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From wish to reality: the foundation and early years of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO)

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Citation

Waal, W. (2024). From wish to reality: the foundation and early years of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO). In T. L. Gertzen & O. Matthes (Eds.), *Investigatio Orientis. Beiträge zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte der Orientalistik* (pp. 249-267). Zaphon. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3947622>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Oriental Societies and Societal Self-Assertion

Associations, Funds and Societies
for the Archaeological Exploration
of the 'Ancient Near East'



Edited by Thomas L. Gertzen and Olaf Matthes

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Investigatio Orientis

Beiträge zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte der Orientalistik

Band 10

Herausgegeben von
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Zaphon
Münster
2024

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Oriental Societies and Societal Self-Assertion: Associations, Funds and Societies for the Archaeological Exploration of the ‘Ancient Near East’

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Investigatio Orientis 10

© 2024 Zaphon, Enkingweg 36, Münster (www.zaphon.de)

Printed in Germany. Printed on acid-free paper.

ISBN 978-3-96327-248-6 (Buch)

ISBN 978-3-96327-249-3 (E-Book)

ISSN 2698-1904

Cover illustration: Medal of the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft (German Oriental Society), issued on the occasion of the silver wedding anniversary of the Imperial couple, February 27th, 1906, vs. Wilhelm II and Auguste Victoria in portrait, rec. logo of the German Oriental Society, bronze. Image files are licensed as Public Domain Mark 1.0, Münzkabinett der Staatlichen Museen, 18266627. Photograph taken by Olaf M. Teßmer. Medalist: Georges Morin.

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From Wish to Reality

The Foundation and Early Years of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO)

Willemijn Waal*

This paper discusses the early history of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO), which cannot be seen separately from that of the Society *Ex Oriente Lux* (EOL). Special attention is paid to the impact of World War II on the functioning of the young institute, and to Arie Kampman, who was instrumental in the creation and early development of NINO.¹

How it all began: the foundation of *Ex Oriente Lux* in 1933

The Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO) was founded in 1939, but its history goes back several years earlier, with the foundation of the Society *Ex Oriente Lux* (EOL) in Leiden on 22 May 1933.² The primary aim of this society was to link people within the Netherlands who were interested in ancient Egypt and the Near East, and to generate more interest for these fields of study among the public. Initiators were some students of Frans de Liagre Böhl (1882–1976),³ professor of Assyriology at the University of Leiden (Fig. 1), and of Adriaan de Buck, professor of Egyptology (1892–1959) at that same university (Fig. 2). One of these students was Abraham Arie Kampman (1911–1977), who would become the main driving force behind both EOL and NINO (see pp. 263–265).⁴

Kampman, who was then 21 years old, would later recall in an address delivered on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of EOL in 1958 that the students' initiative was at first not taken seriously by everyone.⁵ However, the young society managed to gain the support of some influential scholars. Professors Böhl and De Buck were prepared to be members of the advisory committee and they

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¹ This paper is partly based on research conducted for the project NINO WO II. 360° funded by the Mondriaan Fund. Unless indicated otherwise, the information given here stems from the archives of NINO. I have further gratefully made use of Van Zoest & Berntsen 2014.

² The society was initially founded under the auspices of the *Oostersch Genootschap in Nederland* but became independent in 1940 (Veenhof 2008: 11).

³ For F. de Liagre Böhl (hence: Böhl), see also the contribution of Sebastiaan Berntsen in this volume.

⁴ The first chair of the society EOL was the classicist Bob van Proosdij. The other founding members were Lucie van den Bergh, A.E. Thierens, Martien Beek, Jetty Boas, Piet de Boer, Henk Brongers, and Theo Vriezen.

⁵ Kampman 1958 [2008]: 64–65.



Fig. 1: Frans de Liagre Böhl (1882–1976) at Schiphol Airport in 1932 in front of the plane De Arend (The Eagle), ready for departure to Iraq.



Fig. 2: Adriaan de Buck (1892–1959).

were actively involved in EOL, giving lectures and courses.⁶ Other noteworthy supporters included the archaeologist Henri Frankfort, field director of excavations in Iraq for the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, the Egyptologist/theologian Gerardus van der Leeuw, professor of history of religion at the university of Groningen, later Minister of Education, and Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje, (retired) professor of Arabic and "Nestor" of Oriental Studies in Leiden.⁷ The support of these individuals definitely contributed to the success and longevity of *Ex Oriente Lux*.

EOL started organizing lectures and courses about the ancient Near East for a general audience throughout the country. These activities were quite popular undoubtedly because the many exciting archaeological discoveries made at that time generated great public interest. In the main cities of the Netherlands the society founded several local branches called study circles ('studiekringen') which organized lectures in their vicinity. In the heydays of *Ex Oriente Lux* there were no less than thirty-two such branches. According to Kampman, the society organized over 3.000 lectures in twenty-five years.⁸ In 1939, EOL started to look beyond its borders and initiated cooperation with Belgium (and Luxemburg), which was maintained during the German occupation.⁹

There were three different categories of membership in EOL: members-employees ('leden-medewerkers'), patrons ('begunstigers'), and donors ('donateurs'). Those belonging to the first category had specialized in ancient Near Eastern studies and were willing to be involved in EOL's activities as lecturers and/or authors. The second group mainly consisted of protestant clergy ('predikanten'), while the 'donateurs' included private persons and enterprises such as Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) and Hofmarschallamt Haus Doorn.¹⁰

In addition to organizing courses and lectures, EOL initiated its own publications to further stimulate interest in the study of the ancient Near East among the public. The first volume of the journal *Jaarbericht Ex Oriente Lux (JEOL)*, which

⁶ Kampman commemorates the great indebtedness of EOL to these two gentlemen in his obituaries for Böhl (Kampman 1977), and De Buck (Kampman 1959). For the latter, see also Bob van Proosdij (1959: 118).

