

Etiquette @ Work

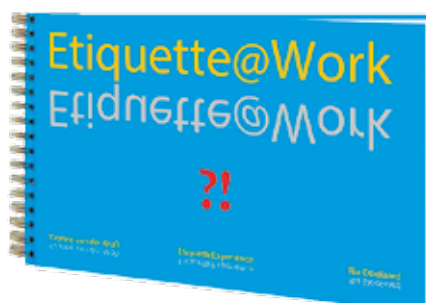
Working as a translator, you learn all sorts of skills! I've translated books on how to edit films, what the future of transport will look like, Japanese philosophy, how to get divorced nicely and how to cope with all sorts of medical conditions. I get my assignments from all kinds of sources, but a lot of my contacts are made in the Duinoord area. It is a great place for business networking. Through this magazine, I met Kitty Bos, one of the writers who got me involved in the Expat Page. She introduced me to her husband and I translated his book for him – a fabulous catalogue of all of his art work. She then introduced me to her friend, Ria Doolaard who had just finished writing a book called "Etiquette@Work", together with Yvonne van der Kroft.




I spent a lot of my summer working with these two wonderful ladies, translating their book for them. As the book is all about modern day Etiquette, including some things you may find useful about what the Dutch are like (and it is now for sale in Paagman), I wanted to share some bits of it with you. This is just a tiny selection of the great things that the book covers. I learned such a lot from it, not just about Dutch etiquette, but also how to treat people from other countries.

I really enjoyed it and therefore wanted to share this with you. It would make a great Christmas stocking filler for someone!

- The Dutch like to make appointments at least three weeks in advance and they are punctual.
- If you get an invitation to a meal, you can offer to bring something. Do not be surprised if this offer is accepted.
- There is a lot of truth in the saying 'Going Dutch'. Men and women do halve the bill for dinner or lunch.
- They do not hesitate to criticize you or your work, no matter what your status, but you may also tell them what you think.
- They have a history of international trade and like doing business with foreigners.
- Almost everyone speaks English. If you try to practice your Dutch, they will reply in English anyway.
- The Dutch do not like to show off. They are not into status symbols. A CEO going to work on a bike is not unusual.
- They may form great relationships at work, but they rarely invite colleagues to their homes. Nor do they feel the obligation to entertain clients after business hours.
- Giving business gifts is not common. If you feel a gesture is called for, make the gift a modest one and nothing with your company's logo or with your card attached.





@boDuinoord

Duinoord Local Resident's Group - Facebook Page

Some 6 months ago, two local residents, Gijs-Jan Bornebroek and Ester Elstgeest did a great job of giving the Facebook page of the Duinoord Local Resident's Group a new make-over. Now you can keep up to date with what is happening in the Duinoord area. The Facebook page is called @boDuinoord. If you 'like' the page, you will receive a message when something new is posted on the page's timeline. You can leave comments or suggestions or simply 'like' the information.

Gijs-Jan and Ester keep their ears and eyes open for what is happening in the neighbourhood so that they can keep everyone informed via the Facebook page, but if you have a message or a question that you think would be interesting for other Duinoord area residents, feel free to send an email to Gijs-Jan or Ester at facebook@duinoord-den Haag.nl. They will then place your message or question on the Facebook page. This page isn't for commercial purposes – it's pure information, so it's a great way to find out what is happening in the area.

Expat page by Traysi Smith

TRAYSI'S TRANSLATIONS

Obrechtstaat 399, 2517 VB Den Haag

traysi@traysistranslations.nl

070 346 2747 / 06 4961 3571