



On the Waterfront



NEWSLETTER NO. 7
OF THE FRIENDS
OF THE IISH

2003

Introduction

ANNIE
ADAMA VAN
SCHELTEMA-
KLEEFSTRA
(1884-1977),
PHOTOGRAPH
TAKEN
AROUND 1935
BY HER
GERMAN
NIECE RUTH
HÖHNDORF
(B. 1913 IN
ESSEN).
[BG A 59/711]

This seventh issue of *On the Waterfront* devotes more attention than the previous ones to the history of the Institute itself. In particular the items on “Annie” and “Feltrinelli” are about recently discovered sources that have become available to the IISH from the 1930s to the 1950s. In addition, this issue features the first extensive report on the Friends’ research project “Women’s work in the Netherlands, 1500-1850”.

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. 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 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 revenues from 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 te Amsterdam (Amsterdam 1989), 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).

COLOPHON

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LEE MITZMAN • PHOTOGRAPHY: HANS LUHRS • PRODUCTION COORDINATION: AAD BLOK • DESIGN AND
LAYOUT: RUPARO (IVO SIKKEMA) • PRINTED, WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT, BY: A-D DRUK B.V., ZEIST •
INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS: MARGO BURMAN, BOUWE HIJMA, JACK HOFMAN, GÖTZ LANGKAU,
PIET LOURENS, DITTY MULDER, MARJA MUSSON, KEES ROODENBURG, HUUB SANDERS, WILLEM VAN
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Seventh Friends Day, 12 June 2003

PRESENTATION OF THE ACQUISITIONS

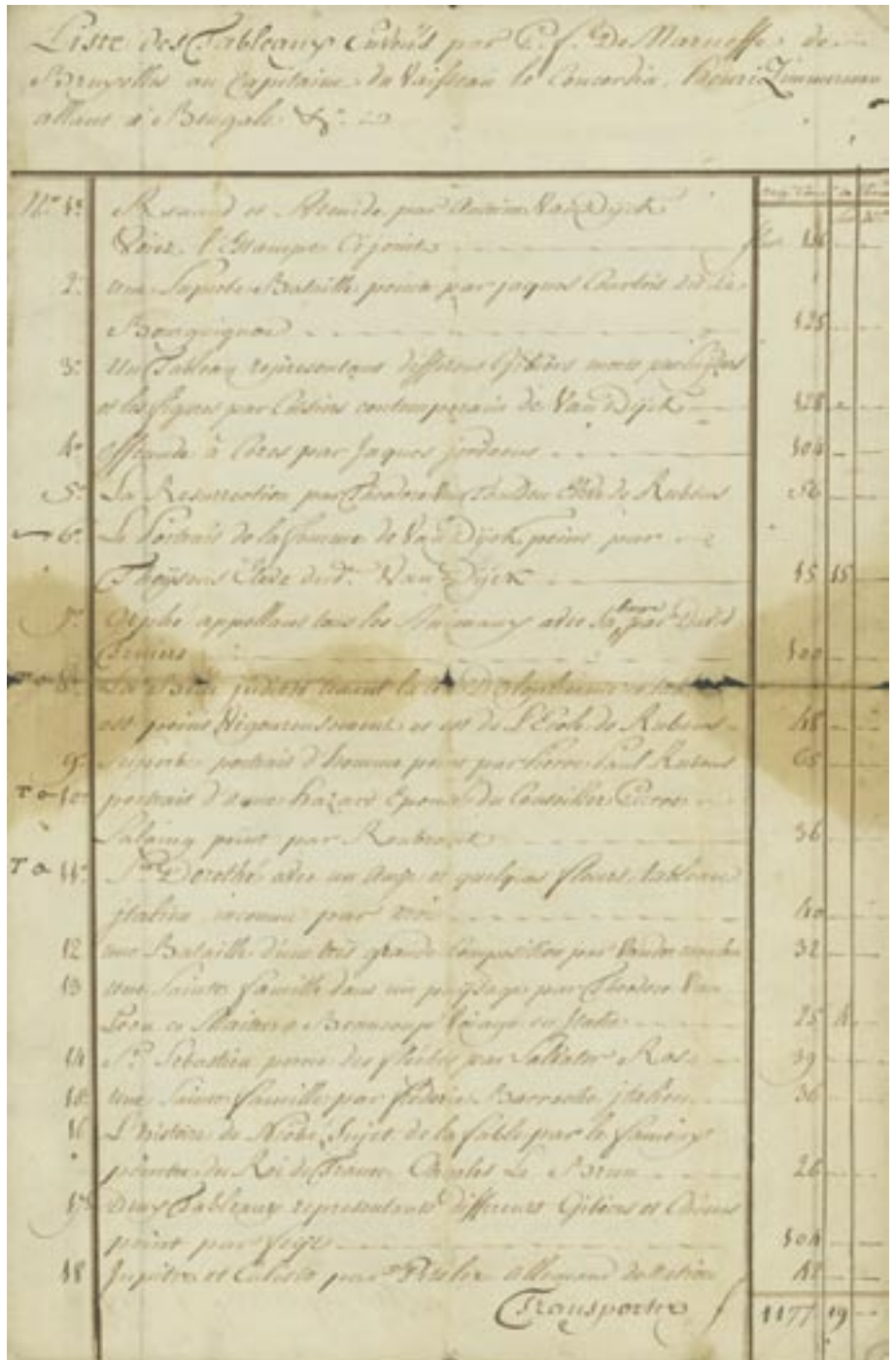
In the first half of 2003 about 150 archive collections arrived at the IISH, of which two thirds were accruals to collections already in progress. Among them was the return from Moscow of the final outstanding collections looted by the Nazis in World War II and conveniently appropriated by the Russians (see *On the Waterfront* (2002), 4). This time the IISH received about 70 folders containing the records of several pacifist and anti-militarist organizations active in pre-war neutral Holland. During the same period the NEHA received a substantial accrual to its vast collection of annual reports of companies in the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies. All these lovely acquisitions, as well as others described below, led to the following selection. News on the Burma collection will be dealt with in one of the future issue of *On the Waterfront*.

