

**IALHI - International Association of Labour History Institutions**



**Report of the**

# **41st Annual Conference**

**of the**

# **International Association of Labour History Institutions (IALHI)**

**1- 4 September 2010**

**International Institute of Social History  
Amsterdam, Netherlands**

## Contents

Conference programme	3
List of registered participants	5
General Assembly	7
Heritage of the People's Europe (HOPE)	8
First session of presentation of IALHI members' projects	
• Kalle Kallio (Werstas), What's up in Worklab	10
• Bernhard Bayerlein (ZZF), The International Communist Studies and Archives Portal Project (ICSAP)	12
• Maria Boman (ARAB), CALM – a new entry to archive collections	12
Second session of presentation of IALHI members' projects	
• Eric de Ruijter (IISH), The Social History Shop of the IISH	13
• Boris Belenkin (Memorial), Trotskyists' archives in Russia	14
• Jean-Jacques Marie (CERMTRI), The Messali Hadj papers	14
• Anja Kruke (FES), Project " <i>lieu de mémoire</i> "	14
• Marianne Enckell and Frédéric Deshusses (CIRA), Conservation préventive et valorisation de la collection d'affiches du CIRA	14
• Katja Wollenberg (FES), Risk assessment in the AdsD. Implementing a future policy of preservation	14
• Lars-Erik Hansen (TAM-Arkiv), History of Swedish school teachers	17
• Irina Ostrosvkaia (Memorial), The Memorial Archives	20
Presentations and discussion on the organisation of collections departments	
• Presentation by Titia van der Werf (IISH)	20
• Prepared comments: Alfredo Caldeira (FMS), Hendrik Ollivier (Amsab-ISG), Andrew Lee (NYU), Katie Mathe (OSA Archivum)	21
• Discussion	25
Presentation and discussion on the challenges of global labour history	
• Presentation by Marcel van der Linden (IISH)	26
• Discussion	27
Session with IALHI members' projects on the collection of materials for global labour history	
• Marcus Sommerstange (FES), The FES Library's support of a political library in Dodoma (Tanzania)	27
• Christine Coates (TUC Library), British Commonwealth and Colonial Collections in the TUC Library	31
• Françoise Blum (Centre d'Histoire du XXe siècle), Archives africaines	31
Third session of presentation of IALHI members' projects	
• Maria Pokacheva, State Historical Museum of Contemporary History	31
• Irina Novichenko, Russian Social History Yearbook RSHY	31
Walking Tour	32
Report of the IALHI Coordination Committee Meeting, Paris, 13 February 2010	33
Report of the IALHI Coordination Committee Meeting, Amsterdam, 1 September 2010	35
IALHI - Financial statement 31 December 2009	37
IALHI - Paying and officially non-paying members (15-8-2010)	38

## Conference programme

### Wednesday 1 September

16.00 - 18.00 Reception and registration of the participants

17.00 - 19.00 Meeting Coordination committee

Guided tour of the IISH (optional)

### Thursday 2 September

*09.30 - 10.00 Coffee; Registration of the participants unable to attend on Wednesday*

10.00 - 11.00 General Assembly IALHI

*11.00 - 11.15 Coffee*

11.15 - 12.15 Presentation of the project "Heritage of the People's Europe" (HOPE)

12.15 - 13.00 First session of presentation of IALHI members' projects

*13.00 - 14.00 Lunch*

14.00 - 15.30 Second session of presentation of IALHI members' projects

*15.45 - 16.00 Tea*

16.00 - 19.00 Walking tour of Working class history Amsterdam (optional). The tour will start at the institute and end at the restaurant where we are having dinner

*19.00 Dinner at Restaurant 'Kapitein Zeppos' (in the "Gebed zonder End" alley, where Nes, Oudezijds Voorburgwal and Grimburgwal meet).*

### Friday 3 September

*09.30 - 10.00 Coffee*

10.00 – 12.30 Presentations and discussion on the organisation of collections departments

Presentation by Titia van der Werf

Prepared comments

*12.30 - 14.00 Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 Presentations and discussion on the challenges of global labour history

Presentation by Marcel van der Linden

*15.30 - 15.45 Tea*

15.45 - 17.00 Session with IALHI members' projects on the collection of materials for global labour history

15.45 Marcus Sommerstange, The FES Library's support of a library in Dodoma (Tanzania)

16.00 Christine Coates, Papers on overseas activities

16.15 Françoise Blum, Archives africaines

16.30 - 17:00 Third session of presentation of IALHI members' projects

*17.00 Drinks and dinner at the IISH*

### **Saturday 4 September**

9.00 – 13.00 Excursion and guided visit (by Jur Kingma) to the Zaanse Schans.

The Zaan area in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was the heart of the Dutch industrial sector, with over 1000 windmills. It remained a core area of Dutch industry and the Dutch labour movement until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## List of registered participants

Giovanni Avonto, Fondazione culturale Vera Nocentini, Torino  
Bernhard H. Bayerlein, Center of Contemporary History, Potsdam  
Heiner Becker, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
David Bidussa, Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, Milano  
Aad Blok, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Francoise Blum, Centre d'Histoire du XXe siècle, Paris  
Maria Boman, Labour Movement Archives and Library, Stockholm  
Josep Brunet I Sierra, Biblioteca Pública Arús, Barcelona  
Alfredo Caldeira, Fundação Mário Soares, Lisboa  
Elisa Castellano, Fondazione di Vittorio, Roma  
Christine Coates, TUC Library Collections, London  
Eric de Ruijter, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Christian De Vito  
Frederic Deshusses, Centre International de Recherches sur l' Anarchisme, Lausanne  
Gianni Emiliuccio, Istituto di Studi sul Capitalismo, Genova  
Marianne Enckell, Centre International de Recherches sur l' Anarchisme, Lausanne  
Knut Einar Eriksen, Arbeiderbevegelsens archiv og bibliotek, Oslo  
Tove Kjerstin Eriksen, Arbeiderbevegelsens archiv og bibliotek, Oslo  
Nuria Franco, Fundación Francisco Largo Caballero, Madrid  
Francesca Gori, Memorial Italia, Milano  
Maribel Giner I Molina, Biblioteca Pública Arús, Barcelona  
Henning Grelle, Arbejdermuseet/ Arbejdersbevaegelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv, Kobenhavn  
Hugo Guerreiro, Fundação Mário Soares, Lisboa  
Lars-Erik Hansen, TAM-Arkiv, Bromma  
Ernesto Harder, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Lex Heerma van Voss, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Lars Ilshammar, Labour Movement Archives and Library, Stockholm  
Urs Kälin, Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv, Zürich  
Kalle Kallio, Finnish Labour Museum Werstas, Tampere  
Hélène Kaplan, RIDECO, Nanterre  
Pekka Kalliokoski, Työväen Arkisto, Helsinki  
Jaap Kloosterman, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Professor Koryakova, Mordovian State University  
Anja Kruke, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Ulla Langkau-Alex, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Andrew H. Lee, New York University, New York  
Olga Litvinova, The State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moskva  
Ana Lobato, Fundação Mário Soares, Lisboa  
Curtis Lyons, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives, Ithaca  
Jean-Jacques Marie, CERMTRI, Paris  
Katie Mathe, OSA Archivum, Budapest  
Alain Mélo, La fraternelle/Maison du peuple, Saint Claude  
Eleonora Mogilevskaya, The State Social Political Library, Moskva

Evelyne Morel, CERMTRI, Paris  
Irina Novichenko, The State Social Political Library, Moskva  
Michael Oberstadt, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Hendrik Ollivier, Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Gent  
Irina Ostrovskaia, Memorial Archive, Moskva  
Hanneliese Palm, Fritz-Hüser-Institut für Literatur und Kultur der Arbeitswelt, Dortmund  
Hans Uwe Petersen, Arbejdersbevaegelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv, Kobenhavn  
Maria Pokacheva, The State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia, Moskva  
Klara Prinz, Institut für Soziale Bewegungen, Bochum  
Jenneke Quast, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Bob Reynolds, National Labor College/ George Meany Memorial Archives, Silver Spring  
Bärbel Richter, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Huub Sanders, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Emile Schwidder, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Wouter Steenhaut, Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Gent  
Marcus Sommerstange, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Armin Straube, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Petri Tanskanen, Työvään Arkisto, Helsinki  
Richard Temple, Senate House Library, London  
Irina Tsvetkova, The State Social Political Library, Moskva  
Rossana Vaccaro, Centre d'Histoire du XXe siècle, Paris  
Marien van der Heijden, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Titia van der Werf, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Geert Van Goethem, Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Gent  
Willem van Schendel, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam  
Franck Veyron, BDIC, Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine, Nanterre  
Katja Wollenberg, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Ruediger Zimmermann, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn  
Erik-Jan Zürcher, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam

## **Thursday 2 September**

### **General Assembly**

Françoise Blum, the retiring secretary of IALHI, opens the meeting at 10.10 and welcomes the participants. She is happy to be back in Amsterdam, in the year that the IISH celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. IISH director Erik-Jan Zürcher, welcomes the participants on behalf of the IISH. This IALHI conference coincides not only with the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the IISH, which will be celebrated with an exhibition and an anniversary book, but also with important changes at the Institute. It is reorganising its collections department, reaching out to the global south with new positions in the research and collections departments and is working on ways to record the collective memory of the collection activities of the Institute. Some of these changes will also be of interest to IALHI. IISH is also working on its international relations, and in this context IALHI is of great importance to the Institute. There will be a small working party in the IISH for IALHI activities the coming years.

Françoise Blum thanks Erik-Jan.

### **Election of the IALHI secretary**

Françoise Blum proceeds to the election. For the position of IALHI secretary there is one candidate, Erik-Jan Zürcher, whom Françoise Blum presents to the assembly. Françoise Blum invites Wouter Steenhaut to assist in counting the votes. 44 Votes have been cast. Erik-Jan Zürcher is elected unanimously and declares that he gladly accepts this honour. Françoise Blum hopes that the very friendly atmosphere will be maintained within IALHI, that the members will continue to co-operate on common projects like HOPE and that the network will be enlarged to include the Global South. She thanks the IALHI members for their friendly co-operation and especially Franck Veyron for doing translations and Marien van der Heijden for his work as treasurer.

Marien van der Heijden on behalf of the Coordination Committee thanks Françoise Blum for her great work as secretary.

### **Report of the IALHI conference in Barcelona, 16-19 September 2009**

A paper copy of the report is distributed at the current meeting and an e-copy is available at [www.ialhi.org/iconf-09.pdf](http://www.ialhi.org/iconf-09.pdf). Françoise Blum: it was nice to meet the new Spanish institutions. The report is approved.

### **Report of the Coordination Committee**

Françoise Blum: The coordination committee met twice, in Paris on February 13 and yesterday in Amsterdam. A report of the meeting in Paris is in the delegates' conference kit. The position of IALHI secretary in this report is erroneously called "general secretary". Marien held a survey among Serials Service participants about the Labour History Serials Service. It turned out that the Serials Service website has rather high visitor numbers, that all participants see the usefulness of the Service and are willing to continue, and that everyone agrees that discussions about the longer term should be held within the context of the HOPE project. He also mentioned that the coordination committee will have to be reinstated at the 2011 Bonn conference.

