

TO OUR READERS

On september 1, 1987, Arend (A.V.N.) van Woerden retired as editorial secretary of the *International Review of Social History*.

Twenty-five years ago Mr van Woerden started his work at the Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis as assistant to Mr Frits Kool, at that time editor of the *Review*. In 1964 Mr Kool's duties were partly taken over by an editorial board consisting of the heads of departments of the institute. From that moment Mr van Woerden had the function of editorial administrator (until 1968) and that of editorial secretary of the *Review*. In those functions he not only had the responsibility for desk-editing all manuscripts for over twenty-three years, he also wrote a large part – and sometimes all – of the bibliography, which had developed into an essential tool for thousands of researchers.

In his work, which he did with particular devotion, Mr van Woerden was always moved by what he himself calls “the philological ethos”, but what could be described as an unusual combination of erudition, accuracy and striving after consistency. Many contributors have profited by it in the course of years.

During the coming years Mr van Woerden, who recently reached the age of sixty, will work on the edition of the writings of Erasmus of Rotterdam, prepared under the auspices of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. We wish him luck and success.

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Simultaneously with this issue of the *Review* a supplement appears, containing an introduction by Roy Medvedev and an essay on the Makhno movement by the late Vladimir Litvinov. It is possible that in the future more supplements will be published; their aim being to make available contributions that are unsuitable for publication as ordinary articles, either because of their length, or their language, yet are considered important by the editorial committee.

Marcel van der Linden