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voor sociale geschiedenis



On the Waterfront

newsletter of the friends of the IISH 2024 no. 46

The archive of
**COOP
Nederland**

**Linked
Open Data**

Highlights from the
KNAW library
collection

Marja Musson
A treasure trove
of finds

Introduction

Front page:
Isabel
Seymour.
See page 11.

Because the Max Nettlau Room was under renovation, the first Friends' meeting of 2024 was postponed to the end of February and the second rescheduled to early June to figure within the Climate Week of the KNAW Humanities Cluster (HUC), of which the IISH has been part since 2016. This disruption of the regular schedule of Friends' meetings has also disrupted the publication schedule of *On the Waterfront*. Due to these schedule changes and the SEP evaluation, conducted from 18 to 20 March, this issue was not ready in time for this year's second Friends' meeting.

The provisional conclusion of the SEP evaluation commission was very favourable regarding both the Research Department and the Data and Collection Department. One of the developments that received special attention during the evaluation was creating and storing large datasets, as well as making them available, retrievable and usable. This was also among the topics addressed in the presentation by Richard Zijdemans and Ivo Zandhuis about the new Data and Augmentation Department, of which this issue features a report.

In addition to this presentation, fascinating descriptions of collection acquisitions and interesting discoveries in the IISH collections were featured at the first gathering in 2024. Marzi Heydarian presented a selection of newspapers, magazines, and books, published in and outside Iran, from the collection of the Center for Iranian Documents and Research, covering publications by both supporters and critics of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Following up on previous articles about the holdings of the National Library of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (issue 11, pp. 9-15), Alexandr Belov presented an update about his work cataloguing this unique library collection. Pieter Steenberg presented highlights from the collection of Archive Coop Nederland U.A. and precursors, based on his recent monograph on the history of these consumer cooperatives. And, as a way of concluding her 26-year career with the Collections Department at the IISH, Marja Musson presented the

results of her work during her final weeks before retirement exploring a set of unspecified archival documents, which had been lying on a shelf for many years and came mainly from the offices of former staff members at the previous accommodations on Kabelweg. Marja discovered this set to be a veritable treasure trove, yielding many additions to organizational archives and personal papers, including those of Sylvia Pankhurst, Emma Goldman and Eleanor Marx, as well as a letter from Leo Trotsky's widow. This marked a fitting conclusion to a quarter century at the IISH. Many thanks go to Marja for this special discovery and for all her work for the Institute!

Aad Blok

About the Friends

Members of the Friends of the IISH pay annual dues of 10 (for students), 25, 100 or 500 euros or join with a lifetime donation of 1,500 euros 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 need not be related to the IISH collection. The presentation and lecture are followed by a reception. The Friends coordinator may consult the Friends about allocation of the revenues from the dues.

As a token of appreciation for their great contribution to the Friends, Jaap Kloosterman and Jan Lucassen were appointed as honorary members in 2014.

*The IISH was founded by master collector N.W. Posthumus (1880-1960) in the 1930s. For the past two decades, two of the institutions established by this 'history entrepreneur' have operated from the same premises: the Netherlands Economic History Archive founded in 1914 and the International Institute of Social History, which is now more than 80 years old. Both institutes continue to collect, although the 'subsidiary' IISH has grown considerably larger than its 'parent' NEHA. Additional information about the Institute may be found in Jaap Kloosterman and Jan Lucassen, *Rebels with a Cause: Five Centuries of Social History Collected by the IISH* (Amsterdam 2010, 2016). For all information concerning the Friends, see <http://iisg.amsterdam/en/friends>*

Colophon



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ISSN 15742156
Editor: Aad Blok

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Photography: Andrea Galova
Design and layout: Ruparo (Ivo Sikkema, Ingeborg Seelmann)
Printed by: Wilco, Amersfoort
Website: <https://iisg.amsterdam/en/friends>
Financial administration: Rina Sonneveld, Tjerk Zitteema

Administrative and secretarial support:
Jacqueline Rutte
We wish to thank: Alexandr Belov, Marzi Heydarian, Pieter Steenberg, Marja Musson, Ivo Zandhuis, and Richard Zijdemans
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On the Waterfront is supported by Koninklijke Brill nv

Forty-third Friends' Day

29 February 2024

Presentation of acquisitions and special finds

The Archive Coop Nederland U.A. and precursors

Why is the archive of food products company Coop Nederland at the IISH? The history of this company is closely associated with workers' emancipation between 1890 and 1930. In the effort to find space for this archive around 2017, the IISH was an obvious choice for a new repository. It aligns nicely with the archives of documents on the history of user cooperatives already present in the collection.

In this contribution I will explore consumer cooperatives, the origin of the archive, and its components.

First, there is the name chosen for what is nowadays called a consumer cooperative. In the nineteenth century, the first initiatives were known as shop associations. A group of citizens removes a specific link from the supply chain, thereby simplifying its structure. The consumer takes over the role of shopkeeper or baker this way. As a result, goods reach the consumer in fewer steps, reducing cost and/or improving quality. In any case, this is the objective, although it is not always accomplished.



Poster, circa 1946. IISH Collection, BG D16/529.



In the late nineteenth century, the term user association (*verbruikersvereniging*) increasingly came into vogue. These goods were after all ordinarily intended for single use. This term remained in use for years. In the nineteenth century, two distinct types of groups founded user associations in the Netherlands. The first comprised affluent citizens – often civil servants – aiming to preserve purchasing power. Local chapters could open a shop association via the *Eigen Hulp* [Own Help] association. The *Nederlandse Coöperatieve Bond* [Dutch Cooperative League] was part of *Eigen Hulp*.

