

*On the Waterfront*



NEWSLETTER NO. 1/2  
OF THE FRIENDS  
OF THE IISH

2000/2001



# Introduction

FRONT PAGE:  
TRUNKS FROM  
THE WERTHEIM  
ARCHIVES IN  
THE TEMPO-  
RARY STORE-  
ROOM.  
PHOTOGRAPH  
BY AKIKO  
TOBU, 1999

We contemplated and discussed ways to involve people outside the Institute in the wellbeing of the IISH for two years. We also explored alternative sources of funding for activities that are not covered by the regular IISH budget.

In 2000 the Friends of the IISH was established. The circle of Friends, which now comprises over fifty members, has met twice: on 16 June and on 12 December 2000. At the second meeting, in addition to the standard presentation of acquisitions and the lecture by a guest speaker, the board was elected. This board met twice: on 23 January and on 11 April 2001.

This first Newsletter reports on these activities. In the future, the Friends of the IISH Newsletter will appear twice a year. A Dutch version in a basic layout is available on request.

Members of the Friends of the IISH pay annual dues of two hundred or one thousand guilders or join with a lifetime donation of three thousand guilders or more. In return, members are invited

to semi-annual sessions featuring presentations of IISH acquisitions and guest speakers. These guest speakers deliver lectures on their field of research, which does not necessarily concern the IISH collection. The first speaker was Geert Mak and the second Renate Fuks-Mansfeld. The presentation and lecture are followed by a reception. In addition to these semi-annual gatherings, all Friends receive a forty-percent discount on IISH publications. Friends paying dues of one thousand guilders or more are also entitled to choose Institute publications from a broad selection offered at no charge.

The board consults the Friends about allocation of the dues and delivers an annual financial report in conjunction with the IISH administration.

The IISH was founded by master collector Nicolaas Posthumus (1880-1960) in the 1930s. For the past decade, two of the institutes established by this "history entrepreneur" have operated from the same premises: the NEHA (Nether-

lands Economic History Archive) since 1914 and the International Institute of Social History (IISH), which is now over sixty-five years old. Both institutes are still collecting, although the "subsidiary" IISH has grown far larger than the "parent" NEHA.

Detailed information about the IISH appears in: Maria Hunink *De papieren van de revolutie. Het Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis 1935-1947*, Amsterdam 1986, and in: Jan Lucasen *Tracing the past. Collections and research in social and economic history; The International Institute of Social History, The Netherlands Economic History Archive and related institutions*, Amsterdam 1989; in addition, Mies Campfens reviews archives in *De Nederlandse archieven van het Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis te Amsterdam*, Amsterdam 1989 (1984), and Jaap Haag and Atie van der Horst have compiled the *Guide to the International Archives and Collections at the iish, Amsterdam*, Amsterdam 1999.

## COLOPHON

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# First Friends meeting: 16 June 2000

## PRESENTATION OF THE ACQUISITIONS

On a summer day in 2000, the first Friends gathered at Cruquiusweg 31 in a somewhat awkward effort to find the right constellation. They had been recruited through written invitations, word of mouth and advertising via the Internet.

Jan Lucassen opened the meeting and explained the plans with Mieke IJzermans as the initiator of the Friends format. In turns the two presented representative selections from recently acquired collections in a separate room. Bouwe Hijma from the archives department and their colleagues Co Seegers, Piet Lourens, Els Wagneaar, Roel Meijer, Eef Vermeij, Emile Schwidder and Coen Marinus helped them prepare.

In 1999 the IISH acquired 155 archive collections; about forty-five percent of them were new and the remainder additions to existing collections. About thirty acquisitions were registered in the first four months of 2000. This provided a lot of material for the presentations, which covered the significance of the acquisitions in varying measures of detail. In many cases they also addressed the manner of acquisition by the IISH; there is a story behind each archival item. Most material is from the past hundred twenty-five years from the Netherlands and the rest of the world. The items recently acquired also include library material (unique editions, manuscripts) and audio-visual artefacts (flags, audio tapes, photographs).

The following is a sample of the material presented:

☞ The Institute has managed the archive of De Centrale for many years. This workers' insur-

ance company co-founded the IISH and has provided financial support. Recently we received two new documents found by private parties: a certificate of appreciation presented to the daughter of the "red pastor" G.W. Melchers, De Centrale's first chairman of the board, in honour of the start of construction on the new office building along the Houtmarkt in The Hague on 11 July 1905; there is also a letter of appointment (1918) and a letter of dismissal (1924) from those early years. De Centrale is now part of the SNS-Reaal bank and insurance company.

☞ The NEHA purchased a unique item for its "Special Collections". The second-hand bookseller was not exactly sure what the item was: the small notebook belonged to Jan Bondt (1766-1845), the personal banker to the first Dutch King William I and a specialist in commercial law. His most prestigious commission was to advise His Majesty the King in reorganizing and converting the public debt. He used this office almanac from 1803 to register exchanges and other financial liabilities. At the back is a wallet containing several notes. All the ones dated are from 1821/1822 and include what was known as a cashier's receipt. Until around 1840 these notes served as paper money, in addition to the notes from De Nederlandsche Bank.

☞ The library of the NEHA, the EHB (Economisch-Historische Bibliotheek), is world-famous for its collection of old prints, especially on commercial history under mercantile capitalism from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. This collection receives frequent additions through donations or purchases, such as a "Flori" recently.

The NEHA purchased a first edition of a "Flori" for more than twenty-thousand guilders in London: Ludovico Flori's (1579-1647) *Trattato del modo di tenere il libro doppio domestico col suo esemplare* (Palermo, 1636). This work enriched accounting theory in general by making it applicable for organizations and in particular by introducing the financial year. The system enabled regular updates at a glance of an organization's financial situation. The manuscript from 1633 is in the archive in Palermo but contains hardly any of the accounting applications that enrich the book. Only two copies are known besides the NEHA one: one in Edinburgh (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, ICAS) and one in London (Kress Library). No copy exists in Italy. The second edition from 1677 is less rare.

