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Introduction

The following is a very brief report on NINO's activities in 2017. In December 2017, a new agreement of cooperation was concluded between NINO, Leiden University, and the National Museum of Antiquities. A large part of the year was dominated by preparations for "NINO 2.0", as the reorganized Netherlands Institute for the Near East has been dubbed.

Continuity of NINO, its dedicated library, and its activities facilitating and supporting scholarly research was and is considered of crucial importance by all involved and interested. Several changes 2017/2018 have been indicated where relevant.

NINO is housed in one of the buildings of Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities, since they were opened in 1982. A few years ago the Faculty has started renovating its buildings; NINO has been a discussion partner on this topic as an affiliated partner up to and including 2017, and will be further involved from 2018 onwards. In 2021 or 2022 renovation of the cluster south of the main university library will be ready, and the following entities will move in: NINO and its library, the Africa Studies Centre and its library (ASC), the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), Leiden University's Middle Eastern Library (MEL), and the Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS).

This Annual Report is published online only, and without articles on the Ancient Near East as in previous years. Its subsidiary in Istanbul, the Netherlands Institute in Turkey, has published an Annual Report on its activities in 2017 separately: see www.nit-istanbul.org/message/nit-annual-report-2017.

Institute administration

Curatorium NINO-NIT

NINO is a foundation governed by a Curatorium (Board of Governors); NIT is a foundation governed by a Curatorium consisting of the same governors as NINO. The two Boards function as one. Members:

- Prof. Dr K. van der Toorn (President)
- Ir. H.G. Dijkgraaf (Treasurer)
- Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers
- Dr A.H. de Groot
- Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper
- Ing. Jac.G. van Oord
- Prof. Dr R.J. van der Spek
- Prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker
- Drs. W. Weijland
- Prof. Dr E.J. Zürcher

The General Director of NINO and NIT is secretary to the Board. The Curatorium of NINO and NIT met on 27 June and 18 December 2017.

A committee within the Curatorium of NINO and NIT advises on scientific matters. Members of the scientific committee are: Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers, Dr A.H. de Groot, Prof. Dr O.E. Kaper (president), Prof. Dr M. Stol, and the director of NINO/NIT. The scientific committee met on 6 April 2017.

Staff

Staff assignments in 2017 were as in the previous years; as listed below. Starting from January 2018, several staff members were employed by Leiden University, and continued their work for "NINO 2.0".



2017	2018
Prof Dr J. Eidem, General Director NINO and NIT (0.7 fte general management, 0.3 fte research)	appointed Associate Professor, dept. History of the Ancient Near East, Pisa University
Mr R.T. Dickhoff, financial administrator (1.0 fte)	retired 1 June 2018
Mrs C. Hoorn-Janssen, financial administration assistant (0.6 fte)	retired 1 January 2018
Mrs A.G.M. Keizers MA, head librarian (1.0 fte)	Subject Librarian Assyriology and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, employed by Leiden University Libraries
Mrs M.W. Keuken MA, library assistant (0.5 fte)	Subject Librarian Egyptology, employed by Leiden University Libraries
Ms O.T.C. Hoogzaad MA, library assistant (1.0 fte)	Staff Member Document Processing & Metadata, employed by Leiden University Libraries
Ms C.H. van Zoest MA, secretary (0.5 fte) and publications officer (0.5 fte)	Secretary/Editor, employed by Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities
Dr F.A. Gerritsen, Local Director of NIT (0.8 fte)	Local Director of NIT, employed by NINO, stationed in Istanbul (starting from 1 January 2019); Director of NIT, employed by Leiden University

Staff, affiliated persons, and their activities

Prof. Dr. J. Eidem (Director) continued his activities on management, as Editor-in-Chief of NINO publications, and his ongoing research; there was no field season in Kurdistan in 2017. He taught a course on West Asian Archaeology as Special Professor at UvA. **Prof. Dr R.T.J. Cappers** (Chair of Ecology and Palaeo-ecology of the Near East) continued teaching at the Faculty of Archaeology, supervising students and preparing publications and participating in fieldwork. **Dr J.J. Roodenberg** (Research Fellow) acted as Editor-in-Chief of NINO's annual journal *Anatolica* and continued his ongoing research. **Prof. Dr M. Stol** (Research Fellow) acted as Editor of BiOr's Assyriology section, in addition to continuing his ongoing research. **Prof. Dr J. de Roos** (Research Fellow) continued his ongoing project Treated Passages From Hittite Texts Project. Preparations to make further data available on the website were made. **Dr D. Giannessi** (Research Fellow and Collections Volunteer) continued her research and activities for the Böhl Collection and the NINO and Böhl archives. **S.R.L. Berntsen MA** (Collections Volunteer) assisted Dr Giannessi and worked on the glass slides collection (see below).

