

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels/Leuven, 14 January 2011

## The archaeologist for pre-schoolers



What is an archaeologist? And what tangible idea is hidden behind a word that is so difficult to understand for a young child? More specifically: how can children be brought into contact with immovable heritage and the past in a playful and inspired way? In recent years, VIOE (Vlaams Instituut voor het Onroerend Erfgoed - Flemish Heritage Institute) has been looking for an answer to those questions in the framework of the ACE project (Archaeology in Contemporary Europe). The result was a funny children's book '*De archeoloog*' (*The Archaeologist*). On 14 January the VIOE, Clavis and Liesbet Slegers will present this toddler book in the municipal library Tweebronnen at Leuven. In this library '*De archeoloog*' will be read to the oldest toddlers of nursery school de Zevensprong while using a kamishibai. Afterwards, the author/illustrator Liesbet Slegers will guide the toddlers during a drawing workshop. On the same day, a colouring contest for children will be launched. Every child can get a colouring picture from the traders of the area Tienestraat and the bookshops in Leuven. Children should hand in these colouring pictures to the participating bookshops in Leuven before 13 February 2011 to stand a chance of winning a Clavis-book.

What exactly does an archaeologist do? An archaeologist examines how people lived in the past. She (or he) does this in different ways. Sometimes an archaeologist discovers finds from ancient times, buried deep in the earth or at the bottom of the sea. But often, even a bucket full of earth or a wooden board suffices to know how life was in the past. With regard to the content of this toddler book, Liesbet Slegers closely collaborated with VIOE. 12 colourful illustrations bring toddlers age 3 and up in a playful and concrete manner into contact with heritage and the profession of archaeologist. Moreover,



the book makes the important differentiation that pottery or potsherds are just as valuable as a treasure chest full of gold.

The book *De archeoloog* was written in the framework of the European ACE project. This five-year project, which runs from 2007 to 2012, aims to promote contemporary archaeology at a European wide level by undertaking various research actions and activities. In this way, this book for the very young helps understand archaeology and the profession of archaeologist. That is why it is part of the popular collection of 'professions' books written by Liesbet Slegers and published by Clavis. Published earlier were inter alia books on the dentist '*De tandarts*', the baker '*De bakker*' and the teacher '*De juf*'.

## **Programme 14 January 2011**

### *Where?*

Municipal library Tweebronnen  
Rijschoolstraat 4 0101  
3000 Leuven

### *When?*

9.45 a.m.: welcoming the toddlers and guests in the reading room for kids (first floor)  
10.00 a.m.: start of storytelling session with kamishibai by nursery school teacher Diane and archaeologist Geert Vynckier (VIOE)  
10.30 a.m.: end of storytelling session + short break for the toddlers  
10.50 a.m.: start of drawing workshop with Liesbet Slegers  
11.35 a.m.: speech of thanks  
11.45 a.m.: time for interviews with archaeologist Geert Vynckier (VIOE), archaeologist Rica Annaert (VIOE-ACE project), co-ordinator heritage education Evelien Oomen (VIOE) and author/illustrator Liesbet Slegers

### **Colouring contest**

*Participating traders Tiensestraat, Fochplein, Savoyestraat and Margarethaplein*

Boekcargobokhandel, Van Eyck Kookwinkel, Hoorcentrum Audio Nova, Lilas Mode, Domus Taverne, Maroq-unie, Singer naaimachines, Emilie-Valentino Juwelier, Soup Away, Optiek De Pauw, Baldini Schoenen, Print Service, Paulus-Buelens, Past à porter, Paradiso travel, Hairdesign Sandra, De kleine Johannes, Grote Johannes Boekhandel, Château de Sable Kinderkleding, Michel & co Totaalcoiffure, Vander Avort Juwelier

### *Participating bookshops*

Transform this colouring picture into a little piece of art and stand a chance of winning a Clavis-book!  
Hand in this colouring picture before 13 February 2011 to one of the following bookshops in Leuven:

- De kleine Johannes (Tiensestraat 47)
- Infodok/Dauidsfonds (Blijde Inkomstraat 79)
- Standaard boekhandel (Diestsestraat 127)
- Gobelijjn (Mechelsestraat 35)
- Boekcargobokhandel (Tiensestraat 6)
- Fnac (Vital Decosterstraat 7)

- Club (Fochplein)
- Plato (Tiensestraat 126)
- Standaard boekhandel (Naamsestraat 57).

## Content

The archaeologist digs up things. Deep in the earth or at the bottom of the sea she (or he) finds objects from a distant past. Maybe even a skeleton! The things are carefully dug up, brushed clean and photographed. Everything is indicated on a map. The most interesting stuff are brought to a museum, where everyone can take a look at them. This is how we find out more about the lives of people in the past.



### Author/illustrator

Liesbet Slegers was born on the 26th of July 1975 in Geel (Belgium). She studied Graphics and Illustrations at the Saint-Lucas institute of Antwerp. She works as a fulltime graphic designer and illustrator. With her simple, recognizable style and vivid colours she knows to attract the attention of every toddler.

In her books, Slegers frequently focuses on "the first experience of a toddler," a time she characterized as "exciting but also very scary! I try to help them with my books," she added, "and also try to give the parents or teacher some assistance!"

### Technical card of the book *De archeoloog*

The toddler book *De archeoloog* is one part of the popular 'professions' series written by Liesbet Slegers and published by Clavis. Published earlier were inter alia books on the dentist '*De tandarts*', the baker '*De bakker*' and the teacher '*De juf*'. Special thanks to the VIOE staff for their content contributions: Rica Annaert, Geert Vynckier, Liesbeth Van Camp and Evelien Oomen.



*De archeoloog (The archaeologist)*

*Author and illustrator: Liesbet Slegers*

*Publisher: Clavis*

*Co producer: VIOE*

*Hardcover, colour*

*Age group: 3 to 5 years*

*ISBN 978 90448 1380 7*

*Price: 14.95 euro*

[www.clavisbooks.com](http://www.clavisbooks.com) - [www.vioe.be](http://www.vioe.be)

### **Note for the editors**

The day of the press briefing, a press file will be available at [www.vioe.be](http://www.vioe.be).

For further information about the VIOE, ACE-project and heritage education please contact:

Communication officer of VIOE | Veerle Ausloos | [Veerle.ausloos@rwo.vlaanderen.be](mailto:Veerle.ausloos@rwo.vlaanderen.be)

Tel. 0032 2 553 64 44 - mobile 0032 492 722 890

For further information about the book, visual material or review copies please contact:

Marketing, Press & Promotion Clavis Publishing | Ingrid Nenczl | [ingrid@clavisbooks.com](mailto:ingrid@clavisbooks.com)

Tel. 0032 11 28 67 69