

HJBF Archive Project

2007 - Present

Wim Kramer, HJBF

Presentation PHCP 2014, Utrecht, June 13th, 2014

Start Phase 2004 - 2007



- Regained time to do historical research on the history of Dutch Parapsychology
- Noticed much materials were lost
- No formal archives nor any interest in the topic by archivists and parapsychologist
- Books and original documents thrown away because of needed space for commercial courses; nobody was interested for many years
- This 'no interest for decades', I would hear over and over in the years following

Decision to Set Up Project



- Only way to do it seriously and obtain results for the long run
- Board of HJBF enthusiastic
 - Financial support
 - For the long run
- Focus
 - Dutch
 - Parapsychology (Science)
 - Spiritualistic movement
- Because other esoteric movements in Holland are already taken care off
- More or less serious...?

Output



- Publicly available
- Represent both fields in a complete way
- At least for coming 50 - 100 years secured
- To find on the Internet
- In future access via the Internet
- What
 - books
 - documents
 - audio / video / film
 - photographs
- Artifacts

Handing Over



- National Dutch Library (The Hague)
- National Archive (The Hague)
- University Libraries
- Regional Archives (there are 11 Regional Archives in Holland)
- **NOTE: NOT** keep in private hands...
- **DECISION:** Hand over in ownership or on deposit base? We decide upon this on a case by case basis

Identifying & Obtaining



- Sounds simple, but in practice it is a long way to go...
- Where to look?
- What archives might be out there?
- Does the owner want to part of it?

■ KEY DECISIONS:

- 1: NOT BUYING or even offering anything in return; we just archive it
- 2: Legally handing over the materials in full ownership to HJBF

You win some, you lose some ...



HARMONIA (Jan 2009 - Nov 2013)



Gerard Croiset Archives



Lessons Learned



- Map the field in your country and try to find connections to other archives
- Small archives might be of more importance than huge ones...
- Identity archives lost for ever (or not?)
- Do not underestimate the time it takes to complete an archive
- Enthusiastic volunteers from 'inside'... reading, talking, but not making much progress...
- Keep your head cool, stay focused and take your time...

Issues we face...



- When to stop?
- Do we need to connect our country Holland to the international field?
- (Int.) exchange of books, documents, etc. with other projects / archives / societies
- How to deal with audio / video / film materials...
 - It takes a lot of time to process and it is very expensive...
- How and where to preserve artifacts

Thanks for your attention

Questions, remarks, discussions or tips to help us improve our project.