User cooperatives became increasingly abundant, aimed at improving the plight of the workers. At first, these initiatives were launched mainly by liberal protagonists. Concerned at the plight of the working people, the affluent tried to help set up sickness benefit funds and user cooperatives. The ultimate distribution of control among initiators and participating workers might vary considerably.

By the end of the nineteenth century, workers increasingly took the initiative in setting up user cooperatives, encouraged to this end by workers' associations, such as the ANVV.

From 1900, the importance of user cooperatives was acknowledged in social-democratic

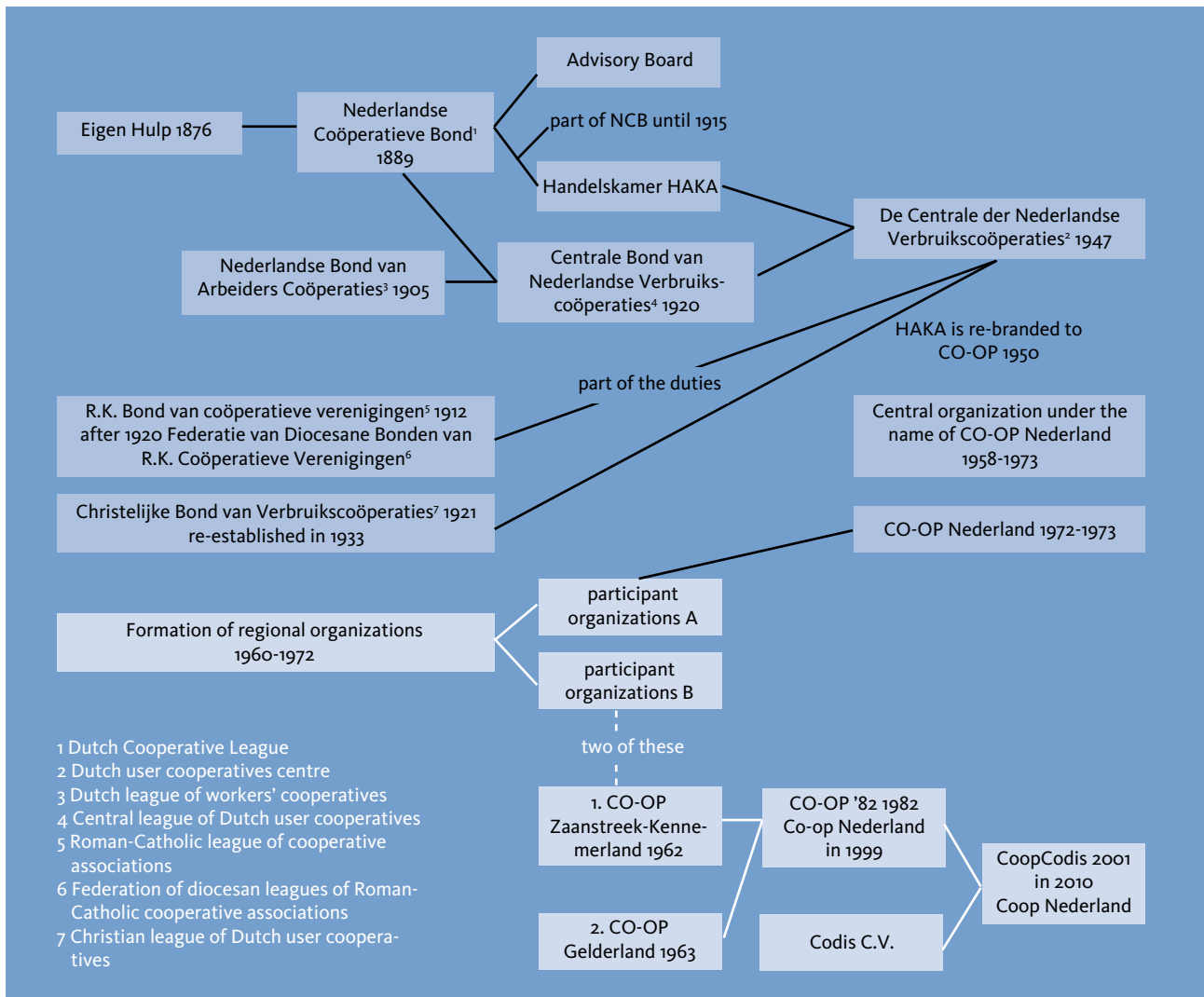
Left: Print design by Albert Hahn for cooperative user association 'Vooruitgang' [progress] in Rotterdam, 1916-1918. IISH Collection, BG PM1/65-42.



Opening of a new Superco-op. Centraal Fotopersbureau, Rotterdam. IISH Collection, IISG BG B14/104.



Chart of (umbrella) organizations that ultimately constituted CO-OP Nederland and Coop Nederland.



circles as well. Supporting the movement financially and enhancing mutual solidarity were among the incentives.

From around 1910, improving subsistence security among workers was propagated in Roman Catholic circles, especially in the South. Protecting Catholic workers from the influences of the social-democratic movement was advocated as well.

This archive is from Arnhem and had been placed in the basement of a Coop shop. It results from merging documents from individual local cooperatives that were ultimately combined in what was Coop Nederland until 2022. The oldest archival document is dated 1873 and is from the Assendelft cooperative Eendracht Maakt Macht [Unity makes power], which was initially established as a sickness benefit fund.

