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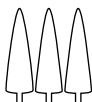
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*Committee members at Raymonds place in Pijnacker (Netherlands), April 2005. Last row from left to right Gustaaf, Annemie, Charles and Bob. Front row from left to right Raymond, Jan Willem en Jeroen.*

*Front cover Bulletin: On April 29, 1843 king William II visited in Amsterdam the first floating dock in the Netherlands. On the painting by Hendrik Vettewinckel the royal barge rowing to the dock has been depicted. In the dock stands the barque 'Amstel' of 'Boissevain & Kooy' shipowners (detail). The painting, the royal barge and a model of the floating dock are on display in the Netherlands Maritime Museum this April 8.*



## PREFACE

**W**ell, I could yell it from the rooftops: **COME TO THE NEXT FAMILY REUNION IN AMSTERDAM ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON THE 8<sup>th</sup> OF APRIL!** By then we in the Netherlands, will have had three months worth of experience with the new medical and superannuation systems and it could be that a good relationship with family members will be of even greater importance than it is now! Of course we are also eager to find out if there will be just as many relatives coming from the United States, Canada, England, Switzerland and France as last time and who will add a week's holiday in Holland in the process. On the 7th of April 2001 we had a record attendance of around 140 participants and it would be fantastic if we could match that. Have another look at the photo's from that reunion in the 2001 Bulletin. Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will find more information about this coming reunion which will have 'something for everyone'. One thing is certain: you will definitely meet people that you haven't seen for a long time and who you always wanted to meet again!

In the last summer holidays I read the recently published, very thorough biography of Aletta Jacobs in just a few days. Aletta Jacobs (1854 - 1929) is a woman who changed the status of the Netherlands. She was the first woman in Holland who went to the HBS, the first woman who attended university, the first woman who became a doctor and the first woman who obtained her doctorate. And she had other qualities. Just a few examples: for nearly a quarter century she was head of the Association for Women's Suffrage in the Netherlands and in her mission for world peace she visited the American president at the time Woodrow Wilson. Dr. Mia Boissevain and Maria Barbera Boissevain - Pijnappel were also part of this 'world', and it is good to know that there were also Boissevains involved in this struggle for a good cause. It so happened that I was contacted, through e-mail, by Klarissa Nienhuys, granddaughter of Maria Boissevain - Pijnappel and daughter of the novelist Dieuke Boissevain (NP p 71). She is also interested in this subject. We were both amazed that a busy couple with work, several executive functions and ten children could still find the time to fight for women's suffrage. Maria was among other things president of the Confederation for women's suffrage. Klarissa's story about Nanna, the woman behind Maria Boissevain - Pijnappel, explains much regarding the ins and outs of the Boissevain - Pijnappel household. Many thanks for this. We are already

looking forward to the sequence of the biologist Mia Boissevain (1878 - 1959) who received her doctorate in 1903, was the best dressed woman in the Netherlands around 1900 and was part of the exhibition 'The Woman 1813 - 1913'.

In September the Dutch Boissevains were again harassed by an advertising letter from the Dutch Genealogy Society, who offers 'interesting history of the old family Boissevain' for sale. Please ignore this! You will receive a book that consist for 80 % of a general genealogical story, and for the rest of a sort of copy from the telephone book with the name Boissevain. It is promoted by the same useless person who offered this book for sale through publishing company 'De Heraut' in 2001. He offers many other families the same and he was nailed on public television by one of the consumer's programmes. Complete fraud. A copy of the book is available for you to inspect at the reunion. And finally: click onto [www.familienaam.nl](http://www.familienaam.nl) and fill in your name. Everything points to Amsterdam and that's why we're organizing the reunion there! Happy New Year.

*Charles F.C.G. Boissevain, president*



*Picture of Charles E.H. Boissevain and Maria Barbera Pijnappel, probably taken on or around their wedding date in 1891.*

## FAMILY REUNION SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> of APRIL

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April the Boissevain family will get together again for a big reunion in Amsterdam. In the program there is a little bit of maritime family history, the always popular cruise through the canals of Amsterdam, but mainly a lot of time to be together and catch up with one another. The first registrations had already come in before we had finished making the program so we trust that you will show up again in large numbers. Don't hesitate to call each other, to write, arrange to carpool, etc, as long as you will come!