## **Financial Report**

Marien van der Heijden presents the financial report, which is in the conference kit. In 2009 IALHI received € 9.518, and spent only € 3.729. This was caused by the Barcelona conference, which was inexpensive for IALHI, and by a correction for 2008 results of membership contribution. He asks all members to check the list of membership payments in the conference kit, and to regulate their position if need be. He also asks all delegates to check whether they are listed correctly on the web site, ([www.ialhi.org/imembers.php](http://www.ialhi.org/imembers.php)). There are no questions on the reports.

## **Legal status of IALHI**

With a view to the development of HOPE the legal status of IALHI has to be considered. IALHI is going to collect information on possible legal structures.

## **New IALHI members**

Françoise Blum presents the Open Society Archives at Central European University in Budapest ([www.osaarchivum.org](http://www.osaarchivum.org)); Bernhard Bayerlein presents the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung in Potsdam ([www.zzf-pdm.de](http://www.zzf-pdm.de)); Françoise Blum presents the Grupo de Estudios sobre la Historia contemporánea de Extremadura ([www.gehcex.es](http://www.gehcex.es)). All are accepted unanimously as members of IALHI.

## **Future conferences**

Ruediger Zimmermann presents the plans for the 2011 conference that FES will host in Bonn. In 2012 the conference will take place at the Mario Soares Foundation, Lisbon.

Françoise Blum closes the General Assembly at 11.00 sharp.

## **Heritage of the People's Europe (HOPE)**

Erik-Jan Zürcher opens the session of Presentation of the project "Heritage of the People's Europe" (HOPE) with words of thanks to Françoise Blum.

Titia van der Werf (IISH, HOPE Project coordinator) opens the first presentation of HOPE.

Ernesto Harder, who is responsible for dissemination in the project, presents HOPE. Benefits to content providers will be reaching new user groups and the improvement of the metadata. Metadata can be searched through Europeana or the Labour History Portal ([labourhistory.net](http://labourhistory.net)). Users are directed to the original content provider, if need be. HOPE is divided in 7 work packages. Users can research and use documents. The content will be more than 880.000 objects (images, videos, documents, texts) from the late 18th century to the present in the European languages.

Titia van der Werf presents the project web site ([www.peoplesheritage.eu](http://www.peoplesheritage.eu)). Ernesto Harder announces that four newsletters will be distributed yearly. HOPE has asked the participants about the local situation and data sets. This has resulted - as could be expected - in new challenges: a large part of the archival collections -for instance- are not described in a standard way. There is a large variation in the way the collections are described. Most of our users use only Google, and do not know about Europeana or the Labour History Portal.

The high level design of the HOPE system has been defined. The text on this deliverable is available to project partners from the collaboratory website. It contains a vision document, a glossary, design diagrams and architectural decisions. Money comes from the ICT programme of the EU, which gives grants to projects delivering data to Europeana.

All IALHI institutes are challenged by the change from paper to digital information. We are all well equipped to deal with our own visitors but users on the Internet do not come to our web sites, but to Google and discovery sites. So we must disseminate our data into the web. This means a loss of control over our metadata. It entails adding a new semantic layer for discovery across formats. Europeana focuses on this, and that is a good argument for working with them. As our collections are complementary, in some cases even take apart from an earlier whole, offering them together means an enrichment. HOPE will facilitate the transitions that we have to make anyway. The goal is to empower the CPs to run digital access, to offer low barrier access to the relevant tools and in the end achieve economies of scale. Without going into technical details, Titia van der Werf proceeds to describe the projected organisational diagrams (see Deliverable pages 7, 8 and 9 on the collaboratory website). Work on the business model has yet to start. It should ensure the sustainability of the HOPE system. It will require thinking within IALHI: on market analysis, costs and a cost-recovery model, an organisational model, a growth strategy and the content of partners. It entails questions like: are we targeting the general public, or researchers specifically? Which content will we offer? Which costs will we make visible, and how will we meet them? What is the governance structure and the legal entity of HOPE (IALHI)?

## **Discussion**

Erik-Jan Zürcher (IISH): 1. Providing a glossary might be a good idea for future presentations. 2. This is a European project. How much so? 3. Which percentage of collections has been digitized in the diverse institutions?

Titia van der Werf: the first two or three years HOPE has to focus on Europe, given the funding situation. After that, the aim is to open up for the rest of the world. HOPE has not asked about the percentage of digitization, but for the IISH it is less than 1 %.

Kathryn Mathe (OSA): We did not ask that question. We concentrate on collections that are already digitised. Most institutions have only a small part digitised, with rare exceptions.

Christine Coates (TUC): Will you be offering guidelines for the kind of materials that you want, or will the institutions get to make their choices? Some images have limited access, because somebody else holds the copyright. Who's going to be responsible for the paperwork involved?

Titia van der Werf: We will provide technical guidelines. We will develop a content policy framework. All content will have to be cleared copyright wise. The first thrust of content will be public domain. But most of our collections are not. We have Intellectual Property Right issues, and will have to cater to that.

## **First session of presentation of IALHI members' projects**

### **Kalle Kallio (Finnish Labour Museum Werstas, and new chairman of Worklab), What's up in Worklab**

Dear friends and colleagues, I would like to tell you about Finnish Labour Museum, perspectives of labour museums worldwide and finally about the organisation called Worklab, which is included in my title too. Some of you might already know this network but for those of you who are not familiar with Worklab I would like to start with some facts.

Worklab is an International Association of Labour Museums. It is a thirteen years old network, founded in 1997. Our members are different kind of labour museums mostly from Europe. We have around 40 members from four continents. Worklab is a rather loose network with little bureaucracy, flexible organisation and of course wonderful people. Worklab is a tool for labour museums, which we use to share knowledge, learn from each other and organise co-operation. We have common meetings and conferences. Members of Worklab have also started together several projects mainly funded by the European Union. Our website is at [www.worklab.info](http://www.worklab.info) and that is our main channel of communication. Our last meeting was in August and I was elected as a new chairman of Worklab. Peter Ludvigsen, who is the director of Workers' Museum in Copenhagen, resigned after 13 years of excellent outcomes in Worklab.

And here we have one happy museum in the Worklab family. This is where I come from. On the right side of the picture you can see the building of Finnish Labour Museum. It is located in a former cotton mill in Tampere. Tampere was born as an industrial town two hundred years ago and today it is a lively city with 220 000 inhabitants.

Finnish Labour Museum was founded in 1988 and in 1993 we could open our doors to visitors in old Finlayson factory premises. We have been nominated as a national museum of working life and social history. Our current premises were renovated in 2001 and today we are proud to work in house of 5000 square meters, annual budget of one point five million euros and currently we have a staff of 23 persons. In Finnish scale we are a medium sized museum.

I assume that the story of Finnish Labour Museum is quite similar at least with other Nordic countries. In the 1980's there was plenty of small collections presenting labour heritage in Finland. But there was a huge need for professional help and the solution was to bring these collections together in a first class museum. Today we have a collection of 70 000 objects and 350 000 photographs. We have 2000 square meters of exhibition space with rooms for permanent and temporary exhibitions, Steam Engine Museum and The Textile Industry Museum, which was made together with The Tampere City Museum. I guess, our experiences in International co-operation are rather similar with other labour museums. We are members of Worklab and IALHI. We were proud to host the IALHI annual conference in 2001 and in August we had the annual conference of Worklab in Tampere. We have had many common projects with other labour museums. For instance, we are now participating in A Taste of Europe project, which is run by The Museum of Work in Norrköping Sweden. In this project our idea is to build a common exhibition presenting the history of food chain, consumption and production. The exhibition will be opened at the same time in nine different countries in January next year. Worklab's last meeting in Tampere was organised together with ICOHTEC, International Committee for the History of Technology and TICCIH, the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage. The joint conference was a true success and we had nearly 300 presentations and 400 participants.

There were plenty of good sessions and this picture is from one extremely interesting workshop about labour heritage. As you know, there are over 900 monuments in the UNESCO list of world heritage. But there is not a single monument built by the labour movement. So we had an inspiring workshop about

labour meeting halls and possibilities to get some of them listed as a world heritage. This workshop was lead by Peter Ludvigsen from Denmark.

And of course our conferences include excursions with interesting themes related to museum issues. This is from our last excursion to the brand new collection centre of Tampere City Museum. In this building of over 14 000 square meters the huge industrial collections will be stored and conserved. Meetings of Worklab are important to learn not only from best practices like this but also mistakes and real experiences in different countries.

If we think about labour museums in general, they are rather new phenomena. First labour archives were founded more than hundred years ago and oldest labour museums are about half of that age. For instance the first museum presenting Finnish labour history was founded in 1960. After that, over hundred labour museums have been built in Finland. These museums present the stories of the disappearing working class, industrial work and labour culture. Most of these museums are run on a voluntary basis and professionally run labour museums were born mainly in 1980's. I have recognised four different types of labour museums.

First of all, there are museums of workers' housing. This is Finland's oldest labour museum presenting everyday life of paper mill workers. Many of these housing museums were founded in 1980's but unfortunately today most of them have financial problems.

The second group is based on industry. There is a fast growing group of museums presenting history of work and production of former factories. This picture is from Portugal. Portimão City Museum is located in an old canning factory and it is a huge success story. Portimão even got the Museum of Prize of The European Council this year.

The third group consists of museums interested in political history. This picture is from the Lenin museum in Tampere. Aimo Minkkinen, director of the museum, is giving his lecture to the Worklab people. Aimo is participating in this conference too. This group is smaller than other two.

In this picture you can see the new building of People's History Museum in Manchester UK. The new extension was opened in February and it has a very well done exhibition about development of British civil society and democracy. I strongly recommend you to go to Manchester, forget the football and instead go to see this. It is very good. Most labour museums of this size combine all these three aspects: workers housing, industrial work and labour movement. People's History Museum is not so clearly an example of this fourth group where my museum belongs.

In the same museum we show everyday life of workers. Here is a model of Pispala suburb area on the outskirts of Tampere city in 1930's. Contemporary model makers are very skilful and models can be an attraction on their own.

And here is our Textile Industry Museum. Tampere was the capital of Finnish textile industry and Finlayson cotton mill was the largest company of its kind. So we use textile industry as an example of former industrial work.

The worker's meeting hall is one of the most popular interiors of the new exhibition. It wasn't designed to remind any known hall. On the contrary, it tries to give an impression of the atmosphere in working halls and arouse personal feelings. In the speakers stand there is a multimedia, which can be used as a jukebox to listen workers songs and historical speeches read by contemporary politicians.

So all together, labour museums can have elements of everyday life and workers housing, history of work and industry and also history of labour movement. Together these elements are the key foundations of labour heritage and biggest labour museums have all these aspects combined. But these themes are so wide that more and more museums are interested in some parts of them. Labour heritage has become an important theme in certain city museums, industrial museums and regional museums. Museums have a growing need to co-operate in the field of social history. Therefore Worklab

has made a suggestion to International Committee of Museums to form a new committee for labour, work and social history in the industrial period. ICOM has several committees for different groups of museums but there is no suitable group for museums of social history. In November, ICOM will have a general conference in Shanghai and they hopefully will make a decision then. The name of the new committee would be Worklabs. This extra "S" is for social history.

