On the Waterfront

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OF THE IISH

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Introduction

This is the fourth issue of On the Waterfront. Both this publication about the semi-annual meetings and the other activities are becoming routine. Two research projects are now under way thanks to support from the Friends, as you will read in the report of the general meeting. One covers Russian labour history in the twentieth century and the other women’s labour in the Dutch Republic. Like the previous Waterfront issues, this one features selected illustrations of additions to iish collections acquired thanks to donations from the Friends.

Members of the Friends of the iish pay annual dues of one or five hundred euro or join with a lifetime donation of one thousand five hundred euro or more. Payments can also be made on the installment system. 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 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 five hundred euro 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 (1888-1966) in the 1930s. For the past decade, two of the institutes established by this “history entrepreneur” have operated from the same premises: the NEHA (Netherlands 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 Aan de Schoone Schilderingen 1935-1947, Amsterdam 1986, and in: Jan Lucassen Tracing the past. Collections and research in social and economic history; The International Institute of Social History (iish)); 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 Arie van der Horst have compiled the Guide to the International Archives and Collections at the iish, Amsterdam, Amsterdam 1999). For all information concerning the Friends, contact Mieke IJzermans at the iish (mij@iisg.nl).

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PRESENTATION OF THE ACQUISITIONS

In the second half of 2001 the iish acquired over one hundred archives: about 40 new ones and 60 supplementary collections. The NEHA also acquired a few new manuscripts and small economic history archives. This provided us once again with a wealth of new material to compile this presentation, in which we aim to reflect a balance of periods, countries and aspects. While this does not immediately provide a representative impression – our preferences are obviously the main focus – we hope the result will be attractive.

Etienne Cabet
In the early years of the iish, Posthumus sometimes managed to obtain papers (especially from antiquarian book dealers) of major French egalitarian thinkers, such as Gracchus (François-Noël) Babeuf. Even in his day, however, this material was rare and costly, due in part to the collection frenzy of the Moscow Institute for Marxism-Leninism, which skimmed the international market (especially in the 1920s). Our Institute presently holds small and large archives of Lucien Descaves (1861-1949) and the Paris Commune, as well as the papers of Etienne Cabet. A few years ago the collected inventory was completed of a small but select group of writings by thinkers and actors, such as the aforementioned Gracchus Babeuf (1760-1797), Louis Blanc (1811-1882) and Pierre Proudhon (1809-1866). This collection has since become known as “French revolutions and revolutionaries 1791-1871.” Accruals to these important old collections have become all but impossible to obtain.

Surprisingly, three letters by Etienne Cabet (1788-1856) surfaced at a French auction and were acquired thanks to our former staff member Heiner Becker. The oldest letter is from 1826, and the two others are from 1846 and 1847. The letter of 7 April 1846 is addressed to the physician Rosant and reveals that Cabet was a man of actions as well as words. He writes: “Le porteur de ce billet est un ouvrier que vous avez déjà vu et conseillé sans vouloir rien recevoir...”
Household booklets

Household booklets with daily entries of receipts and expenditures are indispensable for micro studies of social history but are also very rare. This holds true both for the workers that used them and for the higher classes. In the past, the NEHA nonetheless obtained over twenty series of household booklets dating back to the sixteenth century. Supplementing this costly series remains difficult. We were therefore delighted to receive a bequest of 40 booklets for the period 1885-1972 covering three generations of a family.

The first generation lived in Appingedam in the northeast corner of the Netherlands. In December 1885 the cashier and wine merchant Gerard Toxopeus (1853-1926) married Johanna Dethmers (d. 1926), whose father was a brick manufacturer in the nearby village of Uitwierde. They saved all the invoices for furnishing their home, and Johanna kept a weekly record of their expenses for 1887. Remarkably, her husband the cashier received a weekly allowance of five guilders. This was the apparent result of the custom for the wife to manage the household.

The couple had three daughters, Anna (1886-1949), the eldest, was the only one who married. Her husband Marinus Adriaan Hollestelle was from Zeeland and worked for the land register, which stationed him in different places. At the outbreak of the Great War he was living in Breda, which – like all of the neutral Netherlands – was inundated with Belgian refugees. A notebook from that period containing the names and details of about 250 Belgian and a few French refugees and their children who requested aid from the Magdalena Foundation in Breda between 9 and 23 October 1914 provides useful information about migration history. Presumably, one of the two spouses served on the board.

The third generation consisted of four children, including a set of twins, a boy and a girl. The last one was the well-known eco-

Some ANTR membership booklets contained advertisements from printing houses, this copy from the Kunstdrukkerij Dieperink & Co. in Amsterdam from around World War I invokes the tradition of printing craftsmanship.
onomic historian Johanna Hollestelle (1915-2002). She obtained her PhD at Utrecht University on the history of the brickyards in the Southern and Northern Netherlands until 1860. The preface to her thesis ends as follows: "I regret that my mother did not live to see the culmination of my studies. She would undoubtedly have been delighted, since this book addresses a branch of industry that has traditionally involved her family." While these words long remained a mystery, we know from this collection that she was referring to her great grandfather Dethmers. Fortunately, this family had more continuous customs, such as keeping meticulous records of the weekly household expenses. We present the oldest household booklet in the series, as well as invoices for the accoutrements purchased in 1885.

