

**Van Hattum, Jacob** (1900–81), Dutch author. Van Hattum was born in Wommels, Frisia, where he had a happy childhood in a large family. His father was gardener for the mayor. The nude swimming of the local lads offered the first inspiration to the sickly boy. In 1913 the family moved to Elspeet in the eastern part of the country. Van Hattum studied to become a teacher, obtaining his first position in 1922, and from 1926 to 1956 he worked in Amsterdam, where he eventually died.

Van Hattum was active in the Dutch Resistance during World War II. His first book of poetry, published in 1932, was of socialist inspiration. About fifty books of short stories and poems were published during his lifetime. The topics shifted from politics to education, nature, animal stories, fairy-tales and sex. He wrote some articles and stories for the general press. The content of some of his literary work is surprisingly cruel and homosexual. *Man-nen en katten* (*Men and Cats*, 1947), *De liefste gast* (*The Loveliest Guest*, 1961), *De wolfsklauw* (*The Wolf's Claw*, 1962) and *De ketchupcancer* (1965) contain the more famous gay and cruel work. Van Hattum's interest was in younger men and adolescents. The malignity is not in the sado-masochism, but in the vicious games people play with each other. Van Hattum belonged very much to the time of the closet. He was unhappy and insecure about his desires and probably lived the chaste life of a voyeur. In his home in the 1930s, he entertained a painting class for intimate friends. It was really for the nude male models that the men came together, not to learn to sketch. From the 1960s Van Hattum's mental abilities slowly declined while his work as a closeted gay man went out of fashion. He is perhaps most famous because of an S & M poem dedicated to him by Gerard REVE. The collected poems

and stories of Van Hattum were published again in 1993–4 but found little acclaim. He has been surpassed by a new generation with Reve as its main hero.

T. Oegema van der Wal, *Van en over Jac. van Hattum* (Brussels, 1969).

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