Between Cook and Krusenstern: Johann Heinrich Zimmermann (1741-1805)

The Institute is rapidly placing inventories of its archives on the web. Sometimes the results are surprising, even when the items listed have been here since the early years of the Institute. The inventory of Georg von Vollmar's papers is now accessible online. His papers arrived in 1938, together with the archives of Marx and Engels. In the supplement to that archive are the papers of a certain Johann Heinrich Zimmermann,

from the years 1779 to 1791, which mystified those compiling the inventory. Zimmermann was clearly a sailor, and inventory number A23 lists 34 documents about his travels between 1779 and 1788, but his connection to the social

democrat Vollmar remained unclear. Careful examination of the documents reveals that our Zimmermann was no ordinary sailor, as he came along on Captain Cook's third journey and was the first to publish a travel report



LIST OF PAINTINGS OF A BRUSSELS ART DEALER THAT ZIMMERMANN BROUGHT TO INDIA IN 1787, WHERE HE SOLD LOTS IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA. ITEM 10 ON THE LIST IS A PORTRAIT OR A COPY OF A PORTRAIT BY REMBRANDT, PRICED AT 36 GUILDERS. [IISH ARCHIVE GEORG VON VOLLMAR, NR A23]

INTERNATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR SOCIALE GESCHIEDENIS
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY

about that unfortunate voyage on which Captain Cook was killed. Zimmermann published his travel report in Mannheim in 1781. He was a humble craftsman who joined the voyage as a sailor. On the way he took notes in secret, since only the scholars on board were allowed to publish anything. Zimmermann appears to have believed that Cook's death exempted him from this restriction. Although the original publication was suppressed in Germany at the request of the British admiralty, French and Dutch translations were published. An English edition did not appear until 1926. His publication about the famous journey was a major boost to his career, and the papers that reached the IISH reflect the professional benefits that ensued.

Among them was the commission that Zimmermann received to build a ship in Marseille for the Bavarian sovereign. He kept a travel log en route from Munich via Trieste, Florence, and Livorno to Southern France. This was quite an ambitious project for a man who shortly before had been a simple sailor and had left behind his wife and firstborn baby. Later he got in touch with English people in the Southern Netherlands and surfaced in India as well. In 1789 an impressive request arrived from Russia to plan an expedition to the South Pacific. According to the plans he drafted, the Russians would travel in style for 80,000 roubles. Presumably, this plan was never carried out, and Saint Petersburg had to wait for the famous Kru-

senstern to realize this ambition. To this day, little is known about Zimmermann except for his travel report published, but these papers may change that.

☞ **The Compagnie van Triëst [Trieste Company] (1781-1785)**

At the end of the sixteenth century the Portuguese lost their trade monopoly in Asia. Formidable competitors, such as the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and later the English East India Company, overtook them. In the course of the eighteenth century other countries tried to trade directly with Asia as well. While the amounts involved were rather modest, the voyages were most impressive. As noted above, Zimmermann set sail from the Southern Netherlands around 1780. The country was under Habsburg rule at the time, and various companies launched ships bound for Asia from Ostend as well as from Italy. China was the chief destination and was the source of tea and chinaware. The NEHA recently purchased an original share in the company at an auction.

☞ **The Bond van Piano-stemmers [Piano Tuners' Union] (1914)**

Over the years thousands of independent trade unions were organized in the Netherlands. Most eventually merged with larger trade union federations, lost their raison d'être, or disbanded. A study to shed light on their diversity is now in progress at the IISH research department. Small trade unions were rarely national operations, except for those of highly specialized workers. One such union was the Nationale Vakbond van Orgel- en Pianomakers en Stemmers [national trade union of organ and piano builders and tuners], established in 1914 and later renamed the Nederlandse Bond van Personeel Werkzaam in

SHARE OF
1,200 GUIL-
DERS IN THE
SOCIÉTÉ DU
COMMERCE
D'ASIE &
D'AFRIQUE,
POPULARLY
KNOW AS THE
AZIATISCHE
COMPAGNIE
VAN TRIËST,
1 OCTOBER
1781.
[NEHA SPECIAL
COLLECTION
645]



INTERNATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR SOCIALE GESCHIEDENIS
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GLASS SLIDE WITH THE CAPTION 'MEVR. BLOKHUIZEN, BONDSMOEDER' (MRS. BLOKHUIZEN, UNION MOTHER). HER HUSBAND WAS BLOKHUIZEN, DIAMANTSTRAAT 47 IN AMSTERDAM, THE SECRETARY TO THE BOND VAN PIANOSTEMMERS IN 1936 – WHEN THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. [BG K23/364]

het Muziekinstrumentenbedrijf [Dutch union of music instrument industry staff]. The union's membership was never large and is unlikely ever to have exceeded one hundred dues-paying members. All the same, this union is particularly useful for obtaining a quick understanding of the general goings on within a trade union. With large unions, such as those of construction workers, a general overview would require sifting through dozens of yards of paper, with the risk that the information obtained would merely concern bureaucratic procedures rather than the workers themselves. Studying the piano tuners' union, as the union was known for short, does not entail this danger. This is particularly useful, as this motley association did everything

a trade union should. Members published a journal, arranged occupational courses about subjects such as piano mechanics, set up a specialized library and compiled a catalogue for it, established a pension fund and provided unemployment benefits, organized propaganda trips (which are captured on a lovely series of glass slides, including the one featured here), and – as apparent from one of the slides – supported a strike against a large piano builder and picketed the entrance to the premises for over three months in late 1934. The entire repertoire of an average Dutch trade union compressed into a single square meter! In March 2003 the Institute was pleased to double the archive that started to arrive in 1999 by adding half a meter of accruals.

☞ Jef Last (1898-1972)

Jef Last has been covered here before (see *On the Waterfront* 1-2, 2000/1, 5). The Institute first acquired documents that had belonged to him in 1990. Others followed in 1999. The latest acquisition arrived in 2003.


Jef Last was a highly prolific writer and a hack. His writings include socially realistic novels, poems, reports, documentary books (about Japan, China, Indonesia), and the screenplay for Joris Ivens's first movie, *BRANDING (BREAKERS)*.

Rudi Wester, Jef Last's biographer: 'his life reads like a history of the twentieth century. This quality justifies a biography about him in my view. I have learned a great deal from work-

JEF LAST HAD TIES WITH ASIA THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HIS GRANDFATHER WAS A PLANTER IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES, IN THE 1920S HE OPPOSED THE DUTCH IMPERIALISM THERE, AND FROM 1950 UNTIL 1953 HE WAS A SCHOOL-TEACHER IN NEWLY INDEPENDENT INDONESIA. HE LATER STUDIED CHINESE AND TOOK HIS PHD DEGREE FOR HIS THESIS ABOUT THE POET LU HSÜN IN HAMBURG IN 1958. IN ADDITION TO HIS STUDY OF CHINESE CULTURE, HE WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED CALLIGRAPHER AND MASTERED THE CHINESE STYLE OF DRAWING. [IISH ARCHIVE JEF LAST]



”
Beschouwd naar de regels
die in Neurenberg en
Tokio zijn opgesteld, zijn



Johnson
en zijn verantwoordelijke ministers en generaals

**oorlogs
misdadiger”**

Prof.dr.B.Delfgaauw, 21-10-67
in de Oude RAI te Amsterdam
(naar authentieke bandopname)

Uitgere van de Afdelgroep Vietnam, Hellen, postgro 1263482

ing on this biography. The story of the cosmopolitan and activist enthralled me. He was a member of the SDAP, served as a secretary to Sneevliet, travelled across the Soviet Union, fought in the Spanish Civil War, joined the resistance, served on the board of editors of the underground journal *De Vonk*, worked on Bali at Sukarno's request from 1950 until 1954, founded the COC (the Dutch Lesbian and Gay Association), stood for the Provo party in the municipal elections.