The program begins in the Dutch Maritime Museum, where we will have a tour about the shipping industry in the nineteenth century, with a focus on some specific Boissevain subjects. For the children there is a tour on the replica VOC-ship *Amsterdam*, which lies next to the museum. After the tour you can visit the museum on your own account or have lunch at the museum restaurant. From the museum we will take the canal boat to Maison Descartes.

The caretaker of the old Walloon orphanage is very compassionate about the ties the family has with this building and will gladly open its doors for us. The reunion in Descartes starts with tea, coffee and a drink, with lots of time to chat. Of course we will again take family photo's per branch. The day will finish with a buffet, children and vegetarians catered for. The children will not be forgotten either. Puppet theater Pierlala will come again and beside a show they will make

some music with the children too. For a pre-view check [www.pierlala.nl](http://www.pierlala.nl) The children will be entertained while the adults have time to talk and catch up.



*Old fashioned Dutch puppet-show with Jan Klaassen and Katrjin.*

The program of the family reunion will be as follows:

### Part A

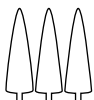
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|------------|--|
| 11.30 a.m. | Reception Maritime Museum (Kattenburgerplein 1, Amsterdam)                 |
| 12.00 a.m. | Tour of the Maritime Museum / Childrens activity on the VOC-ship Amsterdam |
| 1.00 p.m   | Museum visit and lunch (individually)                                      |
| 2.00 p.m.  | Departure to Maison Descartes by canal boat                                |

### Part B

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 3.00 p.m. | Start of the reunion at Maison Descartes (Vijzelgracht 2A, Amsterdam) Children's program: puppet theater and music making with Theater Pierlala |
|-----------|---|

### Part C

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 17.30 p.m. | Buffet, and end of program |
|------------|----------------------------|



## FAMILY REUNION SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> of APRIL

You can choose which parts you would like to participate in. You can register for one or more parts on the website, by e-mail or regular mail (see the colophon of this Bulletin for addresses). *Please state clearly which parts you would like to*

*participate in!* On the website you can see who has registered. This is nice for the anticipation but also a possibility to arrange carpooling. Payment is in cash on the canal boat or on arrival at Maison Descartes.

Costs	adults	children
<u>Part A</u> Tour of museum and cruise (excl. entry museum* and lunch)	€ 15,-	€ 5,-
<u>Part B</u> reunion, tea, coffee, drink	€ 11,-	€ 5,-
<u>Part C</u> dinner buffet	€ 25,-	€ 10,-

\* Many participants receive a discount because of membership or by virtue of their age. It is therefore not practical for the organization to by bulk tickets.

Have you got any spare copies of publications by or about Boissevains, then please bring them to the reunion. We will arrange a "for sale" table at a "family price", the proceeds of which will go to the Foundation.

The booklet, in which most of our family members are mentioned, issue 72 of the Nederland's Patriciaat from 1988, will be for sale during the reunion. Old issues of the bulletins are available free of charge.

The committee also wants to dispose of the stockpile of ties.

Here is your chance:

1 tie for € 5,-,

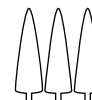
3 ties for € 10,-.

See you on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April!

*Raymond, Jeroen and Annemie Boissevain,  
committee members.*



*Do you still know who they were in 2001 and will they be there again this April 8?*



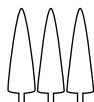
## FINANCES

**I**n 2005 the Boissevain Foundation received € 1.710,- in donations through bank transfers and € 895,- in donations in cash from overseas supporters. Thanks to a great number of regular -financial- supporters it is possible for the Foundation to publish the Bulletin annually, to maintain a family website and to organize a reunion every five years. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you for your financial contributions and for the appreciation you have expressed for the work the Foundation has done, which we have received in the past year. In the past year we have worked on improving the lay-out of the bulletin. The cover is now in full color. The Foundation has a healthy bank balance. Part of the savings will be going towards a contribution for the reunion.

