

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996208237903316
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Titolo	De kunst van het weldenken : lekenfilosofie en volkstalig rationalisme in de Nederlanden (1550-1600) // Ruben Buyts
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam University Press, 2009 [Amsterdam] : , : Amsterdam University Press, , 2009
ISBN	1-282-45364-5 9786612453649 90-485-1074-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (313 pages) : illustrations; digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Bibliotheca dissidentium Neerlandicorum
Disciplina	900
Soggetti	Semantics (Philosophy) Rationalism - History Netherlands History 16th century Netherlands History 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Olandese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Inhoudsopgave; Voorwoord; Inleiding: Het verdriet van Belgica; H1. Dirck Volckertsz Coornhert en 'het voncxken des Godlijcken Lichts'; H2. Maerlant tot van der Noot. De rede in laatmiddeleeuwse en vroegmoderne teksten; H3. Verwante tijdsgenoten. Het volkstalig rationalisme en de kunst van het weldenken; H4. Antieke interesse. De weldenkers en de klassieke filosofie; H5. Redelijk geïnspireerd. De weldenkers en het spiritualisme; Conclusie; Bijlage; Literatuur; Register
Sommario/riassunto	During the second half of the sixteenth century, the share and importance of writings in the Dutch vernacular grew. Some of these texts proclaim a vision of life strongly based on what Coornhert calls 'the sparking of the Godly Light': reason in which every person participates and which enables every person to obtain true knowledge and a sincere life. These authors thus made an important contribution to an intellectual and cultural climate in which radical forms of rationalism could emerge later in the seventeenth century. Their work reflects a dynamic mixture of classical philosophy, vernacular humanism, enlightened Christianity, intellectual spiritualism and

pragmatic popular piety. Their starting points are human goodness and the possibility of moral growth through reasonable knowledge. Their goal is to achieve perfect happiness.

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