The archive comprises mainly documents from cooperatives in the Zaanstreek-Kennemerland and Gelderland. In these two regions, as in the rest of the Netherlands, regional cooperatives formed (thereby absorbing local cooperatives were absorbed) between 1960 and 1970. In 1973, CO-OP Nederland went bankrupt. This wiped out the CO-OP production companies and the half of the regional cooperatives that had become part of CO-OP Nederland. In 1982 CO-OP Gelderland and CO-OP Zaanstreek-Kennemerland merged into CO-OP '82, which paved the way for Coop Nederland.

The archives of the local cooperatives from these regions thus ultimately converged in this basement. In 2017, when I started my research on the history of consumer cooperatives, the need to empty the basement became clear, as the shop located there was moving elsewhere. At my suggestion, the IISH was contacted, and the Coop then reached an agreement about managing the archive in Amsterdam.

Books of minutes from board meetings and member meetings account for a substantial share of the archive. Many of these books describe in detail what happened in the cooperative. In some cases, those who took the minutes reported the deliberations almost verbatim, i.e. far more than mere lists of the decisions taken. Dissenting opinions at a meeting are not concealed. These books of minutes make clear how widely the ambience in a cooperative could vary, and which issues were the main focus of the cooperative.

Another important document is the annual report. Annual reports of some of the cooperatives are present in the archive. These annual reports shed light inter alia on financial management of the cooperative.

Membership lists of various cooperatives have been preserved as well. Sometimes these reflect the annual dividend payments (based on purchases during that year), and some also list the members' occupations.

Finally, annual reports and other documents from the national organizations appear in the archive. The annual reports of the Handelskamer HAKA [HAKA Commercial board], the Centrale van Nederlandse Verbruikcoöperaties, and CO-OP Nederland clearly convey the importance of alliances between individual cooperatives.

The archive is currently being digitized as part of Metamorfose, which will make it even more accessible.

Research on the history of consumer cooperatives – based largely on this archive – has culminated in the publication *Van Ons, Voor Ons. 150 jaar veerkracht van consumentencoöperatie Coop*. This book is featured on the IISH website.

Co-op storefront, possibly Hengelo.
Photographer:
A. Rutgers.
IISH Collection, IISG-BG B14/79.



KNAW library collection

The historical collection of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), also known as the Academy collection, comprising a total of 200,000 items (books, journals, pamphlets, maps and posters, prints, and other materials), was formed over the course of the nineteenth century, initially thanks to donations from Academy members and patrons. As a result, the collection covers a wide variety of subjects, such as history, literature, science, law, economics, maritime studies, theology, and more.

The history of the Academy's collection relates closely to the dynamic history of the Academy itself, which was founded in 1808 as the Royal Institute of Sciences by King Louis Napoleon, brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, who had been appointed to rule the Kingdom of Holland (most of the present-day Netherlands). The first books came from the personal library of the King and duplicates from the National Library in Paris. Next, the first major donation was the personal library of Admiral Jan Hendrik van Kingsbergen

(1735-1819), containing a large collection on maritime science and seafaring. Other gifts soon followed. During the reign of King William I (1815-1840) of the United Netherlands, the policy of encouraging the purchase of books and periodicals helped expand the collection. Various scholarly societies donated their publications, and regular exchanges took place between the Academies of Science in St Petersburg, Berlin, Paris, and Edinburgh. Other large donations included the near-complete works of Dutch academics and scholars. Those of Willem Bilderdijk (1756-1831) and Jacob van Lennep (1802-1868) are especially significant. As the first librarian of the Royal Institute from 1817 to 1851, the philologist Jacob van Lennep was responsible for the first catalogue. Other notable collections include those of J.K.A. Wertheim Salomonson, focusing on medicine and psychology, and of B.A. van Groningen.

Even the core collection seems to contain various subdivisions, such as a separate expedition collection and a collection of folios or large-format prints, posters, and maps, each of which is kept separate from the main corpus. Each subject area is subdivided into specific areas, such as history of the Dutch colonies and trade and voyages of the Dutch East and West Indies Company. In this sense, the classification bears some resemblance to the Dewey system, although it is not as detailed, and the simple subject and chronology method was used. Some materials (estimated at 1% of the total collection), such as incunabula, handwritten manuscripts, a collection of old coins, and books on dialectology, have been on loan since 1937 from other cultural institutions in the Netherlands: the National Library, the Leiden University Library, the Bank Museum in Utrecht, and the state museum the Koninklijk Penningkabinet).

Most remarkably, the historical collection of the Academy was housed in the small but nonetheless impressive Trippenhuys of the Dutch East Indies Company on Kloveniersburgwal in the centre of Amsterdam for 180 years. In 1988, the collection was moved to the former Coca-Cola factory on Joan Muyskenweg in the Amstel district of south-east Amsterdam, where the research facilities and the Special Collections Library were set up and organized. Since 1997, the Academy collection at this location has been part of the Netherlands Institute for Research



Three different editions of the same pamphlet (1650). IISH Collection, call numbers AB E 1415, 1416 and 1417.



Collection of documents relating to the Treaty of Utrecht (1713). IISH Collection, call number AB E 3489 (17 separate records).



Information Services (NIWI). In 2005, the majority of the Academy collection was moved again, this time to its ultimate destination in the larger storage facilities at the International Institute of Social History.