The story of Worklab will continue either inside ICOM or as an independent organisation. Inside ICOM it will be more or less an organisation of individuals working with labour themes. Outside ICOM we will concentrate more on institutions and their needs. But most of the things will go on in any case.

We already know that our next meeting will be in Germany, in Dortmund area, fall 2011. The theme of the conference will be the future of industrial culture. There will be sub themes like restoration, educational processes, new contents and international networks. The call for papers will be announced in beginning of next year.

We are also planning projects constantly. In August we were talking about workers in art and possibilities to organise a common art project. Another theme could be International Year of Co-operatives, which United Nations has announced in 2012.

Outcomes of our last conference will be published as a labour heritage special issue of International Journal of Heritage Studies. So, there is lots of things going on and Worklab is also listening the suggestions of museums all the time. Worklab is a network, which can help labour museums to find partners and friends on an international level.

#### **Bernhard Bayerlein (ZZF - Center of Contemporary History in Potsdam), The International Communist Studies and Archives Portal Project (ICSAP)**

This is also a first presentation of a new project, which is still in the preparatory phase. This month an application will be sent to the DFG to fund the project for a number of years. Communist studies are an exciting topic, due to new sources becoming available. A group of important contributors has been brought together and collaborates in the project. The dispersion of the research and extreme specialisation is a problem. There is also a trend to reassert the national in historical research. The project has four main objectives, among them covering the landscape of communist studies, and creating a network by offering collaborative tools. The project is divided in eight thematic clusters, including an online research library, archives, publications, biographies, media and culture, memorial places and museums and information on the historical communist institutions. IALHI could be of great importance to this project, which will also have to offer much to IALHI members.

#### **Maria Boman, (Labour Movement Archives and Library - Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek), CALM - a new entry to archive collections**

We started to use computers for archival descriptions in the mid-1980s, but we used them only as advanced typewriters, in other words: we didn't use them as databases. As a result of this we had around 4000 different archive description folders, and about 10 different finding records for example for locations, photographs, flags and posters.

During 2007 decided the institution that we had to change our systems and a project was set up with Ulf Jönson, Låle Svensson and myself. The project team's mission was to compile our demands and needs of an archival descriptions system, and to survey the Swedish market of archival systems. We concluded that we wanted a system capable of describing all different levels of archival description, from top level of the collection down do individual entities, like photographs or posters. We did also need a system

where it was possible to give the volumes a exact location, and a system that could help us with loans and ordering of archival material for our visitors and users.

Another critical wish was the possibility to publish the descriptions of our archival collections on the internet.

After we had searched the Swedish market for archival systems we concluded that only one of them responded to our needs: the system developed and used by the Swedish national archives. This system however, is not for sale and we started to look outside the Swedish borders. The system that we eventually chose was a UK system named Calm. Calm is used by approximately 350 archives in the UK and also in other countries like for example Portugal.

Calm is built according to international standards like ISAAR and ISAD(G), and is a flexible system that we can use for all our different methods and schemes of archival descriptions. And it is possible to give each single volume a location, and to describe all different levels in an archival collection.

We are the authorized translators of the system from English to Swedish, and have now translated a majority of the system.

## **Second session of presentation of IALHI members' projects**

### **Eric de Ruijter (IISH), The Social History Shop of the IISH**

Every week we receive requests from visitors for quality reproductions of our posters. As we could not deliver them, it seemed to be business opportunity. It might result in earning a bit of money from our collections and creating a larger public for the IISH. We had something in mind as the tourists strolling through Amsterdam with colored tubes from the Van Gogh Museum.

We decided to start with a web shop on the internet. Commercial activities are not what we are best at, but we tried to make a real business plan. It said something about our target groups, what investments we had to make and which media strategy we would need. We bought a printer, build a website and started with about 200 posters, mostly classics. If we would sell a hundred posters a year, we would reach break even in three years.

Let's take a look at the website ([www.socialhistoryshop.com](http://www.socialhistoryshop.com)). What should the website convey?

- *you can trust us*, this website is not driven by a small collector on his attic room. A large institute with a building and collection stands behind it > logo, contact, about us, photo

- *buy our posters* > shopping cart prominent, more credit cards, steps, home page

- *be impressed by our collections*, collections unique, special > search the categories, news

- *spread the word*, the name of the IISH > sticker, tube, newsletter, link to website

The sales are not very high, we are still working on this. The reproductions also appeared to be useful for visitors who wanted to lend posters for exhibitions. The reproductions are about the same prize, look real but can also be stuck to a pillar.

We should advertize more, conduct better focused campaigns. Our next step is to extend the collections of posters, to also sell nostalgic photos and postcards. It might be interesting to cooperate with the owners of our collections. For example the Amnesty International archive here at the institute also comprises a large part of its poster collection. We could make an agreement with Amnesty and offer a selection in our shop.

We don't have Van Goghs in our collection, but we do have many beautiful items, which are worth buying and taking home, as do the Museum visitors. In future we might sell them in a shop in the inner city. For that we need to find a business partner. In the distant future we dream of selling the posters also in shops in other countries.

### *Discussion*

Jean-Jacques Marie (CERMTRI) wonders whether sales like those from the Social History Shop will be taxed.

IISH stresses that any money the Shop will make will be used for improving the collections.

### **Boris Belenkin (Memorial), Trotskyists' archives in Russia**

Boris Belenkin could unfortunately not attend the conference due to illness.

### **Jean-Jacques Marie (CERMTRI), The Messali Hadj papers**

Messali Hadj (1898 - 1974) was one of the key figures in the Algerian fight for independence. His papers, an important source for the history of the nationalist movement in Algeria, Algerian migration to France and the French working classes, were handed over to CERMTRI by Messali Hadj's daughter. An annotated catalogue is being prepared and CERMTRI hopes to complete it before the Bonn meeting in 2011.

### **Anja Kruke (Archiv der sozialen Demokratie der FES), Project "*lieu de mémoire*"**

This project concerns *lieux de memoire* of German Social Democracy. It has become a major theme in historical research, starting from the French project developed by Pierre Nora. This idea can also be applied to social groups and movements, e.g. Willy Brandt falling to his knees in Warsaw is a social democratic lieu de memoire. Short illustrative texts and images will be supplied; a visual presentation will be shown next year in Bonn.

### **Marianne Enckell and Frédéric Deshusses (CIRA), Conservation préventive et valorisation de la collection d'affiches du CIRA**

The CIRA holds about 3.000 posters related to the anarchist movement from the late nineteenth century to the present. Up to recently this collection was not well stored, digital reproductions were of differing quality and not available online. CIRA started a conservation project digitizing the posters and storing them in acid-free folders. Detailed catalogue descriptions have been added, which contain much of the text, a description of the images, the date of production etc. Marianne Enckell and Frédéric Deshusses show some posters from the CIRA collection.

### **Katja Wollenberg (Archiv der sozialen Demokratie der FES), Risk assessment in the AdsD. Implementing a future policy of preservation**

The project I'm going to present to you is an EFQM-project. First I want to give you a short introduction in EFQM and its implementation at our organisation and then focus on our specific project.

EFQM stands for European Foundation for Quality Management. This is a non-profit membership foundation that has committed itself to the spread of quality management systems.

The EFQM Excellence Model is a diagnostic tool for assessing the current health of an organisation. Through this process the organisation is better able to balance its priorities, allocate resources and generate realistic business plans.

To retain the EFQM Label an organisation has to undergo an evaluation every two years. New projects have to be developed for each evaluation cycle. All departments of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, including the Archive of Social Democracy take part in these projects.

Currently, three EFQM projects are taking place in our archive and one of them is about risk assessment and the development of a concise preservation plan.

#### *State of preservation and need for the project*

Before I outline this project in more detail, I would like to characterize the state of preservation in our archive. One notable progress was (and is) made by the use of proper packaging material according to international standards which means that it's acid-free and provides an alkaline buffer. There have also been two projects dealing with preservation issues in our archive.

The first project produced microfilm surrogates of our holding of papers of the SoPaDe, the exile organisation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany during the 1930s and 1940s. These holdings are heavily used and the microfilm surrogates help to reduce the strain on the original documents. The second project dealt with the restoration of selected documents from the early years of the labour movements. While we are very happy with the results of both projects, they only touched a tiny fraction of our holdings and were costly and time consuming.

While preservation clearly is an important issue in our archive, the practices and procedures have never been reviewed and there is no comprehensive preservation policy in place. This might be the reason why an initiative to improve the environmental control of our holdings in the early 1990s failed. A few measurements of temperature and humidity were taken, but no records were retained and the effort yielded no consequences.

We are confident, that we can use the EFQM project to develop a framework for future improvements on preservation.

#### *The EFQM project in detail*

I now want to describe the steps of our project in greater detail. The main steps are:

- a literature review on preservation,
- a risk assessment to identify areas of improvement and
- the compilation of guidelines and recommendations.

A time frame was allocated to each step, to ensure that our project's goal will be reached in 6 to 9 months.

To make sure, that our internal risk assessment covers all relevant preservation issues, we started the project with an evaluation of the relevant literature. Selected essays were stored as pdf-files in our intranet, to give all participants access.

Drawing from the literature review we identified areas that needed to be analyzed and developed criteria to be applied in the assessment, for instance external hazards (flood, fire, earthquakes, vandalism and so on) and internal risks like acidic papers, ink corrosion, improper storage and handling. At this stage we decided to use a model developed by Mario Glauert of the Brandenburg State Archive in Potsdam to categorize possible measures in regard to their scope, effect and costs.

The model shows two pyramids opposite to each other. A measure covering the widest range of records demands the least efforts and costs and yet has a great long-term affect as it helps preventing future damage. Far more expensive measures can only be applied on small parts of the archive after the damage is already done.

We will use this model to structure our preservation guidelines and recommendations, and I'll return to it again.

Furthermore, we used a categorization that is already used in some archives in Germany, for example the Main State Archive of Saxony in Dresden.

The highest category, one, stands for severe and extremely complicated damage that has to be repaired immediately to avoid any further loss of information. The respective file may no longer be used.

Category four stands for hardly recognizable damage, and the records might still be used without restrictions.

### *The risk assessment*

At the moment we are conducting the major part of the project: the risk assessment.

In a survey conducted in our archive all our colleagues were called upon to inform us about any fonds already known as damaged and particularly about those who were currently at risk of damage.

It was hardly surprising that the vast majority of the endangered fonds date from the first half of the 20th century and earlier periods. These papers were examined more closely and unfortunately we detected the usual effects of ageing in progress: some ink corrosion here and there, but mostly acid deterioration and other structural damage.

Back in the old days papers becoming brittle and fragile had often been laminated in order to stabilize the paper and to stop the process of decomposition. For example, here's a diary by August Bebel. As we know now, inside the film the decomposition continues, but our hands are tied, as we can't separate the paper from the film, not knowing its chemical characteristics. This way of conservation has turned into a nightmare - one might well wish this irreversible damage would at least serve as a warning ... but as you can see, nowadays those documents either already damaged or gravely endangered are systematically slipped into plastic pockets.