Membership booklets

Despite the wealth of commemorative books and other studies about trade unions, we know little about the significance of membership for ordinary members. In addition to collecting the archives of the major congresses and unions, we therefore need to continue gathering grass-roots material concerning small unions, local chapters and members (provided the documents of members concern their membership). Supplements from the Dutch FNV and CNV confederations about the trades union congresses arrive regularly. On small trade unions, the Institute acquired the delightful archive of the Nationale Vakbond van Muziekinstrumentenmakers en Stemmers (National Trade Union of Musical Instrument Makers and Tuners) in August.

Registered membership booklets were the most tangible evidence of a member's ties to his or her union until a few decades ago. These printed booklets listed union regulations and other useful information about the union and reflected dues and other payments. Full booklets obviously do not abound in union archives and are therefore rather rare. In November the 18th received a request of not one but an entire series of booklets, which had all members of the Algemene Nederlandse Typografen Bond and its successor the Algemene Nederlandse Grafische bond, which was one of the first unions in the Netherlands. The oldest booklet, which covers the years 1894-1898, belonged to the typesetter P.J. de Wolff, who became a member when the union was established in 1867. Remarkably, this first membership booklet is in Dutch, French and German. The obvious reason was the international nature of the printing trade, as apparent from the separate pages listing the travel allowances paid by the union. This international orientation later made way for a continuously improving national system of provisions for sick pay and unemployment benefits. The transition is conveyed by the membership booklets of representatives of three generations of typographers (probably all from Amsterdam): Frederik Christiaan Philips (born in 1879 and a member since 1902; he held two booklets for the period 1920-1942), Hendrik Wilhelm Philips (born in 1905 and a member since 1922; eight booklets until 1969) and Frits Philips (born in 1933 and a member since 1952; one booklet for 1952-1957 and a copy of the regulations). During this period members received stamps to stick in their booklet upon payment of their weekly dues. The material conveys the stylistic changes within this union (which greatly valued quality printed matter) over a 70-year period.

This acquisition is very special, because so little remains of the archives of these unions of typographers – rather curious, considering their strong tradition. The available material was previously donated to the Institute and is retrievable under the joint heading Bonden van Grafici 1849-1952.

Jan Romein

In 1988 the Institute published a vast inventory compiled by Jaap Haag of the archive of the Dutch historian Jan Marius Romein (1893-1962). Previously, in 1966, Hanneke Domisse had drafted a list of the papers of this celebrity acquired by the Institute shortly before. Often, however, accruals may even arrive for what seem to be comprehensive and well-inventoried archives. This happened with the Jan Romein archive. Last summer, Maarten Brands, who recently retired from the history department of the University of Amsterdam and was considered to be Romein’s successor, donated one and a half crates of new archival documents to the IISH. In addition to interesting corre-
spondence, they include systematic notes on the achievements and progress of Romein’s students and PhD candidates. The material reflects his role as the instructor of an entire generation of Dutch historians (including several professors) between 1940 and 1960. We present a page from one of the notebooks about Bernard Slicher van Bath (born in 1910 and presently 92 years of age), who became a renowned agricultural historian (in 1961 the English translation appeared of his work Agrarian History of Western Europe, 500–1850). Slicher had started working on his PhD under the supervision of the medieval historian at Utrecht University O.A. Opperman (1873-1946). In September 1944 the Gestapo forced this German-born professor to return to the country of his birth, where he soon died under wretched circumstances. Romein had previously invited Slicher to deliver a guest lecture and officially became his thesis supervisor in 1946.

Jan Romein also started out as a student, as manifested by the notebook presented of the “Huizinga candidates lecture, 1919–1920, Richard II.” Johan Huizinga (1872-1945) was appointed in Leiden in 1935. In his day history students at the University of Leiden were required to attend seminars with two professors following their initial degree: with J. Huizinga and his former instructor and colleague P.J. Blok (1855-1922).

Romein’s fellow student Annie Verschoor, whom he married in August 1920, remembered these lectures (which met only one hour a week) as highly superficial. All students were expected to submit a project not to exceed 20 pages for discussion in class. Unfortunately, Annie never got her turn. “Come see me at home after the holiday to review your work,” offered Huizinga. Annie recalled the visit as follows: “In the large room upstairs at the back, Huizinga sat hunched over his desk lit by a small green desk lamp in a manner that suggested I was intruding. He put down his work and absent-mindedly fumbled in a desk drawer. ‘Is this your work?’ ‘No, professor.’ ‘What about this?’ ‘Yes, professor.’” Huizinga no longer remembered what his remarks were, just that he had been very impressed, and poor Annie made a hasty departure.