The requests for your donations for 2005 you will find elsewhere in this bulletin. Payments from within the Netherlands can be made through enclosed acceptgiro (please state particulars if you do not use the acceptgiro). Payments from abroad can be made by sending cash or through a foreign bank transfer. You can now also pay via internet with the aid of PayPal. This is an internationally accepted pay system. It is a safe and easy way to pay via internet through your own PayPal account or by credit card. To pay with PayPal you go to the page Family Foundation of the family website. Use the button "Make a Donation" and follow the instructions.

*Jan Willem Boissevain, secretary*

Stand t/m 01-10-2005			
<b>Realisatie 2005</b>			
<b>Credit</b>		<b>Debit</b>	
Donations	€ 2.605,00	Bulletin 2004	€ 1.180,00
Tie sales	€ 0,00	Contributions	€ 22,00
Interest	€ 28,00	Administration	€ 20,00
		Bank	€ 154,00
		Mailing	€ 717,00
		Internet	€ 192,00
		Credit Balance	€ 349,00
	=====		=====
	€ 2.633,00		€ 2.633,00
 <b>Budget 2006</b>			
<b>Credit</b>		<b>Debit</b>	
Donations	€ 2.300,00	Bulletin 2005	€ 900,00
Tie sales	€ 100,00	Contributions	€ 80,00
Interest	€ 40,00	Administration	€ 50,00
		Bank	€ 150,00
		Mailing donations	€ 760,00
		Internet	€ 200,00
		Contrib. reunion	€ 1.000,00
		Credit Balance	€ - 700,00
	=====		=====
	€ 2.440,00		€ 2.440,00



## WICHER BOISSEVAIN 1925 -1981

### 'Handful of Dutch develop Liberian wilderness'

*Ware seated in a large room of a simple prefab house a good 100 km from the Liberian capital Monrovia. The view is expansive. On the hills in the wider area, is a rubber plantation not two years old with a total surface area 2.000 ha. Host is Mr. W. Boissevain (NP p 142), journalist of the "Telegraaf" who lives there with his wife and 4 children. He makes an apologetic gesture: "No, I am not an agricultural engineer. I have only been to the agricultural college in Deventer, because 4 years of military service in the Netherlands and Indonesia had put me on the back foot already." From his frank account, which was published in the paper on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1963, it is clear that life demands decisions which no school can adequately prepare you for. An impression from a family member.*

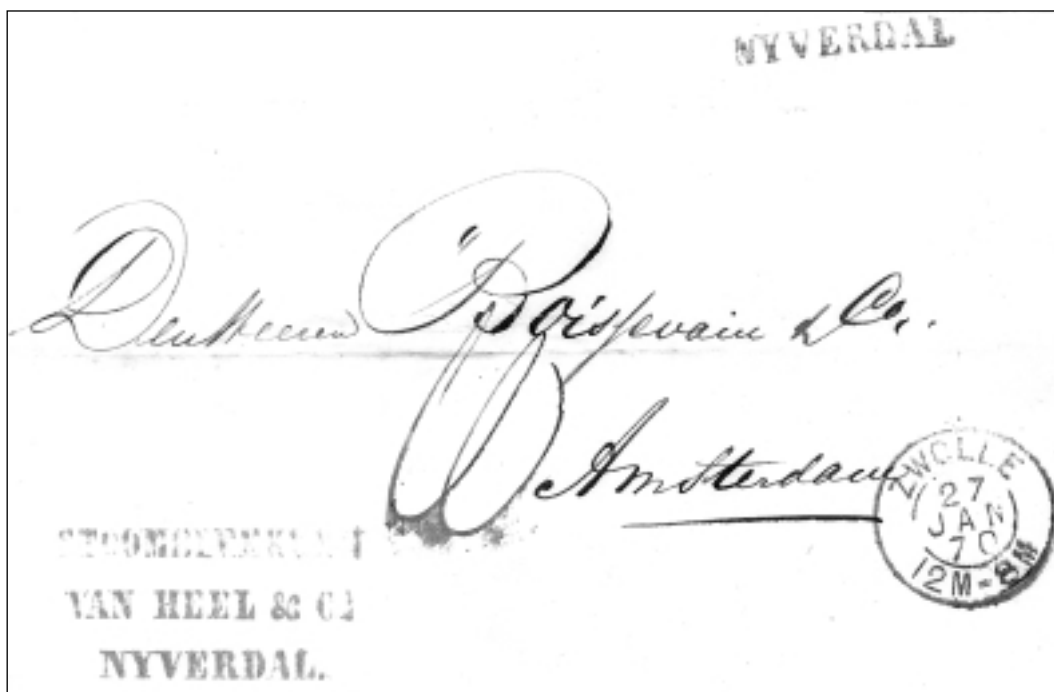
When we got chased out of Indonesia in 1967, we had a hard time finding work once we were back in the Netherlands. The employers didn't quite know what to make of us. One of my colleagues in the end concealed his diplomas and started work in a pack house. But because he worked too hard, some of his co-workers threatened to throw him in the canal. When I heard that Amsterdam Rubber had plans to establish a rubber plantation in Liberia I took the opportunity with both hands.