☞ Like the NEHA, the IISH collects archives as well as books. The library has one million volumes. Books are collected in two ways. Each year the Institute purchases about three thousand new books and receives around four hundred more to review in the *International Review of Social History*. The IISH acquires most of its old books through bequests: entire or par-

LETTER OF  
DISMISSAL  
DATED 2 MAY  
1924 TO MISS  
W(ILHELMINA)  
NOLTEE, WHO  
HAD WORKED  
AT DE  
CENTRALE  
ARBEIDERS-  
VERZEKERINGS-  
EN DEPOSITO-  
BANK IN THE  
HAGUE SINCE  
1918.  
THE LETTER  
BEARS THE  
SIGNATURE OF  
NEHEMIA DE  
LIEME, DE  
CENTRALE'S  
FOUNDER AND  
DIRECTOR.





TITLE PAGE OF  
DIE ZAHL IM  
KRIEGE [THE  
NUMBER IN  
WAR. STATIS-  
TICAL DATA  
FROM THE  
CONTEMPO-  
RARY HISTORY  
OF WAR IN  
GRAPHICS] BY  
OTTO BERNDT.



tial libraries left to the Institute. Old books are rarely purchased, and collections acquired are usually from South Asia or the Middle East. In addition, the Institute makes hundreds or even thousands of copies available to the public by processing the backlog. In the past the arrival of new collections often exceeded the processing capacity of the cataloguers; now they are successively catching up with the backlog. One of the bequests presented that remains to be processed is the “War and Peace” collection of former IISH staff member Wim van der Linden comprising about a thousand volumes. On the shelf next to *Memoires* by Raymond Westerling (generally regarded as a Dutch war criminal during the Indonesian struggle for independence) now stands a similar work that was lacking and appeared indispensable: Otto Berndt *Die*

*Zahl im Kriege. Statistische Daten aus der neueren Kriegsgeschichte in graphischer Darstellung* (Vienna 1897). Figures from these types of books are important for the major current research project about the history of risk, security and insecurity; see Jacques van Gerwen and Marco van Leeuwen *Zoeken naar zekerheid* (Verbond van Verzekeraars/NEHA, The Hague/ Amsterdam, 2000; 4 volumes).

The assumption was that all remaining work of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (1846-1919) was known. Recently, however, a collection of two hundred letters and postcards from Domela to the Twente socialist Gerrit Bennink (1858-1927) surfaced unexpectedly. The two met in 1880 through a survey that Domela had circulated in *Recht voor Allen*. Bennink’s response for Twente’s metal and textile workers marked

the start of a correspondence that lasted several years. A few of these letters, which were recently entrusted to the IISH, were presented. While Domela did not appreciate Bennink’s subsequent election to the Hengelo city council, the incident did not place the two at loggerheads.

This acquisition led to an extensive search through the IISH archives that yielded a small collection of Bennink papers.

For years the IISH has had a large collection on Clara Meyer-Wichmann (1885-1922). The wealth of material recently added by her relatives has overshadowed the original collection. The selection of documents presented included an autograph album with a poem from her little brother Erich Wichman (on whom the institute also has an archive); a book of sketches, a box of documents and letters to the Leiden philosopher G.J.P.J. Bolland.

Lau Mazirel (1907-1974) was a lawyer for cases involving refugees, families and aliens. She defended caravan dwellers and gypsies. She fiercely opposed the caravan act of 1968, as it concentrated caravan residents in major regional camps. The historian Jan Rogier (1929-1986) deeply admired Lau Mazirel and found her position inspiring (see e.g. his work *De Geschiedschrijver des Rijks en andere socialisten*, Nijmegen 1979). He founded various associations dedicated to protecting the interests of gypsies and caravan dwellers. In 1984 he established the Lau Mazirel Stichting. This foundation entrusted its archive and a collection of books to the IISH. The collection comprises books about gypsies and other people with nomadic lifestyles in Europe, as well as children’s books about gypsies. Around this time the Institute also received the specialized library of Annemarie Cottaar, Wim Willems and Leo Lucassen, who all hold doctorates in the history of these groups. Overnight, the IISH collection on this field has become the best in the Netherlands.



LETTER DATED 3 FEBRUARY 1900 FROM FERDINAND DOMELA NIEUWENHUIS TO THE HENGELO LABOUR SPOKESMAN GERRIT BENNINK, WHOM HE BEFRIENDED. BENNINK HAD RECENTLY BEEN ELECTED TO THE HENGELO CITY COUNCIL. DOMELA DID NOT CONGRATULATE BENNINK, BECAUSE HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. HE FELT THAT IF BENNINK WERE TRULY DETERMINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, HE WOULD ABANDON THE CITY COUNCIL WITHIN THREE MONTHS. BENNINK SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR OVER TWO DECADES.

“Minorities” are becoming increasingly substantial in the IISH collections. Aside from the acquisition of material on caravan dwellers and gypsies, the Institute already had archives from the Stichting Peregrinus and the Werkgroep Buitenlandse Arbeiders Leiden [Leiden research group on foreign workers]. The IISH also has the world’s largest collection of periodicals issued by Turkish guest workers and migrants.

The Centrum voor de Geschiedenis van Migranten [Centre for migrant history] (the CGM, co-founded by the IISH) and especially Annemarie Cottaar recently arranged for the arrival at the IISH of the “De Poort” archive, including a great many photographs. De Poort, a foundation in The Hague, originally provided accommodations for young Catholics moving from the countryside to the city but became increasingly involved in accommodations for guest workers: first for Italians, Spaniards and Arubans and later for Turks and Moroccans. A few items were presented from this archive.

The *Staatsarchief* (named after Amsterdam’s Staatslieden quarter) of the squatters’ movement was entrusted to the IISH on 1 May 2000. It complements the ID-ar-

chive previously acquired about non-conformist lifestyles in Germany and the CSD collection gathered by Tjebbe van Tijen. The presentation included a gas mask and other material sure to displease the established order.

