



Miriam Claude Meijer's **Race and Aesthetics in the Anthropology of Petrus Camper (1722-1789)**, Amsterdam/Atlanta, GA: Rodopi, 1999. X,257 pp. (Studies in the History of Ideas in the Low Countries volume 4) ISBN: 90-420-0434-7 Hfl.110,- / € 65 / US-\$61.-

After the discovery of the anthropoid ape in Asia and in Africa, 18th-century Holland became the cross-roads of Enlightenment debates about the human species. Material evidence about human diversity reached Petrus Camper, comparative anatomist in the Netherlands, who engaged, among many other interests, in "menschkunde." Could only religious doctrine support the belief of human demarcation from animals? Camper resolved the challenges raised by overseas discoveries with his thesis of the "facial angle," a theory which succeeding generations distorted and misused in order to justify slavery, racism, anti-Semitism, and genocide. Thanks to his abundant papers in Dutch archives, Camper's ideas are restored to their original state. Eighteenth-century issues differed from those of other centuries: Did orang-utans talk like humans, walk like humans; even rape humans? What was the skin pigmentation of Adam and Eve? Did the spectrum of human physiognomies around the globe reflect the Fall of Man, the Creator's bounty, or merely bizarre beauty practices? Why did the ideal beauty of the Greeks appear to be the reverse of the Hottentots? The book contains some 50 illustrations, including apes with hiking sticks or tea cups, metamorphoses of living forms, and Apollo or Venus icons which titillated the "science of man."

This book can be ordered through your bookshop or directly from the publishers

Please send me _____ copy/copies of MEIJER: RACE AND AESTHETICS

Name _____

Address _____

Country _____

Mode of payment: _____ Cheque enclosed _____ Please Bill

_____ Visa Card/ _____ MasterCard/ _____ American Express Card

nr _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please note that the exchange rate is subject to fluctuations



Editions Rodopi B.V.

Rodopi

One Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 1420

New York, NY 10020, USA

Fax (212) 265-6402

Tel. (212) 265-6360

Call toll-free (U.S. only) 1-800-225-3998

All Other Countries

Tijnmuiden 7

1046 AK Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Fax ++31 (0)20 447 29 79

Tel. ++31 (0)20 611 48 21

<http://www.rodopi.nl>