

Hendrik Pieter Nicolaas Muller 1859-1941

Source Wikipedia, some revisions by Dirk Teeuwen

H. P. N. Muller a Dutch businessman, diplomat, explorer, publicist. He was a son of Hendrik Muller, a Rotterdam-based Dutch businessman and politician, and Marie Cornelia van Rijckevorsel, member of another prominent Rotterdam based business family. He died in The Hague in 1941.

Muller started his career as a businessman, trading with East and West Africa. In his mid-twenties he travelled to Zanzibar, Mozambique, and South Africa for business purposes, but showed himself a keen ethnographer as well, collecting ethnographic artefacts and writing reports about the societies and people he encountered on his way. In 1890, Muller retired from business for personal reasons and went to Germany to study ethnography and geography. He graduated with a PhD dissertation four years later.



*Source> Muller, H. P. N.: Peking en ommelanden; Haarlem Holland, 1918
In: Indië, monthly magazine; Haarlem, volume 1918 p. 405, 421, 436, 452, 468*

In 1896 he was first appointed consul and later consul general for the Orange Free State, South Africa. Muller held this position all through the Second Boer War and his high-profile performance as European representative for this Boer republic won him considerable fame and notoriety, which lasted all his life. After the Treaty of Vereeniging was signed in 1902, Muller retired to a life of travelling and writing for some years, making Muller a household name with his travel books. In 1919 the Dutch government appointed him envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Romania, and later to Czechoslovakia, where he retired in 1932. As diplomat Muller strongly promoted Dutch business interests, especially in oil and electrotechnics.

Muller was a prolific writer. Over the course of his life he published well over two hundred articles, brochures, and books about his travels through the world, about South Africa and the Boers, and about Dutch foreign policy and diplomacy, apart from a range of other subjects. Muller gathered a large fortune with well appointed private investments. He bequeathed his considerable wealth to a private fund in support of academic research and cultural heritage.

The list of Muller's publications is as long as my arm. Important or us now is:

Muller, Hendrik P.N.: Azië gespiegeld, reisverhaal en studië, volume II Malakka en China; Leiden Holland 1918

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