Josephus Carel Franciscus (Jef) Last (1898-1972) had archive material at the IISH from the outset. Additional material arrived in 1990, as well as a new supplement very recently containing interesting letters and diary excerpts from the third trip that Last (a member of the CPH at the time) made in 1936 to the Soviet Union together with André Gide. In a letter to his wife dated 2 July 1936 from Leningrad, he cautiously equated Stalin’s Russia with Hitler’s Germany; the description foreshadowed the subsequent “Historiker Streit”. His diary is also relevant to a major research project that the IISH is presently conducting in Russia on the history of work incentives.

When the Berlin Wall fell, the IISH was finally able to start working with Russian counterparts. Since the mid 1990s, the Institute has had a branch in Moscow, where Irina Novicenko works. We became better ac-

quainted with Russian historians from the former IML (the institute for research on Marxism-Leninism). Eric Fischer and Jaap Kloosterman encouraged some to write their memoirs, especially to learn more about occupational practice under such difficult conditions. Two of them (Nikita Kolpinski and Volodja Mosolov) have done so. They have also helped the IISH publish Bakunin’s complete works (on CD-ROM) and have started writing the history of their former IML. Mosolov’s autobiographical text was in the display case.

Documents and photographs of the FEDIP (Federación Española de Deportados e Internados Políticos) relate a bizarre history. At the end of the Spanish Civil War, a hundred Spaniards, pilots in training and the crew from a munitions carrier were stranded in the Soviet Union. They were taken prisoner in June 1941. The next year they were locked up and assigned to forced labour at a camp near Karaganda in Kazakhstan. Only after the war did their whereabouts become known in the West, following the release of the Austrian Jewish women

PAGE FROM THE AUTOGRAPH ALBUM OF THE YOUNG CLARA WICHMANN, WHO LATER BECAME THE RENOWNED SCHOLAR OF LAW AND FEMINIST CLARA G. MEYER-WICHMANN, ESQ. (1885-1922). THIS TEXT WAS WRITTEN IN 1897 BY HER LITTLE BROTHER ERICH WICHMAN (1890-1929), WHO BECAME AN ARTIST AND ANARCHIST AND CONTRIBUTED TO FASCIST JOURNALS.



INTERNATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR SOCIALE GESCHIEDENIS  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY



IN 1998 THE IISH ACQUIRED THE ARCHIVE OF THE FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE DEPORTADOS E INTERNADOS POLÍTICOS (FEDIP), WHICH WORKED FROM FRANCE TO HELP THE SPANIARDS WHO WERE STRANDED IN THE SOVIET UNION AT THE END OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND IMPRISONED BY STALIN. THIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN MOSCOW SHOWS A GROUP OF SPANISH PILOTS BEFORE THEY DISAPPEARED IN CAMPS IN KARAGANDA, KAZAKHSTAN, FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS.

they became involved with in the camp in 1946. In Paris the FEDIP was established to negotiate their release and completed its mission in 1956.

The Syrian material submitted was featured in a single, general presentation. About ten IISH staff members specialized in the field are dedicated mainly to gathering collections. Devoted outside parties often manage to bring in fine material at very reasonable prices. Erik Jan Zürcher at Leiden University collects Turkish items and Turaj Atabaki of Utrecht University Iranian and Caucasian ones; Stefan Landsberger of Leiden University provides Chinese posters, and Roel Meijer at the University of Nijmegen retrieves Arabic archives.

The presentation comprised the propaganda material that Roel Meijer and his students had gathered in Syria that spring from and about the incumbent Asad family: the late father Asad and his two sons (also known to the population as the Holy Triad). Glorification of personalities is *de rigueur* in Damascus and depicting human beings common practice. The texts broadcast the visual message: Asad as “the supreme warrior for the fatherland” or “the greatest scholar of the country”.

A few years ago his son Basil was killed and became a martyr; Hafez has been succeeded by his son Bashar, while Bashar’s uncle is biding his time on Marbella...

For several years the Institute has managed the collection of documents on the social history of Burma (Myanmar since 1989), which is ruled by a military dictatorship. Eef Vermeij brought five banners from the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Karen Revolution Day at a camp on the Burmese bank of the Moei River along the Thai border. A flag displayed as well.

From Indonesia the Institute received the correspondence between Gatot Lestaryo (1925-1985; also called Sutarjo or Taryo) and Jeanne van Ammers. As a history teacher, Lestaryo was an active member of the Communist Party (PKI) on East Java, the largest communist movement outside

Russia and China, until its brutal repression in 1965. He went underground and tried to continue the party illegally at Blitar in South Java. His group of about twenty party executives of the prohibited PKI and SOBSI (the affiliated trade union) hid out for a while in the remote limestone caves. Eventually they were caught. Lestaryo managed to evade his persecutors for a while but was arrested in Jakarta in 1969; his wife had already been imprisoned and was sentenced to 15 years in 1978. In 1976 he was condemned to death. The sentence was carried out in 1985.

The correspondence presented was from the last year of his life, when Jeanne van Ammers from Amnesty International’s Midden-Betuwe group contacted him. From May 1984 through June 1985 (a month before his execution) he sent hand-written letters in Dutch in which he shared



ONE OF THE CHILDREN’S BOOKS FROM THE GYPSY COLLECTION OF THE LAU MAZIREL STICHTING – THE MUCH-LOVED MARISKA DE CIRCUSPRINSES, BY SANDOR KIS (PSEUDONYM OF L.G. WELDERING)





his worries about his wife and two children (whom he had renounced immediately after his arrest). His mental faculties were unaffected, however, and he continued to act as the spokesperson for the Blitar group.

The presentation of selected new acquisitions was followed by a lecture by Geert Mak, who has undoubtedly defined social history in the Netherlands, and whose books sell tens of thousands of copies.