In 1959 I went into the Liberian bush to

explore the terrain. Porters were easy enough to find and one of our first achievements was to buy a loam hut from the local chief. This cost us ten dollars. When we had explored the terrain and found a site for the factory the work could begin. There was of course no water or electricity and also the road had to be built first. A river was a large obstacle so we also build a bridge. The communication with the locals was very good from the start.

One day there was big tumult among the one thousand workers, whom we had employed. In stead of going to work, they remained talking in smaller groups. The problem seemed to be that the tribe was issued with a 25 dollar tax bill and that they didn't have a clue where to get the money from. I finally offered the chief to pay the 25 dollars. Immediately a big party was organized which I had to attend because "something white" expressed gratitude. Later on some locals also offered me a white chicken, something which is very valuable to these people.

But the biggest token of appreciation came a few days later when a deputy came to offer me a young bride. I told him that I already had a wife in the Netherlands and that the laws of my country don't allow me to have more than one wife. The deputy was only half satisfied with my answer as after all we were in his country where



Letter to Boissevain & Co, 1870

## WICHER BOISSEVAIN 1925 -1981

foolish laws like that don't exist. The parents of the girl also came to plead with me to take their daughter and when that didn't work, the tribe send me another seven girls "to view".

We weren't spared difficulties however. All of a sudden the tribe decided that they wanted higher wages. A group of militant men armed with sticks went from group to group in the plantation, persuaded them to put their work down and chased away the house personnel of the three Dutchmen who managed the plantation. At such a moment you cannot allow yourself to show any



*Wicher Boissevain (1925-1981)*

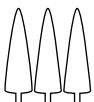
fear, but the situation became quite precarious when a trip to the civilized world was made impossible, because the leaders of the strike had blocked the only road to Monrovia. Telephone doesn't yet exist in this country and it wasn't until this event that we established radio communica-

tion. We had the option of pretending to give in, in order for the road to be cleared, but by doing that we would have lost the trust the locals had in us. We steadfastly refused to negotiate and demanded that the road be cleared. When we later on told president Tubman in Monrovia of this event, he immediately send us some soldiers to re-establish the order.

Investments like this are also a financial adventure. When we started the project in 1959, which was going to cost us 12 million guilders, the locals were very happy with payment of around 1,25 guilders per day. Since then, the wages not only doubled, but we also supplied them with plenty of provisions, among others the distribution of rice. In that same period the rubber prices decreased substantially, so that it was very fortunate that we had given ourselves a wide margin of error in our original financial planning. In these countries western entrepreneurs have to do nearly everything themselves. The American company Firestone, which incidentally employs more than 30 Dutchmen in management positions, possesses the world's largest whole rubber plantation in Liberia. This company has built many villages for her workers, founded schools for the children and established sports fields.

