

On kuyperiana

A century ago the most famous Dutchman passed away. That is to say, next to Queen Wilhelmina, he was the only Dutchman to make it on the front page of *The New York Times*. Abraham Kuyper was a wonder child with "ten heads and a hundred arms." In 1906, he was chosen the most popular man in the Netherlands next to that most vigorous woman, the young Queen.

This portrait opens surprising perspectives on seven of his colourful lives. To begin with, the adventurer: alpinist and world traveler. Then there are his better known roles: celebrated speaker, scientist, activist, journalist and statesman. Each chapter in this book is based on new sources, always with biographical disclosures.

Together they offer us a kaleidoscopic image of a man whose versatility was only surpassed by his unlikely productivity. He wrote more than two hundred books, ten thousands articles; he travelled half the world and was a fanatic mountaineer.

He had more admirers than opponents, but his sworn enemies included almost the entire Dutch elite, including the young queen. At the same time, he was the only one esteemed internationally as a statesman who dined with kings and emperors.

One thing is certain: He was the greatest disruptor ever produced in Dutch history. He has always remained controversial.