The influence of this trio of instructors and students extended beyond Dutch historiography. Huizinga’s reputation is common knowledge, and much of Romein and Slicher van Bath’s work has been translated as well.

Sadique Dowlatabadi

Received in 1999, the archive of Sadique Dowlatabadi (1880-1961) was recently inventoried and made available for research; it covers the period 1919-1959. The IISH received the archive as a permanent standing loan from relatives thanks to Turaj Atabaki, an honorary research fellow at the IISH research department. (He was recently also appointed at the University of Amsterdam on behalf of the IISH as endowed professor for the social history of the Middle East, with particular attention to the history of the social movements, due in part to their relations with Europe.)

Sadique Dowlatabadi was one of the first feminists in Iran and published about women’s emancipation in her country; she helped found special schools for girls and was involved in politics. In 1942 she became the publisher the women’s journal Zanan-e Zaban (The Women’s Patois), which appeared from 1919 to 1921 and from 1942-1945. We present the issue

C-over of Zanan-e Zaban, which Dowlatabadi had already established in 1919. Three years later the publication was shut down by the authorities and resumed only in 1942.

Two cartoons from issue 1 (1942) of the women’s journal Zanan-e Zaban published by Dowlatabadi in Persia. In the first one a man tells his wife: “When a person dies, his spirit turns into a large beast.” His wife replies: “You won’t need to die for that.” In the second one a judge asks a thief whether he is ashamed to be standing trial for the fourteenth time. The thief agrees but says that he did not want to stop at thirteen.
of 1 December 1942 from this first women’s journal published in Iran. The archive contains unique material, such as her memoirs, personal notes and correspondence with relatives and government institutions.

We are also pleased to present the articles of association (1935) from among the interesting documents concerning the Banuwan Foundation. Sadique initiated this foundation, which promoted products that women made at home. Sadique Dowlatabadi drew plenty of interest in Iran and abroad, as apparent from Issue 36 of Equal Rights (October 1926), which features her portrait on the cover, and from an Iranian journal published in 1926.

**The Kun Library**

The Institute received this library collection (approximately 3,000 items) from the well-known Hungarian historian Miklos Kun (he has published about Bakunin, Bucharin and the Prague Spring). As a long-time collector, he has a vast network of contacts and has been on good terms with the Institute for many years. Miklos’ grandfather was Béla Kun (1886-1916), Chairman of the Presidium of the Hungarian Communist Administration 1919. Kun inherited part of the collection from Antal Hidás, who long served as the secretary to the International Revolutionary Writers’ League, and from his wife Agnes Kun, Béla’s sister and Miklos’ great-aunt. After the fall of the Hungarian soviet republic (the famous 133 days in 1919), she settled in Moscow and worked at the Marx-Engels Institute. This part of the collection comprises a wealth of Hungarian and Russian literature, much of it containing presentation inscriptions from authors or translators. Miklos Kun collected interesting Russian pamphlets and trade union periodicals from the 1920s and 30s.

We present a few journals and a unique, original manuscript by Béla Bartok, which was found in a book with the lyrics to his songs. The investigation by the IHSH associate Riefke van der Heide revealed that the book and manuscript came from the collection of Rudolf Vig, a researcher of Hungarian folk music at the Folk Music Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The manuscript will be donated to this institution in the near future.

**Nienke van Hichtum**

Nienke van Hichtum (1860 - 1939) is the pseudonym of Sjoukje Troelstra Bokma de Boer. In 1888 she married the Frisian poet and politician Pieter Jelles Troelstra (1860-1930), the leader of the Dutch social democrats from 1894 to 1925. Nienke and Pieter Jelles were divorced in 1906. Nienke van Hichtum wrote countless children’s books, including the very popular Afriës Tiental. Many older readers regard her as the author who depicted their carefree
childhood years. Children today see her as a writer of family stories that give them a sense of comfort and safety and provide a counterweight to life in our harsh, affluent society. Recently, a popular motion picture – Nienke – was released in the Netherlands about Nienke van Hichtum and Pieter Jelles Troelstra.

The nISH has acquired two of her letters to Tom van Maanen (the chairman of the Hilversum chapter of the socialist youth organization AJC until the spring of 1934) via the Stichting Onderzoek AJC. The letters complement the three letters from Sjoukje Troelstra Bokma de Boer already present in the vast archive of Pieter Jelles Troelstra.

