CHAPTER TWO

AMSTERDAM, *INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY* (IISH)

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The IISH was founded in 1935 on the initiative of N.W. Posthumus, professor of Economic History at Rotterdam and, later, Amsterdam; the project was supported by *De Centrale* (Central Workers' Insurance and Deposit Bank), and had as its central aim the gathering and preservation of source materials on social history, in particular those concerned with the history of trade unions and workers' organisations, which otherwise—the coming world war had already begun to cast its ominous shadows—might have gone lost. One of the most spectacular acquisitions of the pre-war period was the 'party archive' of the *Sozial-demokratische Partei Deutschlands* (SPD), containing the personal collections of outstanding German radicals and socialists, among whom Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. After the difficult war years, when the holdings which had not been evacuated out of the country were confiscated and transported to Germany, the institute saw a new period of consolidation—the major part of the possessions returned safely to Amsterdam—and expansion. At present, the collection includes more than five miles of archival documents, and many more miles of books, periodicals, pamphlets, photographs, posters, audiovisual materials, and various objects. Turkey and the Ottoman Empire only became a special focus of interest in 1986 thanks to a growing interest in the area fostered by the presence of a large Turkish minority in the Netherlands, but was particularly triggered when a large collection of Turkish publications, photographs and posters, owned by Orhan Silier, became available for purchase. Henceforward the Turkish collection, consisting of books, periodicals, and private archives with materials of interest to the history of political movements but also of literature has been steadily increasing. Although the collections are easily accessible through the Internet—most recently the non-Dutch collections have also been described in Jaap Haag & Atie van der Horst, eds., *Guide to the International Archives and Collections at the IISH, Amsterdam* (Amsterdam 1999)—I nevertheless take the opportunity here to give a succinct survey of the Ottoman/Turkish collections which contain manuscript materials, and to include some plates from one of the collections in order

to give an idea of the many-faceted richness of the collections—for more details one should consult the on-line catalogue. I do not include here the archives of institutions such as political parties.

Anhegger archive (0,02 m)

Robert Anhegger (1911–2001), Turkologist and teacher of German, born in Vienna, who lived most of his life in Turkey, particularly from 1940 onwards; from 1961 he was director of the *Goethe Institut* in Istanbul and Amsterdam. The IISH obtained two photocopies of typescripts in German describing his travels with Andreas Tietze in Anatolia in 1936 and 1937. (See for his manuscripts and papers, including copies of the same texts, acquired by Leiden University Library, the chapter on the ‘Addenda’, below.)

Literature: Erik-Jan Zürcher, “Two Young Ottomanists Discover Kemalist Turkey. The Travel Diaries of Robert Anhegger and Andreas Tietze”, in Jan Schmidt, ed., *Essays in Honour of Barbara Flemming II* (Harvard University 2002), pp. 359–369.

Arar archive (10.2 m)

İsmail H. Arar (1909–1993), lawyer, parliamentarian and Minister of Justice, of Education and without portfolio (1971–1973), member of the advisory committee set up by the military after the 1980 coup; author of many books on Turkish modern history. The archive contains mostly printed materials documenting late-Ottoman and Turkish history.

Bahadinli archive (0.06 m)

Yusuf Ziya Bahadinli, born 1927, writer and educator; member of the Turkish National Assembly for the Turkish Labour Party, *Türkiye İşçi Partisi (TİP)*, 1965–1982. The archive contains documents concerning his activities on behalf of *TİP*, 1966–1977, and some letters, 1969–1982.

Fegan Archive (0.6 m)

Fuat Fegan (born 1937, disappeared 1983), leftwing political activist, friend of Hikmet Kıvılcımlı (cf. below). The archive contains documentation on various political organisations, the Cyprus question and the *Comintern*, 1957–1982.

Kıvılcımlı archive (4.12 m)

Dr. Hikmet Kıvılcımlı (1902–1971), prolific publicist, translator of, among other works, Marx's *Das Kapital*, and political activist. Member of the *Türkiye Komünist Partisi (TPK)*, he later, in 1954, founded his own *Vatan Partisi*; he spent twenty years of his life in prison. He escaped Turkey by fishing-boat after the military coup of 1971, and died in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the same year. The collection contains his private papers, consisting of notebooks, manuscripts of his published and unpublished works, and various documents, some concerning his escape from Turkey, but mostly papers related to a number of organisations he had been involved with. The archive was saved by his friend, Fuat Fegan (cf. above), who fled to Sweden in 1971 and intended to write a biography of Kıvılcımlı. It was acquired in 1992 and handed over to the IISH by Latife Fegan. The autograph materials are written in a tiny Arabic script, both in pencil and ink, which is difficult to read.

Küçük archive (0.12 m)

Celâl Küçük (born 1933), trade unionist, mostly active in the rubber factory workers union, *Lastik İş*, imprisoned 1980–1984. The archive contains his prison diaries and a memoir of his incarceration, 1981–1984.

