

Street Interview.....M. van Doorke (Transl.)

Well, the first think that strikes me is the {C} contrast in all the buildings. There is no strong single sense...but everything is nice and neat.

Ah, this gives me a good impression of the city. It is very {SP} broad. Other streets I've seen in Boston are unbelievably small, and because of this they impede the traffic enormously.

Even though there's a tremendous traffic {T} problem, people are chock-full with automobiles....and it makes things more difficult.

{margin note: X} This is a really good example of a street, and the {C} houses are not so terribly high. I don't like high houses very much, because I come from The Netherlands. They're really unpleasant and stifling. But I guess you need them more in America, because you have so many people per square mile than we do. So I guess you have to have them.

Look at that building, for instance, next to that {B} Black house. Over here... Arthur {B} Murray. Now that kind of combination is a real joke. The building itself it not new, but the building is all out of tune with what's around it. You find that everywhere here... totally different styles. A very old, dirty building next to a new, or {C} relatively new...or in any case modernized structure.

(Do you find this especially in Boston)

{margin note: X} Yes, here in Boston. In New York, naturally, it's not so apparent, but I have to say that all the buildings are filthier there than here...in any case the filth is more noticeable. And I really think Boston is very clean (by comparison)

Also....here, for example is a wide {B} stoop (in front of a shop). Now you don't find that anywhere in Holland. You just can't build such wide stoops for entrances. They concentration on the street...which is more logical.

I guess you'll have to prevent {T} double parking here.

Furthermore, it's very difficult....well around here you get a generally good picture...not a bad one.

Do you want to ask me anything?... (later)

I've got to say that I find {C} lovely shops everywhere, and that's a real contrast to Holland, I have to say. In the big city you {margin note: X} find ten stores that are worth while, and s___ windows, and everything else is just neat -- but here in general there's a tremendous amount of choice and it's really wonderful to see.

(especially on this street?)

Well, there's so much contrast here. Look here you have a {B} church, and,,,,well...you won't find anything like that at home very often...the combination...and here this {B} "department of commerce", apparently a wholesale place.

Now, as I said. You always walk along thinking of something else and now you have to concentrate and it's really a little tough.

(well, you know, anything you say is important)

2. van doorke ...street interview

Now, here we come next to a {SP} park....and that's always something a city should have because... I always highly recommend it. Dutch cities are very much broken up with all the canals, Amsterdam especially...really pleasant and charming, and it gives a completely different picture to a city. Naturally, you can't have that here, but you can build parks. It breaks up the heaviness of the city, especially if you have many big buildings.

Now, look over here....the combination {B} (Neals in its building) laughs... And the houses themselves are much different than we have. You know I'm really making more comparisons than comments.

One thing strikes me is that you use so much wood around here. Perhaps it's because wood is cheaper, because there are so many wooden houses which you don't find with us.

(But its mostly brick in the city)

O yes. We don't know {C} apartments at all, as you have here... with broad entrances and I don't know how many names on the door. And buildings with an entrance like that....(points to stoop)

(Isn't that customary in Holland, though?)

No... well perhaps by the old-fashioned homes. I guess you'll find a lot of that in Amsterdam... but as a city grows such stoops are too wide, and not necessary any more. Here you see it everywhere. Naturally, it's more pleasant....but here everything is so much more filthy than at home. There's no industry in the Hague. But everything here is very old and...well...filthy.

(but in any case Boston is cleaner than new york) ... turn corner

Yes. That parking lot will be a lot of {SP} trouble one day.

(What do you think of it?)

Awful. It doesn't give you any visibility. Now here's a very small entrance, and you really can't see behind you if an auto is coming or not. With us, parking lots are generally very open, and you can see everything...But here's only one entrance..{P}custodians yes, but...

Say, was this space left open purposely, or was something taken down?

(I think something was taken down/)

Yes, must be.

You can really {C} see that you're in a good section of Boston, with all these shops. And look, there's a completely modern place...Elizabeth {B} Arden. You find this sort of thing at home too. Fortunately my office was on the Lange Voorhout, which is a very old street, and it's just like this with modern stores and so on. I guess you can't do much more. You can't tear down everything. But you can modernize... otherwise a city's beauty fades.

(this is common here in Boston...other cities in America are new and you don't see it as much.)

Do they use a lot of stone around here...like {B} (points to N.E. Mut) that big building.

(not so much here in Boston... in this neighborhood... but yes in Wash. st

3. van doorke

[Is there only one subway in Boston, {MISC.} or more than one? I've come only from Cambridge to Boston.

(...no...four or five....2 main lines)

Well, that's an ideal solution. It improves things enormously.

Hmm ...I can't say anything about the sounds {SB} around here.

In general I'm very disturbed about the {T} traffic....how people drive..and the number of accidents....young kids driving around...it really disturbs me.

(now, left... another kind of surroundings)

Now look. Look around here. Everything is set {C} opposite against itself. But I'm afraid that you'll find that in all big cities. I mean, you expect new buildings, but you can't expect that they'll tear everything down. Just like over here. {B} Look at that contrast.... the big building over the little one (John {B} Hancock)

(left)

Well, this is really something by itself. I'm {SP} afraid that we've got these small streets in Holland too. But in the first place it's always clean....Are there dwellings here too (Here?) over there...further up? (no) Ah, yes they're {C} warehouses and the back entrances of the big buildings.

They're really poorly cared for and look {MISC} {C} filthy. I guess not too many people walk through here and it's not important. Everything's so black.

Are those {C} fire-escapes? (Yes) We don't have those either. You naturally need them with apartment houses, and you have more of them because people live in individual apartments and really need emergency exits.

(mdr talks about fire-proof buildings) Yes, then it's not necessary.

I don't think this small street's very unusual. You find it everywhere. This is an old section and earlier the streets were smaller and I believe that {SR} even {H} Boston has had some influence from Dutch architecture...and therefore it has many smaller streets... Its aftermath has influenced traffic.

Yes...filthy and foul.... (laughs) the only {MISC} really striking thing. Say do you have a garbage collection?...In Holland everything is swept up. Sometimes if you have a big wind a lot of paper gets blown about, and the leaves too in the fall...but every day the Lange Voorhuis, for instance, is freshly swept. And I believe that a city really needs such service.

Say is this used? (Yes as a {SP} parking lot by the church)

I think every big city has the same problem..{T} parking. More people are driving and the width of the streets stays the same...and they're naturally too small.

I'm really impressed that there are so many {SF} stop lights around. It's very good, because otherwise you'd never get across.

| Shall we try to {T} cross. (no) Well, I will.

4. van doorke

This is really a beautiful {C} part of the city. I truly believe it's the loveliest. I mean the combination of big buildings and the park.

(Have you ever been here?)

No....Yes this is pretty. I guess {SP} that on summer evenings it gets more use. People probably wander around here.

(mdr on Boston Arts Festival)

Really? How wonderful! Every year? Oh, I hope I'll be here then.

This is fine because it's outside {SP} the traffic. I really loved it in Paris with all the parks everywhere, and you always had an opportunity to go to one. You've definitely got to have something like this in a busy city.