Prof. Dr J.F. Borghouts (Research Fellow) continued his ongoing research, mainly into the Egyptian language and texts. **Dr J.C. Fincke** (Research Fellow), **Dr W.F.M. Henkelman** (Visiting Research Fellow; EPHE, Paris), and **Dr A. Mouton** (Visiting Research Fellow; CNRS, Paris) continued their ongoing research.

Connections

NINO has a partnership with the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino per il Medio Oriente e l'Asia (CRAST), Turin (www.centroscavitorino.it), and is a partner in the networks of LeidenGlobal (www.leidenglobal.org) and Stichting Academisch Erfgoed (www.academischerfgoed.nl).

Library

The NINO library is an independent academic research library, open to the public but mostly used by researchers and students from Leiden University and other universities in the Netherlands and abroad. The library is an open shelf library where visitors can consult the book collection directly, except for items from our



special collections, which are available upon request. Books are not loaned out; copying facilities are available in the library.

Our library collections consist of monographs and periodicals. The Said Ruete Collection, consisting of books and archival materials, has been given on loan by the Oosters Instituut and has for many decades been cared for as a NINO library collection. All titles in our library are catalogued as part of Leiden University Libraries' catalogue, <http://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl>, under the heading "Leiden Collections" > "NINO Library". Two computers are available to visitors in the library for consultation of the online catalogue, as well as a list (on paper) of available periodicals, and a library classification folder. A list (pdf) of new acquisitions is published quarterly on the NINO website.

In 2017, 386 monographs and 175 periodical issues were acquired. Occasional gifts and donations are accepted if appropriate for the collection. In 2017 these counted to 72 items. At the end of the year, a total of ca 42,000 titles had been catalogued in the NINO library. The library collections occupy approximately 1,650 m of shelf space.

The NINO library is open on weekdays from 9.00-17.00 hrs; holidays and closing dates follow those kept by Leiden University. 8,850 visitors registered in the guestbook in 2017, mostly from the faculties Egyptology, Assyriology, Archaeology and Ancient cultures of the mediterranean world. The library can host a maximum of 66 visitors at once, and there are approximately 50 visitors daily.

Much time was devoted during the second half of 2017 to preparations for the reorganization, which is to result in the NINO library being directly curated by Leiden University Libraries (UBL), starting from January 2018. Negotiations on future shelf space, open-shelf policy, staff appointments and responsibilities, integration of the collections, and many other practicalities, put a great amount of stress on the three library staff

members. We are satisfied with the outcome: the NINO library will have a clearly designated space within UBL's Middle Eastern Library (in its new location starting from 2021/2022), with 1,000 m of open shelves. Starting from January 2018 all three staff members are employed by UBL, the NINO library acquisitions budget is doubled, and preparations to further integrate into UBL procedures and cataloguing (Library of Congress code) will start.

In addition, regular library activities continued, such as acquisition, conservation of the collections, an annual collection check, occasional re-organisation of book shelves, and assisting visitors. Bi-monthly work meetings were held among the three library staff members. In addition to a book display composed end 2016, one new book display was exhibited in the small showcase placed at the entrance of the library: "Enkele aspecten van het onderzoek naar de Hettieten belicht", selected publications and images on Hittitology.

NINO Publications

Published in 2017:

Egyptological Publications

Volume 30: C. Demarée, A.J. Stuart, V. Verschoor (eds.), *Imaging and Imagining the Memphite Necropolis. Liber Amicorum René van Walsem*. XV, 323 pp. ISBN 978-90-6258-230-3. €61.00 (excl. VAT).

Anatolica

Volume 43 (2017). IV, 250 pp. (9 articles). ISSN: 0066-1554. €69.00 (excl. VAT), including online version.