⁷ On the occasion of Snouck Hurgronje's 70th birthday, the *Oosters Instituut* was founded in 1927, q.v. the contribution of Carolien van Zoest. In the address on the 25th anniversary of EOL, cited above, Kampman 1958 [2008]: 64 related the anecdote that when he and the other members of the board of EOL came to introduce themselves to Professor Snouck Hurgronje, they were announced as 'some people from Electrolux'. Fortunately, this misunderstanding did not prevent him from supporting the society.

⁸ Kampman 1958 [2008]: 65.

⁹ According to Kampman 1958 [2008]: 66, the name *Ex Oriente Lux* did raise some suspicion; the occupiers at first suspected they were dealing with freemasonry.

¹⁰ Veenhof 2008: 10. Professor Böhl was a member of the Doorner Arbeitsgemeinschaft of Wilhelm II, see most recently Böhl 2021: 220–246 and Raulwing and Van den Hout 2023.

exists down to the present, appeared in 1933. A year later, the first volume in the – also still ongoing – series *Mededelingen en Verhandeligen* (*Communications and Discourses*) *Ex Oriente Lux* (MVEOL) was published.¹¹

An institute is born

EOL's ambitions extended beyond the organization of lectures and publications. One objective mentioned in the statutes is the founding of a Dutch archaeological institute for the ancient Near East. In the fourth issue of *JEOL* (1936: 161–164), Arie Kampman, prompted by a proposal in the dissertation of H.N. Boon, explicitly expressed the need for a Dutch institute in the Near East.¹² Since Kampman did not consider such a project feasible in the foreseeable future, he suggested that this should be relegated to a second phase;¹³ the first, more realistic and feasible step would be the creation of a historical institute for the Near East in the Netherlands.¹⁴

On 17 August 1939 this enduring wish became reality; the Foundation Dutch Archaeological-philological Institute for the Near East (*Stichting Nederlands Archaeologisch-philologisch Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten*, abbreviated N.A.I.N.) was founded.¹⁵ The aim of the N.A.I.N., which later changed its name to *Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten* (NINO),¹⁶ was to support and promote all types of research related to the civilizations of the ancient Near East. This objective was to be achieved by organizing courses and lectures, providing lodging for foreign scholars, and, perhaps most importantly, by building a library collection devoted to ancient Near Eastern studies.

The institute was based in Leiden, an obvious choice because of the ancient Near Eastern expertise at Leiden University and the proximity of the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO). It was initially housed at Noordeindsplein 4a in Leiden (the former residence of the Indologist Jean Philippe Vogel) and opened its doors in spring 1940, without an official opening ceremony due to the war. The

¹¹ This first volume consisted of the proceedings of the 7th congress organized by the *Oostersch Genootschap* in Leiden in September 1933.

¹² This proposition read: “In light of the importance of the archaeology of the Near East it would be very desirable to create a Dutch Historical Institute there” [In verband met het belang van de archeologie van het Nabije Oosten zou het zeer wenschelijk zijn daar een Nederlandsch Historisch Instituut te vestigen].

¹³ This second step would be realized some twenty years later with the foundation of a Dutch institute in Istanbul (see §2).

¹⁴ Kampman 1936: 163, reiterated in *JEOL* 6 (1939): 3.

¹⁵ The members of the Curatorium of the foundation included Ir.J.R. Forbes and W.A. van Leer (Amsterdam), Jhr. Mr. C.H. van Haften (The Hague, see also p. 254), and Mr. A van de Sande Bakhuyzen (Leiden) and E. vom Rath, who passed away shortly afterwards.

¹⁶ For the sake of convenience and consistency, I will use the abbreviation NINO throughout this article.

building encompassed a library (which could also serve as a lecture room), offices, and guest rooms for visiting scholars from abroad.¹⁷ (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3: The library of NINO at the Noordeindsplein in Leiden in the 1940's.

Leiden professors Böhl and De Buck shared the directorship. De Buck was head of the Egyptological section, assisted by curator Abbé Jozef M.A. Janssen while Böhl was responsible for Asia Minor, together with curators Van Proosdij (Assyriology) and Arie Kampman (Hittitology). Kampman was also responsible for the institute's library and administration. The staffing of the institute clearly

¹⁷ Kampman initiated exchange programs for (junior) orientalists with several institutes (Kampman 1948: 272; Van Proosdij 1945–48: 229).

shows the overlap with EOL: Böhl and De Buck were in the advisory committee of EOL, Van Proosdij was its chair, and Kampman its treasurer/secretary, a post he continued to fill until 1974 (with remuneration since 1938). Officially, NINO catered to the needs of an academic public and EOL was aimed at a general audience, but in practice the two often intersected. EOL's offices were in the institute's building, and its library became part of the institute's library. This symbiotic existence was due in large part to the dual role of Kampman, who was intensely involved in almost all aspects of both organizations. As Kampman considered EOL and NINO to be share the same goals,¹⁸ he felt no need to distinguish between them and in 1940 he merged their administration.¹⁹

The institute soon became the caretaker of the largest cuneiform collection in the Netherlands when, in the 1940's, Böhl moved his antiquity collection to its premises. In addition to several hundred objects of various kinds from the Near East, this substantial collection included some 3,000 clay tablets.²⁰

The financial side

The founding of the NINO was made possible thanks to private enterprise. Though the institute generated its own income (see below), it owed its existence and success to several generous benefactors.²¹ First of all, there was Mr. Cornelis Hendrik Johan van Haeften, Esq. (1872–1951), a painter who was also a member of the Sichem committee (see the contribution by Sebastiaan Berntsen). Van Haeften purchased the Noordeindsplein premises as housing for the institute – an indispensable contribution for the functioning and development of the NINO. He was also a member of the Curatorium (see n. 15), but wished initially to remain anonymous; his identity was only revealed in 1949.²²

Another important benefactor was Frank Scholten (1881–1942), a gentleman scholar and amateur photographer (Fig. 4). Scholten, a gay convert to Catholicism, led a rich and remarkable life.²³ In the 1920's, he took thousands of photographs while travelling through the Middle East. His life-long ambition was to publish a series of books for the general public with photographs of the Holy Land accompanied by appropriate verses of Holy Scriptures from the Bible, Talmud, and Quran. He first published two volumes in French, which later appeared in

¹⁸ Cf. Veenhof 1978: 7.