This time we received 13 scrapbooks containing clippings of

articles (originals and photocopies) by and about Jef Last and his publications, as well as original documents, such as correspondence and diplomas and photographs; several files containing clippings and photocopies of clippings about e.g. his propaganda trip through Scandinavia in November 1937 and the months thereafter and his stay in Spain during the Civil War; diary of a militiaman, war diary and a notebook of calligraphy and a few pen and ink drawings. The scrapbooks have been assembled by W. 't Hart.

“ACCORDING TO THE RULES FORMULATED IN NUREMBERG AND TOKYO, JOHNSON AND HIS RESPONSIBLE SECRETARIES AND GENERALS ARE WAR CRIMINALS”. THIS STATEMENT FROM THE GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR BERNARD DELFGAAUW WAS FREQUENTLY FEATURED ON BANNERS IN DEMONSTRATIONS OPPOSING THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AS A WAR CRIMINAL HAD A SPECIAL CONNOTATION. AFTER ALL, THE NETHERLANDS HAD SENT JUDGES – TOGETHER WITH THE AMERICANS – TO THE WAR TRIBUNAL IN TOKYO WHERE THE WAR CRIMINALS WERE TRIED AFTER WORLD WAR II, IN CONNECTION WITH THE JAPANESE WAR CRIMES IN THE DUTCH EAST INDIES. THE TEXT ON THIS POSTER REFERS TO WHAT AT THAT TIME WAS THE RECENT PAST. [IISH ARCHIVE ERIC DE LANGE]

↻ Archive of Eric de Lange (Socialistische Jeugd van Nederland)

The SJ was a youth group dedicated to revolutionary socialism. Its members ranged from age 16 to 30. While the SJ had no official minimum age for joining, barring a few exceptions, SJ members were rarely under 16. The SJ was part of the youth movement of the 1960s and operated independently from other political movements.

The IISH recently acquired SJ material that had belonged to Eric de Lange (1947-2003), who drowned in 2003 while skating. Eric de Lange was a former member of the SJ and a sociologist and was writing a history of this movement; unfortunately, he was unable to finish this study, which he had planned with great thoroughness. He circulated detailed questionnaires among the former members and interviewed them. This material sheds a unique light on the background and motives of the SJ. The 250 surveys and interviews conducted among former members of the SJ are the

'DON'T CHANGE LIFE - CHANGE LEADERS'. THIS POSTER WAS PUBLISHED IN 1972 BY THE AMERICAN SITUATIONIST GROUP "NEGATION" AT BERKELEY, PART OF THE "INTERNATIONALE SITUATIONNISTE" MOVEMENT, AS A PARODY ON SIMILAR POSTERS PUBLISHED BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO ENHANCE VOTER PARTICIPATION. [BG D29/913]

most valuable part of the research material. The archive also contains material that the sj issued – such as pamphlets, leaflets, correspondence, and reports of meetings – between 1960 and 1972.

↻ The collection of Steef Davidson

Steef Davidson, a printer and publisher of e.g. 'Zwart op Witboek', 'De Kabouterkolonel'; publicist and dedicated collector, co-founder of the serigraph printers' collective 'De vrije zeedrukker', was a member of the anarchist Nieuwmarkt action committee and figured prominently in Dutch underground culture.

He recently provided us with Provo scrapbooks about the period 1966-1977, newspaper clippings (chronological) from Dutch and foreign newspapers about Provo, and posters of the Internationale Situationniste (ca. 1957-1971).

The IS posters are a wonderful complement to the Institute's current visual and documentary materials on this group; the IISH probably has one of the largest collections on the subject. The IS was established in 1957 by small groups of internationally concerned avant-garde artists expressing radical criticism of contemporary society. The IS is generally viewed as the main instigator of the May 68 Revolte. Most material received, however, is from after 1968. The IS analysed late capitalism, in which visual images and consumer society were the most important components.

DON'T CHANGE LIFE - CHANGE LEADERS
★ VOTE, NOV. 7th, FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE ★

HUCKLEBERRY REPUBLICAN PARTY
JONES SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
SCHWITZ AMERICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY
GUCKER PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY
HALL TYNER COMMUNIST PARTY
McQUEEN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Once again the excitement of election drama sweeps aside the tedium of everyday existence, beckoning you, the voter, to the polls. And, the moment you step into the voting stall, drawing the curtain behind you, the banality of your daily life recedes. You then know the profound, although brief, dignity of selecting from this year's spectacular display of dedicated public servants the ones you wish to act in your name for the next four years. A vote for the candidate of your choice is a vote of confidence in our democratic Way of Life. It's your way of saying, "Thanks!"

But before you can march, with clarity of mind, to the polls November 7th to discharge your social obligation, you must first assure carefully the dedication, credibility, and moral fiber of whomever you select to run your life. Certainly the thankless job of maintaining things the way they are, insuring the stability of the economy, and stemming the rising tide of social discontent does not belong to anyone whose leadership capabilities you question in the slightest.

If, however, the present cast of candidates doesn't quite fill the bill, write in the man or woman you think is qualified to make your decisions for you. You can even write in your own name. Everything has been provided for you. The most important thing, however, is to vote. It doesn't matter for whom, just vote.

While thoughtfully considering who among these many glamorous public figures you wish to place in power next, you must, at the same time, abandon the utopian illusion that people can collectively control the quality and direction of their own lives, without leaders or representation. Unfortunately, this deceptively simple notion is becoming increasingly popular among our impressionable youth. Groups of disruptive malcontents, calling themselves "situationists," have in recent writings and agitations introduced and even suggested putting into practice a concept they call "direct democracy." One particularly obstreperous group, NEGATION (P.O. Box 1213, Berkeley, California 94701), have elaborated on this idealistic fantasy in its latest publication, "The Right to Be Greedy – Theses on the Practical Necessity of Demanding Everything." These childish romantics, when they mention something called "self-management," demonstrate their complete ignorance of the unchangeable character of human nature, which demands the security, comfort, and guidance only a strong state and capable leaders can provide. Their laughable ideas concerning the abolition of work and the emergence of play are not only unrealistic, in a world rife with the complex problems of war and poverty, but blatantly subversive of everything that hard-working and law-abiding citizens have sacrificed their best years for. When they talk of a liberation of factory and community councils, these misfits attack hierarchical power itself – the very foundation of, not just America's government, but of all governments everywhere.

