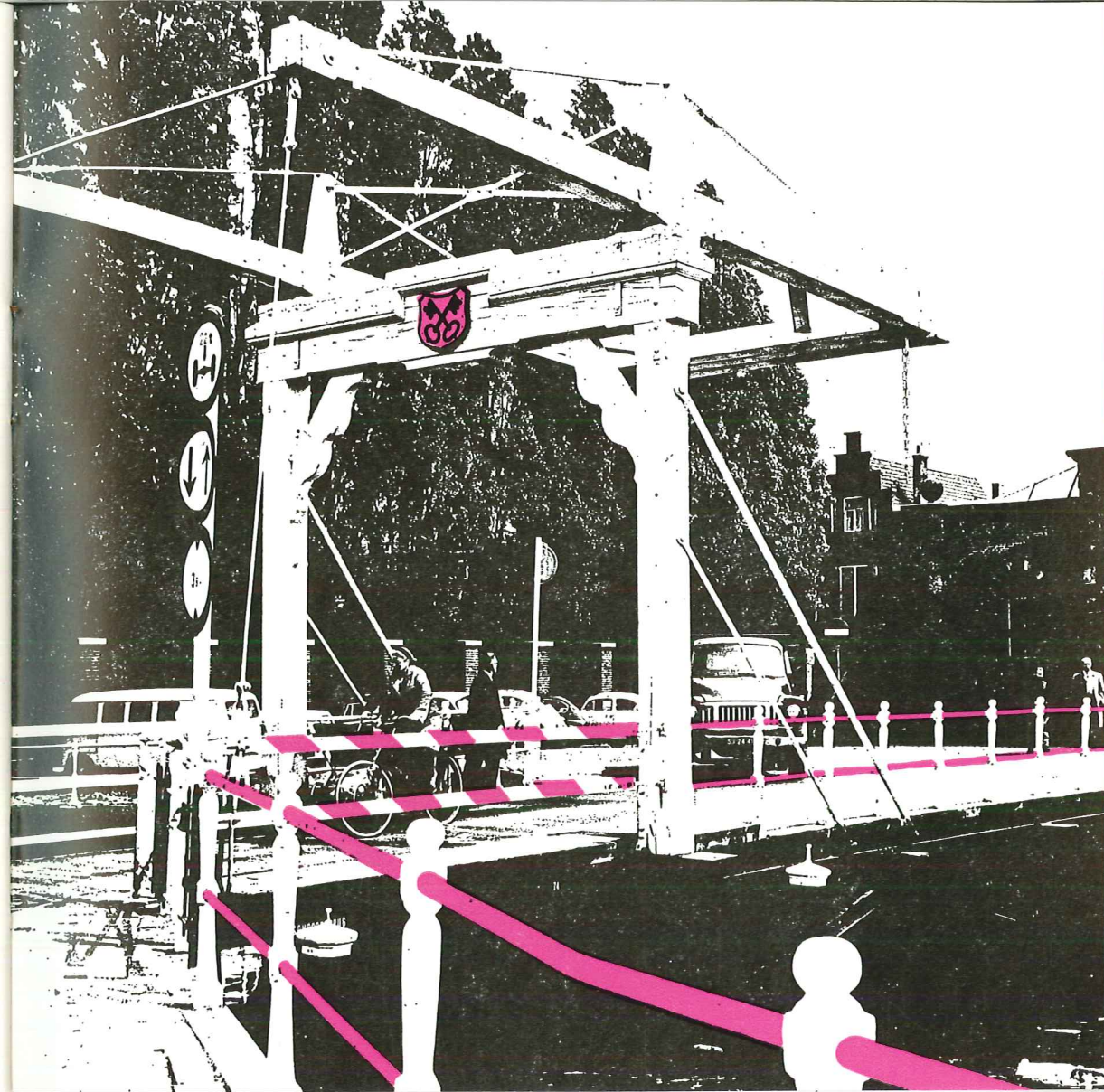
the city Auditorium (Stadsgehoorzaal), completed in 1826, provided a venue for public performances. Educational facilities were extended at about this time. The old Latin school in the Lokhorststraat became a Gymnasium, a higher secondary school was built in the Pieterskerkgracht, and a similar girl's school on the Garenmarkt. A teacher training college was built on the Oude Vest. Numerous additional elementary schools and other educational facilities were also established.

The State Natural History Museum was opened in the Raamsteeg in 1915. The University faculty of medicine moved to the new hospital site on the Rijnsburgerweg and Wassenaarseweg in 1923. The original thirteen buildings formed the nucleus of a medical centre which now occupies more space than

abc



the whole of the area of the old city. Since the 1939-45 war further modern medical schools, clinics, and laboratories have been built. The aspect of the area adjacent to the station has been radically changed since the war by the building of office blocks for use by the University. The University now provides study facilities for 13,000 students, and 4,500 professors, academic staff, and administrators are embraced by it. The University Hospital employs a staff of 2,500.



Leiden's many attractions include the City Hall, the University building, the Botanical Garden, St. Peter's Church, the Hooglandse Church of St. Pancras, the Lodewijkskerk, the Gravensteen, two surviving city gates, namely the Morspoort and the Zijlpoort, the Citadel, the Weigh-House, the City Carpenter's Hall, 35 picturesque groups of almshouses, the numismatic museum, and the State Herbarium. Further, within a radius of 500 meters, are to be found the City Museum in the Cloth Hall, the milling museum in the 'Valk' (Falcon) windmill which towers over the city, the house of the Pilgrim Fathers, the Gallery of Graphic Art, the Army Museum, the University historical museum, and the State museums of ethnology, antiquities, the history of science, geology, and mineralogy. Recreational facilities in the vicinity of Leiden include the sea and beaches at Katwijk and Noordwijk, the coastal sand dunes which run from Wassenaar to Noordwijkerhout, sailing and boating on the Kager Plassen and the Brasemermeer, and the magnificent polder countryside to the east of the city. Bulb fields between Leiden and Noordwijk provide brilliant splashes of colour in the spring.

The City Information Office is situated in the City Hall, Stadhuisplein 2, telephone (071) 45344, extension 120. Further information may be obtained there during normal office hours, and between 17.30 and 21.00 during the late shopping evening on Thursdays. The V.V.V. (Tourist Association) office for Leiden and District is at Stationsplein 3, Leiden, telephone (071) 46846 and 46847.

Office hours are as under:

Spring and summer:

Mon to Sat 9.00 to 20.00 h

Sun and holidays 10.00 to 16.00 h

Autumn and winter:

Mon to Fri 9.00 to 18.00 h

Saturdays 9.00 to 13.00 h

Closed on Sundays and holidays

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