¹⁹ Kampman 1947: 271.

²⁰ In 1951, Böhl sold his collection to the NINO foundation, still the owner to this day.

²¹ Kampman (1939–40: 560) mentions that the foundation also received funding from EOL and *Oostersch Genootschap*, as well as from private persons.

²² In a letter of 4 March 1942, Van Haeften warned Kampman that he might be forced to discontinue the housing arrangement due to his financial losses, but apparently these problems were resolved, as the institute could continue to rent the premises on very generous conditions till Van Haeften's passing in 1951. See Van Zoest and Berntsen 2014: 9)

²³ For more about Frank Scholten, see most recently Zananiri 2021.



Fig. 4: Frank Scholten (1881–1942).

German, English, and Dutch translations.²⁴ Scholten's plan to publish many more volumes did not come to fruition due to various circumstances. After his untimely death in 1942, all his photographic material and documentation came to NINO. He also left a substantial sum to the municipality of Leiden, which was deposited in a fund, especially created to finance publication by NINO of several scholarly books in a series in Scholten's memory (*Studia Francisci Scholten Memoriae Dedicata*, 1952–1982). It also provided a loan for the acquisition of the building in which the institute was housed when its owner Van Haeften passed away in 1951.²⁵ The loan from the Scholten fund not only enabled NINO to acquire the property, but even to expand the institute's quarters through the purchase of adjacent premises.

The institute generated its own income from book publications and services (such as the renting out of office) and the sale of maps and books.²⁶ These activities were mostly initiated and executed by entrepreneur Kampman, who was keenly aware of the fact that without donations the institute would not survive, and that its financial position was precarious. In a letter to the bank Lissa & Kann

²⁴ Scholten 1929, 1930, 1931, 1935.

²⁵ All Scholten's photographic material is now available online at the Digital Collections of Leiden University Libraries of Leiden, see: UBL Scholten collection. Link: [https://digitalcollections.universiteitleiden.nl/search/?type=edismax&cp=collection%3afrank scholten](https://digitalcollections.universiteitleiden.nl/search/?type=edismax&cp=collection%3afrank%20scholten).

²⁶ In 1945, for example, Kampman succeeded in acquiring the complete library of Fredrik Muller (1883–1944), professor of Classics at Leiden University. Some books became part of the institute's library, while the remainder were sold to third parties.

dated 7 October 1944 regarding a proposal for a rent increase, Kampman explained that various sources no longer generated income and he feared other sources might be temporarily lost as well. In *JEOL* 7 (1939–1940: 560) he expressed the hope that the government would at some point step in to support the institute.

In the 1950's some important changes took place. In 1955, Arie Kampman became the sole director, and the name of the institute was changed to its current designation *Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten*. The objectives of the institute were altered to include the study of recent developments in the regions that had come to be known as the Middle East. Some countries there were experiencing economic growth at the time and the Dutch government was interested in establishing new trade relations. In 1958, NINO obtained its first state subsidy through the Netherlands Institute for International Cultural Relations. From 1960 onwards, NINO began to receive government funding on a structural basis. What had started as a private initiative was now state-sponsored. Moreover, the ties with Leiden University, which had been close from the start, grew even tighter. In 1982, the institute relocated to one of the newly built premises of the Humanities complex (De Vrieshof 4). Quite recently, in 2018, the NINO research center became fully embedded in the university; its staff members are employees of the university, and the NINO library is now part of Leiden University Libraries.

Another important event in the 1950's was the foundation in 1958 of the *Nederlands Historisch-Archaeologisch Instituut* (NHAI) in Istanbul which later would be renamed NIT (*Nederlands Instituut in Turkije*) as it is called to this day. The creation of a Dutch institute in the region was the above mentioned 'second step' long envisioned by Kampman, who served as its director from 1964 to 1972. His eagerness and impatience for this institute to become reality are evident from the fact that the first two fascicles of the monograph series *Publications de l'Institut historique et archéologique néerlandais de Stamboul* (PIHANS) had already appeared before it actually came into existence.²⁷ The institute was officially inaugurated on 31 March 1958 by Prince Bernhard, the spouse of then reigning Queen Juliana – a testimony both to the well-connectedness of Kampman, and the interest in ancient Near Eastern studies in Dutch royal circles.²⁸

The early years of the institute and WW II

The start of NINO virtually coincided with the outbreak of WW II, which made the first crucial years extra challenging. In contrast to the University of Leiden, which had to close its doors in 1940,²⁹ NINO remained open and continued its activities as far as this was possible. In 1943, *Bibliotheca Orientalis* (*BiOr*), the

²⁷ Ryckmans 1956; Wallenstein 1957. From 1967 onwards, NIT also started to publish the journal *Anatolica*.

²⁸ See also note 37 below.