Years before, the manufacturer told us that the pockets would not contain any plasticizers, but we're not so sure about it anymore and we wish that we could do without any pockets.

However, at the same time we have been storing our boxes in an upright position for decades. We are confronted with a dilemma: if we left the papers in the plastic pockets, the plasticizers would continue to react on the papers inside and next to them. But we know what happens to damaged and fragile paper which has to stand inside a box without being stabilized at all.

So, if our plastic pockets don't meet archival standards, there would be no other way than to remove them and to change our method of storing from vertical to flat filing. It may sound like the easiest way and a task without much time and effort involved. But it is indeed nothing less than a huge challenge - for instance, we would need new boxes.

We don't know yet which way to go, but conservation and restoration measures covering many files would be completely useless as long as we didn't take care of the central levels of Mario Glauert's pyramid of preservation. The "passive conservation" makes the difference, and it includes not only the packaging but already the storing, a level that seems to demand radical changes from us as well.

This for instance is the surface of a ventilation shaft that leads directly into an archive room ... There, it's covered by a strange looking window blind with small gaps in between, where you don't really need a magnifying glass to face one of the big problems when it comes to storing ... namely our climate conditions.

The climate conditions in every archive room have a deep impact on the stored records, as a rather unfavourable climate shortens the life of any archival document or material. So we decided to perform a systematic measurement both of the temperature and the relative humidity of the air.

A rather simple equipment enables us to collect data at several points of one single room 24 hours a day. Sensors are monitoring the climate as well as a data logger which receives all other data by radio communication.

The data is imported into a spreadsheet application and we can easily evaluate it by calculating the minimum, the maximum and the average value - and we can create line charts.

After some weeks we are able to identify a range of risks which have been invisible before.

The air in almost every archive room is too warm and too humid. It's obvious at which time of the day the lights have been switched on, for instance in our room number 7.

The daily variation on each morning is alarmingly high and one of the most harmful risks we have encountered so far.

So, we have to make sure that the doors will be kept closed during working time and that the lights should be switched off when no longer required. Our archive rooms should be storage rooms instead of workplaces. We will continue to *measure* our climate conditions over the different seasons, but sooner or later we'll have to decide how to *regulate* them.

### *Prospects*

When we designed our project outline right at the beginning of our EFQM project, we assumed that our list of preservation recommendations would focus on conservation and restoration of the most endangered documents in our archives. But in our discussions we quickly realised, that preservation means much much more - and that there is at least one task for each different level of Glauert's pyramid of preservation.

Following his formula from the bottom to the top, we have to rank our own preservation tasks and decide which tasks should be given top priority.

The basis of any preservation process is the least expensive and at the same time the most effective measurement: we have to raise the awareness of every single colleague working in our archives, so that none of the following measurements shall be undermined by any faults or ignorance. Mr Glauert has already agreed to visit us and give us valuable advice that is supposed to reach as many colleagues as possible.

Planning does not only regard constructing a new archive room but also considering and identifying *any* present and future risk. So we're already planning when working on our EFQM project.

The next two levels of "passive conservation", begin with the storing, because we have to make sure that the environment of any archival material and document is meeting all latest archival standards. And obviously, that is not the case. As mentioned before, the packaging we have been using for many years *meets* the archival standards. But the boxes are not designed for the horizontal position - sooner or later, we might be forced to look for new boxes.

The copying of endangered files can be done in different ways, either by digitizing them for preservation purposes or by way of security microfilming. The latter will be our choice, as we are quite sceptical about digitizing.

On the two final steps we will have to choose only small, particularly endangered fonds. As conservation and restoration are beyond our own power, we'll have to consult an expert in these fields.

Six to nine months, that's the term of our EFQM project, but our preservation activities will continue beyond that as a neverending process.

However, by working on our risk assessment, we're laying the groundwork of the pyramid of preservation and of levels that are still to come.

### **Lars-Erik Hansen (TAM-Arkiv), History of Swedish school teachers**

TAM-Arkiv collects archives of white collar and professional union organisations. Autobiographical data are collected, periodicals, books and reports are published. In Sweden there are separate trade union

organisations for blue and white collar workers. There was a museum, but that is discontinued today. What rests is a small library and a large archive. Currently there is a programme on the history of Swedish school teachers.

The commissioners of the website “Lärarnas Historia” are our members – the teacher’s organisations and the foundation SAF, originating from the (historic) Sweden’s Common People’s Schools Association. The project has had a steering group, a relatively small project group, a reference group of researchers and representatives for the commissioners and a receiver group with teachers. Initially we discussed with colleagues that had run similar projects, made pre-studies and chose a consultant for IT-development.

To start a project such as this one raises a lot of questions concerning the target groups, the goal of the project, selection and presentation of the material as well as technical methods and models for document-metadata. The content, scope, methods and aims of the project have continually been redefined and delimited; from a wide array of ideas and much enthusiasm for the actual project work to be feasible and reach a result.

#### *The website*

How should the website appear and be structured? We wanted a document database, in accordance with the ABM-cooperation (Archives-Libraries-Museum) with the website “Stockholmskällan” (The Stockholm Source, presenting a large number of scanned historical documents from Stockholm), but we also wished to present the documents within a narrative and, partly, popular context – journalistic articles inspired by – for example – “Centrum för Näringslivshistoria” (The Centre for industrial history) with their project “Arlas historia” (The history of Arla, The leading Dairy-Corporation). Discussions within the project groups, and with internal and external IT-knowledge finally led to our own web structure. Thematic entries with pedagogical texts and images lead to professional articles, written by researchers in the field of educational history and the teachers’ organisations development. These are in turn related to scanned archive documents. Timelines create understanding for how the present and the past are related (and for instance how many issues in school politics remain in various forms throughout history). One can freely seek documents (at present about 1.000) by different criteria, for example subject words. The documents are also related to the online archival descriptions of TAM-Archives. With different levels and entrances to the material, a static presentation can be avoided, to benefit visitors with different needs and web user behaviours.

#### *The documents*

A central task has been to identify relevant documents to scan from the abstract series and titles of silent archive boxes. Apart from that the documents will be described, supplied with metadata, be scanned and registered. Photographs have copyright questions. The complexity and the time this work consumes should not be underestimated. One person can perhaps produce 10 documents per day. Questions that appear are: What are the criteria for a relevant document? Can the document throw light upon the subject-areas we have specified and dealt with in the articles? Is it interesting for the target-group and easy to read on the web? With archival pedagogical ambitions we must present the documents in their historical context. The project-staff must then have or acquire a certain level of knowledge of many subject matters, perhaps in discussion with the reference groups. The alternative, which we did not choose, would be mass-scanning with limited descriptions when the material as a whole would be interesting enough, and each single document would then only be given an id-number and a collective description.

Certain types of documents have been more rewarding to investigate, such as congress-documents, official letters and communications, annual reports and correspondence. Especially interesting are teachers' personal memories and personal archives from leading persons in the early teachers' organisations. The organisations' magazines are a rich and easily accessible source. They illustrate the questions and issues of the specific historical periods they are a valuable pedagogic resource for the website.

#### *The texts*

We have engaged external writers – often researchers – to describe teacher-categories and the development of the school-forms during approximately one hundred years, the teacher's role and working-conditions, the organisations and the prominent figures - and not the least, the struggles for teachers' conditions and reforms of the educational system. Our aim was that the web-articles should be more journalistic than academic, something that at times turned out to be difficult to combine with the depth our subject required. The solution was that a competent editor was contracted to write accessible and homogeneous entry-texts from a past-to-present perspective, with up-to-date school-issues as a starting-point (often which shows the persistence of questions over different historic periods). In that part of the web-site the visitor can stay, try to seek a document or continue reading. Another experience for the project was that we worked with parallel paths, on the one side with the articles from external writers, on the other with gathering archival documents to present. Afterwards it could be difficult to find appropriate source-documents to every article. But when themes and larger historical issues had been structured in our editorial office, the project's working group could seek relevant documents in a more focused manner. The timelines with historical "milestones" also turned out to be productive to work with.

#### *Metadata*

Descriptions of information are a key-issue for archives and metadata has been the object for much discussion in the project, when our archives do not have descriptions for single documents, just series and volumes. We could not immediately solve all the complex issues of digital archives but had to choose a more pragmatic approach. The Archive-descriptions software already follows the standards ISAD(G) and EAD/EAC to describe the archival-formations and the archive-structures down to volume-level. For descriptions on the document-level we have made use of a limited selection of the elements in Dublin Core to make TAM-Archives typical archive-documents possible to find on the web-site. The work with metadata has resulted in a dozen database-fields to describe a document. One of these fields holds the subject-words. A near to hundred overall subject-words in two levels were identified . We found this to be an appropriate limit, a larger number would be too demanding to administer and use.

#### *Publishing system*

Each web-site of some complexity and scale needs a publishing-system. We also needed some form of document-database. A possible choice was EPiServer and SharePoint, as an overall solution to grow with. The drawback was expensive licenses and to be dependent on the program-supplier. The choice instead fell upon Open Source with their free program-code-products. The perhaps most prominent web/content-management-system, Drupal, where in accordance with our needs and should even make a separate database-solution unnecessary at this point. We still needed help with the basic development from a consultant, but through this choice and with our own competence and learning we have cut by half or more the costs for the project and TAM-Archive continued IT-expenses. Drupal has different

degrees of complexity for editors, administrators and developers. After training most people can create and edit articles and register documents.

#### *Result and the future*

The final website ([www.lararnashistoria.se/](http://www.lararnashistoria.se/)) was released in March 2010 and already during spring it has received great acclaim and appreciation from the project's participants and commissioners - the teachers' organisations involved. Without much initial marketing it has a steady stream of visitors, a growing fraction directly through search engines (Google). A management group has been formed to assure marketing, maintenance and development of the website. Marketing is being targeted to users, for instance teacher educations in Sweden – and inside the institutions for teacher education. For TAM-Arkiv the project has effectively increased our knowledge about new ways of making the archives accessible to a wider audience - through digitalization and with contextual presentation. We hope to attract more physical visitors and research to our archives and see this as a model for marketing our institution towards our members. Ultimately this of course also is a question of maintaining our cultural heritage. We have also learnt much about both the risks and possibilities of running a project like this in a relatively small institution like ours.

#### **Irina Ostrovskaia (Memorial), The Memorial Archives**

Irina Ostrovskaia presents the Memorial organisation ([www.memo.ru/eng/index.htm](http://www.memo.ru/eng/index.htm)) that exists for more than 20 years now. It collects material from the victims of the *gulag*. She shows filmed interviews with victims of the repressions in which *valenki*, felt boots, form a connecting thread.

### **Friday 3 September 2010**

## **Presentations and discussion on the organisation of collections departments**

### **Presentation by Titia van der Werf (IISH)**

The IISH is carrying out an organisational change in the collections department. The IISH now has different task groups, e.g. collections management and preservation, audio visual materials, library materials, archival materials, reproduction and stacks, reading room and web site and collection building, but the reorganisation will break down these 'silos' (see the organisation chart). On collection building there is a separate project, so Titia van der Werf focuses on the other departments. The present organisation dates back to the 1980s, but the environment has changed much, due to digital development, the rise of the web, globalisation and changing users expectancies. Internally there are also changes, e.g. the ICT organisation, and the establishment of regional desks in the global South. A whole generation of staff is retiring, and we have to capture and preserve their knowledge. This change will be fundamental, a change in culture, in which we also want to empower our staff.