Pamukçu archive (0.85 m)

Sina Pamukçu (born 1927), political activist and trade unionist; finally assistant general secretary of *Türkiye Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (DİSK)* from 1967; he moved to Brussels after the military coup of 1980. The archive, acquired in 1991, contains correspondence, notes, circulars and various documents, 1980–1987.

Sertel archive (0.03 m)

Zekeriya Sertel (1890–1980), writer and journalist; published, together with his wife, Sabiha Sertel, the monthly illustrated paper, *Resimli Ay*, from 1924, and founded the newspaper *Tan*, the offices of which were plundered by right-wing demonstrators in 1945. He lived in Azerbaijan and France between 1950 and 1977. The archive contains correspondence with his lawyer Etem Derviş, and some other documents, 1949–1954.

Figure 1. Amsterdam, IHS, Vâ-Nû Archive 209. Two pages of a passport issued to the writer and journalist, Aḥmed Vâlâ b. Nûrûddîn, who used the pen-name of Vâ-Nû, dated 1336 (1920), with photograph of the bearer.

Sülker archive (12.1m)

Kemal Sülker (1919–1995), writer of novels and short stories, journalist and trade unionist. In the 1950s, he became active in the trade union organisation of *Türk-İş*, in the 1960s and helped to found *Türkiye Devrimci İşçi Sendikaları Konfederasyonu (DİSK)*, and became its first secretary. In the 1970s he was one of the organisers of the Authors Union of Turkey, *Türkiye Yazarlar Sendikası*. The large archive contains correspondence, manuscripts of articles and studies, and various documents, mostly related to his trade union work, 1919–1993.

Vâ-Nû archive (1.4m)

Ahmed Vâlâ Nûrûddîn ('Vâ-Nû', 1901–1967), writer and journalist. After a brief stint as a teacher in Bolu, he moved together with the poet Nâzım Hikmet (Ran) to Moscow where he studied at the Communist University of the Workers of the East, and returned to Turkey in 1928. He was married to the prolix novelist and translator, Müzehher Vâ-Nû (born 1912). The archive contains materials originating from both husband and wife, and

Figure 2. Amsterdam, IISH, Vâ-Nû Archive 179. Letter from Yahya Kemal (Beyatlı), at Warsaw, to Ahmed Vâlâ b. Nûrûddin, who used the pen-name of Vâ-Nû, dated 15 September 1928. Sender writes addressee how much he liked his stories; all good writers were always poets first. Nâzım Hikmet had returned from Moscow under arrest. He advises addressee to write to the latter to abandon politics, and live quietly in Istanbul, the most beautiful place on earth. He could become a very good poet if he would refrain from attending and speaking in Communist meetings.

comprises correspondence, notebooks, personal papers, manuscripts, also in typescript, of literary and other works, and various documents, 1919–1996.

Among the acquisitions made since the early 2000s we find:

Dikerdem Papers (0.5 m)

Mahmut Dikerdem (1916–1993), diplomat and peace activist; ambassador to various countries; founding president of the Turkish Peace Association (*Barış Derneği*), 1977; imprisoned 1982–1985. His archive contains correspondence (1969–1992), typescripts and printed materials.

Gül Papers (0.7 m)

Turan Gül (1940–1997), journalist; emigrated to the Netherlands in 1971. The papers contain correspondence, typescripts and other materials, mainly on Turkish migrant workers in Zaandam, the Netherlands.

İsmen Papers (0.25 m)

Fatma Hikmet İsmen (1918–2006), plant pathologist; member of various left-wing Turkish parties; senator (1966–1975) for the *TİP* (Turkish Labour Party). The archive contains diaries, notebooks and correspondence.

Kramers archive (0.12 m)

Jan Hendrik Kramers (1871–1951), Dutch Orientalist; dragoman at the Dutch Embassy in Istanbul (1915–1923); lecturer and professor at Leiden University (see also under Leiden UB, Or. 14.221–228). The archive comprises personal papers, including letters, a diary and photographs (1925, concerning a visit to Kurdistan) and printed materials. Donated in 1992 and 1993.

Olçay Papers (0.87 m)

Osman Olçay (1924–2010), diplomat and ambassador to various countries; Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1971; Turkish representative to the UN and NATO (1992–1998). The archive contains a diary (1944), manuscripts and various other papers, including letters.

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Literature: Jan Lucassen, *Tracing the Past. Collections and Research in Social and Economic History: The International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands Economic History Archive and Related Institutions* (Amsterdam 1989); *The International Institute of Social History. The Department of Turkey* (Amsterdam 1991); *Sosyal Tarih: Uluslararası Sosyal Tarih Enstitüsü Türkiye Bülteni 2* (Amsterdam 2002).