LECTURE BY  
GEERT MAK

Geert Mak (b. 1946) was born in Vlaardingen as the son of a preacher for the Dutch Reformed Church in Friesland. He read constitutional law and sociology of law at the University of Amsterdam, after which he briefly taught constitutional and aliens' law at Utrecht University. He

soon switched to journalism: from 1975 to 1985 he was an editor for *De Groene Amsterdammer* and has worked as a journalist for *NRC-Handelsblad* and VPRO radio since 1985. Mak co-founded *Atlas*, a journal for literary non-fiction, and published books about administration and politics and the city of Amsterdam: *De engel van Amsterdam* and *Een kleine geschiedenis van Amsterdam*. Mak also wrote several travel reports, including ones about the United States, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

In 1996 he published *Hoe God verdween uit Jorwerd*, set in a village and illustrating the changes that affected all aspects of life in the Netherlands between 1945 and 1995. In 1997 he published *Het Stadspaleis* about the Dam Square Palace, followed by the national book week essay *Het ontsnapte land* in 1998. In 1999 *De eeuw van mijn vader* appeared. In this book Mak deals with the mentality and

self-image of the Netherlands in the twentieth century, related in the context of his family's history. His family's residence in the Dutch East Indies expands the book's significance considerably beyond Dutch history. In June 2000 Geert Mak was appointed to a five-year term as the Wibaut Professor of large-city issues focused on Amsterdam.

In his lecture Geert Mak reviewed his preparations for and perspective on *De eeuw van mijn vader*. It was mostly about his experiences in that context: about his rather surprising discoveries in archives (according to the newspapers in Vienna, nobody had the faintest idea that World War I was about to break out); about the varying reliability of people's memories (his brothers and sisters all had different experiences and recollections of the same facts); about changes in people's views (his mother had typically colonial

THE REVERSE  
OF THIS  
GROUP PHOTOGRAPH  
FROM THE DE  
POORT ARCHIVE READS  
"FROM ALL  
CORNERS OF  
THE EARTH".  
THE PICTURE  
WAS TAKEN  
DURING AN  
EXCURSION TO  
VOLENDAM ON  
6 MAY 1970.

views before the war and abandoned most of them after her war experiences); about the doubts of a preacher (his father in this case) and about adjusting to the social surroundings (the entire Mak family after the repatriation). All these experiences culminated in a personal, sociological-historical sketch of the twentieth century. Mak's explanation of his approach to social history, which has a very broad appeal, gave rise to a lively debate following his lecture.

#### FIRST BUSINESS MEETING

After the presentation and the lecture, five Friends, seven prospective members and seven IISH staff gathered to continue forming the Board and the Circle of Friends. After working with those present, Chairman Jan Lucassen shared the following announcements and conclusions:

Forty-four out of over two hundred individuals contacted had agreed to join, while 30 had actually paid. By 15 June the balance exceeded eight thousand guilders. The total revenue estimated for 1999-2000 was therefore eleven thousand guilders. International recruitment was to become more systematic, and more campaigns would be launched within the Netherlands as well. Each new Friend received a copy of the new guide to the international archives at the IISH. Those present also discussed the importance of the quality of future presentations and lectures in attracting and cultivating loyalty among new Friends. A more elaborate structure was suggested: the Friends of the IISH would operate as part of the Stichting Beheer IISG and would therefore not need to establish a separate foundation; the Friends would form a council of donors from which a board would be elected; this board would consult the administration of the IISH and the board of the Stichting Beheer. They also decided not to hoard the revenues as initially intended but to identify causes for allocating portions of the funds saved from the outset.

TWO BROOCHES FROM SYRIA – LEFT: BASHAR, ASAD AND HIS SON BASIL, WHO WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND RIGHT: ASAD'S SON BASHAR, WHO SUCCEEDED HIM.

## Second Friends meeting: 12 December 2000

#### PRESENTATION OF THE ACQUISITIONS

Between January and November 2000 the IISH and the NEHA received 136 collections. Slightly over half were additions to existing collections, which meant that new collections account for just under half. They ranged from a few sheets of paper to about sixty metres of shelf space from the ABVA/KABO. Amnesty International supplied about 93 additional films. At the second Friends meeting Mieke IJzermans and Jan Lucassen presented a selection from the acquisitions. Once again, Bouwe Hijma, as well as Co Seegers, Piet Lourens, Els Wagenaar, Kees Rodenburg, Eef Vermeij, Emile Schwidder, Roel Meijer and Farida Ishaja helped with the preparations.

↻ An addition to the archive of Johan Willem Albarda (1877-1957), a mechanical engineer who

was more widely known as a member of the Lower House (1913-1939), the SDAP party leader (1925-1939) who succeeded Troelstra and the first socialist in the government (1939-1945, Minister of Public Works and Water Management). From 1945 to 1952 he served on the Council of State.

In the autumn of 2000 the Stichting Beheer IISH issued *'Een sterke geest van vrijheid'. Brieven van de student J.W. Albarda aan G. Nolet-Adama en F.M. Wibaut*, edited and with an introduction by Inge de Wilde. Following the publication of this booklet, Albarda's descendants presented the IISH with his letters to Mrs. Nolet-Adama, along with several other personal and general documents. The sixteen letters (April 1899 – December 1900) from Albarda to his former neighbour in Leeuwarden convey the socialist sympathies among students in Delft around 1900 and Albarda's growing political awareness that led





him to join the SDAP. The letters also reflect the history of the Delftsch Studenten Corps and the Polytechnische School, which preceded the Delft University of Technology.

☞ The Institute also received the modest but vivid archive of the poet Jan W. Jacobs, known within the AJC for his “declamatory choirs.” The documents concern the Socialistische Kunstenaarskring [Socialist Circle of Artists] (SKK) from the 1930s. The Circle aimed to convene the artists who subscribed to the socialist ideal. Painters, sculptors, architects and belle-lettrists discussed a militant socialist art featuring an innovative design that would appeal to the working class. The SKK was explicitly an Amsterdam affair.

☞ The one-and-a-half metre archive gathered between 1942 and 2000 by Sania Gontarbert (Odessa 1916 – Paris 2000). This material was acquired somewhat coincidentally by his daughter, who



was determined to get it out of France and to Amsterdam. Kees Rodenburg got in touch with her through a longstanding mutual

acquaintance from the Institute, the Vietnamese N’Go Van from Paris, who wrote a Trotskyist history of Vietnam.

Sania Gontarbert emigrated to France with his parents in 1925 and became acquainted with socialists, libertarians and Trotskyists in the mid 1930s. Following his demobilization at the start of the war he joined the Trotskyist underground resistance in Toulouse. This was the start of his lifelong adherence to the ideology.