²⁹ For the role of Leiden University during the war, see Otterspeer 2019.

first publication of the institute, appeared. The initial issue of the journal was essentially a modest list (in Dutch) of acquisitions made by the library, but its scope rapidly expanded; first, short book reviews were added and, after the war, it also came to include contributions by international scholars in other languages.³⁰ Undoubtedly due to Kampman's wide international network, *BiOr* grew to be an internationally well-known and academically respected journal. Not only did it serve to make NINO (inter)nationally known, but it also provided a convenient item to exchange for other publications. As a librarian, Kampman worked very hard to expand the holdings. His extensive correspondence with numerous foreign institutions demonstrates his great efforts to acquire publications from all over the world. (Fig. 5).

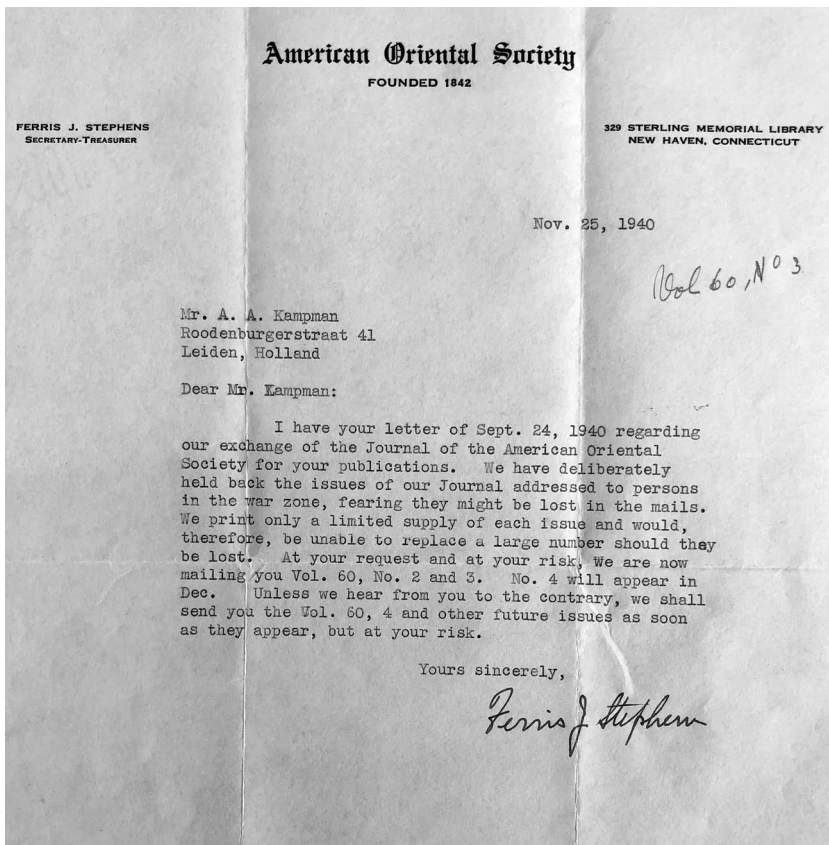


Fig. 5: Letter from the American Oriental Society to Arie Kampman regarding publication exchange, dated 25 November 1940.

³⁰ As pointed out by Nijland 1977: iii, it was possible in those early years to publish reviews in *BiOr* of Agatha Christie's mysteries on account of their depiction of Near Eastern scenes. On the history of *BiOr*, see Stol 2018.

The outbreak of WW II complicated this task in several ways. Because of the war, many publications did not appear and/or could not be shipped. With respect to the printing of the institute's own publications, special dispensation from the prohibition of printing was required. When permission was obtained, a next obstacle was the lack of paper. Despite these obstructions, the library could expand. In a long letter to Frankfort dated 10 August 1945 (see further immediately below), Kampman proudly wrote that the library then held over two-hundred and twenty-five current journals and series.

Other challenges the institute faced included control and censorship. The Department of Public Information and Art would occasionally demand the content of certain lectures to be released before being presented. In the letter to Frankfort just cited, Kampman informed him that the Germans "invaded" the institute twice. The first time he and Böhl were taken in for questioning; the second time one of their assistants was arrested (Fig. 6):

Robbed empty and looted by the ruthless *moffen* we have to start from scratch in many areas. That also applies to a large part of the area of science, but fortunately not for the studies of the ancient Near East. Restless we have over the last five years worked to further spin the thread of free research in the field of oriental studies. In order to do so, we have had to endure a lot. Twice the German police raided our institute with four men. After the first time Böhl and I were called to account by the SS in The Hague because we had been so 'frech' to invite a Jew to give a lecture (Prof. Cohen, who fortunately was left undisturbed), the second time illegal literature was discovered in the Institute, the stenciling machine was searched, but nothing else was found; however the 'gentlemen' took Caspar Kern, our assistant for archaeology, who was detained in Scheveningen in the 'Oranjehotel'³¹ from April to August 1943. Our colleague for Iranian studies P. Eggermont was detained from 1942 till the end in Buchenwald and Dachau, our assistant for Assyriology Madelon Verstijnen was caught in Paris in March 1944 and detained in Buchenwald till the end.³²

³¹ The Oranjehotel was a nickname for the *Polizeigefängnis* located in the penitentiary institution at Scheveningen.