In these troubled times, amid the deteriorating social fabric of our nation, it is our responsibility as mature, productive members of society to courageously accept and adjust to the fact that, whether on the assembly line or at the office, in the supermarket or in the classroom, at the protest rally or at church, in front of the TV or in the voting booth, our only choice is to follow orders. And, it is only in resolutely resigning ourselves to this perhaps unpleasant but inescapable reality that participation in the election can have any meaning for us. Give this best of all possible worlds your vote. Be sure to go to the polls November 7th. It's not just your right – it's your duty.

ON WITH THE SHOW!

We and other citizen's participation groups welcome the unprecedented involvement of various "leftist" groups in this election. By telling people "Don't Vote" they successfully reverse the debate over whether or not to vote and reiterate the importance of choosing the right person to rule the American people. Their reason for not voting is simply that none of the prospective leaders are "good" enough to have the "correct line." However, they do see the importance of good leadership, and since this is an imperfect world, we feel that the range of possibilities offered by the existing display of candidates is quite adequate.

C.E.C.C.S.

Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Regional Coordinator, West Coast Region
Rev. Mils Graham, National Chairman
Jane Fonda, Regional Coordinator, East Coast Region

Presented by The Public Interest By: GIVING UNITED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF CLASS SOCIETY. C.E.C.C.S. is a non-partisan coalition of the following organizations:
Committee to Re-elect the President
The McGovern/Dobson Campaign Committee
Socialist Workers Party Campaign '72
Hall-Tyner Election Campaign Committee (CPUSA)
American Independent Party
Peace and Freedom Party
Committee on Political Education (AFL-CIO)
National Council of Churches
League of Women Voters

We are founded on the principle that responsible representative government is the product of an active and informed electorate. This fact sheet is part of our Future Education Program.

↻ The Bangeswar Roy Collection

In 1932 Bangeswar Roy (1911-2001) co-founded the Communist Party of Bengal in Dhaka. Before joining this party, he belonged to an underground political movement of armed resistance against the colonial rulers. Several resistance movements existed all over India, although Bengal and Punjab were the main centres. Roy spent eleven years of his lengthy political career in prison.

Roy wrote two books about his experiences as a member of this

movement against British rule, as well as works of fiction and poetry that were never published. Shahrivar Kabir (IISH correspondent in Bangladesh, see *On the Waterfront* 3, 2001) interviewed him in Assam (India) in 2000, a few months before his death. This interview was recorded on video. His family donated his archive to the IISH. Despite its poor condition, this archive is an important acquisition, especially for the historiography of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, but also because of his efforts for the Society of

PASSPORT OF
BANGESWAR
ROY, CALCUTTA
(INDIA)
GOVERNMENT
OF WEST
BENGAL, 14
NOVEMBER
1973.
[IISH ARCHIVE
BANGESWAR
ROY]



former political prisoners of the Andaman Cellular Jail, which was probably the most horrific prison ever in India. Opened in 1858, this prison on the Andaman Islands has held freedom fighters from all over India, many serving life sentences. Thanks in part to Roy's initiative, this prison is now a national monument commemorating India's countless freedom fighters for independence.

The following selective list of documents in this collection conveys its importance: a manuscript by Roy entitled 'Chhaad Pilani Graan' (songs of the roof builders). This manuscript is part of his book about Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh; an unpublished, untitled poem he wrote in the mid 1970s; Roy's notes about the Cellular Jail National Monument, where he was imprisoned for many years; a brief personal life history that Roy wrote at age 90; an invitation from Roy to his former fellow inmates to visit the Andaman prison; a handwritten manuscript by Roy – these pages are part of his memoirs published as *Dhaka Amar Dhaka* (Dhaka my Dhaka) in 1986, describing the torture he suffered when he was first arrested in Dhaka in the

1930s; Bangeswar Roy's speech at the national Conference of Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners, delivered at the gathering on 15 August 1986; a letter from Roy to the President of India requesting that he receive a delegation of Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners for an interview; and a list of 121 names from 1977 of former Andaman Political Prisoners still alive.

☪ Africa

The IISH collects material from all over the world and takes a special interest in a few geographic areas. Europe has been a traditional area of specialization, as has Asia since the late 1980s. The Institute also has a large collection on Latin America. We might almost forget the impressive material at the Institute from other parts of the world. Huub Sanders has compiled a list of the IISH holdings concerning Sub-Saharan labour and social history, for which the Institute has never had a specialized scholar. Fritjof Tichelman, although a specialist on South Asia, nevertheless followed developments from 1964 onwards. The catalogue Huub Sanders recently published reveals substantial material from and about this area.

Aside from the countless images at the Image and Sound Department, the journals and the books in the library, no fewer than 104 archive collections contain important African material.

The International Institute of Social History has an online guide in pdf (www.iisg.nl/publications/africa.pdf). The Institute's recent acquisitions in this area have significantly added to its African collections, which comprise: archival and library material of the Werkgroep Kairos (one of the most important Dutch anti-apartheid organizations); the archive of the South Africa/Namibia Association (sanam), a Brussels based organization of European NGOs active in Southern Africa at the end of Apartheid; the archive of the icco, a Dutch organization involved in aid and development projects in South Africa.

Up to now the most important holdings on African history in our archival department were the archives of international trade union secretariats and international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International. The second area of relevant information comes from large national, predominantly Dutch, political,

and trade union organizations involved in development and support of aid to Africa. The third source consists of organizations in Europe opposing racism and apartheid.

The present guide lists both recent and older material in our Archive Department and in the Department of Image and Sound Documents and focuses mainly on African topics. The aim of this guide is to provide information on primary sources available at the International Institute of Social History for research on African social history. Because much of this material is to be found in the archives of European organizations sympathetic to the African cause, data on the activities of such organizations in Europe are listed as well. This information provides a context for African studies.

The areas best covered in this guide are Southern Africa, especially South Africa, both because of the importance of the anti-apartheid struggle there and because of the presence of mining and industry and consequently labour organizations in the area. The other important country in this guide is Nigeria because of its

large oil industry and the related social issue.