Most of the records for the online catalogue have been either imported from various national catalogues for records held in other libraries or created for those unique to the IISH. The automated import of records left many errors: duplicates were generated, and items were omitted in the importing process. In the imported records, the quality of the description was poor, especially when taking into account the rules for cataloguing old prints and the context of different parts of the collection. For example, several pamphlets appear to have identical titles, but on closer inspection they are either different editions of the same title (see page 6), or have been enriched with additional texts or documents, translations, and so on.

The same holds true for a great many different pamphlets and other separately published texts, each with clearly separate and distinct titles and often different publishers but combined in a single volume and listed in the catalogue under a shared title, overlooking all the nuances and details of each individual record in such a volume. This had to be checked and individual records made for each title.

As the library grew throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, more recent records on the same subject were added to existing ones. Such records were given the same call number and an additional letter, often from a to z, etc. Some of these records turned out to be miss-



Folding page and detail from Olfert Dapper's book, *Gedenkwaardig bedryf der Nederlandsche Oost-Indische Maetschappye op de kust en in het keizerrijk van Taising of Sina.*

IISH Collection, call number AB E 4830.

ing from our electronic catalogue and had to be double-checked manually. Many lacked essential information: the authors. Finding, verifying, and adding authors to records, as well as other entities considered important for Old Prints (e.g. publishers and persons about whom texts were written), is therefore an important and labour-intensive task.

There are many impressive seventeenth- and eighteenth-century books containing detailed

Frontispiece and title page of Dapper's book.



descriptions of Dutch voyages and trade in the colonies, with beautiful engravings in various formats. Some are so large that they were folded to fit inside the book. Among them is Olfert Dapper's 1670 volume on trade along the coast of China.

A noticeable wealth of material dates from the late eighteenth century, in particular from

the period known as the Time of the Patriots (1780-1795) or *Patriottentijd*, and from the Batavian Republic (1795-1806). This is understandable, considering that the library was established immediately after all this turmoil, and while the French influence still prevailed in Dutch politics. These materials, whether they are books, pamphlets, or songs, are often appeals for freedom, as is *De waare vrijheid* from 1787, which, on the page following the title, contains a most original and beautiful seal, reading *Fide et Amore* and depicting a flame and two hands in a handshake. Next to the seal is the handwritten signature of the publisher J.W. Hannesmann, and the wording to authenticate the text, as a kind of copyright.

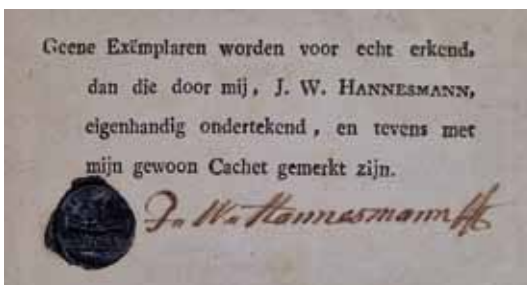
One recurring feature of the title page is a statement that the book or pamphlet was published by the widow of a particular publisher or printer who was deceased. The name of the widow is usually not mentioned. The only name stated is that of the late husband, such as 'by the widow of Engelbert Boucquet'.



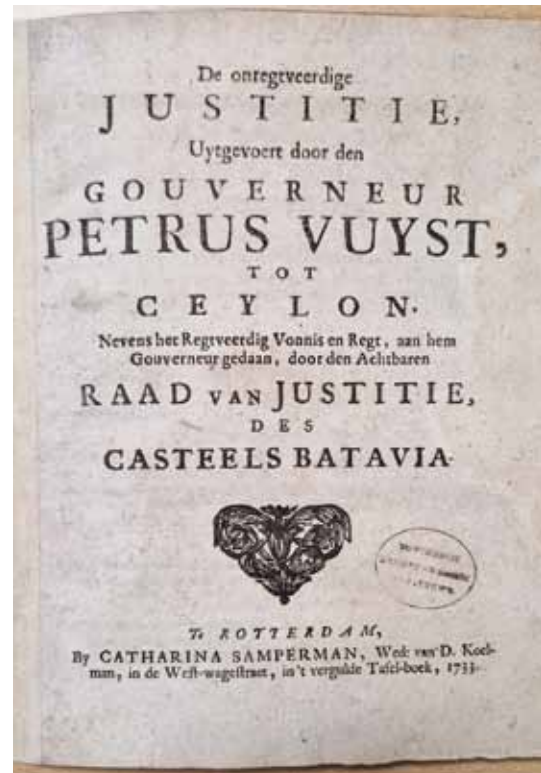
De Waare Vrijheid (1787). IISH Collection, call number AB E 3908.



A nameless widow's publication from 1724. IISH Collection, call number AB E 4846.



The seal and publisher's signature.



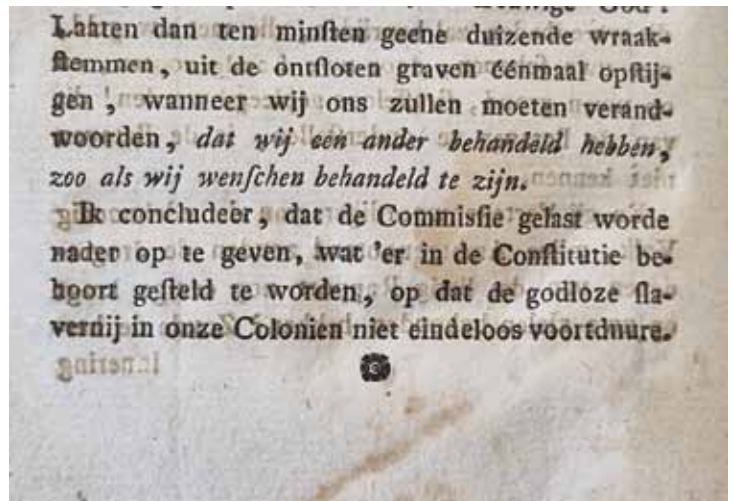
Here the publisher's widow is mentioned in full. IISH Collection, call number AB E 4851.