The archive, shipped in a few large moving crates, initially appeared to contain few new items: several Trotskyist periodicals already present at the Institute and a wealth of newspaper clippings. Closer examination revealed several manuscripts and especially illegal Trotskyist periodicals from the war. A few of these periodicals were presented: two issues of *Fraternisation Proletarienne* from February and March 1943. The

MEMBERSHIP CARD OF THE DUTCH POET JAN. W. JACOBS OF THE SOCIALIST CIRCLE OF ARTISTS (SKK). THE CIRCLE AIMED TO CONVENE ARTISTS WHO SUBSCRIBED TO THE SOCIALIST IDEAL. THE SKK WAS EXPLICITLY AN AMSTERDAM AFFAIR. THE CARD WAS DESIGNED BY ELI SMALHOUT



LETTER DATED 4 APRIL 1928 FROM THE MUSICIAN PAUL F. SANDERS TO JAN W. JACOBS, FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE SOCIALISTISCHE KUNSTENAARS KRING. JACOBS LATER CHANGED HIS MIND. THE LETTERHEAD WAS DESIGNED BY JOHAN VAN HELL.

back cover of the February issue features a satirical cartoon blaming the war on international capitalism, comprising both Russia and Germany. The workers are played off against each other by the SS and the GPU. In the March issue, Jews are urged to reject Zionism in favour of socialism. The satirical cartoon depicts the establishment of the Jewish homeland in Palestine as a plot by Stalin, Churchill and Hitler: concentrating the Jews there will make them easier to exploit and persecute.

An issue of *Le Réveil Proletarien* of March 1944; the publication deplores Russia's recognition of Badoglio's new Italian government. Factory committees are heralded as the seeds of the future revolution. Immediately after the war, the founding fathers of the P.C.I. champion the new Parti Communiste Internationale (P.C.I.), Section française de la IVe Internationale.

#### ☞ Russian children's books.

In addition to a vast and in some respects unique collection of Russian books and pamphlets, the IISH has a less well-known but illustrious collection of children's books and picture books from the 1920s and 1930s. Outside Russia, the only other known major collection

is at McGill University in Canada, which arrived there thanks to Leo Lande, a close friend of the long-term IISH employee Boris Sapir. The origins of the collection at the IISH are unknown. It may have arrived a long time ago, as the "Genootschap Nederland – Nieuw Rusland" [Dutch-New Russia Society] organized the exhibition *Grafiek en Boekkunst uit de Sovjet-Unie* about graphic and book art from the Soviet Union at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam in 1929. According to the catalogue, many of the titles exhibited there are now in the Institute's collection.

This collection certainly merits a special mention, according to Els Wagenaar of the IISH. She shared the following information.

The children's book collection comprises about 375 copies. The booklets cover themes ranging from stories about friendly animals and everyday events in children's lives to educational texts and political subjects there: Lenin, the Soviets and May Day celebrations. In the early years of the Soviet Union many leading *avant-garde* artists were deeply involved in developing, designing and illustrating children's books. Several authors of children's books were also quite well known, such

as Vladimir Majakowskij, Kornej Chukovskij, Samuil Marshak and Daniil Charms. The designers and illustrators included Lebedev, Dejneka and Ermolaeva. Vladimir Lebedev (1891-1967) was an influential *avant-garde* artist who was also one of the leading designers for Okna ROSTA. He illustrated eight booklets in the collection, many written by the poet and of children's book author Samuil Marshak. The themes they covered were rarely political. The titles included: *Bagazh* [Luggage], *Cirk* [The circus] and *Morozhenoe* [Ice cream]. The renowned *Slonenok* (Kornej Chukovskij and Samuil Marshak's translation of *The Elephant's Child* by Rudyard Kipling) is also part of the collection. The two books by Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Dejneka are about political themes: *Pervoe Maja* [May 1<sup>st</sup>] and *Parad Krasnoj Armii* [The Red Army parade]. Finally, Vera Ermolaeva (1893-1938) was one of the most important developers of Soviet children's literature and co-founded the *avant-garde* artists group UNIVOS. Eleven of her books are in the collection.

#### ☞ National Democratic Front (ndf) from the Philippines.

Specialist Eef Vermeij wrote the following on the subject: "On my

N° 2 OF FRA-  
TERNISATION  
PROLÉTARIEN-  
NE. ORGANE  
DES COMMUNISTES RÉVOLUTIONNAIRES DE FRANCE, OF FEBRUARY 1943 FEATURED A SATIRICAL CARTOON BLAMING THE WAR ON INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM (TO THE LEFT IS THE GERMAN ONE AND TO THE RIGHT THE BRITISH ONE).



visit to the Philippines last summer, I heard about 'material' in some little room at the university. Thanks to my contacts, I located this bag, untouched since the material had been left there. The person who had accepted it for safe-keeping did not know what to do with it and was happy to give it to me. Careful examination revealed that the material came from a faction of the NDF that raised support from abroad, especially from Japan. Most material was from the late 1980s and included analyses, minutes from meetings, internal squabbles and the like." Because the material may still be incriminating to some people, it will be secluded from public access pending resolution of its status.

☞ All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) from Burma and Thailand. Vermeij reported the following: "This year the IISH secured two major archives from the Burmese opposition movement: from the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) and from the ABSDF. Both archives comprise a section that is open to the public and a section with restricted access. The ABSDF archive contains documents from the offices in Thailand and from the War Office in the jungle of Burma. The head office was initially in Manerplaw, along the Burmese/Thai border, where many Burmese opposition groups had their headquarters at the time. In late January 1995 Manerplaw was evacuated because of violent attacks by the Burmese army. Various items were exhibited from the early period, including several internal documents.

☞ S.M. Jaffar papers. Jaffar was the first archivist in Pakistan and the driving force behind the first archive in Peshawar. Most of his papers concern the problems he encountered in the years following the establishment of Pakistan. They include official notes, correspondence, department investigations, statements and the like. The papers also comprise research reports and reports from visits, conferences and plans.



Some are original and partially unpublished manuscripts from his historical research.