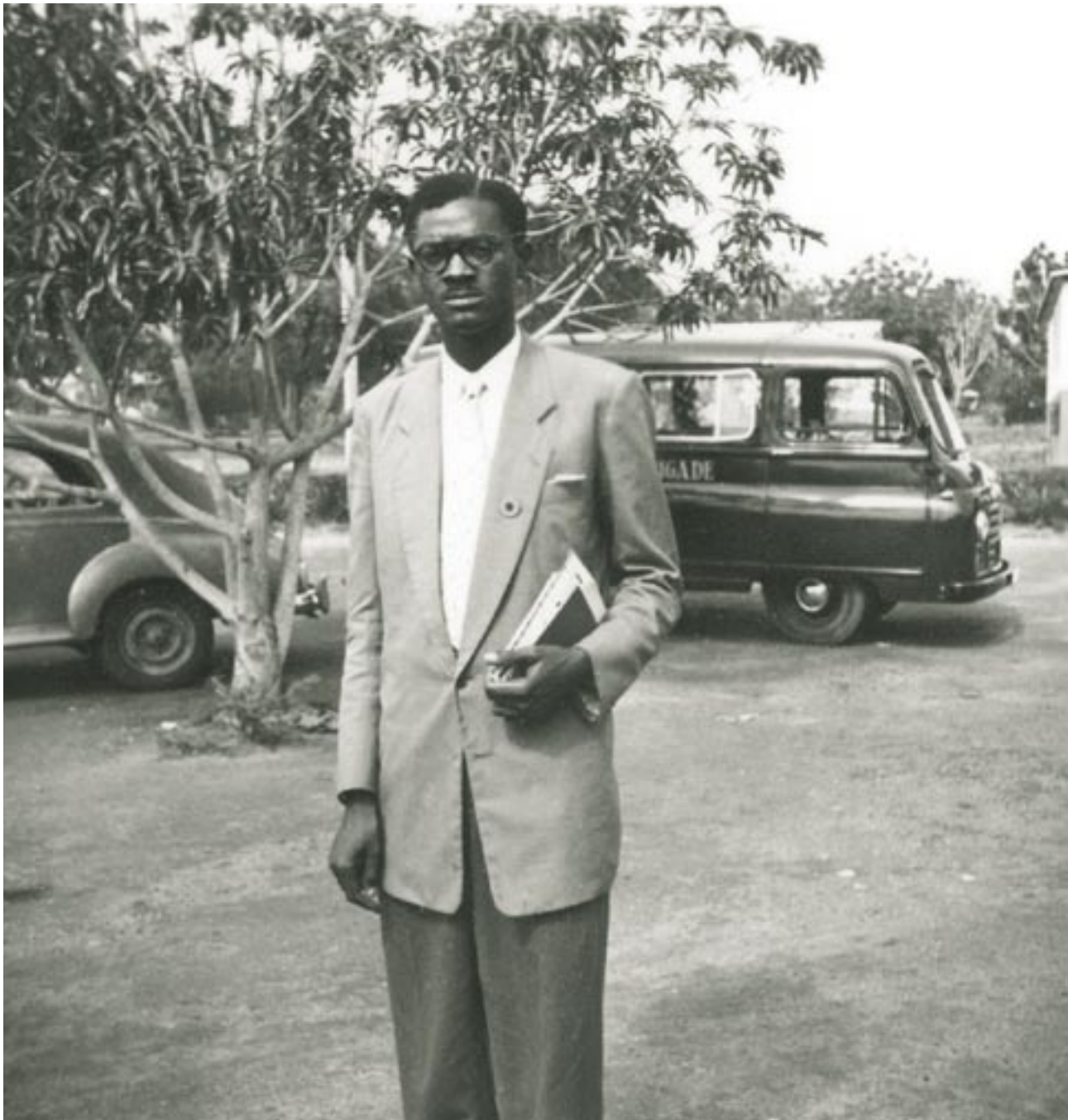
↻ Annie

Sometimes archives reach the Institute through the most unusual course of events. One such case occurred around Christmas 2002, when somebody delivered documents directly concerning the origins of the IISH. So the next section is about that history. By far the most important person from the early decades of the Institute – except for the founder and first director N.W. Posthumus – was undoubtedly Annie Adama van Scheltema-Kleefstra (1884-1977). In 1907 Annie Kleefstra married the famous socialist poet Carel Steven Adama van Scheltema (1877-1924). His death in 1924 meant that Annie was the widow of a celebrity for over half a century. On the one hand, her life was deeply affected, but on the other hand, she pursued a career independently from age 47 as the right-hand aide to Posthumus, who was a college friend of the poet. At the University of Amsterdam, they and later celebrities (including several of international renown), such as the mathematician and philosopher Luitzen Brouwer,

the astronomer and Marxist Anton Pannekoek, the classics scholar H. Bolkestein, the criminologist Wim Bonger and the historian and art historian Henk Enno van Gelder, formed a vociferous but promising group of young leftist intellectuals. Annie's longstanding acquaintance with Posthumus (she probably met him in 1907), her insider knowledge of socialist circles, and her extended residence abroad with her husband the poet – Adama van Scheltema was independently wealthy – made her perfect for helping Posthumus carry out his plans. This worldly, polyglot woman knowledgeable about 'the movement' was exactly the person Posthumus needed, especially when 'the papers of the revolution' had to be rescued in the late 1930s. A lively account of this exciting period appears in her memoirs. Upon her death Annie left all her papers to the Letterkundig Museum in The Hague. Despite her close ties to the IISH, her decision is understandable, as her husband was among the most important poets of his day. More recent discoveries reveal that this bequest did not make her entire estate available for study. The people who moved into her



FOUNDING
CONFERENCE
OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN
CONGRESS OF
TRADE UNIONS
(SACTU),
JOHANNESBURG,
5 MARCH 1955.
[BG B27/665]



PHOTOGRAPH OF PATRICE LUMUMBA (1925-1961), PROBABLY FROM THE LATE 1950S, ORIGINATING FROM THE ERNEST MANDEL ARCHIVE. LUMUMBA WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE CONGOLESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT (MNC), BECAME CONGO'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE 1960, AND WAS KILLED IN JANUARY 1961 AFTER A COUP D'ÉTAT WHICH WAS ALLEGEDLY INDUCED BY THE CIA. ONE OF MANDEL'S COLLABORATORS AT THE TIME AT THE RADICAL PERIODICAL LA GAUCHE, JEAN VAN LIERDE (B. 1926), WAS A FRIEND OF LUMUMBA AND A STRONG ADVOCATE OF HIS PAN-AFRICANIST IDEAS. [BG A59/327]

apartment on the Vossiusstraat in Amsterdam after her death found all kinds of documents there that had belonged to her and her husband. When they moved out 35 years later at the end of 2002, they still had their remarkable discovery. They entrusted the entire box of items to the IISH. Among the contents were several photographs of Adama van Scheltema during his years as a student (at the end of the nineteenth century), many photographs of Annie and some of her correspondence, as well as other papers concerning former Institute staff members.