Excerpt from the letter of 7 November 1935:

“Dear Tom,

You must be surprised that I have not written to thank you yet for the lovely photographs and equally beautiful leaves from the Paasheuvel [Easter Hill, the nature reserve where the young Dutch socialists gathered]! I enjoyed both so much, especially your kind letter! Thank you for everything! I will stick the leaves in a grey passe-partout as soon as I can get one. They are next to me on a black piece of paper now and are a delight to me every day. Unfortunately, I can do little with the photographs yet, as my wretched eyes have recently become painful and unreliable – those scoundrels! I had to rest them and was unable to write to you for a while. I am better now but still need to be careful. These sudden handicaps are so inconvenient! Especially with four of my books being reprinted and the old copies sitting on my desk with blank sheets of paper inserted to indicate corrections and changes and – the new spelling of very many words indeed! My book was not exactly as I wanted it yet either, but I sent it off to the publisher anyway. He always retypes everything and will send me a carbon copy to scribble on. […] After you left, I suddenly felt sorry that I had complained to you about the situation here. After all, lassitude settles nearly every summer, when Loosdrecht exudes its magnetic effect […].” Here, she is referring to the lull in the activities of the young socialists during the summer, when they felt the ponds at nearby Loosdrecht beckoning them. Some undoubtedly discovered naturism there as well, as the following section reveals.

**Zon en Leven**

At the previous meeting we discussed the lending library of the Nederlandse Vegetariërs Bond (nvvb) [Dutch society of vegetarians]; see *On the Waterfront* 3 (2001), pp. 6-7. By coincidence, eight crates of archives from the closely affiliated naturists’ movement arrived soon afterwards. Liesbeth van der Sluis mediated the offer of these items from Gerard Verheijen, who was a long-time board member. The nISH had previously received a large library collection from this organization.

The movement arose in the Netherlands in the 1920s and 30s but started with only three small groups, including a socialist one from Amsterdam (the Bond van Lichtvrienden, 1931-1935) and a theosophic one from Utrecht, which restricted membership to people of Aryan descent (the Vrije Lichaams-kultuurbeweging, 1926-1934). Only after World War II did naturism become more widely accepted. In 1946 the Zon en Leven [Sun and Life] foundation was established. Similar associations followed in various other places. In 1961 most merged to form the Nederlandse Federatie van Naturistenverenigingen (NFN). The archive recently acquired primarily concerns the two post-war organizations.

This archive conveys the largely unwritten history of naturism. It also sheds light on the many international branches and reveals...
the movement’s connections with vegetarianism, temperance and non-smoking associations, sports etc. Two letters from former members of Zon en Leven illustrate this context. These former members lived abroad at the time and drew some interesting international comparisons. The first, a man, lived in Indonesia during its early days of independence, while the second, a woman, was in the United States.

On 12 March 1951, “Piet” wrote from Jakarta: “Across the vast distance of sixteen thousand kilometres [...] is it not the same sun that shines on us, and do we not share the same ideals and views? In my mind I wander back to those wonderful weekends at Loosdrecht, on our island on that large pond. [...] At times I would think how incredibly rich we naturists really are [...], richer than that fat man with all his money unable to buy an ounce of the true happiness that we get free by the pound [...].”

Jo van Zwol, who had settled in San Francisco with her husband Ton and her daughters Annie and Ingrid six months earlier, wrote on 10 July 1951: “The food here is plentiful and good, with a lot of fruit, but I do not think the Americans are consuming it right. They eat huge amounts of meat (and drink lots of beer). Many people (especially men) are overweight here, even the children. We eat lots of fruit and – even though we are not vegetarians – very little meat. As you know, we are teetotallers, so we never drink beer or the like. Perhaps we eat too many eggs; the four of us often consume two dozen a week (they are sold by the dozen here, rather than individually). [...] Roy Petersen and his wife are kind souls. [...] He plans to introduce me to the sunbathing movement here. I am not really interested. I do not expect the standards here to measure up to those in the Netherlands, and naturism does not exist here; what they have here is simply nudism. Sometimes I long for the Four Elements. Except for the Lake Lucerne in Switzerland, I have never seen such a pleasant bathing spot as on ‘the Island.’”

Vernon Richards

Vernon Richards (1915-2001), whose real name was Vero Recchioni, was born in London as the son of Italian political refugees. He worked as a publicist in England for over sixty years and helped his father with his propaganda campaign against the Mussolini regime. In 1936 he and Camillo Berneri published the bilingual anarchist paper Italia Libera/Free Italy. In that year he also started publishing Spain and the World, which was renamed Revol in 1939 and War Commentary at the outbreak of World War II. In 1945 the title was ultimately changed to Freedom. Richards was sentenced to spend nine months in prison for subversive efforts among soldiers in that year too. He remained the editor of Freedom.

Shortly before her marriage in December 1885, Johanna Dethmers purchased the following items at J.L. de Vries, a local shop for “Lamps and Various Kinds of Mirrors, Tins, Glass, China and Earthenware, Clogs, Gouda Pipes, Mops and Dishcloths”: A glass Paraffin Lamp, 12 Glasses, a Coffee and Tea Kettle and a Copper Jug. The cost equalled two to three weeks’ wages for an average working man (see section on household booklets on page 4).
José Peirats Valls (1908–1989) on a photograph taken around 1955 (i.e. during his time with the anarchist movement in France, when he was writing the history of the CNT). Professional, Richards earned a living as a railway engineer, a gardener and through other activities. He also worked at his father’s Italian delicatessen in London for years. After he retired he became the financial manager of the Freedom publishing house. Vernon Richards wrote articles and several books, including his famous Lessons of the Spanish Revolution. He translated books as well. Richards’ archive comprises material about Freedom, as well as a lot of personal correspondence with prominent anarchists.