The only exception we have found so far is a pamphlet from 1733 titled 'De onregtveerdige justitie, uytevoert door den Gouverneur Petrus Vuyst, tot Ceylon', where the full name of the widow is given before that of the deceased printer: 'Catharina Samperman, Wed: van D. Koelman' (see page 8).

There are several unique works that exist only in the Academy's collection, including *Proeve over de vernietiging der slaverny in de Bataafsche volkplantingen* from 1799, which is a demand for the abolition of slavery in the Batavian colonies. In another unique series of pamphlets from the 1720s, the Austrian Netherlands (now part of Belgium and part of the southern provinces of the Netherlands) demanded rights and privileges to participate in the Dutch East and West India Companies. Their claims were denied by the Dutch Republic, in what reads as a very interesting exchange. In 1722, the Austrian Netherlands consequently founded a separate Oostende company, which lasted only until 1731.

Although no part of the collection is representative or complete, it contains a lot of useful and in some cases unique material, especially some of the pamphlets, tracts, and posters. The largest part of the collection addresses Dutch history, which for example does not cover the period



Title page and excerpt from *Proeve over de vernietiging der slaverny in de Bataafsche volkplantingen*. IISH Collection, call number AB E 4875.

1713-1780 extensively, except for the surprising number of mid-century songs and tracts about William IV. Material on the period of the United Netherlands (1815-1830) and its separation from Belgium is similarly sparse.

There are numerous candidates for digitization projects, given the fragile state of cultural heritage materials. The Google Books project, which was conducted throughout the Netherlands, did not produce quality digitized versions. A collaborative project with other cultural institutions that have the old prints in their collections seems indicated and would help share the responsibility of digitizing cultural heritage among several institutions, perhaps asking smaller collections to digitize the unique materials and larger institutions (e.g. the National Library and university libraries) to undertake the larger projects, in the interest of ensuring quality, for example by using OCR technology to make the material legible and to enable enhancement by zooming the view. In addition, existing print records could be linked to those of quality digitized versions to add to bibliographic information.

Various documents and reports on the history of the Academy collection have been consulted, both in electronic format and some unique reports and collection descriptions that exist only in print as part of the Akademiebibliotheek collection with the call number COL00058, stored in eight boxes on the third floor of the IISH depot (here the NIWI reports from the late 1990s and early 2000s are particularly useful). In addition, the only two existing comprehensive books on the history of the KNAW contain information on the Academy's library holdings:

K. van Berkel, *De Stem van de Wetenschap. Geschiedenis van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen. Deel 1: 1808-1914*. Amsterdam: Bert Bakker, 2011.

K. van Berkel, *De stem van de wetenschap. Geschiedenis van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van wetenschappen. Deel 2: 1914-2008*. Amsterdam: Bert Bakker, 2011.

Alexandr Belov

The CIDR project

Last summer, I began working on the CIDR project (Center for Iranian Documents and Research in Paris). Thanks to the efforts of Touraj Atabaki, part of the CIDR collection was brought to the institute about thirteen years ago. Most was then digitized and returned to the CIDR. In 2010, the CIDR decided to donate its entire collection to the institute, and the transfer of the collection was completed that same year. I have been working on it since July 2023.

The collection comprises newspapers, magazines, and books, published in and outside Iran, about Iranian social movements and on uprisings and developments in Iran and in the surrounding region. The books, newspapers, and brochures feature writings by both supporters and critics of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Also in the collection are books and periodicals in Farsi about the Tudeh Communist Party of Iran, as well as newspapers and magazines printed in Iran during the Pahlavi dynasty and after the fall of the monarchy and the rise of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

Many of these newspapers were published elsewhere by exiled Iranians and covered the changes in Iran after the Islamic Revolution. The variety of writings in the collection represent various beliefs, and there is a wealth of material about censuses and development statistics of Iran from 1950-1960.

To date, about half of the collection has been arranged in different formats and included in the Institute catalogue. Arranging and cataloguing the other half, consisting of books, articles, and handwritten notes, mostly about pre-revolution censuses and development statistics, will hopefully be completed soon.

Two *Ettela'at* front pages that show the 1979 power shift.

Choosing samples for the presentation this February was challenging. The abundance of materials made selecting the ones to showcase difficult. Eventually, I opted for some magazines from the 1920s, as their age and the fact that they are untraceable online make them intriguing, and I expected audiences to be fascinated as well. Among the other newspapers and magazines that I chose for the presentation, the following two caught the attention of the audience.

The first were two issues from the newspaper *Ettela'at* published during the peak of the revolution of 1979. The headlines are particularly noteworthy: one announces the Shah's departure and the other Khomeini's arrival in Iran. These two headlines have been of great interest to both opponents and supporters of the 1979 revolution and have featured in many historical documentaries and even motion pictures and series. In the issues published during this period, researchers can see the hopes and disappointments of a nation before and after a revolution.

