

and used a seal for the certification of the papers issued by its officers. A body of its citizens, which exercised legislative functions, was known as the Council (*de Raad*). In 1425 the custom of annually selecting from ten of the twenty members of the Council four burgomasters was inaugurated.

The peculiar designation, the Wisdom of the City (*de Wijsheid der Stadt*), which gave local distinction to another body of citizens, is traceable in old documents as far back as the year 1324. This college of venerable men bore, in 1417, the name of the Sworn Commons (*de Gezworene Meente*). It was then composed of twenty-four members, half of whom yearly, by expiration of their terms of office, gave place to their successors. Three of the oldest of the commoners presided at their meetings as speakers (*taalmannen*).¹

Eligibility to the Sworn Commons required a candidate to have been born free and legitimate, to have maintained an unblemished reputation, to be dissociated from the service and pay of a foreign prince, and to have no father, brother, nor son a member of the Sworn Commons at the time he became or was a member of that body.

The special and important service of the commoners in determining the eligibility of the citizens to be annually elected members of the *Gezworene Meente* and those to be chosen members of the *Raad* caused them to be debarred from holding any other office solely for the purpose of enabling them to perform wisely, faithfully, and promptly the duties incumbent upon them.

In 1580, when Johan Swartwolt was elected to serve as a member of the Sworn Commons, the high jurisdiction (*de hooge ampten*) of the city was exercised by Georg van Lalaing, Count of Renneberg, and governor (*stadhouder*) of Friesland, Overijssel, and Groningen.

The *Raad* at that time was composed of four burgomasters (*burgemeesters*) and twelve councilmen (*raadsheeren*). The burgomasters were: Albert Rolteman, Joachem Ubbena, Harmen Wijfrink, and Jacob Hildebrand; the councilmen: Christoffel van Deest, Tjaetho Nansum, Rembertz Ackema, Siger Sijghers, Roelof Battink, Luilof Roelofs, Everda Simons, Joost van Cleve, Harmen Gerrits, Frederik Mojestein, Albert Horenken, and Harmen Koenink.

The members of the *Gezworene Meente* were: Remmert Entens, Egbert Koenink, Hano Wijnge, Johan Isbrands, Hendrik Buttel, Barend Hondebeke, Harmen Mensens, Johan Papink, Johan van Goor, Hendrik Hendriks, Laurens Eijssens, Luitzen Hiddinge, Hendrik Helminks, Rijke Rijckens, Govert Everts, Lambertus van Wullen, Harmen Peters, Johan Egberts, Johan Swart-

¹ Tegenwoordige staat der Vereenigde Nederlanden. Stad en Lande. 1793. *Een en twintigste deel; eerste stuk.* pp. 101-142: 96-98, 141.