José Peirats Valls

In June 2001 Kees Roodenburg acquired the personal papers of José Peirats Valls (1908-1989) for the IISH. It contains his post-war correspondence, typescripts of published and unpublished articles for the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist press and documentation consisting of pamphlets and newspapers. The donor (his widow Mrs. Gracia Ventura) also lent us several photographs to reproduce and include in the collection. José Peirats was born in 1908 in Vall d’Uxó, a small village near Valencia. He returned following his exile and died there in 1989. He baked tiles for a living and was a skilled bread baker as well. He went to work at age eight and joined the anarcho-syndicalist movement at age fourteen. Peirats attended the Rationalist School of Barcelona for a while and published his first writings in the bulletin for the union of construction workers. In the 1930s he started publishing in various anarchist periodicals, such as Ética, La Revista Blanca, Tierra y Libertad and Solidaridad Obrera, which he edited from 1934 until early 1936. Whenever the censors shut down the paper, he would go back to work at construction sites.

At the start of the uprising against Franco while soldiers were occupying the centre of Barcelona, he and his group entered the barracks in the suburb where he lived and absconded with the stockpiles of arms. After the defeat of the military, he took the vanguard in socializing the food distribution. Shortly afterwards, he went to work for Acacia, a newspaper in Lérida that opposed anarchist participation in the government. Peirats was dismissed from this job in mid-1937 because of his political views. After working briefly at Ruta, an anarchist youth paper, he travelled to Latin America and returned to France in 1947, where he served two terms as secretary general of the anarchist movement in exile. He also wrote his famous history of the CNT there: La CNT en la revolución española.

Ekspress-Chronika

In 2001, the Institute received a collection of documents of Ekspress-Chronika (2 m). This Moscow newspaper was launched in 1987 as an illegal information leaflet featuring news about human
rights in the USSR. Initially published on a few thin pages, it evolved into a weekly newspaper. Its news agency with a vast network of correspondents, including many activists for human rights organizations, supplied the information for the newspaper and for the daily news bulletin (Svodka Novostej), which catered primarily to human rights organizations and the media. For a while both the newspaper and a weekly summary of the Svodka Novostej were published in English as well. The newspaper relies largely on Western sponsors (which included Het Parool from the Netherlands for a while) and has ceased publication on various occasions due to lack of funding. The last time was in April 2000. To this day, publication has not resumed, except for a single issue (26 April 2001) to avoid losing the official registration as a newspaper, which lapses if a newspaper does not appear for a full year.

The collection presently in Amsterdam comprises correspondence, copy, editorial documents, files on various subjects (e.g. Chechnya) and a CD ROM featuring the complete set of newspapers until 1997. Copies of the newspaper are kept in the periodicals collection of the ISHR.

We present one of the first issues of Ekspress-Chronika, as well as what may be the last issue, an English edition of Ekspress-Chronika and the Chechnya diary of Ekspress-Chronika correspondent in Grozny D.V. Krikor'jan (November-December 1991). The diary is open to the page for 20 December 1991, exactly a decade before the date of this presentation. Finally, we present a letter from Viktor Gridasov, founder and editor of Pravo na zaschitu (Right to defence), a paper from the Magadan department of the MOCP (ISHR – International Society for Human Rights), to Aleksandr Podrabinek, executive editor of Ekspress-Chronika. He congratulates Podrabinek on reviving his paper, offers to help and reports the publication of the first issue of Pravo na zaschitu.

Support from the friends enabled the purchase of the exceedingly rare artistic journal La feuille. À toute occasion, of which 25 issues appeared in France between 6 October 1897 and 28 March 1899. The executive editor was Zo d’Axa (pseudonym of Alphonse Gallaud), a libertarian publicist, and Steinlen, Luce, Anquetin, Willette and others provided the illustrations. The journal appeared on a single sheet (31.3 cm x 45.2 cm) and featured the illustration on one side and the text on the other. The illustration depicted here is from the first issue. Théophile Alexandre Steinlen (1859-1923), the renowned Swiss-French artist, is alluding to the visit from the new Russian czar Nicholas II to France in October 1896, which was reciprocated by the French President Faure in late August 1897. Through this act, France confirmed its close ties with the dictatorship to the East of Germany, which was the Entente established for foreign policy and war in 1891. For additional information about Zo d’Axa, see our web site: http://www.iisg.nl/collections/zoddaxa/index.html.
Lecture by
Arthur Langeveld about
Varlam Shalamov