The second item that I highlighted during my presentation was *Kavosh* magazine. *Kavosh*, one of the most popular magazines in the 1960s, was published thanks to the efforts of Amir Abbas Hoveyda. During those years, Hoveyda published articles in *Kavosh* on topics such as oil and gas extraction in the Gulf of Mexico and in California, medicine, and modern art, hoping to familiarize the people of Iran with world progress and modernization.

Hoveyda, who later became Prime Minister of Iran, led a curious life, filled with ups and downs. He was the only Iranian politician who stayed in Iran after the Islamic Revolution to account for his actions. He paid for it with his life, as he was sentenced to death.

Marzi Heydarian





Cover design of *Kavosh* magazine depicting the 1941 Bouin Zahra earthquake that killed about 12 thousand people.

A *Kavosh* article about new advances in medicine, in this case vaccination.

A treasure trove of unexpected finds

During my final weeks at the IISH, I was asked to take a look at a few metres of crates and files containing unspecified archival documents, which had been lying in one of the stacks for many years. Nobody knew what kind of documents these were, or where they came from. It was suspected, however, that the documents came mainly from the offices of former staff members. This turned out to be the case. Often the cover read 'from the office of ...' or 'originating from ...'. Some documents had been found inside a book or a journal.

It proved a genuine treasure trove, yielding no fewer than 62 additions to organizational archives and 75 additions to personal papers, as well as 51 additions to the collection 'Nederland, kleine archieven en losse stukken' [Netherlands, small archives and separate documents] (ARCH01748) <https://hdl.handle.net/10622/ARCH01748>.

I also looked at individual image and sound remnants – photographs, drawings, cassettes that were never catalogued and had been languishing for quite a while as well. These generated about another 40 additions – all photographs – relating mainly to personal papers. Those photo's had probably been removed when these archives were arranged, back when books, periodicals, and image and sound materials were still catalogued separately. Because the people appearing on photographs are often unknown, cataloguing was pointless, and they were therefore set aside.

A few highlights are described below.

Correspondence of the Pankhurst sisters

A file with correspondence from Sylvia Pankhurst and a letter from her sister Adela

Pankhurst to Isabel Seymour (1882-1963) reveals their busy lives: they want to speak with each other, but arranging to meet is difficult. Like the Pankhurst sisters, Seymour was a well-known suffragette, who worked for the Women's Social and Political Union. Later on, she left for Canada, where she stayed for eight years. The letters, dated around 1907, already mention her departure to Canada.

Solidarity appeal by Emma Goldman

An appeal from Emma Goldman for solidarity with the Spanish workers after the bombings by Hitler and Mussolini, dated 9 April 1938. The letter was found in a Spanish periodical.

Letter from Trotsky's widow

This is surely one of the most remarkable discoveries. It came from the office of a former staff member years ago. The letter was in an envelope addressed to 'Librarian, Amsterdam University, Amsterdam, Holland'. Although someone added 'Singel 42', the letter eventually reached the IISH.

Marja Musson talks about her finds at the Friends' meeting. Photo: Astrid Verburg.



Adela Pankhurst (left) and Isabel Seymour (right). IISH Collection, IISG-BG A10/653 and IISG-BG A12/907.



The sender, Natalie Sedova-Trotsky, is writing to the librarian to ask about the conditions surrounding the transfer of the papers of her late husband Leo Trotsky: were they a gift? Were they entrusted to the IISH? Or were they purchased?

A handwritten note provides instructions about what to reply. The handwriting is probably that of Annie Adama van Scheltema. The letter will need to be added to the IISH archive, together with various other additions to that archive that surfaced among the remnants.

Papers of Johan Riemens and Academic Appeal for Indonesia

Two further archive additions merit consideration because of the current interest in the colo-

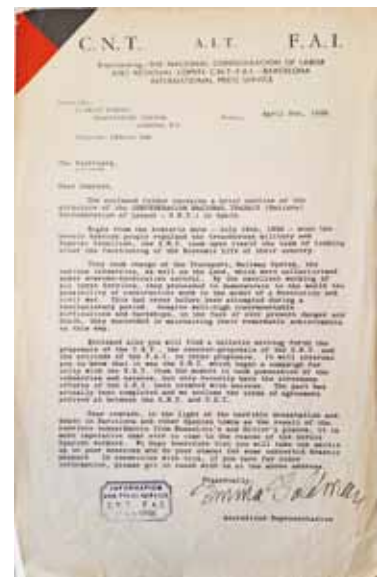
nial past of the Netherlands.

The first, which concerns the papers of Johan Riemens (ARCH01748), comprises documents about the establishment of a 'Vereniging Nederland-Indonesië C.Th. van Deventer'. As an mp, Van Deventer (1857-1915) issued regular publications about Indonesia. An advocate for Indonesian independence, he believed that profits that the Netherlands made in Indonesia should remain there. Both Dutch and Indonesians (including Maroeto Daroesman, the Sunito couple) were involved in establishing this association. The first contacts date back to 1943, and the plans began to crystallize by late 1944. Riemens, one of the founders, served as secretary to the association. In that same period, a group of Dutch and

Left: the folder of Pankhurst letters. IISH Collection, ARCH01029.



Right: Goldman's letter of appeal on paper with CNT-FAI letter-head. IISH Collection, ARCH00520.





Left: The folder of Eleanor Marx's letters. IISH Collection, ARCHO1811.



Right: Eleanor Marx.

Indonesians (K.H. Oei, Yusuf, Z. Zain) was organizing a conference in Leiden, using the name 'Academic Appeal for Indonesia' (ARCHO1184). The discussion topic was 'The task of academics in the reconstruction of Indonesia,' according to the newspaper *De Vrijheid* from 15 May 1945. The first meeting took place on 18 May 1945, and the conference was held on 6-8 June 1945 in Leiden. On 15 June, *De Waarheid* reported that the event had drawn 500 (!) participants.

