

## Stichting Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis

### Verslag van de uitgevoerde activiteiten in 2013

The institute acquired 147 collections (accruals in some cases), ten of which are exclusively digital. Two very important collections in a sense returned to the IISH: the library of Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, which had moved to the Domela Museum in Heerenveen in 1999; and the last part of the Sozialistische Monatshefte records. The latter collection was originally acquired in 1939. Stored at the institute's Paris branch, the archive was confiscated first by the Nazis and in 1945 by the Soviet Union, which kept it in Moscow, from where the records were shipped to Amsterdam only in 2002. A small part (approximately 50 cm) had remained in Germany, however, and was kept at the Bundesarchiv. In 2013 the IISH and the Bundesarchiv reached an agreement to reunite the two parts. The accrual will be merged with the records already in Amsterdam, and the complete archive will be digitized within the Centrale Project.

Some particularly noteworthy acquisitions are:

- The personal papers and library of Jakob Moneta (1914-2012). Moneta joined the youth section of the Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei Deutschlands as a teenager. He became interested in Trotsky's ideas. In 1933, he left for Palestine, worked on a kibbutz, and joined the Histadrut trade union movement, but abandoned Zionism in the late 1930s. In 1939-1941 he was interned by the British. In 1948 Moneta returned to Germany, where he worked first in Cologne and later in Frankfurt as a journalist and translator. He then became active in the Trotskyist movement and wrote under a pseudonym in the press of the Fourth International. The movement followed the 'entrism' strategy – wherever the movement was not strong enough to operate in public, the members joined leftist parties to propagate their ideas from within. Moneta belonged to the Sozialistische Partei Deutschlands, until he was expelled in 1990. He then became a member and even joined the board of the Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus. Moneta was also active in the trade union movement, especially in IG Metall, where he long edited the journal. He was a close friend of Ernest Mandel, and his extensive correspondence reflects his vast network.
- The Berelian collection on social and political history of Iran 1960-2000. Dr Siagzar Berelian, an anaesthesiologist and established political activist based in Britain, donated a unique and well-organized archive of publications, leaflets, and pamphlets by the Iranian opposition, inside the country as well as from his exile in the years before the Revolution of 1979, the revolutionary years of 1978-1982, and the post-revolutionary period until 2000. The documents originate from students, women, labour, political parties and groups, and ethnic and religious entities. The Berelian collection also comprises a vast library of books published outside Iran between 1960 and 2000 and rare audio and video documents on Iran's revolutionary days, illustrating how the last classical revolution of the twentieth century came about.
- Andries Sternheim (1890-1944), active in the international trade union movement in the 1920s and 30s, was a librarian, editor, and researcher employed by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (icftu), and conducted research on the subject of leisure time. Most of his personal papers have

been lost, but Bertus Mulder, who spent years conducting research on the life and work of Sternheim, entrusted his research archive to the institute, including a great many original photographs.

- Jan de Boo (b. 1934) was closely involved in the foreign operations of the CPN (Communist Party of the Netherlands) from 1951 to 1991. He was active in the Algemeen Nederlands Jeugd Verbond (general Dutch youth league, ANJV); he served on its executive and as such participated in various international youth festivals in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He was also the editor of the foreign desk of the party's daily newspaper De Waarheid. His personal papers consist largely of documents from the period 1977-1991 and shed light, for example, on the history of the international communist movement and the foreign policy of the CPN.

- Workers in Bolivia: Their voices and an analysis of their history (1965-1996). This collection consists of 1,835 digitized audiocassettes and tapes in two groups: workers' voices (recordings of Meetings of Peasant Congresses, Miners' Congresses, Artisans, Indigenous Movements, Coca Leaf peasants, Leftist Political Parties) and voices of leaders and intellectuals (academic events, meetings and seminars providing academic and political contexts). Each recording was extensively catalogued, allowing sophisticated searches by names, events, dates, subjects, places, etc. This large project was carried out by the IISH Latin American Desk and its team in cooperation with MUSEF (Museo Nacional de Etnografía y Folklore, La Paz, Bolivia). The collection is unique in that it preserves oral histories of events not recorded in written documents and reflects 30 years of workers' memories.