³² "Kaal gestolen en leeggeplunderd door de niets ontziende moffen moet op velerlei terrein van voren af aan begonnen worden. Dat geldt ook voor een groot deel van het terrein der wetenschap. Gelukkig niet voor de wetenschappen voor het oude Nabije Oosten. Rusteloos zijn we in de afgelopen vijf jaren bezig geweest den draad der vrije wetenschap op orientalistisch gebied verder te spinnen. We hebben daar heel wat voor moeten trotseeren. Tweemaal deed de Deutsche politie met vier man een inval in ons Instituut; na de eerste maal werden Böhl en ik ter verantwoording geroepen bij de SS in Den Haag omdat we zo "frech" waren geweest een Jood te laten optreden (Prof. Cohen) die gelukkig ongemoeid werd gelaten), de tweede maal werd er illegale litteratuur in het Instituut ontdekt, de stencilmachine werd onderzocht, doch niets gevonden verder; echter namen de "heeren" toen

10 Augustus 5

Den Hooggeleerden Heer Prof. Dr H. Frankfort
 Kimeridge near Warcham
 Dorset
 Engeland

Waarde Heer Frankfort,

Uw brief van 31 Juli j.l. heb ik heden morgen ontvangen en ik haast mij er terstond op te antwoorden. In tegenstelling tot vorige jaren is het werk op het Instituut zoo ingedeeld, dat dit niet gesloten wordt in de eerste helft van Augustus. Daar is thans geen reden voor: we zullen hard moeten werken om er weer boven op te komen! Kaal gestolen en leeggeplunderd door de niets ontziende moffen moet op velerlei terrein van voren af aan begonnen worden. Dat geldt ook voor een groot deel van het terrein der wetenschap. Gelukkig niet voor de wetenschappen voor het oude Nabije Oosten. Rasteloos zijn we in de afgelopen vijf jaren bezig geweest den draad der vrije wetenschap op orientalistisch gebied verder te spinnen. We hebben daar heel wat voor moeten trotseeren. Tweemaal deed de Duitse politie met vier man een inval in ons Instituut; na de eerste maal werden Böhl en ik ter verantwoording geroepen bij de SS in Den Haag omdat we zoo "frech" waren geweest een Jood te laten optreden (Prof. Cohen) die gelukkig ongemoeid werd gelaten, de tweede maal werd er illegale litteratuur in het Instituut ontdekt, de stencil-machine werd onderzocht, doch niets gevonden verder; echter namen de "heeren" toen Caspar Kern mede onzen assistent voor arcaeologie, die van April tot Augustus 1943 in het "Oranjehotel" in scheveningen werd vastgehouden. Onze medewerker voor Iranistiek P. Eggermont vertoefde van 1942 tot het einde in Buchenwalde en Dachau, onze assistente voor Assyrisch Madelon Verstijnen werd in Parijs gepakt in Maart 1944 en vastgehouden in Buchenwalde tot het einde. Op de Alard Pierson Stichting in A. werd Mej. Groothand gearresteerd, die 2 jaren in concentratiekampen vertoefde. De heer Blok, de egyptoloog, zat gevangen van Jan tot Aug. 1944. Pater van der Meer werd ook achterna gezeten en heeft twee jaren als onderduiker in Leiden vertoefd.

Wat de personen betreft, waarnaar U informeert het volgende: Met den heer Böhl gaat het gelukkig goed, ook met zijn vrouw en 4 kinderen (jongste is 2½ jaar). Vorig jaar Augustus werd het geheele gezin door de Moffen-politie opgepakt, beschuldigd van heulen met den "vijand", doch enkele dagen later, toen bleek dat dit onzin was en Böhl ook geen Jood was, in Arnhem weer losgelaten. Böhl heeft nu

Fig. 6: First page of a letter of Arie Kampman to Henri Frankfort about the hardships of WW II dated 10 August 1945.

Madelon (Lon) Verstijnen, mentioned at the end of the paragraph, was Böhl's only student during the war. She worked as his assistant and rented a room in the

Caspar Kern mede onzen assistent voor arcaeologie (*sic*), die van April tot Augustus 1943 in het "Oranjehotel" in scheveningen (*sic*) werd vastgehouden. Onze medewerker voor Iranistiek P. Eggermont vertoefde van 1942 tot het einde in Buchenwalde (*sic*) en Dachau, onze assistente voor Assyrisch Madelon Verstijnen werd in Parijs gepakt in Maart 1944 en vastgehouden in Buchenwalde (*sic*) tot het einde."

attic of the institute. In 1944, she joined the resistance group of her brother Eric in Paris. The group was betrayed and arrested, and Madelon ended up in Buchenwald. NINO directors Böhl and De Buck endeavored to secure her release, but to no avail. Miraculously, Verstijnen managed to escape from the death march to Dresden in 1945.³³ After the war, she returned to NINO to resume her studies and her role as Böhl's assistant. They worked together on the publication of the volume *Akkadian Chrestomathy* which appeared in 1947.

A bit further on in Kampman's letter to Frankfort, he reported the arrest of Böhl and his family in 1944, which mercifully also ended well:

As for the people you have asked about the following: mr. Böhl is fortunately doing well, and his wife and 4 children (the youngest is 2,5 years). Last August the whole family was arrested by the *Moffen*-police, accused of consorting with the 'enemy', but a few days later, when this turned out not to be true and Böhl was not a Jew, they were released in Arnhem.³⁴

Kampman painted a vivid picture of daily life in the institute during the war.

I have worked feverishly with my staff of 10 people from 1940 onwards. We do not ask for personal rewards; all that I hope to earn with my lectures will be for the academia as a whole. It was hard to keep working in the years 1940–1945; people became more and more hungry, but they persevered. The orientalist did protest, when they went to give lectures, but they did it for the good cause through wind and weather, snow and ice, packed in animal wagons, draughty stations and shaky busses. They wrote articles in cold rooms with tingling fingers, but they were writing, with clenched teeth to be ready when the enemy would be defeated. The teachers of our courses had to hide, they lost their libraries, they ate tulips and beet pulp, but the lessons continued, the pupils and students in hiding could go on with their studies to minimize the delay. My staff worked at a temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit (= ca. 7 degrees Celsius, W.W.) in the month of January, but the work continued, the stenciling machine was running, the [written] lessons were sent out, publications were shipped.³⁵

³³ Verstijnen recorded the gripping story of her heroic escape in her memoirs (Verstijnen 1991).