✂ Feltrinelli

In Russia, too, new material recently surfaced at the RGASPI in Moscow about the history of the Institute. By the 1920s Posthumus was known in Moscow for his interest in the same kinds of books and documents that Russian scholars appreciated. As the director of the Netherlands Economic History Archive (NEHA) at the time, Posthumus aimed to establish a broad foundation for social history. When he set up the IISH in 1935 while still at the NEHA, the powers in Moscow became more interested in his ac-

tivities. Their curiosity obviously peaked when the IISH whisked the papers of Marx and Engels away from under the very noses of the Russians in 1938. Dumbfounded, the comrades must have assumed that Posthumus was secretly working for the Nazis. Nothing was further from the truth, as the Russians undoubtedly later realized, when those same Nazis looted the Institute. Nonetheless, the IISH was to be kept under close surveillance as a strong competitor. How did the Russians keep tabs on the IISH, amid the increasingly icy Cold War, during which the IISH even arranged to transfer the most important documents to Columbia University in New York in an emergency? Documents recently discovered at the RGASPI reveal that ostensibly neutral people were involved in the mission. One of the most important agents was the Italian publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (1926-1972). Although he was one of the wealthiest men in Italy, he became a communist at the end of World War II and started collecting antique books and documents about the history of the labour movement. He transformed this private collection into the Feltrinelli Institute, which exists to this day in Milan and was run initially by Del Bo. Feltrinelli is believed to have paid his first visit to the IISH in 1951 and to have been introduced there by the German communist Bert Andreas. Upon learning of these contacts, the Russians got in touch with him via their embassy in Rome. In Moscow the very highest echelons of the government – even Krushchev was involved – expected to acquire the archives of Marx and Engels through Feltrinelli. The Italian was in close contact with Moscow between 1953 and 1955. On New Year's Eve 1953 Feltrinelli arrived in the Russian capital 'on business' to consult personally with the administration of the IMEL. Shortly afterwards, Feltrinelli drafted a report about the IISH staff, alternately describing them as 'social democrats and anti-communists' and as 'Trotskyists'. In the long run, the Russians de-

rived very little benefit from their spying Italian comrade. Feltrinelli started to deviate from the official line dictated by Moscow and intended to apply to all communists throughout the world. Feltrinelli's first contact with Boris Pasternak (Feltrinelli was the first to publish *Doctor Zhivago* in the spring of 1956) and the Hungarian Uprising that fall were undoubtedly contributing factors. Over the years that followed Feltrinelli progressively drifted toward a sectarian leftist-extremism and was killed in an abortive attempt to blow up a power pylon. Meanwhile, the Russians recruited other spies to keep abreast of the goings on in Amsterdam. None, however, was as colourful or as influential as Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.



ANNIE ADAMA VAN SCHELTEMA-KLEEFSTRA (1884-1977) ON HOLIDAY, PROBABLY IN BELGIUM OR FRANCE, AROUND 1930. [BG 459/725]

Lecture by Pieter Bogaers: Historiography as the events take place

ASYLUM LAW AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY (SUMMARY)

Until the mid 1980s, Pieter Bogaers was a biologist. Specializing in ecological field research, he took a critical view of the university's research results. This led him to study law and subsequently to investigate the way the Utrecht provincial authorities treated citizens struggling to protect the environment. He concluded that enforcement policy was the main flaw in legislation and public administration, and that citizens were paying the price. In 1986 he joined the law office in Nieuwegein, where he remains to this day. In his work he focuses on administrative law: government actions and government treatment of citizens and residents. He devotes most of his time to disability law and asylum law, highlighting the government and its actions in his research. In his lecture, Bogaers addresses asylum law. After some general remarks, he discusses the case of the A. family from Sudan.

A refugee's life story needs to be traced with tremendous care (chronologically, systematically and with double checks) to understand exactly how an individual has manoeuvred amid hostility over time. All psychological experiences from the origin of fear through the moment of escape are considered. A thorough approach makes for success: over 80 percent of the refugee cases the speaker has defended have culminated in residence permits, despite the general view that 80 percent of all asylum seekers come to the Netherlands in search of a better fortune, while only 20 percent are genuine political refugees. Lawyers have a duty to protect their asylum-seeking clients from the

government, which will do everything possible to prevent these clients from being awarded refugee status. The two main principles of the IND (Immigration and Naturalization Service) are to believe nobody and to admit nobody. Opposition by Bogaers led the national ombudsman to find in 1995 and 1996 that the state secretary of Justice ignored even the most basic quality criteria (i.e. expertise, reliability, and political impartiality) in appointing and recruiting interpreters and interviewing officers and in instructing and monitoring them. Despite the reports from the Ombudsman, no social or political debate has arisen on this subject. The problem of the tens of thousands of individuals with no further possible recourse to the courts is therefore attributable to carelessness on the part of the IND and the lawyers assigned to the cases. Lawyers have virtually no interest in methodological issues in determining whether or not somebody is a 'genuine' refugee. After all, they are not trained as researchers. The speaker, standing at a lectern at the IISH, concludes this section of his lecture by quoting a description in Herodotus's Histories: 'The original meaning of the word *historia*, which appears here in the Greek text, is "the desire to know," which is research, report of the research findings. Only later did it come to mean history.' Based on these and a few other definitions of history, the speaker says: 'In my work as a researcher, I have devised a biographical method of tracing a person's complete political course to understand why that person was forced to flee.'

In the past two years, the lawyer's archive comprising 629 refugee files has been entrusted to the IISH. In addition to all kinds of legal documents, it contains Bogaers's analyses of asylum procedure and his analyses of a person's life history and his or her escape. The files are those of refugees from about thirty countries: Eastern Europe, Russia and the Balkans, Vietnam, China and Sri Lanka in Asia; Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Liberia, Tunisia and Angola in Africa; Chile, Panama, Peru and Suriname in Latin America; Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Asia Minor/the Middle East; and finally from the United States.

These files, which IISH staff members are disclosing according to various categories of entries, are expected to give rise to many political, legal, anthropological, and historical questions – and answers. The speaker casually wonders what has happened to the case files – and even whether they exist – of the refugees denied admission to the Netherlands shortly before World War II, often on the most far-fetched grounds. 'Where are the clay tablets from that period?'

Next, Mr. Bogaers describes in detail the circumstances concerning the A. family from Sudan to provide an arbitrary example. The file reflects obstinacy, ignorance, lack of concern, and indifference on the part of the authorities. Ongoing critical examination is the only way to achieve a favourable outcome for the refugee family. If the speaker had accepted all the statements and reports of the authorities at face value, the family would have been deported a long time ago. The interviews

Report of the General Meeting of Members

(an alternative to interrogations) are in many cases far too short, as are the preliminary interviews in court; interviewing officers bluntly stated 'you are lying'; interpreters were not always present – which made for conversations in faulty English; feedback was hardly ever provided, and conversations were haphazard; several individuals being questioned were not allowed to finish their answers; crucial circumstances concerning the family or in-laws tended to be overlooked; and failure to ask detailed questions about a lot of important information that the refugees were able or willing to provide (in this case, for example, knowledge of fraudulent banking matters and government corruption) meant that neither the IND nor the court understood the causes and circumstances that led to the escape.