The methodology of the change is based on quality management, the quality circle. This is a group of workers who are trained to identify, analyse and solve work problems. The Vanguard method is one way of implementing this idea: Check/understand -> plan/solve -> do/normalise. One basic element of this method is looking at the organisation as a system, where changes impact the whole system. Also it is important to realise that the system conditions are responsible for 99% of the behaviour of the system. Consequently, things that go wrong are not to be blamed on individual staff members. We look at the system from the customer perspective. We analyse the questions that users have, and do not ask

the user leading questions in questionnaires. The next step is to measure how well we are doing in answering users questions. The work flow behind customer questions is then analysed, to detect value adding activities and waste.

The task is to make collections available and assist users in using them. We then measured users questions and the amounts of materials processed.

In customer research we distinguished between 'value questions' and 'wrong questions'. 'Value questions' are those we exist to answer. 'Wrong questions' are not wrong because the user asks them, but because we did not direct that question to the right address in the right way. We analysed 477 questions. There are 3 categories: requests for delivery, information requests and requests for practical information. Reactions in processing can be divided in 1 stop (direct answer); pass on to someone else, an expert or another department or to pass back to the user for clarification.

There are a lot of 'wrong' questions, many about practical information. So there is much to improve here, in this case on our web site. The delivery questions have a rather high percentage of 'pass backs'. We often ask our users to fill in a form, which they have to sign for liability issues. Is improvement possible here? Are the signatures really necessary?

What is important to users? Having material delivered at home or ready in the reading room.

Clarification about items found in finding aids, for instance the language of the materials. A question often asked is whether the user has found everything there is in the collection.

For half the delivery requests the user has to do something (fill in a statement etc.). More than 50% of the 'wrong questions' have to do with unclear information on the website.

Then the reasons for acting as we do were analysed. A couple of examples were given, e.g. we do not treat all users equally, but put more effort into answering questions posed by users who have already put in an effort themselves.

The process in treating materials was analysed. We found out that selection takes place at many stages. Treatment entails a lot of movement of the collections. Information gets lost often when material is transferred, for instance when a collection gets divided into different kinds of materials and information on the collection is not passed along. The whole process is material driven, not user driven.

Because staff does not understand why they have to do all this material, we have to discuss our collection profile and to refocus. We have to develop measurement tools to be able to add value for the customer. The work flow is material driven and we have difficulty in coping with varieties. We will work more in teams and quality circles. This will lead to a more matrix type of organisation scheme. The reorganisation takes an enormous amount of time and energy but we are confident that the reorganisation will be in place by the end of this year.

## **Prepared comments**

### **Alfredo Caldeira (Fundação Mário Soares - Arquivo & Biblioteca)**

The Mario Soares Foundation ([www.fmsoares.pt/aeb/](http://www.fmsoares.pt/aeb/)) is a library and an archive. Mario Soares wanted to make available his materials while he still was alive. Very quickly the collections were digitised and other materials were added. In 2001 the photographs were also digitised. In 2002 materials on East Timor were added. In 2006 audio materials were treated more systematically. In 2009 digital photographs were added. This year we started participation in HOPE, because we hope that that will tell us more about best practices.

Alfredo Caldeira demonstrates how materials at the foundation are processed. All material types are digitised and put in the same system. The digital image and the database are combined in this system.

There are three levels of access to the materials, 1. the internal level: the originals are kept in the depots; internally, staff has access to all documents and can work on high definition images. 2. the reading room: users may view the images on screens in the reading room; with only very rare exceptions originals are never consulted in the reading room. 3. on the website, [www.fmsoares.pt](http://www.fmsoares.pt), selected materials are made available; users can order prints. Over the last two or three years access through internet has been increasing while visits to the reading room are decreasing.

### **Hendrik Ollivier (Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis)**

#### *A new structure for the collections department*

First of all I would like to say that this presentation, as far as Amsab-Institute of Social History is concerned, is in fact somewhat premature. Actually, we have just started a reorganisation. We are establishing a broad outline of it, but we haven't defined all functions clearly yet.

On the other hand we have a pretty good idea about the forthcoming tasks, and the opportunities and challenges which are related to them. The three main activities of an archival institution can serve as a starting point for this presentation, that is to say the acquisition of archives or creation of the collection, the preservation and management of records or conservation, and finally the consultation of documents or access.

Let us first look back on the previous structure. From 1984 till the end of 2009 there were three collections departments: Archives, Library and Image and Sound. This structure resembled the one of the IISH and lots of other institutions involved in archiving similar collections. Only acquisitional activities, conducted by the Department of Archives, were to some extent jointly operated. Activities related to conservation and access were separately organized; within distinct departments, involving their own catalogues, stacks, staff members, and, I would even say, 'distinct corporate culture'.

Presumably, this structure was the best one for a very long time. But in those 25 years many things have changed and digitisation has been, without doubt, the most prominent change. Digital technology has created incredible new possibilities, but at the same time we have to meet with new challenges. The system of distinct departments had its advantages, but they became fewer; and it even became a hindrance leading to poorer performance at various tasks.

#### *Creating collections*

Let us now return to our key tasks, starting with the acquisition of archives. In 1980 Amsab was founded primarily because we identified a gap in the archival community. The Public Records Office was not interested in the preservation of records not emanating from public institutions and public authorities. The archives of trade unions, political parties, health insurance funds and the very diverse Flemish social movements could disappear forever. Because all these intermediary organisations were linked to political and religious philosophies, the latter got involved in archival preservation projects. Four institutes were established at that time: a socialist one (which is Amsab), a catholic one, a liberal one and a (Flemish) nationalist one. Every institute was actively tracking down archives in a 'well-defined area'. A decree – a Flemish law – 'concerning the recognition and funding of private law archives and documentation centres' settled the financing of these institutes on a permanent basis ( 27 June 1995). I am talking about Flanders, not Belgium, because the Communities – the Flemish, the French and the German Community – are competent for cultural matters. In Wallonia the archival landscape is totally different.

The influence of the ideological pillars has diminished considerably in the 1980s and the 1990s. Lots of organisations no longer match them. The archival landscape has also changed radically, resulting in less

gaps and more overlaps. The Public Records Office has a broader field of interest now. In addition to the 'ideological' archival institutions, thematic archives have been founded, such as a literature archive, an architecture archive, a music archive, etc. All of them are publicly subsidized by the Flemish authorities. Personally, I don't think Amsab should adopt a 'collectionneur 's' attitude within this particular context, that is trying to acquire as much records as possible. Archives should operate in a context of cooperation and networking; a clear vision should be outlined, we should develop a collection profile, and records should be exchanged and relinquished. Without any doubt, this task will become extremely important in the future, especially for the management of our institutes.

Moreover, networking towards creators of archives has also become an important issue. Archives often used to be transferred on an ad hoc basis, because somebody died, approached retirement, moved, etc. A more structural approach to archive transfers is absolutely needed as far as the archives of organisations are concerned. As a result of the digitisation of communication and information, creators of archives, currently involved in rearranging and preserving archives, are increasingly looking for support and expertise. It is not a coincidence that, last year, several institutions produced publications containing elementary advice on the management of records. Not a new task for these institutions, one might say, but definitely one that is becoming increasingly important.

Furthermore we are facing digital forms of communication such as newsletters and websites, for which adequate acquisition strategies should be developed.

### *Conservation*

Records management and conservation are also key tasks of any archival institution.

In these areas a new structure of the collection department seems even more desirable. Leaving conservation issues aside for a moment, and focusing solely on management issues, we notice that in practice the model of distinct collection departments has become outdated in recent years. Amsab-ISH has been putting what we call "acquisition registration" into practice for several years. This is a first step, not yet real access, but a vital element in archival management. We create an "acquisition file" instantly upon arrival of a new fund, a collection or even loose records. We make a note of the creator of the archives and the contact person, and we provide for a rudimentary description relating to the contents and the formal aspects of the archive. It is located in the stacks and it gets a unique acquisition number. All records relating to this acquisition, whatever their nature, receive the same acquisition number. Consequently, even if different parts of a particular acquisition get physically separated, the relationship between them can be easily restored.

These acquisition files are the underpinning element of a collection plan. It contains an overview of what the collection consists of, and it forms the basis for a list of priorities – a "priorities plan" – relating to access, restoration, digitisation, etc. This working method provides for meticulous management. We do not lose track of collections and they are preserved in good condition, awaiting better accessibility. As we all know from experience, it takes years sometimes before optimal accessibility is reached. Obviously, digitisation has had an enormous impact on conservation policies. Sometimes parts of collections are digitised for conservation reasons, because originals are in a very bad shape or because documents are considered unfit to be preserved in the long run. In most cases digitisation serves the purpose of better accessibility. Anyway, conservation always profits from digitisation. Originals are no longer manipulated when available for consultation; we can focus exclusively on optimal preservation. It also means you needn't take into consideration the nature of records. That is to say, it hardly matters if you are dealing with archives, books, prints or drawings. The pure physical characteristics of records set the standard for stacking them. Having stacks related to Archives or Library (departments) is less

important than having stacks for paper, textile, synthetic materials, etc. Access and conservation are increasingly getting separated; the same goes for the expertise and skills which are related to them. And that goes even more for digital-born materials. The distinction between documents matters even less with them. Preservation requires specific expertise, which needs constant updating, and new specialists. Close collaboration between the collections department and the ICT-staff is therefore absolutely vital. Possibly, this is one of the key challenges relating to conservation policy.

### *Access*

Providing (easy) access is the last key task of any archival institution. As we have already explained, access was dealt with so far by distinct departments (Archives, Library and Image and Sound), setting their own description standards and producing their own catalogues. This working method was, without doubt, fruitful and in fact inevitable. Indeed, description standards differ if we are dealing with archival, library or "museum" collections. Nevertheless, providing integrated access to our collections has been a long-cherished Amsab-ISG dream; actually, we cherished it from the beginning. The fact is that our collection covers a particular field of interest: emancipatory social movements, ecological movements. We have collected a wide variety of documents and objects since 1980: not only paper records, but also audio-visual materials, flags, paintings and other material relics. We are convinced that they are an important part of our cultural and historic(al) heritage. They contain historical information and are therefore a source for historical research. The latter should make use of all the sources that are available. We have been advocating this vision for many years.

The search for adequate and fully functioning software has taken a couple of years and was quite tough at times. However, we have succeeded in providing integrated access. The Adlib-system allows us to describe different parts of collections separately and according to the specific international standards, while there is an integrated access to the whole collection. In addition, links can be established between archival, library and "museum" collections. I would like to refer to the presentation I gave on this topic, for this very same audience, a few years ago. Of course, our catalogue is available for consultation via Internet.

However, there is more to be said. Our collection should also be accessible to someone who ignores the way to our website. It should be included in as many networks as possible. We are working on that now and to some extent it is already happening. For example, the "museum" collection has been integrated in the "umbrella" database of the East Flanders province and is also Google-searchable in this way. The search for metadata standards is an interesting project and we now contribute to it via HOPE and Europeana. In this field too, collaboration between specialists, ICT-specialists in particular, and cooperation between organisations, are absolutely necessary.