Varlam Tichonovitsch Shalamov lived from 1907 until 1982. His lifetime virtually overlapped the existence of the Soviet Union. A worse fortune is hard to imagine, especially for somebody with literary aspirations. To make matters worse, he was also the youngest son of a Russian Orthodox pope. His father, a liberal, had become optimistic about a new future for Russia following the revolution of 1905. Despite his political views, however, the father was a tyrant at home and a true old-fashioned patriarch. The old man was filled with disdain for his son. The father had been an avid hunter, but the son loathed hunting. He was even squeamish about slaughter ing chickens and rabbits. Moreover, Varlam suffered from Menière’s Disease and eventually died from it. The disease affects the organ of balance and causes balance disorders and deafness. This was probably why Varlam was always afraid of heights. His father did not believe in diseases. He thought they were nonsense.

In 1923 Varlam left Vologda, where he was born, for Moscow. His departure was an escape in some respects. In Moscow he worked at a tannery for a few years. In 1926, at the height of the NEP, when regulations were relaxed a bit, he enrolled at the Faculty of Soviet Law, as the law school was known at the time.

“Ther I met age-mates and thought I could change the world,” he dryly reported in his autobiography (which he never completed). “I joined the opposition during the incidents of 1927, 1928 and 1929.”

Dr. Arthur Langeveld is a senior university lecturer for Slavic Languages and Literature at Utrecht University. Considered a linguistic expert, he publishes reviews about Russian literature in Dutch weeklies. Several members of the society for Slavic students attended the lecture by special invitation.

Like the revolutionaries under the czar, he participated in underground activities, such as distributing clandestine papers addressing “that blood-soaked tidal wave that has gone down in history as the glorification of Stalin.” On 19 February 1929 he was arrested during a raid on an underground printing press at the university in Moscow. He was sentenced to three years at a camp and was sent to the Solovetski islands, which was the only prison camp in the Soviet Union at the time. In 1931 he was released early. A year later he returned to Moscow, where he worked as a journalist and writer for the next five years. His first story appeared in Oktjabr in 1932. Over the years that followed he published various stories in literary journals and married and had a daughter. He later wrote some brief memoirs in which he depicted the 1930s as an incredibly gloomy period in his life. Grimy, bleak, long lines, fear, begging Ukrainian farmers, as the first victims of the collectivizations. He was arrested again in 1937. “For KRD” reads the brief entry in his diary, meaning for counterrevolutionary Trotskyist activities. He was sentenced to five years in Kolyma. In this coldest and most desolate area in the world, tucked away in northeast Siberia on the Ochots Sea, a vast network of concentration camps was built in the 1930s. He was put to work digging for gold.

In December 1938 he was arrested in the gold mine and transferred to Magadan. In the years that followed he worked in the coal mines, which he found less rigorous than the gold mines. He no longer worked outside and did not have to dig as much. Moreover, the mine corridors were too narrow for the convoy guards to beat him.

By 1942 Shalamov had served his time. Like all political prisoners, however, he was not released but remained in custody without trial. In 1943 he was put on trial again, Shalamov was given up and accused of being a “Kadrovy Trotskyist and an enemy of the Party.” He received a ten-year sentence. Until the war was over, he dragged himself back and forth between the mine and the hospital. “I spent as much time as I could in the hospitals of Kolyma,” reads the last line of his incomplete autobiography.

The hospital saved his life. After the war he became a nurse (feldshert) and served the rest of his sentence there.

In 1953 Shalamov returned to the mainland, as the Soviet Union was known in Kolyma, or to civilization, as we might say. Of course he was not allowed to settle in Moscow immediately, even though his wife and daughter lived there. He lived in what is now the Tver district and worked at a factory there until 1956. His marriage ended in divorce, and his daughter refused to see him or speak with him. During this period, however, he started writing his Kolyma stories and several poems.

In 1952, while he was still at the camp, he managed to send Pasternak a letter and a notebook of poems he had written. Pasternak liked his work and wrote an encouraging reply, which was obviously immensely uplifting to Shalamov during his imprisonment.

In 1956 he was permitted to return to Moscow, where he earned a living reviewing manuscripts for publishers. During the “chaw” period he occasionally could publish some of his poetry, although frequently with drastic revisions. His stories were published only in clandestine editions (samizdat).

Shalamov plodded on until his health deteriorated in the late 1970s and died in a Soviet home.
for the elderly. His life was harsh and gruesome by our standards but was nothing out of the ordinary for his generation in the Soviet Union. What is more remarkable is that he survived and died in his bed at age 75. He was in fact rather lucky, depending on one’s perspective.

About half of Shalamov’s work is poetry and the other half prose. He was therefore as much or more a poet than a writer. His poems were the only pieces of his work officially published in the Soviet Union, although the demanding author tended to find the process frustrating rather than gratifying. All too often, the texts were revised or certain poems omitted from a cycle. Sometimes stanzas were even deleted from a poem.

