

Curriculum Vitae

Menko Victor (Pek) van Andel was born near Amsterdam on 9-11-1944. He did his Gymnasium-bèta in Hengelo, and got his university degree in medical research in Groningen, where he developed, with the internationally known and inventive ophthalmologist Jan Worst, among other things, an artificial cornea for the ten million cornea blind in the world. The low-cost champagne-cork keratoprosthesis is still manufactured and implanted in Amritsar, Punjab, India. More than three thousand up till now. The simple device was honored with the Wubbo Ockels innovation prize by the city of Groningen in 1994. That year he published his 'Anatomy of the Unsought Finding. Serendipity: Origin, History, Domains, Traditions, Appearances, Patterns and Programmability' (with 17 serendipity patterns) in the prestigious *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science* (45:2 (1994: June) 631-648, online at bjps.oxfordjournals.org)

In 2000 he won the satiric Ig-Nobel Prize for medicine - for 'improbable research': research that makes people laugh and then think - for the iconoclastic and classic MRI-scans of the human love act, published in the *British Medical Journal* (1999, 319, 1596-1600) and inspired in 1991 by fMRI-scans of a singing human larynx (online at bmj.com). *Science* called the study 'Love between the magnets'.

In 2005 Pek van Andel was registered in Groningen as the first 'total donor' in Holland, and Europe. After death his organs and tissues are for transplantation and the rest is for the section room.

His *Spielerei nebenbei*, his pet sin, to collect and analyze serendipities became *Ernst im Spiel*. He is regarded as 'serendipitologist', as he was first called by critics. He published with Danièle Bourcier *De la sérendipité dans la science, la technique, l'art et le droit: Leçons de l'inattendu*, Chambéry, L'act mem, 2009, 304 p. (online at Calaméo) and directed with her also *La Sérendipité: le hasard heureux*, Paris, Hermann, 2011, 416 p. He is now finishing his thesis *Serendipity at Work* as a medical maverick at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Groningen.

He still gives often lectures, courses and masterclasses on the subject in the US and Europe for university (PhD) students, and investigators and managers of firms like AKZONobel, Philips, Unilever, Nestlé, etc. And he still lectures on Ig Nobel Prize winners' tours during Science Weeks in the UK, Denmark, and Sweden.

He has got his name 'Menko Victor' from a hero, Menko H.H. König, a student who blew up six Dutch railway bridges leading to the East. He was betrayed, by the greatest betrayer (Anton van der Waals, payed by the Nazis) and executed in 1943. Van der Waals was also executed in 1950. Menko König was a house friend of his parents, the memory of that young god was too painful, so Menko>Menk>Mek>Pek. His mail adress is <m.v.van.andel@med.umcg.nl>.

Bibliography of his books about serendipity:

1. La sérendipité : le hasard heureux, Actes du Colloque de Cerisy-la-Salle publiés sous la direction de Danièle Bourcier & Pek van Andel, Hermann, 2011.
2. De la sérendipité : dans la science, la technique, l'art et le droit : leçons de l'inattendu, Pek van Andel & Danièle Bourcier, L'Act mem, 2009.
3. Bermbloemen : serendipiteiten in Groningen : ongezochte vondsten uit stad en land, Pek van Andel, Gemeente Groningen, 2005.
4. Ongezochte vondsten : een ABC van serendipiteit, Pek van Andel, , Studium Generale, Universiteit Groningen, 2001.
5. Serendipiteit : de paradox van de ongezochte vondst : 'toevallige' ontdekkingen, uitvindingen en creaties uit wetenschap, techniek en kunst, Inleiding: Barend van Heusden, tekst: Pek van Andel, illustraties: Bert Andreae, 1989.