When providing digital access to our collections, we are increasingly facing some disadvantages of having established distinct departments (Archives, Library, Museum). Although we have recently merged the three collections departments, creating access still happens separately, by highly skilled specialists. Most Amsab-ISH archivists have two master degrees; and they take a strictly archival point of view. The same goes for the librarians, although professional qualifications of Amsab-ISG library staff are somewhat lower. Documentary collections, not figuring in the structure, suffer from lack of attention. Introducing a more integrated approach meets with difficulties.

Current training courses for archivists are certainly to be blamed for this. They pay little attention to digital access. They focus on inventories and deposit lists in paper form. Digital-born documents have also received very little attention.

So, this is the challenge that is ahead of the Amsab-ISH collections department. New methods have to be implemented. We cannot say for sure how this will be done. But the direction is more or less clear.

Increasingly, we will have to distance ourselves from the old, static divisional structure and embrace more dynamic project structures, allowing for a better performance. Cooperation with other sections, ICT in particular, will be absolutely vital. Cooperation between the collections department and the services to the public will also intensify. The main aim of our institute, actually our first and foremost priority, is to serve the general public, by providing quick and easy access to new documents, via a wide range of instruments and channels.

Let me conclude with a few key words. I may be stating the obvious but digitisation is an important key task in any collections department. Personally, I don't think the matter is particularly problematic; incredible opportunities are ahead of us. Secondly, I am convinced that networking and cooperation, both internally and externally, is of vital importance to sound management and better access to collections.

### **Andrew Lee (New York University)**

I work in a large university library ([library.nyu.edu/](http://library.nyu.edu/)) as the librarian for History, European Studies, Iberian Studies, Soccer & Politics. In the NYU collections there is no division by format, but between printed matter, archival matter and audio-visual materials. Processing and technical aspects of the job are not a large part of my tasks, but I assist in teaching how to do research. My task is to help people find things, which involves reshaping research questions. Many questions are "wrong" in Titia's sense, but we consider them as opportunities to teach our users how to do research. Some materials requested we cannot provide due to copyright etc. reasons.

### **Katie Mathe (OSA Archivum)**

The Open Society Archives ([www.osaarchivum.org/](http://www.osaarchivum.org/)) were set up around the archives of Radio Free Europe. There are cold war and human rights collections. It is also the archive of the Soros Foundation. Staff focused to public programmes. Institution is project driven. Shows an example of a programme: digital documents and films of the Hungarian State Security. For privacy reasons these materials remain closed, but people can request access to their own files. OSA attempted to reconstruct a parallel archive based on these individual files. Proceeding on this basis, OSA set up a parallel archive, where users can upload materials they have scanned themselves: [www.parallelarchive.org/](http://www.parallelarchive.org/) Users can keep the documents in a "shoebox" for some time, and then put them in order and describe them. They can keep materials private for two years. They can delete materials and organize them, until they become public. After that stage they can only change the metadata. OSA wants public documents to be stable, so they can be cited in research. Users can make private notes and use OCR'd text versions. When documents are made public, users get access to tools for commenting and communication with other users. This system could also be used to advertise other collections, or to deliver material.

### **Discussion**

Marianne Enckell (CIRA): A question on the notions "customer" and "user". "Customer" creates a division between people who hold the information and those who do research. But most users are themselves specialists, or attentive people, who could notice mistakes in spelling, organisation of the collections, etc. They could form an interactive network; there are exciting tools to do this. IISH lacks an easy means for feedback.

Titia van der Werf: This has been discussed during customer research. We discussed whether we should stop customers to register. But the argument that you are bringing forward, of networking and knowing the users, made us decide that we should perhaps cater to the needs of users by creating interacting networks of users.

Kalle Kallio (Werstas): This is a business based organisational model. You have declared that the customer is the key. Is that the user, the funding agency of the institute, or the organisation that donates the collection? The customer is the person who pays, but who is that?

Titia van der Werf: This is just a question of terminology. I would be happy to call the customer user. The donators of collections are indeed also customers.

## **Presentation and discussion on the challenges of global labour history**

### **Presentation by Marcel van der Linden (IISH)**

Eurocentrism. Three variants:

1. The west and the rest: the west can be described without taking the rest into account
2. The west knows the direction, because it gets there first; others follow
3. Empirical beliefs. Viewpoints assumed to have been proven right time and again. For instance in our field the idea that trade unions work best when they are involved in collective bargaining.

Within this Eurocentrist tradition important improvements could be made, like the step from "old labour history" to "new labour history" (Hobsbawm, E. P. Thompson) in the 1960s-1980s. But even the greatest works of this new school can now be seen as limited from a viewpoint of global labour history. Colonialism is simply disregarded. If we look at the Many-headed Hydra (Linebaugh and Rediker) we learn that the London corresponding society first also focuses on the difference between black and white. But after the slave revolt on Haiti, they dropped this element. None of this is to be found in the 'Making'.

Labour History was at first a western phenomenon, but gradually spread in the 20th Century to the semi-periphery and the periphery. Since the 1970s there has been much development in Latin America. In India labour history has flourished, giving rise to the Subaltern Studies movement. This has now ended in India but flourishes in Latin America.

From 1959 associations of labour historians in the West, 1996 Association of Indian Labour Historians, 2000 Mundos do Trabalho. In the periphery, labour historians in the beginning focus on the same themes as in western countries, and saw European developments as a model. From the 1970s there is a different wave, which undermines eurocentrism from different sides. This current thinks across and below national borders. This has been stimulated by the growth of transnational working classes in the South.

Global labour history is an area of study, not a theory. Many approaches are possible. You go where the connections lead you, without fear of crossing borders. Types of workers different from wage earners are relevant to your research. There is no longer a good reason to limit one's research to the period after the Industrial Revolution. We try at the IISH to develop new notions and new tools to do this. For instance there are slaves who are hired out to earn money and have an employer and a different owner. Apart from strikes, there are many forms of action, like leaving work.

We must not just study the varieties, but also the connections. I call this tele-history. We must also think of commodity chains.

## Discussion

Jean-Jacques Marie (CERMTRI): If we extend our research to all underlying groups, is there a limit to the definition of the working class? Won't the definition be too diluted if we include pre-capitalist oppressed workers?

Marcel van der Linden: For me the essence is that labour has become a commodity. So that includes the chattel slave.

Irina Koryakova: Would serfs under Catherina the Great be considered a working class? They were peasants.

Marcel van der Linden: Yes. Peter Kolchin for instance thinks that Russian serfs were very much like US slaves. Peasant is a vague concept.

Irina Koryakova: We have four categories of serfs. Are they all working class? And where was the Soviet working class in your speech?

Françoise Blum (CHS): I am convinced of the merits of global labour history. Does this mean that we have to use the literature produced by others? We cannot do archival work on all these matters.

Marcel van der Linden: the IISH answer is that we do more team work, for instance in the global labour relations survey project. This is new to historians, but quite common in other disciplines.

## Session with IALHI members' projects on the collection of materials for global labour history

### **Marcus Sommerstange (Bibliothek der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung), The FES Library's support of a political library in Dodoma (Tanzania): a different approach to preserving the memory of a country**

(Marcus could not attend the conference in person, so his paper is read by Rüdiger Zimmermann)

The Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES Library) is one of the few special libraries in Germany that play an active part in the system of special subject collections which intends to provide access to every book that has been published world-wide to researchers and scientists all over Germany. Within this system the FES Library provides access to its huge collection of primary publications of trade unions and political parties from Germany and many European countries. Besides this, the FES Library has managed to take an active part in the provision of relevant digital contents through its digitizing activities, partly even realized as IALHI projects.<sup>1</sup> The main pillars of this collection are both the close connections of the FES Library with many labour movement organisations and the technical and vocational skills of its staff members, especially in the field of the library and information sciences. Although the library community in Germany values the work of the FES Library and acknowledges its different activities in providing professional librarian competence for the humanities and social sciences, this aspect of the Library's work did not play a decisive role within the remaining parts of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES). The main focuses of the FES work become manifest in the keywords of its activities: *Development Cooperation, International Dialogue, Research and Consulting, Political Education and Scholarship*.<sup>2</sup> Within these activities of the FES the Library is part of the *Research and Consulting* area with the main attribute to preserve the memory of the labour movement. This

---

<sup>1</sup> One example for these activities ist the IALHI Project: Programmatic Documents of the Socialist International and the European Trade Union Confederation and affiliates (URL: [http://library.fes.de/library/ialhi/ial\\_fram.html](http://library.fes.de/library/ialhi/ial_fram.html)).

<sup>2</sup> See also the English language leaflet about the FES work (URL: [http://www.fes.de/inhalt/Dokumente\\_2009/FES%20SD%202009%20GB.pdf](http://www.fes.de/inhalt/Dokumente_2009/FES%20SD%202009%20GB.pdf)).

characteristic of the FES Library certainly stresses especially the aspect *Research* of the FES work, which also was visible through the organisational integration of this department within the Historical Research Centre of the FES which was dissolved in 2009 due to personal changes though. But the aspect of *Consulting* played not a really important part within the Library's work in the past.

This chanced almost two years ago when a special project of the FES office in Tanzania was revived. The FES offices in developing countries have constantly tried to support the development of the political culture through helping in building democratic structures or engaging in educating young politicians. Equally important is the support of political institutions, and in Tanzania this led to close connections with the ruling political party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). This party has been the most important political force in Tanzania since independence in 1962 (at that time under the name TANU – Tanganyika African National Union), especially for the long period before a multi-party system was established in 1992. Due to this fact it is a simple and logical consequence that the relatively young history of this country is essentially documented through papers, publications and documents of TANU and CCM. The CCM established a library in 1978 in its headquarters in Dodoma, Tanzania's capital. This institution, although always addressed as “library”, was and is a place which not only should serve as scientific library for CCM members, but always had the function of a repository for CCM publications and in the future might also include the great diversity of party documents that illustrate the organisation and structure of this party and at the same time document the development of the whole country.<sup>3</sup> As a result of the close connections between CCM and the FES office (and certainly between CCM and SPD) a memorandum was drafted in the year 1980 which stresses the intended cooperation between CCM and FES with respect to the CCM library project. The main pillars of the intended support were the acquisition of books and other library material, the provision of library equipment and furniture, the support of information and study tours and also the manpower development and training. The only result of this memorandum though were the acquisition of library shelves and a book donation through the FES library. Especially the further cooperation with respect to a sustainable professional library organisation was not realized.

This certainly was also a result of a rather poorly developed library system in Tanzania with almost completely lacking facilities for the professional education of information specialists in the country. In 2008 the visit of Mr. John Chiligati, CCM Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, initiated a new phase in the cooperation between FES and CCM which again focussed on the development of the CCM library. The result of these first theoretical considerations was a two-week visit in the year 2009 of the new head of the CCM Library and Archive section in Bonn, the only trained librarian of this section, accompanied by a co-worker of the library. On the one hand this visit was meant to enable the CCM personnel to develop further ideas for the development of their own institution and to initiate an exchange of experiences with the aim to establish a professional administration of the CCM Library. On the other hand this process also enabled the staff of the involved FES departments (Library and Archive) to understand the special needs of the institution in Tanzania and the people that care for the Library in Dodoma. It was one important finding that not only the library equipment needed to be updated and not only books and computers have been missing to establish an efficient library, but especially the absence of a professional supervision hindered the development of this institution.

