AAFJES, BERTUS
Full name: Lambertus Jacobus Johannes Aafjes.
Born Amsterdam 1914.
Originally intended for the priesthood, he studied archaeology instead
at Louvain and Rome, but did not complete his studies and became a
full-time writer. His earliest poems and essays were published during
the war. The long poem Een voetreis naar Rome, written in 1944 and
published in 1946, was unusually successful and placed him in the fore­
front of young Dutch poets. Numerous works in prose and verse fol­
lowed. None of his books have been translated into English.

1  — De ark. [Alkmaar: Piet Worm, 1943.]
   “The ark.” A “rijmprent”, single sheet illustrated verse. The illustration
   is reproduced from the original lithograph by Piet Worm. An earlier edi­
tion, also clandestine, had appeared in 1942, hand-printed and with the
   lithographs hand-coloured. Number of copies printed not recorded.
   499 x 324 mm.
   De Jong no. 3  AUB no. 1  B.M. Cup.21.g.2 (35)

   “Farmers. Open letter from the country.” Anonymous poem attacking
   farmers for refusing to help starving city dwellers in the hungry winter
   of 1944/45. 500 copies printed by d’Oude Zoutkeet, Zaandijk.
   133 x 110 mm.
   De Jong no. 95  AUB no. 44  B.M. X.907/9225

3  — Het bultig mannetje. Gedicht van Bertus Aafjes, vrij naar “Des Knaben
   Wunderhorn”. Met teekeningen van Piet Worm. [Alkmaar: Piet Worm,
   1943.]
   “The little hunchback. Poem by B. Aafjes, freely adapted from Des Kna-
ben Wunderhorn. With drawings by P. Worm.” A “rijmprent”, single sheet illustrated verse, translated from “Das bucklichte Männlein”. Number of copies printed by P. Worm not recorded. 488 x 323 mm.

De Jong no. 10 AUB no. 327 B.M. Cup.21.g.2 (31)

4 — Dichters van later tijd. [Leiden:] De Molenpers, 1945.
“Poets of a later age.” A “rijmprent”, single sheet illustrated verse. An appeal to the poets of the future to remember the sufferings of our time, endured so that they might have freedom of expression. The woodcut by Will H. Tweehuysen was printed from the block. 500 copies printed by J.W. Dubbelaar, Leiden, the one in the British Museum one of the 300 bearing the author’s and illustrator’s names. 322 x 164 mm.

De Jong no. 6 AUB no. 104 B.M. L.R.410.y.1(4)

5 — Elf sonnetten op Friesland. [Leiden:] Molenpers, 1944.
“Eleven sonnets on Friesland.” “Sonnets . . . written at Terband in July 1944 as a homage to Friesland and its inhabitants, in particular those whose hospitality made it possible for me to remain faithful to the Muse” (col.). The sonnets, whose number recalls the eleven towns of Friesland, are addressed to various friends, among them the publishers A.A. Balkema and Bert Bakker, the poet Jacob van Hattum and the philologist Wytze Hellinga. 500 copies printed by Handelsdrukkerij J. Karstens, Leiden. 208 x 136 mm.

De Jong no. 7 AUB no. 2 B.M. X.909/12794

“Gerrit Achterberg, poet of the grave. Notes on his poetry.” A critical essay which was used as introduction in Achterberg’s Cryptogamen, published in 1946. The portrait of Achterberg, cover design and publisher’s device are by C.A.B. Bantzinger. 600 copies printed by F. Tamminga. 259 x 169 mm.

De Jong no. 8 AUB no. 3 B.M. Cup.510.gal.1

“In the atrium of the Vestals. A fragment.” A poem. 100 copies printed by Drukkerij De Globe, Amsterdam. 197 x 130 mm.

De Jong no. 11 AUB no. 4 B.M. Cup.503.a.26