³⁴ "Wat de personen betreft waarnaar U informeert het volgende: Met den heer Böhl gaat het gelukkig goed, ook met zijn vrouw en 4 kinderen (jongste is 2½ jaar). Vorig jaar augustus werd het geheele gezin door de Moffen-politie opgepakt, beschuldigd van heulen met den "vijand", doch enkele dagen, toen bleek dat dit onzin was en Böhl ook geen Jood was, in Arnhem weer losgelaten." The episode of Böhl's arrest is also discussed by his son Herman de Liagre Böhl (Böhl 2021: 171).

³⁵ "Ik heb met mijn staf van 10 personen vanaf 1940 koortsachtig gewerkt. Wij verlangen geen persoonlijke beloningen; alles wat ik met mijn lezingen hoop te verdienen zal voor de wetenschap als geheel zijn. Het heeft moeite gekost in de jaren 1940–1945 aan het werk

Though some orientalists complained about the dire conditions in which they had to give lectures, they nonetheless persevered, and they had reason to do so; during the war, interest in the ancient Near East flourished, and the number of members of EOL peaked.³⁶ Fascination for the remote past in a distant region may have partly been fueled by the problematic situation of the present, a so-called ‘flight’ from reality into the study of ancient cultures. The fact that other forms of entertainment were not accessible undoubtedly also played a part (Figs. 7 + 8).

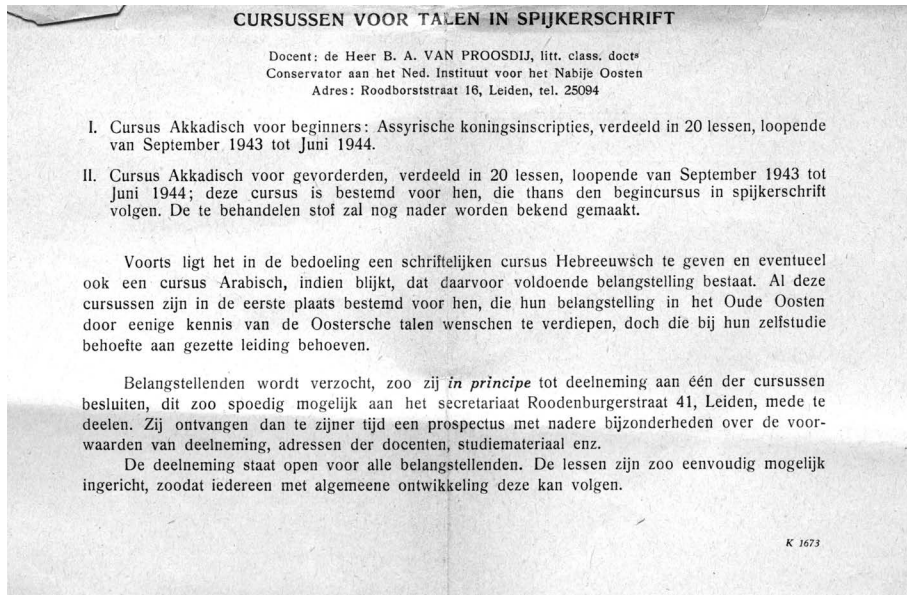


Fig. 7: Announcement of written courses in cuneiform languages offered by NINO from September 1943 to June 1944.

te blijven; de menschen kregen hoe langer hoe meer honger, maar ze hebben volgehouden. De orientalisten sputterden wel, als ze lezingen gingen houden, maar ze deden het ter wille van de goede zaak door wind en weer, sneeuw en ijs, opgepropt in beestenwagens, tochtige stations en rammelende bussen. Ze schreven artikelen in koude kamers met tintelden vingers; maar ze schreven, de tanden opeen om gereed te zijn als de vijand verslagen zou zijn. De docenten van onze cursussen moesten onderduiken, ze verloren bibliotheken, ze aten tulpen en suikerbietenspulp, maar de lessen gingen door, de leerlingen en ondergedoken studenten konden hun studie voortzetten om den achterstand zoo gering mogelijk te doen zijn. Mijn personeel werkte in den laatsten winter in een temperatuur van 40 graden Fahrenheit in de maand Januari, maar het werk ging door, de stencilmachine draaide, de [schriftelijke] lessen gingen weg, de publicaties werden verzonden.”

³⁶ In 1939 there were ca. 1,500 members, in 1943 ca. 3,000 and in 1947 ca. 3,500. Such high numbers have not been reached since; the society currently has some 660 members with 14 departments (one of them in Belgium).

NEDERLANDSCH INSTITUUT VOOR HET NABIJE OOSTEN
Gevestigd te Leiden, Noordeindsplein 4a

CURSUS AKKADISCH VOOR BEGINNERS
(Assyrische Koningsinscripties)

Tiende les - 4 Februari 1943

GRAMMATICA. Behandeld worden de verba waarvan de eerste radicaal zwak is. Een bijzondere plaats nemen de verba met prima w in. Op verzoek worden bij de opsomming der vormen de participia en de infinitivi nog eens gerepeteerd.

PRIMA ? : arābu, IVvorm (VI 34) - a-u: abātu: Ivorm (VI 11) IV vorm (II 14, V II 40, IV 25, V 26, V 22); adāru (V 9, I 6, III 62)

PRIMA ? of : a-u: alāu (I 60, III 11) - i: ekēmu (VI 16, VI 8, IV 57) - i-u: epēsu I vorm (II 77, I 5, III 11, III 49, V 19, V 57), III vorm (II 7, III 58, VI 41, VI 64); - a: anāhu (VI 76); - a-u: amāru I vorm (IV 24, VI 78), IV vorm (III 57, VI 63); - i: enēšu (VI 44); apāru (V 69)

PRIMA h: a i: alāhu I vorm (I 6, I 68, II 37, IV 55, II 81, IV 17, V 66, IV 52, V 6; III 59, V 38, VI 26, VI 41); I 3 vorm (tn) (VI 22); III vorm (II 22); - e: edēšu (VI 77); - i? : u: ešēru, "convoquer" (V 42)

