

Table of contents

Introduction: Lightning after Franklin	9
Science and Technology	21
1 A New Invention	23
2 The Introduction of the Lightning Rod in the Netherlands	33
Early Experiments and Publications (1745-1779)	33
The First Installations	43
Some Tentative Conclusions	48
3 Eighteenth-Century Physical Theories on Thunderstorms	53
The International Discourse	53
The Netherlands	63
Conclusion: "Science" or "Superstition"?	66
Religion	69
4 Official Religion	71
God's Wrath	71
A Change in Mentality	80
The Fatalism Controversy	82
Protestant Enlightenment and Moderate Orthodoxy in the Netherlands	90
Physico-Theology: The Netherlands	101
Physico-Theology: Europe	106
5 Marginal and Marginalised Religious Reactions	111
Thunderstorms: The Devil's Work?	111
Enlightenment's Battle with Apotropaic Bell-Ringing	124
<i>Wetterschießen</i> : Firing Cannon at Thunderclouds	129
Beyond Demonology: the Cult of Saints	132
Nature: Popular Beliefs and Agricultural Life	145
6 Intermezzo: Electrical Nature? The Animated Nature of Theosophy	161

Art	177
7 Thunderstorms and Electricity in Poetry, Music, and Painting	179
The Sexual Metaphor	179
The Political Metaphor	186
Metaphor for War, Violence, and Quarrel	192
Metaphor for a Sparkling Mind or Tormented Inner Life	195
From Metaphorising to Aestheticising	201
By Way of Conclusion	227
The Relationship between Fear, the Control of Nature, and Pleasure	227
Epilogue	240
Notes	245
Bibliography	291
Illustration Credits	319
Index of Names	321