Although Firestone provides jobs for tens of thousands of people and spreads wealth all around, there are many critical voices among Liberians, who cannot understand the huge problems the running of such an operation entails. But luckily Liberia has a very wise leader, president William V.S. Tubman, who adequately serves the interest of his country. The president is chosen time and again by a great majority. During the last elections my driver voted for him seventeen times, of course all under different names. "If the president would find out about this, he would only be too happy that someone show such support" was his explanation for his enthusiasm at the polling booth.

*With thanks to Jan Willem Boissevain, Wassenaar (NP p 142)*



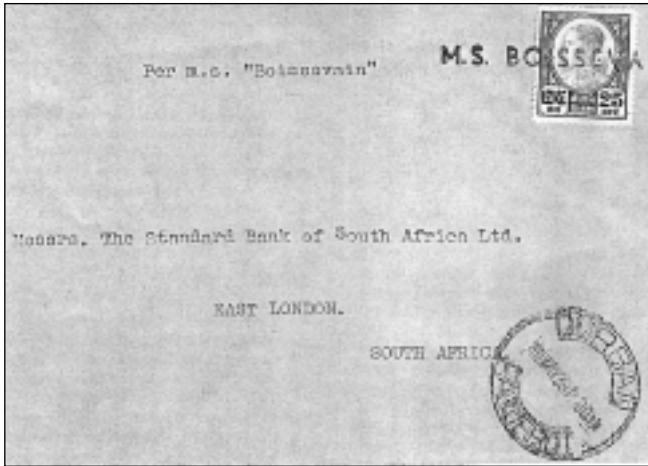
## BOISSEVAINS ON LETTERS

Three times our family name is mentioned on letters which I don't want to withhold from you for curiosity's sake.

The first one, in an envious making handwriting, is an envelop from a letter dated 1870, from a bleaching firm in Nijverdal (in the beautiful province Overijssel) to the shareholders of the shipping company Boissevain & Co in Amsterdam. That these firms had a business relationship shouldn't come as a surprise. Boissevain & Co of old transported a lot of textile for the Nederlandse Handelmaatschappij

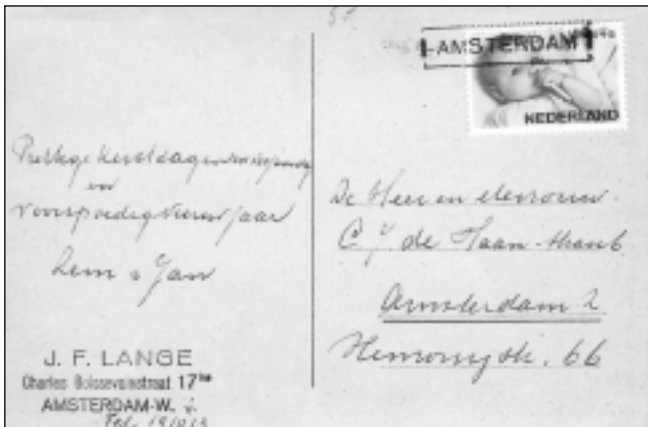
situated textile industry from Twente, delivered the materials that were in such hot demand in the Dutch East Indies. King Willem I, the merchant - king, had already established a good network with Twente and specifically with Nijverdal in the early 1900s. The NHM had checked the warehouses where the textiles were stockpiled and had prepared them for shipping.