Mr. Bogaers reaches the following conclusions at the end of his highly entertaining and informative lecture: the Dutch system does not distinguish between so-called genuine and so-called non-genuine refugees; the IND interview method prevents investigators from obtaining an accurate account of the escape by the individuals they are investigating; the method of hearing by the Ministry of Justice lacks any scientific foundation – on 21 July 2000 then State Secretary Cohen confirmed this in the presence of the speaker, as a lawyer; the Netherlands has let down tens of thousands of asylum seekers and has created a problem that will be virtually impossible to solve, unless all these people and their families are admitted to the Netherlands.

Jan Lucassen opens the meeting, welcomes everybody, and distributes *On the Waterfront* 6, which includes the report of the previous regular meeting (pp. 12-14) and the financial results (p. 15).

At the Friends' day on 4 December 2003 Martin van Bruinessen (Utrecht University) will speak about the Kurdish collection (which is now at the Institute). No definite answers are available yet about the Korean archive, considering the involvement of other parties here.

Subjects to be addressed at this meeting are the presentation of the new website and the research reports on Women's Work in the Netherlands and Work, Income and the State in Russia.

Moniek van der Pal, who has been working on digital projects for two years, presents the website images to highlight the increased and improved coverage for the Friends on the IISH site www.iisg.nl/Overdevrienden. The site contains the following items: Membership; Newsletter *On the Waterfront*; Meetings; Lectures; and Research projects. The first three issues of *On the Waterfront* are now on the website and can be downloaded and/or printed. The most recent issue is obviously not featured on the web yet; the site content will consistently be one issue behind the current one. The programmes of the scheduled Friends' meetings and a list of IISH lectures are featured, as well as references to summaries in the Newsletter and a breakdown describing how the money from the friends is spent. Funding sources are listed, and announcements

and recent acquisitions indicate whether they were purchased with Friends money; more elaborate presentations of such information are under development. An IISH Friends logo has been designed. Constructive comments about the website are welcome.

Ariadne Schmidt delivers an oral report, which is distributed in writing as well (an abridged version appears below, of the research on 'Women's work in the Netherlands, 1500-1850', which is co-funded by the Friends). This contribution is the result of agreements reached to distribute a more personal research report of Friends' projects at the June meetings and a factual account in December.

IS THE NETHERLANDS A COUNTRY OF HOUSEWIVES? HISTORY OF WOMEN AND WORK IN THE NETHERLANDS

'From a country of housewives to one of part-time jobs,' read a headline in the *NRC Handelsblad* last fall. The impetus for the article that followed was the publication of the *Emancipatiemonitor* 2002, in which the Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (SCP) and the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) reviewed progress in women's emancipation in the Netherlands. Women's participation in the work force was covered as well. The investigation revealed several remarkable facts.

Women's participation in the work force continues to rise, as does the number of women with part-time jobs. While the tradi-

tional division of roles, in which only the husband works, and the wife cares for the children, is becoming less commonplace, women continue to spend a lot of time doing unpaid work. As explained in the *Emancipatiemonitor*, Dutch society still revolves around the system of breadwinners. (Figures are from Wil Portegijs, Annemarie Boelens, Saskia Keuzenkamp, *Emancipatiemonitor 2002*. The Hague, 2002)

These conclusions lead to the observation in the NRC that the Netherlands is changing from a country of housewives into one of part-time workers. Twenty years ago, most women quit their jobs after having a baby. The Netherlands competed with Ireland for the lowest percentage in Europe of women in the work force. The Netherlands is still unique, but now for the enormous share of women working part-time. Seventy percent of the men are economically independent, compared with less than forty percent of the women. Considerable differences between men and women persist.

The NRC article explores the reasons for this situation and notes the conservative views about role patterns, which are apparently firmly embedded in Dutch society. As historians of women's work, we want to know how this came about. What is the historical scope of the description of the Netherlands as a country of housewives? How old is this description that is so apt for the twentieth century? Has the Netherlands always been a country of housewives, or did it become one over time?

Little is known about the period before the modern era. The article in NRC describes the changes over the past two decades. Much of the research on the history of working women covers the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Hettie Pott-Buter's study *Facts and fairytales about female labour, family and fertility* (1993) is a case in point. Pott-Buter demonstrates that married women in the Netherlands were far less likely to hold jobs than their counterparts in other countries, and that the

bourgeois family ideal prevailed back then too.

Memories of the twentieth century reflect this pattern. Women were employed in typical women's occupations and were dismissed when they got married. Mothers stayed at home and made pots of tea, while the occasional spinster aunt pursued a career, precisely because she had not married. These personal memories of and information about the modern era distort the notion that things were ever different.

There are several reasons to assume that the Netherlands has not always been a country of housewives. The scarce information available about working women in the early modern period suggests that the description 'from a country of housewives to one of part-time workers' is only a selective reflection of the course of history.

One indication is the reputation of Dutch women in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. According to reports from other countries, Dutch women were remarkably independent and competent businesswomen. Many visitors to the Dutch Republic expressed amazement about the remarkable involvement of women in public affairs.

At the end of the sixteenth century, for example, the Englishman Fynes Moryson wrote about the Netherlands: 'The wives of Holland buy and sell things at home, and use to saile to Hamburg and into England for exercise of trafficque.' (J.N. Jacobsen Jensen, 'Moryson's reis en zijn karakteristiek van de Nederlanden', *Bijdragen en mededeelingen van het historisch genootschap* 39 (1918) 272)

This situation remained unchanged a century later, as we read in Sir William Mountague: 'T is very observable here, more women are found in the shops and business in general than men; they have the conduct of the purse and commerce, and manage it rarely well, they are careful and diligent, capable of affairs, (...) having an education suitable and a genius wholly adapted to it.' (Sir William Mountague, *The delight of*

Holland: or, a three months travel about that and the other provinces (London 1696) 184)

While in the twentieth century women in the Netherlands were far less likely than women elsewhere to hold jobs, they appear to have been exceptionally active on the labour market during the early modern period. The observations of travellers do not suggest the country of housewives that the Netherlands later became. Has the position of women on the labour market changed so much? Or are the descriptions of the foreigners who visited the Republic exaggerated, and has the role of Dutch women on the labour market always been marginal? Has the course of women's work been marked by change or continuity? We aim to answer these questions in the research project 'De arbeid van vrouwen in Nederland in de vroegmoderne tijd' [women's work in the Netherlands during the early modern period].

The sheer numbers of women working were sufficient to divide the study into six subprojects. Additional funding from the NWO and the Van Winter Fonds have helped make the project feasible. In 2002 Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk and Marjolein van Dekken started PhD studies about spinsters and about women's involvement in the production and sale of alcoholic beverages, respectively. Lotte van de Pol was recruited to complete her book about the work of poor women in Amsterdam. Danielle van den Heuvel is exploring the involvement of women in trade and Hilde Timmerman their work in the social services. These studies combined cover a large part of the labour market and should culminate in synthesizing statements about change and continuity in the position of women on the early modern labour market.