PRIMA w: N.B. de eerste en derde persoon sing. hebben beide, ook in den I vorm als eerste letter u. Als in de I vorm de tweede radicaal verdubbeld is, zou men het als een II vorm kunnen beschouwen. Soms liever niet. Daarom in Lexique onder wašābu II 1 = I 1 geschraapt! De w maakt nu en dan een metamorphose mee, zoo naast wabālu jongere vormen babālu en tabālu; zoo naast wašāru jongere vorm mašāru.

a-i: wašābu I vorm (IV 8, V 16, I 12, III 53), III vorm (II 1, III 16, III 73, V 29); - i: wabālu I vorm (III 12), III vorm (III 48, V 34); warādu I vorm (V 24), III vorm (II 4, VI 4); ešēru (III 29); - a-i: wašāru II vorm (I 26, II 14, III 66, VI 27, VI 31, III 14, VI 21); - i watāru III vorm (VI 56)

PRIMA j: i: (i) ešēru recht zijn III 2 vorm (VI 39, VI 65)

PRIMA g: u: erēbu, I vorm (I 28 (nb. -mm = bm), IV 22, V 7, V 28), III vorm (IV 59, V 2, III 40)

PRIMA s: i: ezēbu I vorm (I 17, I 23, I 59, IV 25, V 4, VI 49, IV 41), III vorm (VI 28); ebēru I vorm (IV 37, IV 35), III vorm (IV 43); emēdu I vorm (II 40, 3de pers., II 67 1ste pers.), IV vorm (IV 55); etēqu (VI 29); etēru (I 24); - i : u edēlu II vorm (V 19); ezēzu (VI 82 ss = zš)

INHOUD: merkwaardige teekens, gevolgd door de verba met eerste radicaal zwak (die met prima n volgen, om overlading te voorkomen, in les 11); de betekenis van het Assyrische koningschap tegenover het Babylonische wordt besproken.

Oefening A is uit het Addendum III een voortzetting van de OB versie van het Gilgamesj-epos, terwijl onder oefening B ook vallen de geciteerde plaatsen in de Grammatica. Volstaan is met de regels op te geven, niet de getallen der teekens en de regels, het gros is toch opvulsel. Maar men mag natuurlijk zelf verder, als men tijd heeft, de zin opzoeken.

MERKWAARDIGE TEEKENS. NB uit Les 9 is hetzelfde als , dat naar ik ten onrechte meende in de eerste vorm in Snh pr. IV 74 voorkomt. Van hout () is  gu - z  troon,  kussu, en  PA (k ad) scepter, hattū,  gis  ba n, de boog  dāstu.

CULTUURHISTORISCHE VERKENNINGEN. Voor het moderne staatkundig denken geeft de Oud Oostersche staat menige moeilijkheid. Eenerzijds zijn er elementen verbonden die bij ons gescheiden zijn, anderzijds zijn er elementen die bij ons slechts een ondergeschikte rol spelen. Zoo zijn vorst en staat, om een voorbeeld voor het eerste geval te noemen, identiek, terwijl als voorbeeld van het tweede de rol van de godheid meer dan een mystiek rudiment is, zooals tevelen het "Bij de genade Gods" uit den aanhef onzer wetten willen opvatten. Volgens de Oud-Sumerische gedachte is toch de godheid en het land primair, vorst en menschen zijn secundair; zij dienen om den dienst van de godheid en de vruchtbaarheid van het land en zoodoende het land zelve, in stand te houden. De vorst is de vicarius van de godheid eenerzijds, anderzijds representeert hij de bevolking. Wie nu, vorst of god, het meest bijgedragen heeft, tot de schepping van de gestalten van de godheid, of van den vorst, is moeilijk uit te maken. De vraag is of het aardse geprojecteerd is of het goddelijke (een soort anthropomorphisme),

Fig. 8: Tenth lesson of written course Akkadian organized by the NINO, dated 4 February 1943.

‘Who did not see Mr. Kampman?’

Clearly, Arie Kampman played a crucial role in the creation and progress of both EOL and NINO (Fig. 9). Some brief background information about this remarkable character seems therefore in order. Kampman was born on 6 July 1911 in Dordrecht. In 1931, he came as a student to Leiden where he attended courses of renowned professors, such as Frans Böhl and Adriaan de Buck (already mentioned above), as well as classical archaeologist Alexander Willem Byvanck and historian Johan Huizinga. Kampman was fascinated by the Near East and took a special interest in Hittite civilization. In 1945 he defended his dissertation, *De Historische Beteekenis der Hethietische Vestingsbouwkunde* (‘The Historical Significance of Hittite fortification building’), written under the supervision of Böhl. Kampman is, however, not remembered for his academic achievements, but first and foremost for his organizational talent, tremendous energy, and strong networking skills. Illustrative of the latter is the anecdote in professor of theology Martien Beek’s obituary of Kampman. He recalled that he once picked up a professor from the airport, who returned from a conference also attended by Kampman. When Beek asked the professor if he had happened to see Mr. Kampman, the man’s dry reply was: “Who did not see Mr. Kampman?”



Fig. 9: Arie Kampman (1911–1977).