The bleaching of the wares was part of the process that kept the textile in good condition and made it look good. In 1861 the 'old-Indiaman' S. van Heel established a bleaching firm on the De Regge river. In 1864 the firm continued under the name Van Heel & Co. The period of the French - German war in 1870 - 1871 was a difficult time. This resulted in the firm being changed to NV Nederlandsche Stoom-Bleekerij. By doing this the company could attract business capital from outside the family. For Boissevain & Co it also was a stormy period. The sail shipping industry was on its way out due to the emergence of steamships. The firm had by then only four ships left, while in 1856 they still had seven in operation. The amount of transported tonnage had also decrease by 1/3. And 1870 was also the year in which director Jan Boissevain established his Stoomvaartmaatschappij Nederland. A year earlier the Suez channel was opened up and he saw new opportunities. It is unknown which role the bleaching firm Van Heel had in this. Fact is that the letter which was sent on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January from Nijverdal, and in the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of January from Zwolle was received that same afternoon in Amsterdam. Postage didn't yet have to be paid by the sender, hence the absence of a stamp. Postage was paid on collection at the post office or on delivery at home.



Letter transported by and stamped on motor ship 'Boissevain', 1939.

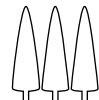
(NHM) to and from the former Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). More than that: transport for the NHM was the reason for establishing our family shipping company in the '30s of the nineteenth century. The close to Nijverdal



Postcard sent out of the Boissevain street (Amsterdam), 1966.

The second letter was posted in 1939 with the m.s. *Boissevain* from Siam (now Thailand) to South-Africa. The ship was not only a means of transport but was also an official post office, hence the postmark being the ship's hallmark. Finally there are the Christmas and New Year's wishes from Leni and Jan. The postcard is stamped with a special stamp sold to benefit children in 1966, so presumably the card was sent in that same year. The Charles Boissevain street is a small but not unimportant street in a Amsterdam quarter south of the Sloterpas and we have no doubt that the Lange family enjoyed living there.

Charles Boissevain, Twello (NP p 116)





## NANNA 1861-1944

### The woman behind Maria Boissevain - Pijnappel

*Maria Barbara (Marie for close friends) Boissevain - Pijnappel (1870 – 1950, NP p 70) enjoyed some fame during her time in the Netherlands for her contribution to women's suffrage. Beside this she is also often hailed as member of the Provincial States, because she was able to execute her public and political tasks so well, at the same time as being a mother of a large family. Without wanting to take anything away from her achievements (more on that later), it is quite remarkable that in no article about - or interviews with - her is there ever any mentioning of the woman in the background who made it possible for her to have such a career. This is the nanny Nanna, who looked after all ten children and often also after the many grandchildren of Maria and her husband Charles (NP p 69). Granddaughter Klarissa Nienhuys (Dieuke's daughter) describes her life and gives us an insight into the day-to-day life of this family member.*

Most people only know her by her house name Nanna. Her name was officially Johanna Maria de Graaff. She was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1861 in Nieuwer Amstel, at 9 o'clock in the morning, in a house on the Tuinpad in Wijk N71 AA.

Her father is Johannes de Graaff, who is a miller by profession. He is born in 1834 in Amsterdam and will die there at 40 years of age. When Nanna is born he is 27 years old. Her mother's name is Matje Zwankhuizen, born in Weesp in 1831, so 30 years old when her first child is born. She is 62 years old when she dies in 1894. The day after Nanna is born her father registers her birth and the two obligatory witnesses are ship's hunter Jacobus Wagenaar and tanner Hermanus Wildeman.

In 1862 Nanna shifts with her family to Kwakerpad 3 in Amsterdam. Five more children are born of which one dies soon after its birth. In 1864 the widow De Graaff - Zwankhuizen moves with four of her children to the Govert Flinkstraat 77 in Amsterdam. Our Nanna has by then already left the home. Her sister Maria (born in 1863) marries in Voorschoten in 1896. Brother Johannes (1865) is registered as an independent in the Register of births, deaths and marriages, six months after his mother dies in 1895. He is a paperhanger by profession, but dies at the early age of 36 in 1901. Nanna still has three more brothers: Jacobus (1867), who establishes himself in The Hague, Willem (1870) who dies within a year and the next brother in line with the same name: Willem (1871), who

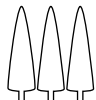


*Nanna in 1922*

dies when he is only 18.