Bibliotheca Orientalis

Jaargang 74 (2017): fascicles 1/2 (januari-april), 3/4 (mei-augustus), 5/6 (september), year index. In total 690 columns (9 articles, reviews on ca. 125 books). ISSN 0006-1913. €148.50 (excl. VAT), including online version.



Collections

Böhl Collection

Specialized restorer Carmen Gütschow spent a week in Leiden (28 August-1 September) to work on our Böhl Collection. After examining all tablets in the collection she provided us with a full *Analysis of the assessment for restoration*. In addition, she restored two tablets, both on long-term loans to museums: the large tablet LB 2110 with part of the Gilgamesh Epos (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden) and LB 1035 with its partially preserved envelope (Communicatiemuseum). Ms. Gütschow also made a few rollings on plasticine (modelling clay) from cylinder seals, as we did not have a complete set.

LB 1035 (tablet with partial envelope) were first loaned to the Postmuseum in The Hague in 1962. The museum has since changed its name to Communicatiemuseum or COMM. In March 2017, when the museum was closed for renovation, the condition of the tablet was found in urgent need of care. After restoration, a new loan contract was concluded and the tablet was again put on display in the museum, in its completely renewed permanent exhibition, from November onward. www.comm.nl

Ten objects (mainly clay tablets) from our Böhl Collection and eight books from our library's collection of old prints were loaned to the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden for the exhibition "Nineveh, hoofdstad van een wereldrijk" (20 October 2017-25 March 2018). A few NINO objects already on long-term loan to the museum's permanent Near Eastern gallery were temporarily displayed in the exhibition, among them the large Gilgamesh tablet LB 2110 which had just been restored. Some of our objects were featured in the accompanying book. www.rmo.nl/tentoonstellingen/tentoonstellingen-archieff/nineveh

Eight clay tablets and four cylinder seals were loaned to the Belasting & Douane Museum in Rotterdam, for the exhibition "Van farao tot fiscus. Belastingen in de oudheid" (13 December 2017-18 March 2018). Riens de Boer (VU

University) and his student Fleur van de Sande selected the objects and provided the museum with descriptive texts. www.bdmuseum.nl/tentoonstellingen/farao-tot-fiscus-belastingen-in-de-oudheid

NINO was contacted by Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Struwe, The Hague, who wished to donate their private collection of antiquities from the Near East to a Leiden institution. The collection of ninety objects notably comprised a clay tablet with an Akkadian text, published by K.R. Veenhof in *BiOr* 73 (2016), and five further cuneiform fragments. The collection further consisted of small terracotta and metal objects, beads, one seal, ceramic jars, and a marble (column) base; all acquired during the 1960's, mostly in Turkey. We accepted the donation in May 2017 and transferred the objects to Leiden.

Glass slides

NINO owns a collection of several hundreds of glass slides, formerly used for projection, dating mostly from the 1920's to 1950's. With additional funding by the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds and the M.A.O.C. Gravin van Bylandt Stichting, we were able to make the most important part available online.

The slides depict archaeological sites and excavated finds, as well as images of the surroundings of these places: the countries and its people nearer or closer to the main focus of interest, Near Eastern archaeology and history.

The majority of the images were taken by F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl during his field trips to the Near East and North Africa in the 1920's and 1930's as a scientist or academic tour leader. Professor Böhl made extensive use of his glass slides collection during his lectures and talks for students and other audiences during his long career. Another large lot, partly using colour film, were taken by A.A. Kampman during the 1930's and early 1950's. His main interest was Hittite Turkey and the Levant. Most glass slides measure about 82 by 82 mm and are about 3 mm thick; a small number is rectangular. They consist of two glass plates framing a piece of photographic film (positive)



and kept together by a frame of glued-on, mostly black, paper. This is the regular way such slides were produced in the early 20th century.

Before 2014 the slides were stored in cardboard boxes for several decades, under fluctuating climate conditions, and not protected from light. Between 2014 and 2017 Deborah Giannessi provisionally cleaned them and stored them in acid-free archival boxes away from direct light, and compiled a provisional inventory list. She selected the slides to be digitized and conducted research into the slides and their background, discovering among other things that at least one of the American Colony images at NINO is not available in the near-complete collection of the Library of Congress (Washington). Towards the end of 2017 she withdrew from the glass slides project; a concentrated effort was then made to finish digitization of the selected slides before the end of the year. Sebastiaan Berntsen and Lidewij van de Peut cleaned and digitized the slides; Carolien van Zoest arranged the presentation of the images on the NINO website: www.nino-leiden.nl/collections/nino-collection-glass-slides.