This was the main reason why the idea of a library training in the CCM Library premises was re-established, planned on the basis of the long-lasting professional experiences of the FES Library's work. After the decision had been made that a librarian from the FES Library should undertake a return visit to Tanzania in order to conduct a training in the CCM headquarters for the library staff preliminary

---

<sup>3</sup> Currently the CCM keeps another archive for its documents and papers of the parliamentary group.

considerations for this training comprised the current state of the CCM Library, the educational level of the CCM Library staff and special needs of the personnel in Dodoma. In cooperation with the FES office in Dar es Salaam the head of the CCM Library and Archive Section finalized a program for the training visit that encompassed many subjects of a complete curriculum at an average library school: Collection development policy, classification and cataloguing, digital libraries, Internet-based library services, library administration, marketing, library cooperation and general library policy. This comprehensive program proved the urging need for a professional basis for the further development of the CCM Library.

It was clear that the training in Dodoma could not encompass all the mentioned subjects in a way that staff members would be able to autonomously organise any aspect of the library's work afterwards. Nevertheless the general aim of the training that was conducted on seven consecutive days in November 2009 was to focus all the mentioned headlines of the program, but without causing a discouraging situation due to the mere amount of the facts, concepts and processes that should be imparted. This was a great challenge for the successful progression of the training, as well as the fact that many aspects of the factual situation in Dodoma remained unclear despite all further requests for an extensive explanation of the organisational and personal situation of the CCM Library to appropriately prepare the training.

The consequence was that the preparation of the training was nothing but a mere collection of very basic aspects of the work and the organisation of a library, and all details to this had to be added spontaneously on the basis of on-site findings. The training sessions were organised like workshops on the mentioned different aspects. Each day comprised two sessions, and every session lasted for approximately two hours. Each session has been introduced through a lecture on the particular subject, followed by discussions on the current situation in the CCM Library, special aspects of this institution and a collection of ideas for the implementation of new or modified procedures in the library. Three brief examples might illustrate the characteristics of these days:

- On the very first day collection development policies have been discussed. The CCM Library consists of a number of older books in the field of politics and sociology, a collection of CCM publications and few papers from other organisations. The basic idea of asking other organisations for appropriate documents on the basis of an identified and decided collection development policy was rather new to the library staff as well as the simple need for an analysis of the existing collection to be able to plan further steps. This together with the need to think about who is responsible for this part of the library's work among the library staff was the first kick-off for the library team for their future demand of making decisive plans for the library and for thinking about vision, mission and strategy of the CCM Library.
- The second day was dominated by questions concerning the cataloguing of library materials. With the exception of the head of the Library the complete team was simply unaware of the different ways of the descriptive or subject cataloguing. Consequentially the library did not have any catalogue or at least a register of its holdings. Therefore it was important to communicate some basic ideas of the advantages and necessities of library catalogues. At this stage it was less important to refer to a specific cataloguing system (like AACR<sup>4</sup>, the German RAK<sup>5</sup> or the DDC<sup>6</sup>) than to consider the importance of any catalogue both for the librarians and for the patrons of the library. It is certainly not that easy to start cataloguing without any knowledge of appropriate cataloguing rules, but without a basic understanding of the needs for a catalogue the majority of all aspects of the library's work is determined to fail.

---

<sup>4</sup> Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, see also: <http://www.aacr2.org>.

<sup>5</sup> Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung.

<sup>6</sup> Dewey Decimal Classification, see also: <http://www.oclc.org/dewey/>.

– Another day concentrated of specific aspects of the future development of the library, which also included the different ways of seeking for co-operation with other libraries. The CCM Library is designed to be an institution both for CCM members and officials as well as a public scientific library, for instance for students and scientists. Although the library team had already realised many problems during their daily work they were not aware of the many advantages that might arise from co-operations with other libraries. Due to this the idea of swapping materials on the basis of a regional inter-lending system was equally new as the possibility to also swap catalogues or organise local library networks to seek for new ways of support for libraries, all this with regard to the many advantages for their patrons.

These and many more aspects have been discussed during the relatively short training. At first it might look like a useless project to deal with that many different aspects in such a short time, but the feedback from the library team was highly positive. For most of them this was the first chance to hear about how to professionally organise their own institution despite all existing drawbacks. They certainly still rely on the substantial help of the FES, for example through the provision of computer sets or book donations. But besides this, the training was hopefully a start into a new era for this library as an institution that will be able to meet all needs of its patrons within the given limits of its acting. As this not only comprises the services of a “normal” library but also includes the care for materials of significant historical importance this first training was intended to be only the starting shot for more supporting activities through the FES. This support will both comprise the provision of more technical devices and also include another training in October 2010 which is currently being planned. The aim is to finally shape an institution that will be able to organise the complete batch of processes and procedures without the help of others.

This is an aim that can be reached despite all problems that a developing country like Tanzania still faces. Archives and Libraries in Western Countries that deal with the history of the labour movement have a long-standing tradition to work on the basis of professional and well educated staff members (archivists, librarians and historians). If we seek ways to support organisations in developing countries we must think about ways to help them to establish a system where especially information specialists are generated to guarantee an adequate quality of work, especially for the further development of the historical sciences that have not only to rely on existing and appropriately organized primary sources but also on the professional services of information specialists. It is rather useless to seek for co-operations that neglect the importance of a professional development of the information sector, as this will result in even greater problems as soon as the beginning of the digital revolution also reaches these developing countries. If only one proof for this prediction is needed one should think of the batch of problems that is imposed on archives and libraries through the challenges of the long-term preservation of digital materials. It still is and in the future still will be the task of information specialists to organise both digital and conventional or analogue collections in a way that scientists and researchers can make use of them.

The way an institution like the FES Library can help in obtaining this aim might be limited, as especially the financial framework disallows a more extensive support, but the experiences of this cooperation show that there are still aspects whose communication are important for this process. Besides the simple motivation for a more professional organisation of the work within an institution like the CCM Library and the basic dissemination of information on the basis of our own experiences as indicated in the given examples this also must include the attempt to create an awareness for the fact, that the professional handling of books and documents is essential to preserve the printed memory of the country. The future of the CCM Library will hopefully prove the success of this aim.

### **Christine Coates (TUC Library), British Commonwealth and Colonial Collections in the TUC Library**

In 1919 with the foundation of the ILO and the reorganisation of the IFTU, the TUC became more interested in international working conditions. Its collections reflect TUC policies and interests; most are from after 1900. The earlier materials refer to Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Large holdings of material from India and the Caribbean data from the 1920s. Different materials are present, mostly printed ones on trade unions and labour law.

The collections are incomplete. They have been collected in a non-systematic way. Some of the materials are very poor quality, and need conservation. The collections are mainly used by external researchers, but the university is primarily interested in materials used by internal students and researchers. Catalogue is outdated, and not yet digitised. Projects are possible. Presently a researcher is collecting materials in the Sudan. Most of the trade unions that the TUC library has been following have switched to electronic formats now, and the library cannot deal with that yet. Political publications from the colonies include British political publications, anti-imperialist and exile groups. Christine especially mentions the Marjorie Nicholson papers.

### **Françoise Blum (Centre d'Histoire du XXe siècle), Archives africaines**

This is a project in the making. It is not finished, neither intellectually, nor technically. It is a database on African and Malagasian labour history archives held in Africa or elsewhere. The project focuses on francophone Africa; the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries; and before, during and after colonization. The idea is to publish an online guide, and to introduce digitization programmes.

To fill the database a network of researchers and archivists will be created. Correspondents for Senegal, Mali, Niger, Angola/Mozambique, Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau have been found. Work will be executed on line. Information will be collected on the contents, the state of the materials, the availability of an inventory, etc.

A workshop on African Archives of French trade unions and political parties will be held.

### **Third session of presentation of IALHI members' projects**

#### **Maria Pokacheva, State Historical Museum of Contemporary History**

From 1917 this was the museum of the Russian Revolution and the history of the labour movement. The museum is presented with its building, departments, holdings. There are branch buildings on relevant sites, among them those for the Russian revolutions, but also the apartment of the head of electrification. There are over 30 exhibitions per year, and collaboration with other museums, both within and outside Russia. Holdings are more than 1.300.000 objects, of which 20% is described in an electronic database.

#### **Irina Novichenko (IISH), Russian Social History Yearbook**

Irina Novichenko presents the latest issue of the Russian Social History Yearbook RSHY (see [icshes.ru/en1/shy/](http://icshes.ru/en1/shy/)).

## **Walking tour**

“Wet feet and no population growth in the 19th century”

Lex Heerma van Voss gives a short introduction to the Walking tour of Working Class History Amsterdam of which he will be the guide, this afternoon.

## **Report of the IALHI Coordination Committee Meeting, Paris, 13 February 2010**

David Bidussa (Feltrinelli), Françoise Blum (CHS), Lars Ilshammar (ARAB), Andrew Lee (New York University), Richard Temple (Senate House Library), Valérie Tesnière (BDIC), Geert van Goethem (Amsab-ISG), Marien van der Heijden (IISH), Titia van der Werf (IISH), Franck Veyron (BDIC), Rüdiger Zimmermann (FES)

Firstly, it is necessary to note that the meeting took place in very bad conditions. There were works in the CHS building, and such was the noise that it quickly appeared impossible to meet and debate in the library. The meeting finally took place in a nearby café, in very uncomfortable conditions.

Françoise Blum apologizes for that problem, in her name and in the one of French university — where, as every member of the CC could see, working conditions are getting more and more precarious and difficult.

The agenda:

1. Barcelona conference
2. Next conferences
3. Secretary elections
4. Financial report
5. HOPE report
6. Other business

### **Barcelona conference**

Françoise Blum presents Barcelona Conference report, which still needs to be read and corrected. All the Spanish speakers have sent the papers of their communications, but except Pere Gabriel, only in Catalan. They have been asked to send English or French translations, but until now, only two answered. Andrew Lee recalls that it is not impossible to get grants for translations from the Catalonian authorities.

### **Next conferences**

The next conference will take place in Amsterdam between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and the 4<sup>th</sup>. Marien van der Heijden gives details about its program.

The thematic part of the conference will be dedicated to the archival sources for global history — and even more specifically to Africa and the sources for African labor history.

The board committee agrees that a meeting of the partners for HOPE project will take place just before the opening of the conference, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>.

FES in Bonn will organize the 2011 conference. Rüdiger Zimmermann mentions that the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung has some financial problems (its budget has been reduced), but the decision to host the conference is not changed. Some grants could perhaps be received from trade unions, as long as some part of the conference would be dedicated to trade union archives.

The 2012 conference could take place at the Fundação Mario Soares, in Lisboa.

### **Secretary elections**

Françoise Blum doesn't want to be IALHI secretary for another term.

For the coming elections, all paying members of IALHI have a vote. A general call for candidates will be sent soon. The IISH's director, Erik-Jan Zürcher, has already announced that he will be candidate, but of course other candidates can propose.

