

JAN DE HARTOG, born in Haarlem, Holland, 1914, is the son of a distinguished Dutch professor of Philosophy. At 10 he ran away to sea, sailed in fishing smacks on the Zuider Zee, in wind-jammers on the Baltic, then worked in the famous Dutch deep-sea tugs. This provided him with the material for "Holland's Glory" (1940), which is the best-known book in modern Dutch literature and still a best-seller. An accident at sea made him leave the tug-boats to work with the Amsterdam Harbour Police. During night watches he wrote sea stories which were published in a local newspaper. The municipal theatre was doing a sea-play at this time and sent for him to act as technical adviser. He became an actor and playwright in this company for several years.

At the outbreak of war he and other actors and writers who refused to join the Nazis' Chamber of Culture were forced into hiding. ~~During this period he wrote several books~~ In July 1943 he left Holland, and via Switzerland, France and Spain arrived in England, ill and wounded, six months later. He developed a great admiration and love for the English, married an English girl and now lives in the Isle of Wight.

He has had two plays on Broadway and in London, "Skipper Next to God" and "Death of a Rat". "The Fourposter", a play for two people which is the story of a marriage, has been bought by an English film company but has not yet been produced for the stage. "Holland's Glory", which has been translated into 18 languages is being translated into English for the first time in the summer of 1948. He is at present working on a large Dutch trilogy, of which the first two parts, already published in Holland, have caused a sensation. He has been called "a modern Dutch Shakespeare" and "a disgrace to the Dutch People". This book will be finished in 1949, when it will also be ready for foreign translation.

*Jan de Hartog*