EOL and NINO were not the only organizations in which Kampman played a significant role. As a history student, he was co-founder of the *Leids Historisch Dispuut Robert Fruin* in 1932, and in 1942 he initiated, together with Professor

Alexander Byvanck, *Leidse Historische Kring* ('Historical Circle'), where he served as secretary for over thirty years.³⁷ Kampman was also active as treasurer of the *Vereeniging tot Bevordering van de Kennis van de Antieke Beschaving* ('Society for the Advancement of Knowledge of Ancient Civilization'). During his tenure, he developed the society's bulletin into an internationally recognized periodical.³⁸ In 1959, he founded the Netherlands-Iranian Association, after a state visit of the Shah of Iran to the Netherlands, and he became editor of the annual journal *Persica* in 1964.³⁹ In 1965, while serving as director of the NIT, he was appointed extraordinary professor in Ancient Arts at the University of Istanbul. Behind the scenes, he was active in establishing cultural relations between the Netherlands and Iran, and Turkey. It is difficult to imagine how he managed to combine all these tasks with a position as a high school history teacher in Schiedam – where he was beloved by his pupils because of his inspiring lessons.

Kampman combined his organizational and networking capabilities with a sharp commercial instinct, which is rare in academia. Though these qualities undoubtedly contributed to the success of EOL and NINO, they also had their drawbacks. His business-like and entrepreneurial attitude could come across as insensitive.⁴⁰ His unrelenting involvement also had its downsides. Kampman, like a spider in the web from his 'commando post'⁴¹ at the Noordeindsplein, controlled almost all activities of NINO and EOL, leaving (too) little space for others.⁴² Another shadow is cast on his character by the discovery of a membership card of the National Socialist Movement (NSB) of 1937 in his name. This Dutch political organization, led by Anton Mussert, sympathized with the German Nazi party. Though there is no evidence of collaboration on Kampman's part,⁴³ and the

³⁷ The membership in this circle was kept limited to evade the prohibition of unauthorized assemblies of over 20 people by the occupier.

³⁸ See, e.g., Byvanck-Quarles van Ufford 1977–1978: vii.

³⁹ In 1971, Kampman presented the first copy of *Persica* 5 to Queen Juliana when he gave a speech in the Ridderzaal in The Hague at the event commemorating the 25th centenary of the founding of the Persian empire by Cyrus the Great.

⁴⁰ An example is his reply to a Jewish member of EOL, who after his safe return from Germany, reconnected with the society in 1945. Kampman welcomed him back, but not without pointing out that there were some outstanding dues, since the member in question had not paid any since 1942.

⁴¹ In the words of Klaas Veenhof (1978: 7) in his obituary for Arie Kampman.

⁴² In 1962, a new EOL board was installed, which assumed some of Kampman's tasks, and began disentangling the symbiotic existence of EOL and NINO, a process which was completed upon Kampman's departure in 1974.

⁴³ The *Centraal Archief Bijzondere Rechtspleging* (CABR, *Central Archive for special Jurisdiction*) does not seem to contain any incriminating evidence against Kampman, nor do the records of the local police and the *Politieke Recherche Afdeling* (PRA) of Leiden. Likewise, the file kept on Kampman by the BVD (*Binnenlandse Veiligheidsdienst, Internal Security Service*) composed about Kampman (file no. 18293) does not mention any



Fig. 10: Photograph made on 17 December 1949 in the NINO library on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Institute. Centered in the middle are Arie Kampman, Frans de Liagre Böhl and Adriaan de Buck; on the left (between the ladies) is Bob van Proosdij.

card is not signed, its existence has nonetheless raised some uncomfortable questions. Though Kampman's persona may not be without controversy, his contribution to the study and valorization of the ancient Near East in the Netherlands is undeniable. As Pierre Eggermont observed, Kampman's great merit was that he was one of the first to perceive that in the Netherlands there was a growing interest in the Near East, and that he subsequently jumped to take advantage of the opportunity it provided.⁴⁴ Kampman himself would later reflect on this: "The revival of public interest in the Netherlands is a phenomenon peculiar to the 20th century, predominantly from 1920 onwards; its roots, however, already go back to the 17th century, and despite economic decline, loss of independence, and the slow awakening in the 19th century, these roots were strong enough to generate fresh, vivifying power from traditions embedded in the 17th century".⁴⁵ (Fig. 10)

NSB sympathies or other implicating activities. I am greatly indebted to Mathijs Smith (*Nationaal Archief*) for this information.

⁴⁴ Eggermont 1975–1978: vii.

⁴⁵ "Het weer opleven der publieke belangstelling in Nederland is een verschijnsel uit de 20^{ste} eeuw en dan nog in hoofdzaak na 1920; de wortels daarvan hadden zich echter reeds

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vastgezet in de 17^{de} eeuw, die ondanks economische teruggang, verlies der onafhankelijkheid en het langzaam ontwaken in de 19^{de} eeuw, toch nog krachtig genoeg waren verse groeikrachtige sappen te betrekken uit de in de 17^{de} eeuw gefundeerde tradities." (Kampman 1955: 162).

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Fig. 4 Published in the Survey of Western Palestine (left), and in Underground Jerusalem.

Sebastiaan R.L. Berntsen

Figs. 1–4; 6 NINO Archive.
Fig. 5 NINO Archive, box 1023.
Fig. 7 NINO Archive, glass slide 1056–014.

Marleen De Meyer, Jean-Michel Bruffaerts and Jan Vandersmissen

Fig. 1 Front page of *Le Patriote Illustré* (11 March 1923).
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Thomas L. Gertzen

Fig. 1 Jüdisches Museum Berlin, Sammlung Otto Rubensohn, 2006/227/0.

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- Fig. 6 Anton Jirku (ed.), Beiträge zur Religionsgeschichte und Archäologie Palästinas. Ernst Sellin zum 60. Geburtstag dargebracht, Leipzig 1927, frontispiece.
- Fig. 7 Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums 76.4. July/August, frontispiece. Digitalisiert durch die Universitätsbibliothek J.C. Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main [2022]: Compact Memory (<https://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cm/id/12661203>).

Willemijn Waal

- Figs. 1–10 NINO Archive. Photographs of figs. 6–9 made by Cees de Jonge.

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