Initially, Shalamov’s prose appears documentary. His stories are filled with very specific descriptions of camp life. Still, Shalamov did not consider himself a documentary author according to the traditions of 19th century realism, as Solzhenitsyn explicitly perceives himself. Shalamov cared little for Tolstoy, the master of realism and very moralistic. He stated repeatedly in his notes: “I am an author not according to the tradition of Tolstoy but an heir of the modernism from before the revolution. Bely and Remizov are the chief influences in my work. Moreover, my work is not primarily documentary. Rather, it is literary and conforms to literary tenets.”

The documentary sketch is highly artistic, explains Shalamov somewhere in his notes. Realism is a myth: remarkably, documents do not figure in the prose of realism. The documentary quality comes across even more forcefully through his description of a world that we have never encountered, and where the prevailing laws are entirely different from our own. In fact, some of his descriptions of camp life in Kolyma resemble anthropological sketches. Even this, however, should not impede an artistic practice, according to Shalamov: “I write no more about the camp than Saint-Exupéry about the heavens or Melville about the sea,” he explains in his notes. “The camp theme will accommodate a hundred writers like Tolstoy.”

Shalamov’s theme is shared by so many other post-war authors in the West, such as Primo Levi, Elias Canetti and even Harry Mulisch: how could people raised with humanist values and the literature of the 19th century create Auschwitz and Kolyma as soon as they had the opportunity.

Shalamov’s stories reflect a general pattern. They explore a single incident from camp life (e.g. the documentary quality comes not to be a major concern in realism, as the reader is left to the reader’s imagination. This example illustrates what Shalamov meant about his documentary art.

I will conclude my lecture by quoting from the work of the literary scholar Andrey Sinjavski: “Shalamov is the antipode of all existing camp literature. He offers us no avenue of escape. He shows as little compassion for readers as life has for him and for the people he describes. He is as merciless as Kolyma. His writings thus give rise to a sense of authenticity, the feeling that text and subject are inextricably linked.”
Report of the general meeting of members

First, On the Waterfront 3 is distributed. The report of the previous general meeting appears on pp. 14-15. Jan Lucassen presents the annual report for 2001 on behalf of the board.

- Membership recruitment: at the start of the year, we had 23 dues-paying members (plus 19 whose dues were still outstanding, see On the Waterfront 1-2, p. 14). On the one hand, this number rose (interim membership stood at 66), while on the other hand a few Friends had not paid their dues at the end of the year. Two members withdrew. At the end of 2001, we had 67 Friends, including 54 in the Netherlands and 13 abroad. We wish to thank all generous donors for their sincere interest in the Institute.

- Special donations: last year we reported that two friends intended to make substantial supplementary donations for research to be conducted by the IISH. In the past year, these donations of 700,000 guilders (ca. 320,000 euros) for research on 20th century Russian social history and 1,000,000 guilders (ca. 450,000 euros) for research on women’s labour in the Netherlands 1600-1850 have been officially registered and the initial deposits received (see the financial statements).

Chief researchers have been recruited for both projects: Dr. Gijs Kessler (a young Dutchman who has settled in Moscow with his Russian wife) for the first one and Dr. Ariadne Schmidt for the second one. Both will be recruiting other researchers and will elaborate the project. We will provide more information in six months.

Last year we also reported that a member had bequeathed his valuable library to the IISH, that another had included the Institute in his testament, and that a third intended to donate a sum toward travel grants. While this last offer is still being elaborated, we are pleased to report that a few months ago a sixth member appointed the Institute as its heir. The contract will be drafted during the months ahead.

- Publication of On the Waterfront: Two issues were published as planned last year. Thanks to a substantial grant from Ben Scharlo, the director of AD-Druk who waived the printing fees for issues 3, 4 and 5, the paper – which we expect will greatly benefit public relations in the long run – is well within its budget. featuring pictures of items purchased thanks to the Friends (On the Waterfront 3, pp. 13-15) will, in all likelihood, encourage others to support this initiative as well.

- We are deeply grateful to all IISH staff for their support: Aad Blok for production, the specialists for the information they provide, Bouwe Hijma of the archives department for helping to select the archives that we present here and finally the board will obviously not be able to republish any decisions. The Friends present approve the choices: acquisition of the renowned French paper La Veille and of several Chinese posters (see pictures). This proposal is accepted, and all financial documents are adopted following these decisions.

- The board proposes converting the dues into euros according to simple round figures: 200 guilders will become 100 euros from 2002; 1,000 guilders will become 500 euros, and 3,000 guilders will become 1,500 euros. The board understands that this will increase dues 10 percent. Considering the ongoing inflation, however, such a measure appears indicated. This will eliminate the need for annual adjustments to the dues to avoid an actual decrease in revenues. In the years ahead, the board will obviously not suggest additional increases. The Friends present approve this proposal unanimously.