☞ Documents from Soerjono (Prambanan 1928 – Amsterdam 2000), nicknamed Yoko. Educated at the Hollandsch-Indische School and the Cultuurschool, he became a journalist. Under the Japanese occupation he was imprisoned for two years for distributing illegal pamphlets. He co-founded Angkatan Muda (Young Generation), which was the predecessor of the Pesindo (Pemuda Sosialis Indonesia: Socialist Youth of Indonesia). Soerjono was a journalist for *Penghela Rakjat/Revolutioner* and executive editor of *Sport & Film*. He also co-founded Indonesia Muda (one of Indonesia's largest sports associations) and coached the football team with the same name. *Harian Rakjat* stationed him in China for a few years. Unable to return to Indonesia, he travelled to the Soviet Union. In 1989 Dutch friends helped him come to the Netherlands, where he wrote his memoirs and unpublished studies about Soedisman and Sjarifoe-

din. In addition to papers about journalism and politics and some personal documents, he left behind a manuscript for an autobiography ("From Moscow without love").

☞ For years the Institute has collected archives and documents about unfree labour in Russia and the Soviet Union, especially about the GULAG camps (or "Archipel"). While most are stored on microfilm, some arrive as original materials, such as Tat'jana Isaeva's typescript "Memories of Varlam Shalamov". The well-known Russian author Shalamov (Sjalamov) spent a long time in GULAG camps. (Gulag/Goelag = Glavnoje Oepravlenije Lagerej = Chief directorate of the camps.) His most important book is *Kolymskie rasskazy* [Stories from Kolyma]. Kolyma, comprising the city of Magadan on the Sea of Okhotsk, is a region in the Northeast tip of Russia and is notorious for its many camps. Tat'jana Ivanovna Isaeva and her mother knew Shalamov well. Unfortunately, this Isaeva archive is closed for research for the time being.

THIS ISSUE OF FRATERNISATION PRO-LÉTARIENNE. ORGANE DES COMMUNISTES RÉVOLUTIONNAIRES DE FRANCE, MARCH 1943, N° 3, DEPICTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEWISH HOMELAND IN PALESTINE AS A CONSPIRACY BY STALIN, ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL AND HITLER (LEFT TO RIGHT). "HOW EASY IT IS TO EXPLOIT THEM, NOW THAT THEY ARE ALL IN THE SAME PLACE."





THE RED ARMY PARADE, BY ALEKSANDR ALEKSANDROV-ICH DEJNEKA, ONE OF THE 375 COLOURFUL RUSSIAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION.

☞ The archive of Ferdinand Smit/Unifil reached Amsterdam in a very unusual way. From the outset, the Netherlands contributed to the UN troops sent to the south of Lebanon in 1978 to separate Israel from the Palestinian guerrillas of the PLO. A great many Arabists, including Ferdinand Smit (Leiden 1959 - Mali 2000) performed their military service as interpreters for the Dutch UNIFIL troops. They were responsible for maintaining contact with the local population. With the expulsion of the PLO from South Lebanon after the campaign "Peace for the Galilee", they witnessed the rise of Shiite militias, starting with Nabih Berri's Amal movement and then the Hezbollah. Ferdinand Smit wrote his thesis about the Hezbollah. In March 2000, by then a diplomat, he was killed while

on holiday in Mali, when he and two of his UNIFIL friends were attacked by smugglers. Ferdinand Smit studied archaeology and Arabic at the universities of Amsterdam and Leiden. His wife presented the IISH with the collection he accumulated while stationed in Lebanon and for his thesis. The collection consists mainly of UNIFIL reports, reports from the Dutch Embassy and reports by himself and other interpreters about the local situation.

☞ The Tali'a al-Ummal Collection (the vanguard of the workers). The Egyptian communist group Tali'a al-Ummal was established in 1942 and merged with the Communist Party of Egypt in 1957. The group's founders were the three Egyptian Jews Ahmad

Sadiq Sa'd (1913-1988), Yusuf Darwish (b. 1920) and Raymond Douek (1907-1980). In 1945-1946 the group helped organize workers and student committees that opposed the British presence in Egypt. The group resisted the establishment of a communist party, on the grounds that Egypt was not yet ready.

The collection was gathered by the group's members, brought to Paris and entrusted to Raymond Douek, who was expelled from Egypt in the 1950s. In 1999 it was donated to the IISH. Even though the archive consists of published documents (leaflets, pamphlets and regular publications), the material is unique. It contains nearly all the communist movement's publications, which were destroyed in their country of origin by the Egyptian secret police.

☞ The NEHA has highlighted "statistics from the French era" in its collection for several years. The following titles were selected for the second presentation to the Friends:

- Jacques Peuchet, *Essai d'une statistique générale de la France* (An IX = 1801)
- August Ludwig von Schloezer, *Introduction à la science de la statistique; suivi d'un coup d'oeil général sur l'étude entière de la politique, sur sa marche et ses divisions* (Paris, de l'Imprimerie Impériale (An XIII = 1805); French edition of the German original, present in Dutch as well)
- Charles Philibert Lasteyrie du Saillant, *Du cotonnier et de sa culture, ou traité sur les diverses espèces de cotonniers; sur la possibilité et les moyens [...]* (Paris: Arthus-bertrand, 1808)
- *Tableau Général de la nouvelle division de la France en départements [...]* (Paris: An X = 1802)
- *Aperçu de la Balance du Commerce 1791*. Unlike the above works, this lovely calligraphy list is a manuscript from the Bruyard collection inventoried a few years ago.

While not truly representative of the statistics focus, these titles complement the already substan-

tial collection. This interest figures within the general effort to quantify society, which got under way during the eighteenth century. The trend parallels and also results from the rise of the unified state, which reached a provisional peak during the French era. Much of the information captured in numerical records nowadays was introduced back then, including the population register. Data on taxes, international trade and the like were registered and examined as well. The French era was the temporary heyday of this practice, because the French techniques for quantifying and compiling statistics of important data were very sophisticated. With the French controlling most of continental Europe, commissions for statistical surveys came from Paris for a while and were based on identical principles. While execution of these instructions often left much to be desired, the substance was far more conducive to comparison than a century later.

