Introduction

This sixth issue of On the Waterfront once again contains 16 pages about the Friends’ gathering on 19 December 2002. All this space is necessary to include – as part of the general meeting – the first reports from the research projects that are possible thanks to the Friends: “Work, Income and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1900-2000” and “Women’s labour in the Netherlands during the early modern period (ca. 1500-1815).” Though fairly brief, these annual reports accurately convey the operations performed. In addition to these concise annual reports that will appear in the June issues of On the Waterfront until the projects conclude, more substantive and even vibrant reports will be published in the December issues of On the Waterfront. Like last year, you will find a financial annual report in this issue as well, although we hope this one will be more informative than the initial one was. Finally, the new acquisitions presented last December will be reviewed.

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 deliber 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 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 (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 Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis 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, 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 1935-1947 (Amsterdam 1986), and Jaap Haag and Atie 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).
Sixth Friends Day,
19 December 2002

PRESENTATION OF
THE ACQUISITIONS

In the second half of 2002, the
ISH acquired more than seventy
archives, including about 40 new
ones and about 30 supplementary
collections. In addition to the
archival acquisitions of the ISH, the
acquisitions for the library
and the special collections of the
NEHA (one dozen over the past six
months) merit consideration.

Craipeau, Yvan and the
school project about the history
of ordinary people in the town
of Taverny during the French
Revolution.

Collecting archives is full of
surprises. Some of us may have
experienced this while clearing
out a person's possessions. Most of
what we find is familiar, and then
all of a sudden… This is what
happened with the archive of the
French Trotskyite Yvan Craipeau
(deceased on 13 December 2001),
which was acquired in August
2002. The Institute already has
a fine collection on the French
Revolution (see On the Water-
front 4, 3-4). Understandably,
this period has always enthralled
French leftists. Craipeau was no
exception.

His daughter mentioned that he
had been an advisor to a project at
a secondary school in his home-
town of Taverny about life there
during the French Revolution. As
such, he appears to have received
two original letters that (unlike
the other ISH material on the
subject, which addresses revolu-
tionary upheaval in exalted ideas)
offer a glimpse of daily life.

One letter was sent from
around Angoulême in southwest
France to Chartres on 22 messidor
An II (which was 10 July 1794), at
the height of the Terror and two
and a half weeks before the fall of
Robespierre. Nonetheless, this
letter is the charming account
of a daughter to her mother. The
daughter has just given birth to
her second child and writes:

“Although I am a bit weak,
Dear Mother, my health is fairly
good [...] My assurances on this
subject should put your mind at
ease about my condition [...] My
husband has undoubtedly in-
formed you that my little girl was
as fragile as her brother at birth
[...] but although she is small, she
is very healthy and nurses well
[...] I am still good at nursing and
will have more milk once the intense
heat we are suffering subsides a
bit [...] It overwhelms me so much
that I cannot eat in the evening,
Since I have so little appetite, I
expect to purge myself in a few
days [...] This is the advice from
the midwife, but we have delayed
a bit, since I gave birth only three
weeks ago, and it is too hot. Jules
is doing well and sends you a kiss,
his father sends his regards, and I,
Mother, I hug you with my little
one [...] Sending you all our love
[ [...] best wishes to your [male]
friend.”

To Russia on business,
autumn 1914

Recently, the NEHA purchased
three letter notebooks from an
antiquarian bookseller. They contain
travel reports from Dirk de Vries
(born in Delft in 1874 and died af-
after 1956) sent to his employer the
Handelmaatschappij R.S. Stokvis
& Zoonen in Rotterdam.

Dirk de Vries started as a lathe
operator and manual labourer
and advanced to supervisor, de-
partment head, deputy manager
and became the managing direc-
tor of the Firma Stokvis in 1947. A
unique career indeed for a worker!
He must have been a particularly
quick-witted technician, as he be-
came a secondary school teacher
“by exception” and wrote manu-
als in both Dutch and English,
including Screw cutting on engine
lathes and Milling Machines and
milling practice (1916).

The Firma Stokvis was
founded in 1844, when the Jew-
ish entrepreneur Raphaël Samuel
Stokvis opened a hardware shop
in Rotterdam. In 1870 his sons
took over the export, and the
firm expanded its selection for
state agencies, corporate industry
and individuals. In 1906 a branch
opened in the Dutch East Indies
and employed over 450 Europeans
and a few thousand indigenous
and Chinese.

Exactly when Dirk de Vries
joined this firm is unknown (he
was definitely there by 1907). By
1913 he appears to have learned
so much about the business and
to have such a vast knowledge of
foreign languages that he was sent
to the Dutch East Indies and then
to Russia the year after.