- Finally, the meeting considers the arrest of Dr. Shahriar Kabir, the IISH staff member in Bangla Desh, who was introduced in the previous issue (On the Waterfront 3, p. 10). Updates about his situation appear on the Institute’s web site.
Financial results for 2001 and Budget for 2002 (in guilders)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>BUDGET 2002</th>
<th>FINANCIAL RESULTS 18-12-2001</th>
<th>31-12-2000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening balance</td>
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<td>• Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Russia research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Support from the Friends to the IISH
  - Turkish periodicals (2000) 4,000*
  - Video camera for Burma (2000) 3,000*
  - Chinese posters (2001) 4,500
  - La Feuille (2001) 3,300
  - To be decided (2002) 7,000

General administrative expenses 500 371 25

Closing balance 229 -/- 571 12,760
(€ 104) (€ -/- 259) (€ 5,790)

Hilde Bras

**ZEEUWSE MEIDEN**

Dienen in de levensloop van vrouwen, ca. 1850-1950

(ISBN 90 5260 036 8, 260 PAGINA'S, GEILLUSTRERD, € 27,50)

Dit boek gaat over onze moeders, grootmoeders en overgrootmoeders. Ruim een derde van hen heeft een deel van haar leven als dienstbode doorgebracht. De oorzaken, invulling en gevolgen van een fase als dienstbode in de levens van deze grote groep vrouwen, daarover gaat "Zeeuwse meiden". Om de betekenis van het dienstbodeberoep in een toenmalig vrouwenleven te achterhalen, zijn de levenslopen gereconstrueerd van ruim 700 Zeeuwse vrouwen die tussen 1835 en 1927 geboren werden.

Ivo Kuijpers

**IN DE SCHADUW VAN DE GROTE OORLOG**

De Nederlandse arbeidersbeweging en de overheid, 1914-1920

(ISBN 90 5260 190 0, 306 PAGINA'S, GEILLUSTRERD, € 27,50)

De historische belangstelling voor de effecten van de Eerste Wereldoorlog op Nederland was tot voor enkele jaren gering. Deze originele studie bevat een analyse van die effecten op de hoofdstromen van de Nederlandse arbeidersbeweging: katholieken, socialisten, protestants christelijken en syndicalisten. Een van de conclusies is, is dat de fundamenten van de Nederlandse overlegeconomie en verzorgingsstaat van na 1945 tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog werden gelegd.

Frank Zuijdam

**TUSSEN WENS EN WERKELIJKHEID**

Het debat over vrede en veiligheid binnen de PvdA in de periode 1958-1977

(ISBN 90 5260 049 X, 468 PAGINA'S, GEILLUSTRERD, € 31,30)

Waarom sloegen de standpunten van de PvdA inzake vrede en veiligheid in de jaren zestig en zeventig van de vorige eeuw in zeer korte tijd zo radicaal om? Voor de beantwoording van deze vraag plaats Frank Zuijdam het debat binnen de PvdA over vrede en veiligheid tegen de achtergrond van de turbulente ontwikkelingen in de partij, de internationale verschuivingen en de ontwikkelingen in de roerige jaren zestig.

G.J. Schutte e.a. (red.)

**BELANGENPOLITIEK**

Cahier over de geschiedenis van de christelijk-sociale beweging 4

(ISBN 90 5260 031 7, 152 PAGINA'S, GEILLUSTRERED, € 13,60)

De christelijk-sociale beweging bestaat uit verschillende maatschappelijke organisaties. Om hun doelen te bereiken onderhandelen ze met hun zogeheten counterparts, organisaties die zich op hetzelfde terrein begeven, maar aan de andere kant van de tafel zitten. Maar dit is lang niet altijd voldoende. Zo onderhandelen vakorganisaties met werkgevers over werktijden, maar ter ondersteuning van hun onderhandelingspositie is wetgeving noodzakelijk. Een nauwe relatie met de politiek is daarom onontbeerlijk. Dit Cahier gaat in op de relatie tussen vooral het cnv en de christen-democratische partijen arp en cda.

Marga Altena e.a. (red.)

**SEKSE EN DE CITY**

Jaarboek voor Vrouwengeschiedenis 22

(ISBN 90 5260 035 X, 186 PAGINA'S, GEILLUSTRERED, € 17,50)

Hoe bewogen vrouwen zich in het verleden in de stad? Bood de stad vrouwen ongekende mogelijkheden of betekende de stad groot gevaar? Waar zag men vrouwen, hoe werden vrouwen gezien en hoe zagen zij zichzelf in de stad? In hoeverre waren sekseverhoudingen ‘in beton gegoten’? In dit Jaarboek voor Vrouwengeschiedenis passeren uiteenlopende visies op de relatie tussen vrouwen en de stad de revue. Zij laten zien op welke wijze vrouwen in de lange negentiende eeuw omgingen met de mogelijkheden die stad hen bood, hoe zij manoeuvreren tussen en over de verschuivende grenzen van privé en publiek, vrijheid en gevaar, zedelijkheid en fatsoen.