LECTURE BY RENATE  
FUKS-MANSFELD

Rena Fuks, who studied under Romein, Presser and Schaper, was an associate professor of Jewish history and subsequently professor of the endowed chair for the History and Culture of Modern Judaism at the University of Amsterdam. Her best-known work is *De Sefardim in Amsterdam tot 1795. Aspecten van een joodse minderheid in een Hollandse stad* (Hilversum 1989).

After retiring in 1995, she helped make the Jewish archives accessible at the IISH. Rena Fuks had already worked extensively with two world-famous collections on Jewish history: the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana and Ets Haim Library / Livraria Montezinos, both in Amsterdam.

On 12 December 2000 she delivered a lecture about her experiences with the Jewish archives at the IISH, especially those of the *Bund*. Her lecture was somewhat more entertaining than the written version published as "A Hid-



A PAGE FROM  
THE RED ARMY  
PARADE

den Treasure. The Yiddish Collection of the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam" in *Jiddische Philologie. Festschrift für Erika Timm* (eds: Walter Röhl and Simon Neuberger), Tübingen 1999, pp. 1-14. (The English text of the lecture appears on the IISH Internet website.)

Yiddish is the dialect spoken by East-European Jews – a mixture of Hebrew, German and Romanian. The turbulent history of the Yiddish archives is closely connected with the history of the IISH. Even before the Institute's official establishment, Annie Adama van Scheltema warned Posthumus and Nehemia de Lieme about the condition of the archives of the *Bund* and the financial predicament of the curator Franz Kursky (1874-1950, pseudonym of Samuel Kahan).

The *Algemeyner Yidisher Arbeyter Bund in Lite, Polyn un Rusland*, known as the *Bund*, was established as the Jewish social democratic party in 1897. As a co-founder, Kursky was responsible for the library and archives. After the first Russian revolution of 1905, the *Bund* was able to operate officially in Russia and established headquarters in Vilna, Lithuania. In 1920, during the war between Russian and Poland, Kursky moved to Berlin with the archive and library. He remained there until 1933. When the Nazis seized power, he fled with all the *Bund* material to Paris, where he contacted Annie Adama.

After consulting de Lieme, Posthumus paid Kursky ten thousand French francs as a down payment toward the eighty-eight thousand francs for the material, which comprised about twenty

THE ORIGINAL BAG IN WHICH THE INSTITUTE RECEIVED THE ARCHIVE OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (NDF) FROM THE PHILIPPINES.



thousand pamphlets and other papers from the *Bund* archive and library. Kursky probably reached this agreement independently, as no traces of the transaction appear in the archive documents. In 1936 the first crates and boxes with material arrived at the IISH. Posthumus was far from enthusiastic about the quality of the items and was similarly unimpressed with the subsequent shipments. He believed that everything of value from the *Bund* had been diverted elsewhere, and that the IISH was stuck with common trivial items. He felt cheated.

Kursky left behind the *Bund* documents and fled to the United States in 1941, where he spent his final years. The Nazis confiscated them but had not yet shipped the material to Germany, when Paris was liberated by the Americans in 1944. They sent the collection to their country, where the material was divided among a few institutes in New York. Another part of the material ended up in London and Vilna, while some remained behind in Paris.

Little happened with the contents of the crates and boxes at the IISH after Posthumus's outbursts. During and after the war the crates went on a few major journeys. By July 1940 the IISH was closed by order of Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg. Between 1941 and 1943, the entire IISH collection – obviously including the *Bund* crates – was shipped to Germany. After the war, a major search effort was launched (once again with sup-

port from De Centrale) to retrieve the material. The final shipments arrived around the late 1950s, marking the return to the IISH of about two thirds of its pre-war collection. Because of IISH founder Posthumus's assessments, most of the returned *Bund* crates remained sealed after the war as well. In 1996 Renate Fuks-Mansfeld started to inventory and catalogue the *Bund* documents. She has discovered a wealth of material that is of great interest, especially to us at present. It is not, however, the real *Bund* archive. That collection ended up in New York, London and Paris.

While arranging the archive, which is not a typical Jewish collection and is certainly not as worthless as Posthumus thought, she identified five sections:

- Kursky sent the IISH everything *not* related to the internal affairs of the *Bund*. During his years in Geneva from 1900 onward, he used his contacts with his country of origin to build an excellent and valuable documentation collection on Poland between the two world wars. Members from Russia, Poland and Lithuania sent material to Geneva, where Kursky stored everything. Now this material has a special significance.
- Kursky's *Bund* collection from his Berlin period (1920-1929). This largely concerns support for Jews emigrating from or remaining in many different places. It includes medical information for emigrants, be-

cause of the multitude of health regulations for immigrants to the United States.

- Everything Kursky gathered in Berlin and especially in Paris, which we now consider a magnificent collection of political propaganda (although Posthumus felt otherwise at the time). Jews were often represented as a separate "nation" in national parliaments, for example in Poland, Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania. This explains the political activities, especially of their largest organization the *Bund*. The visually attractive items, such as the poster collection, are in New York. This section comprises the entire social-political Jewish network, including health and medical care, of Eastern Europe during the Interbellum.
- The fourth section of the *Bund* archive concerns the Russian emigrants awaiting the Revolution elsewhere in the world.
- Finally, there are crates filled with newspaper clippings. Though neatly arranged, these boxes were a major source of annoyance to Posthumus.

Thanks to Rena's indispensable inventory, a rich Jewish source is ready for additional investigation at the IISH; the inspiring material may fill several gaps in our knowledge of Jewish culture.

## SECOND BUSINESS MEETING

Present: 7 friends, 2 members of the IISH administration, Jan Lucassen as *ad hoc* chairman, Mieke IJzermans, a few IISH colleagues, Bart Hageraats as the listener appointed to take minutes.

### I. UPDATE, BY JAN LUCASSEN:

Current membership stands at 42 (including 4 members abroad), with total donations amounting to NLG 12,500. Six members have contributed NLG 1,000, the others NLG 200, with dues still outstand-



ing from 19. The previous estimate of NLG 11,000 has been exceeded. In due time the surplus will add up considerably, to the immense satisfaction of all those present. The total expected for this year is NLG 14,000. Thus far, the only expense has been NLG 239 for translations; the postage fees equalled the interest received.