He described both journeys in
long letters to the management
in Rotterdam. Two books are
about his journey to the Dutch
East Indies from 28 April until 18
August 1913, and the third covers
the one to Russia from 1 Novem-
ber until 22 December 1914. The
style in his reports is refreshingly
direct and filled with quotes of
statements by others. Dirk did
not conceal his emotions. He was just as frank about a new commission he had negotiated as he was deeply depressed by his failure that particular day, or that his linguistic proficiency left something to be desired at times ("A Russian who spoke French over the phone with De Vries!"
he noted with a measure of self-derision). Could his refreshingly direct approach be attributable to his being a self-made man, untainted by academic conventions?

On 11 January 1915 he concluded his journey to Russia, where he spoke with many army officers and visited large firms (e.g. the Putilov factories) in Petrograd and Moscow with a general assessment of relations between Russia and the Netherlands:

"The Russian intelligentsia has been always very kindly disposed toward Holland and Dutch firms. Both our envoy and various individuals of Dutch origin have assured me that the Netherlands used to be held in great esteem. [...] Longstanding connections between Russia and the Netherlands.

"The temporary war hatred has given rise to this change but will not perpetuate it. In fact, Russian industry is awakening. The country experienced economic pressure from Germany but was kept there by Germany's iron grip. This was felt in Russia. Only something very special could release them from this grip, as the war did. This hard, cruel war cut off everything without mercy, causing countless difficulties and major damage; but ..., it is said in Russia, having been through the procedure, now, if at all possible, we want to avoid a recurrence of the old disease."

This self-made man from the working class provided truly remarkable descriptions of a country on the eve of the Revolution. A report in the Rotterdam municipal archive indicates that he returned there in February and March 1923.

Bruno Oscar (Bruno Borisovitsj) Becker (1885-1968)

One year before Dirk de Vries first travelled to Russia, a Russian came to the Netherlands for the first time. While De Vries went on an economic mission, Bruno Becker came on a scholarly one. Revolution and emigration made for an unexpected turn in the life of Bruno Becker (as they did in those of many of his compatriots), the founder of Russian studies in the Netherlands. A historian, he was forced by circumstances to spend most of his career as a Slavist. Although he intended to study European 16th century intellectual history in Russia, he had to teach about his homeland Russia in the Netherlands. Unlike his work as a historian, Becker did virtually no original research as a Slavist. Becker arrived in Amsterdam with his wife and child in 1922. Back in 1913 he had visited the Netherlands for two years on a grant from the Russian government to conduct archival research on Dirck Volkertsz. Coornhert (1522-1590). By reading Coornhert’s work, Becker mastered 16th century Dutch. His efforts to speak this version elicited surprise.

In 1930 Becker was appointed endowed professor in East European cultural history at the University of Amsterdam.}

Bruno Becker's social concern led him to join the vigilance committee of anti-Nazi intellectuals and the Aid to Spain commission during the Spanish Civil War. After Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941,
Becker (who had been a Dutch citizen since 1933) underwent a long, humiliating interrogation by the Nazis in The Hague.

In July 1945, his position was converted to a regular professorial appointment in Russian history, language and literature. Three years later he became the director of the new Russia Institute (known as the Eastern Europe Institute since 1961) at the University of Amsterdam, where research was conducted on Soviet history, politics, culture and economy. Becker also started to teach the new subject of Russian studies at the Faculty of Social Science. This plethora of activities gave Becker his reputation as the progenitor of Slavic studies in the Netherlands. Several of his students – including J.W. Bezemer, C.L. Ebeling and Karel van het Reve – later held key positions in Slavic studies in the Netherlands and abroad.

In March 1955 Becker retired and resumed his research on the 16th century humanists. Marc Jansen at the Eastern Europe Institute at the University of Amsterdam recently arranged for his papers to be donated to the INSH.

The collection contains his correspondence with various known and less well-known people in Slavic and Russian studies, history and Russian emigrants.

In 1969 the archive received a scant metre of archives from the Nederlandse Toonkunstenaarsbond (NTB, affiliated with the NVV, later the FNV) – not very much material for the union with thousands of members that had existed for half a century by then. Though small, the NTB had an illustrious past, in part because this union had the rare but dubious honour of being expelled from the NVV in 1965. The cause was the boycott by the unionized musicians of Dutch television for higher fees.

Major accruals about this small but illustrious union recently arrived via two entirely separate channels. The first comprised 25 meters added to the actual union archive; the second comprised a small but very fine collection of items found in a different accrual, the one to the collection of Maurice Ferares (born in 1922). This violinist was both renowned and infamous for becoming involved in the Trotskyite movement as a former member of the artists’ resistance (although himself in hiding for being Jewish). To the immense displeasure of the NVV, he became the secretary of the NTB in 1957. While the Institute has had a small archive on Ferares for several years, Marja Musson’s arrangement of it recently led Ferares to donate an additional three meters of materials. One of the surprises there was a file on the NTB.

In addition to documents about the union’s expulsion in 1965, these items include a binder with materials assembled in 1969 by one of the oldest members, the musician Meyer Wery (born in 1892). Among the major events he remembers are a campaign against foreign artists in 1932 and World War II. Then Meyer, too, suffered discrimination for being a “half Jew,” the highest status he had managed to attain thanks to his successful forgeries in his family tree.

