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Nota di contenuto	Inhoudsopgave; Voorwoord -- 1. In een traditie gevangen: rederijkers in het onderzoek -- 2. Een literaire netwerksamenleving -- 3. Organisatieprincipes: literaire corporaties -- 4. Het menselijk kapitaal: de kamerbroeders -- 5. De missie: scholen van retorica -- 6. De uitvoering: meesters en scholieren -- 7. Media en loopbanen: feesten en publieksschrijvers -- 8. Strijd om het publieke domein -- 9. Media en loopbanen: festivals en prijsschrijvers -- 10. Publicisten en volkstalige geleerden: media,netwerken en loopbanen -- 11. Lustige geesten: vrolijke welsprekendheid; Bijlagen -- Lijst van afkortingen -- Noten -- Bibliografie -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Closely linked, theatre and rhetoric underwent a renaissance in the Latin scholar culture and the vernacular world of urbanized Europe from the fifteenth century onwards. Based on research into ideas, (literary) practices and members, Lustige geesten shows that the rhetoric chambers were the Dutch variant of an early modern culture of public eloquence, with the theatre as quintessence. Rhetoriciens expressed the intellectual and social missions of their chambers in the core concept of rhetoric, which referred to both (utopian) ideals of bourgeoisie and the application of knowledge (conste) in a committed

culture. The northern Netherlands (especially Holland and Zeeland) and the southern (especially Flanders and Brabant) formed one rhetoric world of overlapping networks in which international cultural trends were incorporated locally and regionally through an active reading, conversation and discussion culture. The means of public eloquence (writing and staging drama, song, poem) were intended (internally) to shape (in a playful and competitive atmosphere) the minds of young men from wealthy families and middle classes. By organizing (externally) performances in the local party culture and at long-distance rhetorician festivals, rooms functioned as publication centres for their best writers and performers. The rhetoricians thus contributed to the emergence of a vernacular scholar culture and participated in the public debate. *Lustige spirits* thus shows in which ways the social, institutional and cultural elements of the rhetorician culture determined the social influence of the rhetoricians and their contribution to the emergence of the (northern) Netherlands as a European cultural centre.