Change or continuity? This theme is highlighted at the workshop that the research group is organizing for 28 November 2003, where we will present our research project. In addition, several historians have accepted our invitation to deliver a lecture about their re-



search there. We hope the event will help us publicize the study about women's work in the early modern period and look forward to establishing a discussion platform for researchers covering the subject. (For additional information, check www.iisg.nl/research/womenswork.html, or contact Ariadne Schmidt at asc@iisg.nl).

Gijs Kessler's four-page personal report from Moscow about the study in progress in Russia, entitled *Work, Income and the State in Russia and the Soviet Union, 1900-2000* (report for the period January-June 2003), is distributed. A few remarks appear below; a detailed report will be featured in the next issue of *On the Waterfront*.

The first stage of the project (second half of 2002) consisted of an inventory of the history of urban households in twentieth-century Russia. Examining the literature soon revealed that surprisingly little was known about the form and structure of households, perceived according to a classical definition as co-resident domestic units; the history of Russian families in the twentieth century has yet to be written. Visits to and contacts with Cambridge,

where pioneering research has been conducted for three decades about the form and structure of households in different societies and periods, revealed a strong interest in the study about Russia. The issues covered there are close to our field; we plan to stay in touch about our research.

The second stage of the study addresses the role of the state: how does it try to influence the way that households support themselves. Labour and employment policy, family policy, and social care will be the pillars of this study.

The initial research results are very meaningful and revolve around the shortage of men since the 1920s, i.e. after World War I and the Revolution; the repression of the 1930s, World War II, and alcoholism in increasing measure claimed more victims among men than among women. The surplus of women, their age at the time of marriage, financial independence, family size and family relationships, social provisions by the state, financial support requirements, and difficulties with central tax collection...: all these research subjects will transform the jigsaw puzzle into a social account of twentieth-century Russia.

MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF THE IISH LOOK AT THE NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE SEVENTH FRIENDS DAY, 12 JUNE 2003. SECOND FROM THE RIGHT PIETER BOGAERS, THIRD FROM THE RIGHT MIEKE IJZERMANS, GIVING AN EXPLANATION ON THE MATERIALS EXHIBITED. [PHOTOGRAPH BY MONIQUE VAN DER PAL]



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Marga Altena

Visuele strategieën

Foto's en films van fabrieksarbeidsters in Nederland (1890-1919)

(ISBN 90 5260 117 8, 328 PAGINA'S, GROOT FORMAAT (22 X 30 CM), GEBONDEN, RIJK GEÏLLUSTREERD, € 35,00)

Als nieuwe deelnemers aan het openbare debat over vrouwenarbeid zochten fabrikanten, Arbeidsinspectie en vrouwenbeweging naar geschikte uitdrukkingvormen. De opkomst van geïllustreerde tijdschriften, verbeterde reproductietechnieken en de uitvinding van de film maakten het voor deze drie groepen mogelijk om via visuele media hun ideeën aan een massapubliek te presenteren. Foto's en films gaven niet alleen uitdrukking aan de visies van de opdrachtgevers, maar bepaalden tevens de richting van de openbare discussie. Dit schitterend uitgegeven boek laat zien op welke wijze nieuwe media fabrieksarbeidsters in beeld brachten, welke beeldvorming dit opleverde en hoe de opdrachtgevers deze strategisch inzetten ten behoeve van hun eigen politieke en sociale agenda.

Bert Wartena

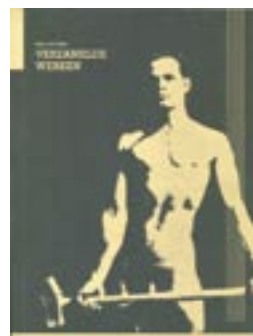
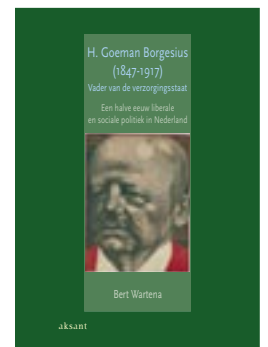
H. Goeman Borgesius (1847-1917)

Vader van de verzorgingsstaat

Een halve eeuw liberale en sociale politiek in Nederland

(ISBN 90 5260 115 1, 408 PAGINA'S, GEÏLLUSTREERD, GEBONDEN, € 25,00)

Goeman Borgesius zette de staat op het spoor van de bescherming der zwaksten. De staat moest daar zijn waar het particulier initiatief te kort schoot; niet alleen om de veiligheid te waarborgen, niet alleen om voorwaarden te scheppen voor een bloeiende economie, niet alleen om contacten met andere staten te leggen, maar ook om de sociale cohesie te versterken. Goeman Borgesius zorgde er voor dat de opinie van de middenklasse over de situatie van de onderste lagen van de bevolking kantelde en rijp werd gemaakt voor ingrijpende hervormingen. Achteraf blijkt dat wat hij voorstond, het fundament was voor de twintigste-eeuwse verzorgingsstaat.



Harrie Heyink, Frank de Jong, Inez de Jong & Marina de Vries (red.)

Peter L.M. Giele. Verzamelde werken

(ISBN 90 5260 111 9, 202 PAGINA'S, GROOT FORMAAT (21,5 X 28 CM), RIJK GEÏLLUSTREERD, FULL COLOUR, € 28,00)

Begin jaren tachtig van de vorige eeuw waart het spook van de recessie door Nederland. De nieuwste generatie kunstenaars laat zich daardoor geenszins uit het veld slaan. Kunst moet de straat op, de musea uit en doordeesemd zijn van het echte leven. In Amsterdam ontloopt Peter Giele (1954-1999) – beeldend kunstenaar, dichter, ontwerper en organisator – zich tot spel en motor van zijn generatie. Dit boek is een ode aan Giele en zijn tijdgenoten en getuigt van het *fin de siècle* van de twintigste eeuw, waarin de kunst drastisch van koers verandert, de punkmentaliteit plaats maakt voor opperste decadentie en de decadentie op haar beurt met de club RoXY in vlammen opgaat.

Richter Roegholt

De stad is een gesprek

Terugblik op mijn leven

(ISBN 90 5260 126 7, 284 PAGINA'S, GEÏLLUSTREERD, € 25,00)

Richter Roegholt verhaalt in deze autobiografie op caleidoscopische wijze van zijn puberjaren, zijn studie geschiedenis bij Presser, zijn tijd bij *Het Vrije Volk*, zijn leraarschap geschiedenis aan de MMS in Amsterdam-Zuid, zijn promotie bij Frits de Jong Edzn. over de geschiedenis van De Bezige Bij, zijn uitstapje naar de poëzie, zijn redacteurschap van *Verstandig Ouderschap* (het blad van de NVSH), zijn rol als historicus van de stad Amsterdam en van zijn rijke vriendschaar.