The Depression of 1929 and the rising unemployment that ensued instigated discussions about a visa requirement for foreigners. While such a regulation had been introduced in 1918/19, it was abolished again in 1926. After 1929 demand increased for its reintroduction. The result was the Aliens’ Act of 1934, which authorized exclusion of aliens. Employers were allowed to hire aliens only if they proved that no Dutch people were available to fill the vacancies. The spirit of this law applies to this day. Performing musicians figured prominently in the upheaval that preceded the adoption of this law. Meyer Wery argued that the NVV (which the NTB had joined by then) refused to take a stand...
assaulted by a cafe owner but was nevertheless sentenced to pay a fine of one guilder or spend a day in custody for abuse. The campaign then spread to other cities.

Wolfgang Abendroth (1906-1985)
Wolfgang Abendroth has been immensely significant in Dutch historiography. Social historians at universities throughout the 1970s learned about the European labour movement through Abendroth. His work published by the Socialistische Uitgeverij Nijmegen (SUN) in 1972 was revised and expanded by Ger Harmsen for the Dutch labour movement.

Abendroth was a respected scholar and a lifelong political free spirit, his periods of membership of the KPD and of the German social democrats (SPD) after the war included. His obstinacy made him a natural opponent of the Nazis from the outset and an advocate of the internationalist cause when he worked alongside the Greek freedom fighters of ELAS during his term of forced labour (penal division 999) in Greece. His post-war correspondence (available for consultation at the IISH) reveals that he earned the scholarly, political and human respect of the countless people he debated domestically and abroad, advised or assisted in some other way.

Abendroth's widow Lize and her daughter provided Götz Langkau with two fine accoutrements to the Abendroth collection already present at the Institute: especially letters that he sent his family from various prisons and houses of correction in the period February 1937 – May 1941.

Some letters contain secret, coded messages, especially reports to comrades he was asked about during interrogations. In the letters with coded messages an exclamation point appears at the end of the heading. During his term at the Luckau house of correction, Abendroth studied several languages, such as Italian, Spanish and – encouraged by a fellow prisoner who taught Oriental languages – Arabic and Farsi. His wife has said that he read these languages later in life but never spoke them.

Liberto Sarrau (1920-2001)
Liberto Sarrau was active in the anarcho-syndicalist movement (CNT) and figured in the resistance against Franco after the war. Kees Rodenburg obtained his collection for the IISH from his compañera Joaquina Dorado from Barcelona. These documents relate to all other material at the Institute about the Spanish Civil War and its aftermath. As a child, Sarrau attended the Escuela Natura, generally known as La Farigola, the rationalist school of Puig Elias financed by the CNT textile union. As a student there, he illustrated Floreal, the school newspaper of La Farigola.

After the civil war he fled to France, where he was recruited for forced labour by the Nazis during the occupation. He escaped and

THE NTB PROPAGANDA VEHICLE IN ROTTERDAM, 1934, FEATURING A PAINTING THAT LEAVES NOTHING TO THE IMAGINATION, ON THE RIGHT, FOREIGN MUSICIANS POUR INTO THE NETHERLANDS, WELCOMED BY THE DUTCH VIRGIN HOLDING A POUCH OF MONEY, AND ON THE LEFT THE DUTCH MUSICIANS WAIT FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS: "IN THE NETHERLANDS DUTCH MUSICIANS ARE STARVING, WHILE FOREIGNERS ARE PAMPERED."
reached Dar Beida (Casablanca) in North Africa via Spain and Portugal. There, he produced the hand-written newspaper La Bestia, with a circulation of ten. Several issues are included in this new acquisition.


Spanish exiles were not the only ones who resisted Franco: sympathizers in Europe and America supported their cause. In the Netherlands the social democrat J.H. Scheps founded the Democratic voor Spanje association. Mrs. Nijhoff-van Kemenade, the widow of the secretary P. Nijhoff, presented us with the association’s modest archive.

Founded on 23 January 1965, the Association was intended to encourage support for and wherever possible promote the rise of a democratic order in Spain. Provision of objective and comprehensive information about Spain served to attract members, especially politicians, intellectuals, students and workers, to support the struggle of the Spaniards – in the Netherlands in particular – against the Franco regime. The inclusion of workers in the target group was no longer an idle cause, since the Netherlands had been recruiting foreign labour from countries around the Mediterranean (including Spain) for several years.

The collection contains the articles of association, reports from meetings, correspondence with members, unions and political parties, the association journal Democracia (which was bilingual), newsletters and newspaper clippings about actions launched.

Mehmet Ali Dikerdem

In addition to the Spaniards, foreign workers from other countries formed movements intended to influence politics in their homeland (where they planned to return once they had saved enough money). Especially leftist workers, whose political freedom in Western Europe exceeded their wildest dreams back home, tried to change the dictatorial regimes there. This holds true for virtually all countries of origin except Italy.