Project results in numbers:

2200	records in database
2100	slides cleaned
1640	slides scanned in high resolution
1640	slides published on NINO website in web-appropriate resolution
1274	location markers placed on Google Maps, some with multiple slides (images photographed at same location)
430	inventory numbers assigned to previously unnumbered slides

Office

In addition to ongoing work on publications, collections, secretarial matters, events etc., preparations and negotiations for “NINO 2.0” demanded time and put stress on the Director and the secretary/publications officer.

Many written and verbal reactions to the plan to reorganize NINO were received from concerned colleagues. In addition, an online petition was initiated, to “Support the independence of NINO and the future of Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the Netherlands”. This petition was signed by over 2000 people worldwide; the signatures were handed to Curatorium members at their June meeting, together with the written statements received mainly through email. We regard the comments as a testimony of the excellent services to the field of Near Eastern Studies provided by NINO since its foundation – many reactions especially praised the NINO library. The reactions have served as a reminder that many colleagues and students in the Netherlands and abroad highly value NINO, and have strengthened our determination to continue and improve the reorganized institute.

During the second half of the year, Carolien van Zoest assisted quarter maker Caroline Waerzeggers in many talks with interested parties.

Outreach

Monthly NINO lectures were held at the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (Thursday afternoons at 15.00 hrs). In addition, the annual Veenhof Lecture was held in November, the annual Leiden Lecture on Ancient Arabian Civilization was held in December, and a book launch was organized in May.



26 January	Ivan Kisjes	Digital imaging-technieken in de archeologie van het Nabije Oosten
23 February	Maarten Raven	Foto's van Insinger in de collectie van het RMO
23 March	Gerrit van der Kooij	Franz Böhl in Sichem/Tell Balata
20 April	Hendrik Hameeuw	Reflectie op het gebruik van 3D-technologieën voor de documentatie van bedreigd cultureel erfgoed
Monday 1 May, 16.30 hrs	various speakers	book launch (with Leiden University and Brill): <i>A Grammar of Old Assyrian</i> , N.J.C. Kouwenberg
1 June	Hans van den Berg	Opgravingen in het Nabije Oosten en Egypte in vroege filmbeelden
Tuesday 24 October	Hans Neumann	Nineveh and Assur in the third millennium BC
Friday 24 November, 20.00 hrs	Daniele Morandi Bonacossi	Veenhof-lezing (with RMO): The rise and fall of the Assyrian Empire as seen from the Nineveh countryside
12 December	Peter Akkermans	4 th Leiden Lecture on Ancient Arabian Civilization (with LeiCenSAA): Centering on the Periphery: The Archaeology of Jordan's Eastern Badlands
14 December	Jan Gerrit Dercksen	Daar werd wat groots verricht. De stad Assur en zijn handelskoloniën

These events were well-attended; ca. 200 persons were present at the Veenhof Lecture.

An international workshop was co-organised with CRAFT (Turin) and Pisa University: "Beyond the Text. The Materiality of Ancient Egyptian and Near Eastern Texts". On 11 December the workshop took place in Pisa with ca. 12 speakers and 25 invited public, who highly valued the event. A second workshop on this theme is planned for early 2019.

PR

The NINO website, Facebook page and mailing lists were used to announce events and news. Messages are in Dutch or English depending on the intended audience.

The NINO website (www.nino-leiden.nl) was visited by 16,734 users, and had 60,701 page views in 2017, of which 46,937 unique page views. The most visited pages were the homepage (7,944 views), the Publications (6,375) and Library (3,645) pages.

The NINO Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NINO.Leiden) crossed the milestone of 1,000 followers on 4 November. Most Facebook posts were viewed by 300 to 400 persons; the post (in Dutch and English) of 27 June announcing the new cooperation between NINO, Leiden University, and RMO was viewed by 4,157 persons. A total of 114 messages and 20 events were posted.

Mailings on NINO activities and NINO publications (two separate audiences) were viewed by ca. 350 persons per message. 10 mailings were sent out.