For the election, the Coordination Committee adopts the following agenda:

March. Call for candidates. A letter (postal and e-mail) will be sent to all the paying members. Richard Temple points out that some English members don't receive information, because of out-of-date mailing lists (with wrong names, for instance). Is Françoise Blum's list the same that the one on the IALHI website?

30 April. End of applications (postal letters will have to be postmarked before 30th April at the latest)

Beginning of May. A letter (postal and e-mail) will be sent to all the paying members, with a ballot paper

30 June. End of vote (postal letters will have to be postmarked before 30th June at the latest)

The perusal of envelopes and the counting of the votes will take place during the general assembly in Amsterdam.

The coordination committee will have to be renewed next year at the Bonn Conference. If we want to welcome or co-opt a Spanish speaking member to the CC, some changes will have to be made to the IALHI constitution. These modifications will be presented to the General Assembly in Amsterdam.

### **Financial report**

Marien van der Heijden presents the 2009 Financial report of the Association, along with the new lists of paying and non-paying members.

### **HOPE report**

Titia van der Werf reports on the HOPE meeting that took place the day before the CC (Friday 12th).

Most partners were present, along with some members of the Committee. The project is currently corrected according to the recommendations of Marc Roeder, the Project Officer for the European Commission. The project launch will certainly be postponed to the 1st of May.

On behalf of the Fondazione Feltrinelli, David Bidussa presents the new Italian Risorgimento portal: its construction follows international norms and standards, and it will use the same platform as the one the CNR will develop for HOPE, so that data exchange and integration into HOPE will be possible.

(see: <http://www.progettorisorgimento.it/>)

### **Other business**

The question of the actual usefulness of the Serials Service is asked. We need to gather statistics and elements before taking any decision. Marien van der Heijden will send out a questionnaire on that subject, with information and questions for each contributor to the Service.

## **Report of the IALHI Coordination Committee Meeting, Amsterdam, 1 September 2010**

David Bidussa (Feltrinelli), Françoise Blum (CHS), Lars Ilshammar (ARAB), Andrew Lee (New York University), Richard Temple (Senate House Library), Geert van Goethem (Amsab-ISG), Marien van der Heijden (IISH), Franck Veyron (BDIC), Rüdiger Zimmermann (FES), Erik-Jan Zürcher (IISH)

The agenda:

- 1) Barcelona conference report
- 2) IALHI secretary elections
- 3) Amsterdam conference
- 4) Next conferences
- 5) New members
- 6) Financial report
- 7) Board committee renewal
- 8) HOPE project

### **Barcelona conference report**

Françoise Blum presents the final report of the Barcelona conference. A draft has been already presented at the Paris Board committee.

### **IALHI secretary elections**

The elections of the new IALHI secretary have been organized. There was only one candidate: Erik-Jan Zürcher, the IISH director. 42 members of IALHI have sent their ballots. The ballots have to be opened and the votes counted during the general assembly. We can be satisfied with this number, which means an interest for the association's life.

### **Amsterdam conference**

Marien van der Heijden presents the main lines of the Amsterdam conference program. There will of course be the general assembly and the project presentations (IALHI projects and members' projects), and also two thematic workshops: one about the sources of global history and the other about collections management.

### **Next conferences**

The next IALHI conferences will be in Bonn (2011) and in Lisbon (2012). Rüdiger Zimmerman presents a first draft program of the Bonn conference. All the participants approve this program.

### **New members**

Three institutions have asked to become IALHI members: the Open Society Archives from Budapest (it is a member of the HOPE project), the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschungen (ZZF) from Potsdam, and

GEHCEx from Caceres. Spain. The three candidatures will be presented tomorrow at the general assembly, but the three institutions have a good profile for becoming IALHI members.

### **Financial report**

Marien van der Heijden presents the financial report.

### **Board committee renewal**

The question of an enlargement of the board committee to others linguistic areas has been already asked several times. But in fact the reelection of the board committee will arise only in 2011. The board committee has to be reelected at Bonn conference.

### **HOPE project**

Marien and Françoise present the progress of HOPE project. David Bidussa explains that the Feltrinelli has a big digitalization program and that the foundation has a strong desire to become a HOPE content provider. Some participants, like Andrew Lee, do insist about the necessity of a better communication about HOPE. Two communications will be made during the conference (One by Titia van der Werf and the other Ernesto Harder).

## Financial report 31 December 2009

<b>Balance 1 January, 2009</b>		<b>€ 44.234</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees, invoices 2009	13.102	
Outstanding invoices	4.375	
Received membership fees 2009		8.727
Old outstanding invoices, 31-21-2008	6.384	
Old outstanding invoices, 31-12-2009	5.593	
Received old membership fees		791
<b>Total income</b>		<b>9.518</b>
<b>Costs</b>		
Victor Mphemphu	787	Travel Khanya College
Victor Mphemphu	120	Travel Khanya College
Biblioteca Pública Arús	2.000	Interpreter Barcelona conference
Biblioteca Pública Arús	822	Interpreter Barcelona conference
<b>Total costs</b>		<b>3.729</b>
<b>Balance 31 December, 2009</b>		<b>€ 50.023</b>
Outstanding invoices 2009	4.375	
Outstanding invoices old	5.593	
Invoices written off	-889	
Outstanding invoices		9.079
<b>Total</b>		<b>€ 59.102</b>

### Membership Statistics

	2006	2007	2008	2009
official members *	74	88	79	79
membership fees received (€) **	7.122	8.326	7.448	9.518

\* paying, paid for, non-paying

\*\* positive trend for 2009 partly because of correction for 2008 results

### Other Statistics

	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>www.ialhi.org</b>				
pageviews		280.685	*	19.176
<b>labourhistory.net</b>				
pageviews		35.405	*	184.917
<b>News Service</b>				
items published	163	217	401	200
<b>Serials Service</b>				
serials covered	130	127	127	128
issues	2.461	2.696	3.076	3.242
pageviews		166.805	121.996	205.694

\* statistics unavailable

**Paying and officially non-paying members (15-8-2010)**

1	Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis	Gent	Belgium
2	Arbeiderbevegelsens Arkiv og Bibliotek	Oslo	Norway
3	Arbejdermuseet & Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv	København	Denmark
4	Arbetarrörelsens Arkiv och Bibliotek	Stockholm	Sweden
5	Arbetets museum	Norrköping	Sweden
6	Archeia Synchronis Koinonikis Istorias	Athens	Greece
7	Archiv und Bibliothek der sozialen Demokratie	Bonn	Germany
8	Australian Society for the Study of Labour History	Sydney	Australia
9	Biblioteca Pública Arús	Barcelona	Spain
10	Bishopsgate Library	London	United Kingdom
11	British Library of Political and Economic Science	London	United Kingdom
12	Centre d'Estudis Històrics Internacionals	Barcelona	Spain
13	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Mouvements trotskystes et révolutionnaires internationales	Paris	France
14	Centre d'Etudes, de Documentation, d'Information et d'Action sociale- Musée social	Paris	France
15	Centre des Archives Communistes en Belgique	Bruxelles	Belgium
16	Centre international de Recherches sur l'Anarchisme	Lausanne	Switzerland
17	Centro de Documentacion e Investigacion de la cultura de izquierdas en la Argentina	Buenos Aires	Argentina
18	Centro Studi Libertari / Archivio Giuseppe Pinelli	Milano	Italy
19	Co-operative College	Manchester	United Kingdom
20	Collectif des Centres de Documentation en Histoire ouvrière	Paris	France
21	Collège du Travail	Genève	Switzerland
22	De Burcht / Centrum voor arbeidsverhoudingen	Amsterdam	Netherlands
23	ETUI-REHS Documentation Centre	Bruxelles	Belgium
24	Förderkreis Archive und Bibliotheken zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung	Berlin	Germany
25	Fondation Jean Jaurès	Paris	France
26	Fondazione Antonio Gramsci	Roma	Italy
27	Fondazione di studi storici Filippo Turati	Firenze	Italy
28	Fondazione Di Vittorio	Roma	Italy
29	Fondazione Gramsci Torino	Torino	Italy
30	Fondazione Lelio e Lisli Basso	Roma	Italy
31	Fondazione Pellegrini-Canevascini	Bellinzona	Switzerland
32	Fraternelle, La	Saint-Claude	France
33	Fritz-Hüser-Institut für Literatur und Kultur der Arbeitswelt	Dortmund	Germany
34	Fundación 1° de Mayo	Madrid	Spain
35	Fundación Largo Caballero	Madrid	Spain
36	Fundación Salvador Seguí	Barcelona	Spain
37	Fundación Pablo Iglesias	Madrid	Spain
38	Institut d'Histoire Ouvrière, Économique et Sociale	Seraing	Belgium
39	Institut Emile Vandervelde	Bruxelles	Belgium

40	Institut für soziale Bewegungen	Bochum	Germany
41	Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis	Amsterdam	Netherlands
42	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	Bruxelles	Belgium
43	International Conference of Labour and Social History (ITH)	Wien	Austria
44	Irish Labour History Society - Museum/Archives	Dublin	Ireland
45	Istituto di Studi Sindacali (UIL)	Roma	Italy
46	Istituto di Studi sul Capitalismo	Genova	Italy
47	Kansan Arkisto	Helsinki	Finland
48	Karl Renner Institut	Wien	Austria
49	Kheel Center	Ithaca, NY	United States
50	Labadie Collection	Ann Arbor, MI	United States
51	Labour History Archive and Study Centre	Manchester	United Kingdom
52	Lenin Museo	Tampere	Finland
53	Memorial - International Society	Moskva	Russian Federation
54	Modern Records Centre	Coventry	United Kingdom
55	Museum of Liverpool	Liverpool	United Kingdom
56	National Library of Scotland	Edinburgh, Scotland	United Kingdom
57	Noel Butlin Archives Centre	Acton	Australia
58	Nuffield College	Oxford	United Kingdom
59	Ohara Institute for Social Research	Tokyo	Japan
60	Organisatie Socialistische Partij	Bruxelles	Belgium
61	Paderborner Archiv zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung	Paderborn	Germany
62	People's History Museum	Manchester	United Kingdom
63	Réseau international de Recherche sur les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale	Nanterre	France
64	Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv	Zürich	Switzerland
65	Senate House Library	London	United Kingdom
66	Sozialwissenschaftliche Studienbibliothek	Wien	Austria
67	Stiftung Archiv der Parteien und Massenorganisationen der DDR im Bundesarchiv	Berlin	Germany
68	TUC Library Collections	London	United Kingdom
69	Työväenmuseo Werstas	Tampere	Finland
70	Työväen Arkisto	Helsinki	Finland
71	Universitätsbibliothek der Freien Universität - Sammlung Stein	Berlin	Germany
72	Ústav pro Soudobé Dejiny AV CR	Praha	Czech Republic

**International Association of Labour History Institutions (IALHI )**

P.O. Box 2169  
1000 CD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

[info@ialhi.org](mailto:info@ialhi.org)

[www.ialhi.org](http://www.ialhi.org) | [labourhistory.net](http://labourhistory.net)

url for this document: <http://www.ialhi.org/iconf-10.pdf>  
published February 2011