The Institute already has an impressive collection about the Turkish opposition movement, which receives constant accruals.
Concerned about the fate of his father Mahmut Dikerdem (1915-1993, a former Turkish ambassador but sentenced to eight years of forced labour for his membership of the Peace Association in 1982), he appealed to political operators in England and especially the Labour Party, as well as the affiliated trade unions (which in turn identified with its Turkish counterpart organization Disk) and, of course, to well-known artists. Zülfikar acquired his papers as well.

In 1981 Dikerdem founded the Turkish Peace Association, followed by the campaign for Defence of the Turkish Peace Movement. The archive contains countless letters from well-known politicians, such as Michael Foot, Edward Heath, Tony Benn and Neil Kinnock. Even Margaret Thatcher became involved. Dikerdem's most spectacular accomplishment, however, was his success in interesting the famous playwright Harold Pinter in the problem of political oppression in Turkey. Pinter, in turn, got his American peer Arthur Miller involved in the matter. Together they travelled to Turkey for PEN in March 1985. Pinter, who was 54, and Miller, 69 at the time, visited as many fellow artists as possible, as well as politicians and trade union leaders. They also attended a political hearing. The highlight of their journey may have been an official visit to the American ambassador, which culminated in a dispute when the ambassador asked Pinter to leave. Miller followed immediately, and the two received a ride from the French ambassador. Miller wrote: “In the black Peugeot, Pinter reported the [American] ambassador saying something to the effect that there could always be a lot of different opinions about anything, to which Pinter said he replied, ‘Not if you’ve got an electric wire hooked to your genitals,’ at which the ambassador had straightened and snapped sharply, ‘Sir, you are a guest in my house!’ upon which Pinter concluded he had been thrown out.’

Pinter’s One for the Road is based on his involvement in the Turkish cause, as is apparent from an unpublished conversation with Nick Hern, which is included in these papers.

Stichting Natuur en Milieu [nature and the environment] (founded in 1972)

Some archives reach the Isaiah by chance, while other acquisitions are the outcome of lengthy preparations. This was the case for the archive of the Stichting Natuur en Milieu (SNM) in Utrecht. This large, national organization, which has precursors dating back to 1909 (when the Nederlandse Vereeniging tegen Water-, Bodem- en Luchtverontreiniging [Dutch association against water, soil and air pollution] was established, requested Jack Hofman at the archives department of the Isaiah to write a report on the state of its archive and suggest possible new accommodations. The archive was ultimately transferred to the Isaiah, under very special conditions: the SNM had raised enough funding to cover the arrangement of its stack of papers spanning 200 meters of shelf space.

The bulk of its material dates back to the last quarter of the previous century. It addressed virtually all aspects of nature and environment: nature and land-
scape preservation (with a strong focus on planning procedure) and environmental protection, including waste, recycling, water quality, energy (including nuclear energy) and clean technology. Nearly all major campaigns from the previous decades are documented in this archive, from the preservation of the Wadden Sea to the Pietersberg at Maastricht, from the nuisance at Schiphol to the dike reinforcement in the River region. The concern for flower bulb cultivation reflects a typically Dutch touch, especially with respect to the harmful effects of the widespread use of pesticides in this industry.

Max Arian collections

Many people part with their cherished possessions only when their home or at least their bookcases are on the verge of collapse. The wife of the well-known Amsterdam journalist reached this point when her husband’s bookcases crumbled.

The IISH has provided shelter for five valuable collections:
- Amsterdam’s Stads Journaal (a film collective established in 1973, that produced 36 motion pictures about social problems).
- the DAAR posters: DAAR (Discussie Affiches Alledaagse Realiteit [discussion about posters on everyday reality]) was initiated by two visual artists, Hans Zoete and Paul Kooijman who designed a series of posters on subjects including housing, jobs and unemployment, youth, healthcare, women and foreign workers.
- Politiek Cultureel Tijdschrift: a journal that never was published but was discussed for years by Max Arian, Annette Apon, Rudy Koopmans, Carry van Lakerveld, Siep Stuurman and Joost Smiers
- the Chili Comité Nederland: The Dutch Chili Comité was established in 1972, after several politicians (such as Jan Pronk) and journalists (including Max Arian) travelled to Chile for an UNCTAD conference in Santiago de Chile. Following Pinochet’s military coup and the death of socialist President Allende, the committee became very active in Dutch politics by organizing demonstrations, lobbying, launching boycott campaigns and the like. Max Arian was among the first to become involved in the committee. The archive consists primarily of papers from the committee’s early years. Arian gathered some of the material in Chile in 1972 during the administration of the Unidad Popular and President Allende, including newspapers and political and other cartoons, issued primarily by the nationalized publisher Quimantu.
- the Centrum voor Chileense Cultuur (ccc): The centre for Chilean culture opened in 1977 at the initiative of the Chilean exile and author Ariel Dorfman, who lived in the Netherlands at the time. The archive contains papers from the life span of the ccc and material about Latin American culture. The booklet Hoe lees ik Donald Duck by Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart is particularly entertaining. It was issued in Chile in 1971. Significantly, the English translation How to read Donald Duck, published in 1975 with an introduction by David Kunzle, was prohibited in the United States because of the illustrations it contained from Disney cartoons.