Additions to the Boris Moisevič Sapir Collection

Sapir's documents are noteworthy because they come from an area that is very much in the news at the moment. In addition to notes and St Nicholas holiday rhymes, correspondence figures among the documents, including a handwritten postcard from the Union Postale Universelle Palestine from 1939. The text is in Hebrew, the stamps read 'Palestine'.

Two letters by Eleanor Marx

Two short letters (from 1880 and 1882) written by Eleanor Marx (1855-1898), the youngest daughter of Karl Marx, to Carl Hirsch (1841-1900). They corresponded extensively about political issues. Hirsch was deeply in love with Eleanor, although she turned down his marriage proposal. She felt he was too old for her.

Another document found, from 1885, is an announcement of two plays in which Eleanor and her future husband Edward Aveling both had a part.

Railway workers' strike from 1903?

One jacket featured the inscription 'Spoorwegstaking 1903'. The old file contained a book of lists, specifications, and letters, with the inscrip-

tion 'CBSA?' on the inside cover. Somewhere in the middle, the year 1903 is written. The file also contained an angry letter from F. Petter. Petter (1866-1952) was a trade unionist and one of the leaders of the 1903 railway workers' strike. One of our staff members who is very knowledgeable about the railway workers' strike examined both documents and was able to date the book of lists, specifications, and letters between circa 1887 and 1911. It did not appear to relate to the railway workers' strike in any way. This led us to refer to the inventory of the Central Bureau of Social Affairs, where, at



One of Sapir's letters and his postcard from Palestine. IISH Collection, ARCHO1758.



F.H. Petter.
IISH Collection, IISG-BG A10/961.

inventory number 151A, there is another book of lists, specifications, and letters, for the years 1912-1923. Based on those years, the book found therefore would align nicely with this inventory number.

In his angry letter, Petter lashed out at fellow trade union members Oudegeest and Van den Berg, who accused him of using trade union

funds for his own benefit. An extended polemic ensued in the newspaper (see *Het Volk*, 26 January 1904). This letter is part of it. In March 1904, Petter was acquitted of the charges.

Other finds

Other archival documents found do not align with the IISH collections but are of sufficient interest to send to other archive institutions. For example, one – about an eviction – went to the Amsterdam Archive and another to the Regional Archive in Alkmaar (about the Eriks family, founders of the well-known Eriks firm there). There is also a letter, signed by archivist Van Schevichaven (!), to the Regional Archive in Nijmegen. We received the following nice reply: ‘We consider Van Schevichaven to be the “patriarch” of our archive. At the same time, we have only a limited number of archival documents by him. That the document is moreover about the Mariëburgkapel is of additional value.’

Among the archival documents we also made less joyous discoveries. One is an illegible card, sent to a Walther Guttmann in 1942. You need to be able to read the text to determine whether this belongs in our collections. Fortunately, one of our staff well-versed in Gothic script managed to decipher the text. It turned out to be an invitation to an afternoon card game. There was also the casual query: ‘Have you received a summons? We have not heard anything yet.’

The address was legible. Googling the name combined with the address takes you to the Jewish Monument: <https://www.joodsmonument.nl/nl/page/130350/walther-guttmann>. Guttmann and his family were murdered in Sobibor in 1943. The card has been forwarded to the new Holocaust Museum, where they welcomed this commemorative object.

All material found is currently being processed and will be added to the different archives.

Marja Musson

A linked, useable collection

The next step in making collections accessible

In 2023, the new department Data and Augmentation (DA) was formed at the IISH. In their presentation at the Friends’ Meeting, Richard Zijde-man and Ivo Zandhuis explained the reasons why this new department was formed, and how its name was chosen. They described new developments in collecting and making digital data available for historical research and explained what these developments entail for collecting, managing and accessing IISH collections and for historical research. The Linked Open Data principle is central to these developments. Linked Data is a set of design principles for sharing machine-readable interlinked data on the Web. We refer to Linked Open Data (LOD) as Linked

Data released under an open licence that does not impede free reuse.

The most recent organogram of the IISH reveals immediately that the new department Data and Augmentation was set up to connect the Data and Collections Department with the Research Department. One key task for DA is therefore to connect all metadata of the IISH. Metadata consist of the information that characterizes the underlying source. If the resource is a book, for example, its title, author and publication date are some of the metadata. The IISH has various types of resources: archives, books, journals, publications, datasets, and even web pages. The metadata of these different resources



are registered in separate systems (e.g. Evergreen and Dataverse) and in separate languages (e.g. EAD, MARC-21 and DCAT). As a result, if you want to know what items the IISH holds on a particular topic, you need to query each system separately and in its own language. To overcome this problem, the Data and Augmentation department uses the Resource Description Framework (RDF), a data model based on the idea of making statements about resources (particularly web resources) expressed in a subject-predicate-object (known as triples) format. The subject denotes the resource, while the predicate denotes characteristics or aspects of the resource and expresses the relationship between the subject and the object. In doing so, RDF describes any type of resource. The aim is to represent all resource types through simple queries.