- The Shelgunov family papers (1819-1914). This collection documents the 'official life' of three generations of a Russian family through original legal documents and deeds of ownership. Nikolay Vasil'evich Shelgunov (1824-1891) was a revolutionary democrat, journalist, and literary critic. He was in contact with Alexander Herzen, Nikolay Ogarev, and Nikolay Chernyshevsky, contributed to the journals *Russkoe slovo*, *Sovremennik*, and *Vek*, participated in the revolutionary movement of the 1860s and introduced the Russian public to Friedrich Engels' work *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. His son Nikolay Nikolaevich Shelgunov (1865-1909) was an engineer and the director of a metallurgical factory in Sulin, in the Rostov-on-Don region; he was ultimately murdered by workers. Nikolay Nikolaevich's daughter Aleksandra Nikolaevna Shelgunova (b. 1894) inherited the family property and became involved in complex legal disputes over its management. The documents include official letters to the authorities, testaments, diplomas from schools and institutes, and certificates, deeds of ownership, records of service, payments, court decisions, birth certificates, military tickets, debt securities, mortgages, documents and correspondence with law firms, lists of property, and factory papers.

- The Asian Students Association (ASA) records. The ASA covers the Asia-Pacific region, and has its main offices in Hong Kong. Many cadre members of political organizations in the region (especially from Nepal and the Philippines) acquired their first experiences organizing here. The collection contains interesting correspondence from the early years (1980s) and most congress reports.

- The Michael Bedford collection. In the early 1990s, Michael Bedford conducted an extensive series of interviews in the Philippines with people involved in labour unions and human rights groups, with

priests involved in Liberation Theology, members of the New People's Army, and right wing vigilantes. None of these primary materials have been published.

- The P.C. Joshi Archives on Contemporary History. This collection of rare documents relating to the history of leftist movements in India is held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. The IISH South Asia Desk contributed to a digitization project to preserve documents that are in a very bad material condition. Some 60,000 pages were digitized and classified.
- A collection of booklets, brochures, pamphlets, and newsletters of the labour, student, and communist parties and trade unions in Pakistan (late 1960s to the present) and the Pakistan Fisher Folk Forum; some digital-born materials and a wonderful set of digital copies of posters of the Trade Union Federation Punjab, the Labour Union Lahore and the PTCL United Workers Alliance.
- *Relazione sulla colonia Eritrea del R. Commissario civile deputato Ferdinando Martini per gli esercizi 1902-1907* (Rome, 1913), a four-volumes report by the Italian Governor on governmental and private initiatives in the colony. The publication is one of the main sources on economic, labour, and social history of Eritrea during these years and is quite rare. Especially the last volume, which features unique maps, is extremely difficult to find.
- A collection of Marxist classics in Amharic (e.g., the Communist Manifesto and Capital) and dictionaries of Marxist terms and concepts from the 1970s and 80s, propagating the ideology in Ethiopia and capturing it in a single official version.
- Ethiopian socialist and revolutionary periodicals in Amharic from the 1970s and 1980 (including some extremely rare specimens, as they were prohibited after the fall of the Marxist-Leninist regime, when possession of these periodicals became very dangerous).
- Notebook of Jean Lacoste, silk manufacturer in Amsterdam, 1730-1733. The notebook contains 47 pages with writings and 24 samples of ribbons in various colours (NEHA acquisition).
- Ernst Maurer, *Gewerbkunde oder Kenntniss aller Gewerbe besonders für Deutschlands Jünglinge, die sich ein Gewerbe wählen wollten. Erster [- Zweiter] Theil* (Leipzig, August Lebrecht Reinicke, 1805). This publication lists over 270 professions, from Ahlenschmied and Alaunsieder to Zuckerbäcker, Zuckersieder and Zwilligmacher, and provides information on training, working conditions, and career prospects (NEHA acquisition).
- Large accruals were received to the following collections: ABVA-KABO, Amnesty International (International Secretariat), FNV Mondiaal, International Federation of Workers' Education(al) Associations, Interkerkelijk Vredesberaad [Intercongregational peace council], Nederlandse Vegetariërsbond [Dutch league of vegetarians], and Peter Waterman.