Stefan Landsberger, Sinological Institute, Leiden University

The impressive iish collection of Chinese propaganda posters are an important source of information for those interested in the political, military, economic and social developments taking place in China Over the five thousand years of its history, the Chinese political system has used the arts extensively to propagate appropriate conduct and thought. Artistic expressions such as literature, poetry, paintings, stage plays and songs have served to educate the people about what was considered right or wrong at any point in time.

Chinese Propaganda Posters

After the founding of the PRC in 1949, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) used propaganda art to illustrate the “correct” policies of the moment and to mobilize the people for political, economic or military purposes. The use of poster art by the CCP was in part a product of the realization of its effectiveness in reaching the largely illiterate rural population. Posters were produced in various popular artistic genres. Some were inspired by the New Year prints that had been designed for centuries. Others were reproductions of oil paintings or were based on gouache, woodcuts, watercolours or paintings. Some had explicit political or propagandistic contents, personified by ageless, larger-than-life peasants, soldiers, workers and educated youth in dynamic poses, while others did not. Similarly, some but by no means all contained politically inspired slogans. The question of how to portray revolutionary and/or political subjects led to heated debates that continue to the present day. As a result, the contents and styles of the posters have changed over time, influenced by political developments, mass movements and changes in the CCP analysis of what is considered important. The medium of the posters has had an enormous visual impact on Chinese society and continues even today, when posters must compete with a range of modern media.

The iish Collection

Over the years, the iish has built up a substantial collection of these colourful primary materials (see On the Waterfront 4, front cover and p. 13, and 5, pp. 10 and 11). The iish holdings, currently totalling almost 3,000 sheets, actually consist of two collections: the iish collection and the Stefan R. Landsberger Collection, a private collection, which was issued on loan to the iish in 1997. For all intents and purposes, these two collections form one organic whole, very much in line with the dicta of Liu Shaoqi, Mao Zedong’s political opponent in the 1960s, that “two combine into one.” When it comes to funding new acquisitions, however, the slogan of the late Chairman that “one divides into two” is in force.

Offering access to these materials for research purposes is one of the main justifications for the ongoing development of the collection. Our driving ambition is to bring together the most complete and representative number of examples of this genre of political advertising that spans more than five decades.

Another opportunity to provide access to the collections is the Internet. A wide selection of posters can be seen now at the two websites we run on the iish server: The Chairman Smiles (http://www.iisg.nl/exhibitions/chairman/chninintro.html) and Stefan Landsberger’s Chinese Propaganda Poster Pages (http://www.iisg.nl/~landsberger). Both sites draw impressive numbers of visitors. In the near future we intend to concentrate our Internet activities on one website, http://www.chineseposters.net.

Rosy-cheeked peasants and muscular workers

Two selected themes - representation of peasant women and male workers - demonstrate the posters’ value as primary research materials.

The CCP consistently endeavoured to improve the position of women. The participation of women in production was seen as one of the basic instruments to bring about their liberation. By the early 20th century, a relatively well-established visual tradition had come into existence that treated women as objects that could be consumed by the male gaze. This tradition originated from the advertising posters published that featured the alluring shapes of delectable young women in the process of endorsing various products, ranging from...
cigarettes and alcoholic beverages to fabrics and pesticides. With the founding of the PRC, the designers of the commercial calendars were quickly co-opted and incorporated in the various organizations devoted to the production of propaganda. They were, after all, well versed in design techniques and able to visualize a product in a commercially attractive way. But for precisely those reasons, they and their works continued to be regarded with suspicion by the new ruling elite.

Although posters of women working in industry appear in the early PRC, most of their activities in this period remain located in agriculture. By the late 1950s, when the policies designed to mechanize agriculture actually increased the availability of mechanized equipment in rural areas, tractors were gradually introduced in posters, operated by a woman. In reality, however, most tractor operators were men. During the Cultural Revolution period (1966-1976), this trend of showing women taking on types of work generally associated with men continued. Especially during the heyday of the drive to learn from the agricultural model commune of Dazhai, the muscular and energetic female members of its Iron Girl Brigade were enormously influential as role models for women. They were represented as "imitation boys" or "iron women" who engaged in the type of backbreaking work that previously was deemed unsuitable for women. Iron girls inspired women to take on the most difficult and demanding tasks.

Once the modernization policies got underway in the 1980s, and the rather conspicuous consumption of material goods became a way of defining one’s personality, the women represented in posters seemed to resume their previous functions of providing entertainment and showing off. They have evolved gradually into forms comparable to the earlier commercial posters: movie actresses and female television personalities have joined forces again with advertising agencies to endorse products. The commodification of the female body has become a fact in Reform China.