Members are thanked for their contributions. Afterwards we will discuss whether to invest half the amount (as agreed at the previous meeting) in two projects. The other question is whether to place the money in a savings or deposit account. One piece of excellent news is that five friends – who will remain anonymous for the time being – have decided to supplement their dues with an extremely large donation:

- ☞ half the estate of one of the Friends will go to the IISH
- ☞ a substantial bequest from one of the Friends, to cover grants to foreign visitors at the IISH

☞ a major archive and library belonging to one of the Friends shall go to the IISH

☞ a Friend has committed seven hundred thousand Dutch guilders, to be released from 2001 (in

increments) for research on 20<sup>th</sup> century labour history in Russia

☞ a fifth Friend will provide one million toward research on women's work in the Netherlands in the period 1600-1850.

A detailed report about the allocation of the funds will follow.

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

☞ The outcome of the discussion about the elaboration of the general principles was as follows:

☞ A new foundation will not be established. Friends are donors who set up a separate *fund* within the current Stichting Beheer IISG. This will be reflected in the articles of association. (The Stichting Beheer also consists of the publishing house, a regular fundraising body and the National Trades Union Museum).

☞ Donors contribute NLG 200 or NLG 1,000 a year or a one-time substantial amount of NLG 3,000 or more or material of an equivalent value.

☞ All Friends together are the *council of donors*. They elect a

board with a chairman, a secretary and three commissioners to serve two-year terms. The board advises the IISH and the Stichting Beheer IISG on request or otherwise and recommends ways to promote the Circle of Friends.

☞ The following candidates have already applied in writing to serve on the *board* of the Circle of Friends: Liesbeth Laman-Meyer (Amsterdam), Bram Stemerding (Den Bosch), Ger Verrips (Amsterdam) and Jan Lucassen & Mieke IJzermans at the IISH. The assembly appointed them for the period 2001-2002 and gratefully accepted the offer from Bart Hageraats to run the secretariat.

## 3. ALLOCATION OF THE REVENUES FROM THE FRIENDS

The board shall submit proposals in consultation with the administration of the IISH to the council of donors regarding the allocation. Larger donations subject to conditions will also be accepted following consultation with the IISH administration. The Institute also welcomes additional unrestricted donations.

A PAGE FROM THE DIARY (1968-1969) THAT SOERJONO KEPT DURING HIS STAY IN CHINA. ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1969 HE JOINED AN EXCURSION, WHERE THE GUIDE TALKED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF CHINESE RESISTANCE TO THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION DURING THE WAR. AS A MAJOR, HE APPARENTLY WANTED TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS AND WROTE MANY PAGES ABOUT EXPLOSIVES, SUCH AS THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE EFFECT OF TNT ON A BRICK WALL.



Two proposals are submitted to the council of donors:

- 3.1 A pilot project for oral history has been launched in dictatorial, closed Burma. The initial interviews shall be with the older generation of Burma's democratic movement. A digital camera that costs about NLG 3,000 is required for the project.

Many of the movement's leaders have already died, and others are likely to pass away without having a chance to tell their life stories and especially their experiences with the movement. Ideally, the younger generation will learn and derive inspiration from the older generation's struggle and achievements. The project will also enrich the Burma archives, which would otherwise lack information about this neglected period in Burmese history.

The second stage of the project would involve interviews with prisoners and women from the democratic movement.

- 3.2 A second-hand bookseller in Istanbul has offered to sell a collection of Turkish magazines from the period 1873-1976 for NLG 4,000. Most are from the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Ottoman script). Two magazines are unique, and most of the others are unavailable anywhere in Europe except for Turkey (where access to them is either restricted or prohibited). They address virtually all aspects of Turkish society:

The political journals *Aiyan* (1908-1909), *Aydede* (1922), *Aydede* (second series, 1948-1949), *Azerbaycan Yurt Bilgisi* (1932-1954) and *Kadro (orijinal)* (1932-1935); political satire: *Malum Pasa* (1947); and political and military: *Müdafaa-i Milliye* (1913-1914); the youth magazine *Gençlik* (1928) and for women: *Kadin* (1908-1909) and *Mahasin* (1908-1909); the educational journal *Kirkanbar* (1873-1876) and finally the nationalist extremist *Orhun* (1934)

and *Türklük* (1939-1940).

The IISH is one of the few institutes outside Turkey able to start such a collection; in Turkey these types of archives are rarely open to the public. The largest collection outside Turkey is here in Amsterdam and is freely accessible. The material is consulted intensively. One of those examining it is a Turkish PhD candidate.

The Friends unanimously approve the allocation of the amounts requested for the two projects proposed. They will receive progress reports and will be notified of the results.

#### 4. FREQUENCY AND DATES FOR FRIENDS MEETINGS

Plenty of material is available for two presentations – and meetings – a year. Scheduling the gatherings between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. would be better than earlier in the afternoon. Friday and Saturday are not good days (because of traffic and the like). May and November are probably the best months, as they do not coincide with holidays or other busy periods.

#### 5. GIFT FOR FRIENDS IN 2001

New members in 2000 received the guide to the foreign archives at the IISH. What will they receive in the year ahead? Suggestions are welcome.

#### 6. RECRUITING MEMBERS AND UPDATING THE FILE

The recruitment process was based on lists, records of visitors, etc. We sent out 400 letters to see what the response would be. We received 60 letters of acceptance, mainly from within the Netherlands. Not everybody has paid, although many have agreed to join. Please share any ideas you might

have for recruiting members by contacting Jan Lucassen or Mieke IJzermans.

Sending reminders to the 400 individuals originally invited is probably not a good idea; declining to join should be regarded as final. Nor does contacting the subscribers to the *Tijdschrift voor Sociale Geschiedenis* seem like a fruitful strategy.

There is a small chance that all the information on the Internet (<http://www.iisg>), including the report for the past year, will attract new members.

The meeting ends, those present are thanked, and the reception begins.