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Sommario/riassunto	Dutch literature of the 17th century, while not as famous as other elements of the culture of the Dutch Golden Age, deserves independent focus, not only because of its own intrinsic worth, but also because of the evidence of strong social concern that it presents and the light it sheds on other aspects of the Golden Age. Despite this, outside the Netherlands the literature has not been examined closely, undoubtedly because of the language barrier, but also because there is no reasonable introduction to the material in English. This book fills that lacuna.