The working class formed a fertile ground for posters after 1949. In the early 1950s, a large body of posters was published to familiarize the Chinese workers with the phenomenon of the Russian teacher who would be assisting them. The Soviets were friends, “elder brothers” (laodage) on whom China had come to depend to learn everything about modernization.

One aspect of worker activity covered extensively in posters was productive behaviour. Scenes from blast furnaces, with workers in protective clothing and goggles engaging in strenuous labour in front of blazing fires to produce steel, graced many posters. In the early phase of the Cultural Revolution, until 1969, posters directed at workers, however, seemed more obsessed with politics than with the actual increase of production. Workers featured on posters from this period left the impression that they hardly do any actual work.

In line with the general demilitarization of propaganda in the 1980s, the portrayal of workers at the vanguard of production struggles disappeared almost completely. Instead, workers were increasingly depicted as adhering to the new rules and regulations promulgated for the work place.

Closing remarks

These days, conditions do not bode well for government-inspired propaganda. The state has lost its monopoly on the dissemination and interpretation of information. The static produced by non-political and polysemic media crowds out the authoritative voice of China once provided by the party. Posters must now compete with a flood of...
other images, both those produced by and for the market and those produced by and for the people themselves, as the flow of images and information on the Internet indicates. With popular interest in politics waning, many see the party-sponsored utterances as irrelevant, and they resist or ignore the ideological nostrums in whatever form.

Propaganda posters have lost their credibility and appeal, and fewer are published each year. The introduction of state-of-the-art printing techniques and the use of thick, glossy paper of good quality may have updated the appearance and texture of the posters, but all this seems to be barely enough. First while potential buyers see posters as old-fashioned or too tainted by their earlier political usage, even though their subject matter has been brought in line with topics considered more compatible with the rapidly changing times, social circumstances and popular taste. Despite these difficult conditions, the central party and state apparatus is still committed to the use of posters, which, as a result, remain omnipresent in Chinese life.

Propaganda posters, then, continue to provide us with information about China, and that is why we must continue to bring them together in Amsterdam. They are important for what they show, but maybe even more, for what they overlook...

Following the distribution of On the Waterfront 5, the first annual reports about the research projects sponsored by the Friends are distributed and discussed.


**Research team**

At the end of the year, the research group comprised five members:

- Dr Gijs Kessler (1981), co-ordinator and responsible for the sub-period 1917-1941 (1 January 2002 - 31 December 2005);
- Timur Valetov, MA (Moscow State University), responsible for the sub-period 1900-1917 (1 January 2002 - 31 December 2005);
- Dr Andrei Markevich (no current affiliation), responsible for the sub-period 1941-1960 (1 January 2002 - 31 December 2005);
- Dr Victoria Tyazhel’nikova (Russian Academy of Arts and Sciences, currently based in London), responsible for the sub-period 1960-1985 (1 January 2002 - 31 December 2005);
- Dr Sergei Afontsev (Institute for World Economy and International Relations), responsible for the sub-period 1900-1917 (1 January 2002 - 31 December 2005).

The members of the advisory committee are Professor Leonid Borodkin (Moscow State University), Professor Jan Lucassen (in charge of the project) and Professor Andrei Sokolov (Institute of Russian History at the Russian Academy of Sciences).

**Problem addressed in the research**

The project explores income-earning strategies of urban and rural non-agrarian households in twentieth-century Russia and the Soviet Union. It does so from the perspective of state-society interaction and investigates how state policy set the parameters of the family economy, and how household economic behaviour in turn influenced or determined policy formation in relevant areas such as labour legislation and taxation.

**Planning**

The first year (2002) has been devoted to analysis of the evolution of the household and family as a social entity over the period under study. The second year (2003) is focused on the analysis of state policy and the ways in which households used the labour resources available to them. The third year (2004) will be dedicated to the analysis of the composition and evolution of household income and income-earning strategies. The fourth and last year (2005) will be dedicated to writing the final publications. Each stage will conclude with presentations at internal workshops and subsequently at international conferences.

**Results in 2002**

In the first half year Gijs Kessler drafted a project outline, plan of operations and a budget. In June a call for applications was issued, and a round of interviews was held in Moscow, where four other researchers were recruited. The team started its work in July, meeting once a month to discuss results and to define the research agenda. This first stage of the research consisted mainly of gathering demographic data to trace the evolution of household and family structure in the course of the twentieth cen-
Future plans

The Institute has applied to the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) for funding for a parallel project studying the same issues in twentieth-century India. If this application is approved, regular meetings will take place between the Russian and the Indian research teams. Recently, however, this application was rejected in the first round. The Institute will continue to try to get the application approved.