In its very first year, the DA department started to harmonize the various metadata languages. The recent demographic analysis by Mourits and Walhout, for example, showed excess mortality among young women in five Dutch shelters for girls of the Roman Catholic congregation Zusters van de Goede Herder [Sisters of the Good Shepherd]. Searching for 'goede herder' on the IISH website will retrieve various resources related to this research, although these resources are still described in different systems and languages. Specifically, you will find the blog page that mentions the VPRO broadcast of their work, the dataset used to reach the conclusions, and the article in our catalogue that provides additional details on the research. The search also retrieves items already present at the IISH related to De Goede Herder, such as the book by P.J. Nierman commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Zoeterwoude institute.

Another key task for the department is to 'augment' IISH collections and IISH research data. The meaning of the verb to augment is to make something more substantial by adding to it. In practice, the department envisions augmenting resources in three key areas.

IISH data collections, such as CLIO-INFRA and Global labour conflicts, are the first area for augmentation. A common feature of these datasets is that they were gathered at some point in time,

and that they were up-to-date at that point. This was the case for CLIO-INFRA in 2010, for example. Since then, no new time series have been gathered, leading the value of the dataset to decline. Given the considerable gap between the work needed to update such data series and the number of hours available, the DA department needs to devise a long-term system for updating such time series datasets.

Another approach the DA department will take to augmenting the IISH resources will be to devise new ways to access and use the data. The IISH is known for an older, non-digital way of enriching archival data through scholarly source editions, such as the Marx-Engels Gesamtausgabe. Here, the Institute pioneered digitization through its Bakunin CD-ROM project, which allowed users to search all texts electronically. Today, we believe in a more decentralized approach that allows users to search multiple sources at different institutes around the world. Because of the huge increase in information to process, using specific filters for entities such as persons, places and time periods helps ensure that the resulting corpus is manageable. Moreover, augmenting resources with information on key entities in texts now even allows us to link sources written in different languages and thus to refer to the same entity with different spellings.

Third, with an increasing number of archival collections already digitized (including the Marx-Engels archival collection), we are entering a new phase and can start applying Artificial Intelligence technology capable of detecting entities in images and audio, thereby presenting audiovisual sources upon search queries. Building on the 'Goede Herder' example above, in addition to providing information on resources with metadata on 'goede herder,' we can disclose images depicting De Goede Herder and audio interviews in which this congregation is mentioned.

By now, discerning readers may understand why the new department was not named 'Metadata and Augmentation.' Today, metadata is the common denominator between the resources in the Collection and Research departments. In the future, however, entities within those resources, such as persons, activities, or locations, will also

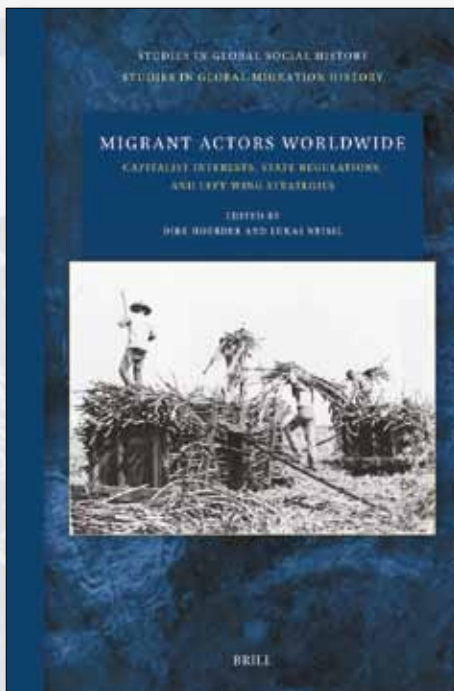
Left:
Ivo Zandhuis,
right: Richard
Zijdeman.

become electronically traceable. This will allow users to search not only in the metadata of IISH resources but also in the actual IISH data, with ‘data’ encompassing ‘facts’ in collections, books, archives, datasets, research articles; basically in any resource. In the future, the connecting function of the DA department will extend to data in the broadest sense of the word.

Having explained the *raison d’être* of the new department, a final word on its *esprit* is worthwhile. The DA department is guided by the principles of FAIR and CARE. The FAIR Principles – Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability – are intended as a guideline for those wishing to enhance the reusability of their data holdings. Distinct from peer initiatives that focus on human scholarship, the FAIR Principles specifically emphasize enhancing the ability of machines to find and use the data automatically,

in addition to supporting reuse by individuals. CARE stands for Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics. The CARE principle is a framework based on the right of Indigenous Peoples and nations to govern collection, ownership, and application of their own data. The DA department believes that adherence to these principles relates closely to how the LD4 community (a group dedicated to advancing library and archival practices focused on linking and using data on the Web) describes itself. DA is ‘not a neutral space. It privileges open data [...], open source software, open interoperable standards, open communities, and the free exchange of knowledge.’ In doing this, the department hopes to bridge collections and research data, while augmenting the IISH (data) collection.

Aad Blok, Ivo Zandhuis & Richard Zijdeman



Migrant Actors Worldwide

*Capitalist Interests, State Regulations, and
Left-Wing Strategies*

Editors: **Dirk Hoerder** and **Lukas Neissl**

“Capital is moved to where low-wage labour is available, and migrants move – often in large numbers – to where investments and/or wealth accumulated due to specific historic factors create a demand for labour”. This volume explores this idea and contributes to the fields of global labour, working-class, and migration history by illuminating the lives of working people over the 19th and 20th centuries.

May 2024
Hardback (xiv, 460 pp.)
ISBN 9789004686984
Price € 144 / US\$ 173
E-ISBN 9789004686991
Studies in Global Migration History,
Volume 53/16
brill.com/SGMH



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