Research team

At the end of the year, the research group comprised four members:
- Dr Ariadne Schmidt (iish), co-ordinator and responsible for research on all female occupations in the town of Gouda (1 February 2002 - 31 January 2007)
- Elise van Nederveen-Meerkerk, MA (iish, financed by the Van Winter Fonds), responsible for research on spinsters (1 March 2002 - 27 February 2006);
- Marjolein van Dekken, MA (iish), responsible for independent trade by women in the production and sale of beverages (1 September 2002 - 31 August 2006);
- Dr Lotte van de Pol (no current affiliation), will complete her research on work by poor women in early modern Amsterdam as part of the project (1 September 2002 - 31 December 2003).

Professor Lex Heerma van Voss (in charge of the project) and Professor Jan Lucassen are thesis advisors to the PhD candidates involved in the project. The members of the advisory committee are Dr Myriam Everard (Leiden), Dr Els Kloek (Utrecht University), Professor Jan Lucassen (iish/Free University Amsterdam), Professor Henk Van Nierop (University of Amsterdam) and Dr Pamela Sharpe (University of Western Australia).

Problem addressed in the research

The characterization of the Dutch economy as the first modern economy and the frequent references to the independence of Dutch women during the early modern period suggest that the position of working women in the Netherlands differed from that of women elsewhere in Europe. To this day, no systematic research has been conducted on this subject. This research project aims to compensate for this shortcoming and will analyse women’s labour in the Netherlands during the early modern period (ca. 1500-1815) from the perspectives of the labour market and the women who worked.

Planning

Once the project has been launched in the first year, the research will get under way in the second year (2003), the trainee research assistants will complete the research programme at the N.W. Posthumus Institute, and a workshop will be organized to inventory women’s labour in the Netherlands. In the third year (2004) the provisional results will be presented at the European Social Science History Conference in Berlin. The monograph about poor women in the Dutch Republic will be presented at that time as well. In the fourth year (2005), the sub-studies will be elaborated into PhD theses. In the fifth and final year (2006), the books will be published, including the synthesizing monograph by the coordinator. At a concluding international workshop the research results will also be presented and placed in an international perspective. The databases with quantitative data will be arranged for publication on the iish site.

Results in 2002

Following a thorough orientation at various archives in the Netherlands, the first year involved intensive start-up efforts and the beginning of literature and archival research. Elise van Nederveen launched her PhD research in March and entered the research programme that same month. In June the second PhD candidate was recruited: Marjolein van Dekken was hired as a trainee research assistant and started her research in September. Since then, Lotte van de Pol has joined the team as a senior researcher. In
June the advisory committee met. In November Ariadne Schmidt attended the conference European Families, Relationships and Money in Historical Perspective at the Economic History Society in London. She consulted the advisory committee member Pamela Sharpe there as well.

Future plans
Funding for two additional PhD positions was requested from the NWO. The request was approved just before this sixth Friends’ meeting! The two additional trainee research assistants will enable expansion of the research scope to explore the entire labour market and will consequently reinforce the comparative nature of the project.

Discussion about the two projects
In addition to satisfaction with the successful start of the two projects in two countries, the prevailing sentiment is delight at the ongoing success – at least in part – of the multiplier effect of the Friends’ projects. While we reported previously that the Van Winter Fund had obtained funding for an additional position via the NEH Grant Program, the NWO recently allocated funding for two new positions for the same project! Without the Friends, the projects would not even have started. By now, total research capacity for this project has more than doubled. Both the IISH administration and the Board of the Friends aim to continue applying this model. The operational reports need to be complemented by more substantive accounts of the projects, which will be requested for the next meeting in June 2003.

Board and members
Jan van Olphen, an anthropologist with extensive experience in international legal investigations, has joined the Board. The Board is also interested in adding one or more candidates with knowledge about taxes and other legal or financial aspects.

Financial Results
The financial results (see p. 15) lead to a few questions and remarks. Overall, the results for 2002 are in keeping with the budget. Under revenues, the dues are slightly higher than projected, which indicates a slow but steady rise in the number of Friends paying the agreed contribution. Under expenditures, however, the costs of On the Waterfront slightly exceed the budget, since typesetting and translation were a bit more expensive than expected. The general administrative expenses were somewhat higher because of the annual gift for the Friends.

Allocation of the 2002 revenues for the Institute
In consultation with the IISH administration, the Board proposes allocating slightly more than the revenues budgeted toward the purchase of two collections for the Institute. Director Jaap Klooster explains why the IISH would value this gesture on the part of the Friends:
- a fairly complete collection of printed matter, posters, flags and audio material concerning the illegal Partiya sorcalista Kurdistan (Socialist Party of Kurdistan) established in the 1970s. This will complement the wealth of Kurdish material already at the Institute. The cost is 2,500 euros.
- the collection of a British journalist who operated on the North Korean side during the Korean War, lived in China for a long time, travelled through Tibet and photographed extensively. The collection comprises diaries and many photographs. His widow, who now lives in Berlin, would like to sell this collection to the IISH. Jaap has requested that we donate 1,000 euros. Although this would lead to a slightly negative balance, those present approve these grants.

Next Friends’ Day
At the next Friends’ Day in June 2003, Mr. Bogaers will deliver a lecture about Dutch aliens’ policy, the ensuing flow of information and the significance of such information as a historical source. The Board is also preparing presentations for future Friends’ Days on the Kurdish issue and about how socialism and the labour movement relate to music.

Regarding the budget for 2003, which is fairly similar to the results for 2002, we are pleased to note that Ben Scharloo, the director of A-D Druk B.V. in Zeist, has agreed once again to sponsor the Friends by continuing to print On the Waterfront free of charge in the year ahead. The amount involved appears on the balance sheet under “Grant A-D Druk.”
## Financial Results for 2002 and Budget for 2003 (in euros)

### Friends of the IIISH

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<th>Budget 2003</th>
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Ester Kruk
ZOALS SNEEUWVLOKKEN
OVER DE WERELD DWARRELEN.
De hedendaagse devotie rond Maria,
de Vrouwe van alle Volkeren
(ISBN 90 5260 090 2, 130 PAGINA’S, € 14,50)
Mariaverenigingen trekken nog steeds duizenden gelovigen. ‘Verschijningen’
van de Vrouwe houden eveneens duizenden in de ban. Maar wie is deze
vrouw die in deze tijden van secularisering en ontkerkelijking zoveel gelovi-
gen in binnen- en buitenland op de been weet te krijgen? De antropologe
Ester Kruk, zelf opgegroeid in een protestants milieu, nam als vrijwilliger
deel aan de organisatie van gebedsdagen en sprak uitgebreid met bezoekers
van zulke manifestaties en veel andere betrokkenen, en probeert dit mysterie
te ontrafelen.

Henny Buiting
DE NIEUWE TIJD. SOCIAALDEMOCRATISCH
MAANDSCHRIFT 1896-1921
Spiegel van socialisme en vroeg communisme in
Nederland
(ISBN 90 5260 067 8, 720 PAGINA’S, GEÏLLUSTREERD, € 45,00)
Het in 1896 opgerichte maandblad De Nieuwe Tijd was bedoeld als theo-
retisch-literaire tegenhanger van De Sociaaldemokraat, partijorgaan van de
SDAP. De twisten tussen ‘marxisten’ en ‘reformisten’ van rond 1901, lieten
ook De Nieuwe Tijd niet ongemoeid. Het blad bekende zich tot het radicale
marxisme en de SDP, later CPN. Redactie en auteurs omhelsden de nieuwe
sovjet-staat, totdat het Sovjet-Russische staatsbelang de overhand kreeg op
de oorspronkelijk geproclameerde roeping de proletarische wereldrevolutie
te ontketenen. Het conflict leidde tenslotte tot de ondergang van het blad
in 1921.
Henny Buiting is sociooloog en verbonden aan de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam.

Hélène J.M. Winkelman
HIER IS BARBIE EN DE REST VAN DE
Veertig jaar barbiepoppen in Nederland
(ISBN 90 5260 107 0, 117 PP., RIJKGEÏLLUSTREERD, € 19,90)
In de Verenigde Staten verscheen in februari 1959 een nieuw speelgoed: een
pop, gemodelleerd naar een echte vrouw. Barbie dus! Ze was het toonbeeld
van ‘the American dream’. Ze leefde in de glamourwereld van Peter Stuyve-
sant. Barbie was een product van speelgoedfabrikant Mattel en sinds 1964
ook in ons land te koop. Hier is Barbie vertelt het verhaal van haar introductie
en van haar poppenfamilie. Ook elementen uit de Amerikaanse cultuur lif-
ten mee. Aan de hand van historisch reclamemateriaal wordt deze collectie
speelgoed gedurende vier decennia gevolgd.
Hélène J.M. Winkelman is historica en verbonden aan het NEHA te Amsterdam. Zij stelde een gelijk-
namige tentoonstelling samen, die tot 24 augustus 2003 te zien is in Museum het Domein in Sittard.

Marga Altena, Carolien Bouw, Maartje Broekhans,
Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk, Jenny Reynaerts,
Willemijn Ruberg & Marlou Schrover (redactie)
JAARBOEK VOOR VROUWENGESCHIEDENIS 23
Muzen aan het werk. Vrouwenlevens in de kunsten.
(ISBN 90 5260 098 8, 208 PP., GEÏLLUSTREERD, € 17,50)
De artikelen in dit Jaarboek gaan in op de vraag hoe vrouwen mogelijkheden
schijnen en kansen grepen om een plaats te verwerven in de wereld van
de kunsten. Dat was doorgaans niet eenvoudig gezien de traditionele rol
van echtgenote en moeder. Hoe gaven deze vrouwen vorm aan literatuur,
beeldende kunst, architectuur, muziek, dans of theater?
Duidelijk wordt dat ‘talent niet genoeg is’.