Nanna becomes a domestic servant for the Amsterdam chemist's family Van Doorn - Huijsink in 1878, at 16 years of age. She leaves that position after three years in 1881 and becomes a live-in maid in the service of the Coster - de Vos family on the Keizersgracht 436. A year later in May 1882, she quits that position and becomes a servant with the Pijnappel family at the Heerengracht 164 in Amsterdam. Menso Pijnappel and Helena Brugmans have four children: Maria Barbara (1870), Elisabeth Antonia (1871), Jan Hendrik (1873) and Pibo Antonius (1875).

Mrs. Pijnappel - Brugmans dies when she is 41, a good year after the birth of her last child. The other children are then 2?, 3? and 5? years old. In 1875 and 1876 that family has three live-in servants, in the following years there are nearly always five at the time. Some of the servants only stay six months, others 2 or 3 years. At the end of 1880 comes a housekeeper and in November 1881 a nanny who only stays for half a year. Then Nanna arrives in May 1882. She is 20 years old then and will stay in that position for ten years.. The children are by now nearly 12 (Marie), 11 (Lies), 9 (Jan Hendrik) and a good 7



## NANNA 1861-1944

(Toon) years old. Marie leaves when she is 13 to go to boarding school in Rheden. Lies goes to boarding school in The Hague at 16. Jan Hendrik also leaves town at 16 and Toon will stay at home until 1892.

Father Pijnappel has already been a lawyer and solicitor in Amsterdam since 1855. Before he got married he was already member of the city council of Amsterdam and since 1866 member of the Lower House representing the Amsterdam ward. After the death of his wife in 1876 he picked up his political activities again and expands them even more a short time later: he has been a member of the city council since 1878 and he will remain there until 1899. In December 1882 he also joins the Upper Chamber for the province Noord-Holland and stays senator until 1901 with an intermission of one year. In that position he is closely involved with the preparation of numerous legislations regarding civil- and commercial law. From 1892 until 1894 he is also dean for the order of lawyers for two years.

Marie Pijnappel married Charles Ernest Henri Boissevain (NP p 69) on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1891. Charles is then 22 and Marie 20 years of age. In January 1892 Nanna moves from the Pijnappels to the Boissevain - Pijnappel family, Vondelstraat 92, Amsterdam. Marie is then six months pregnant with her first child (Menso, born 19-4-1892) and from that moment Nanna becomes Marie's prop and stay and nanny to all her children.

Marie pops out babies on a very regular base. The first was born 14 months after she got married. The following four are all born with intervals of 18 to 18,5 months and with the next four the intervals vary from 19 to 25 months. As Marie was so regular, she was probably in the habit of breastfeeding for a set number of months, which made her unable to conceive in that period. Only the tenth child Dieuke, comes 44 months after Els. Marie is 40 by then and became active in the women's suffrage a year earlier. Nanna celebrates her 51<sup>st</sup> birthday 5 days after that.

In the meantime the Boissevain - Pijnappel family has shifted twice and each time Nanna moves with them. In 1895 the family first moves to the Roemer Visscherstraat 42 with three children. Then in 1902 they move with 6 children to the very large house in the Van Eeghenstraat 92 in Amsterdam. It was especially built for the family and co-designed by the lord of the manor. In those days it was common - at least for people of standing who owned a large estate - for the children to grow up in the children's room. Thus it was with the Boissevain - Pijnappel family. The

children also eat separately. Not until they are 12 years old are they expected to join their parents at the table.

The Amsterdam Van Eeghenstraat 92, family house since 1902.

There is a kitchen in the basement and a sun-room. To arrive at the main door, visitors have to climb 12 steps and on that level is also the lounge and the dining room. Above that are two more complete floors and a small attic. The children's room and the playroom are situated on the floor above the lounge and bedrooms, guestrooms and bathroom.

There are several staff members for the many daily duties in the large household. In the winter, every day cleaning out the hearths, light the fires, stockpile fuel in the rooms that were heated (of course not the bedrooms), there were shoes to be polished, all those rooms needed to be kept clean and silver and copper needed to be polished.



*Van Eeghenstraat 92, woonhuis van de familie vanaf 1902.*

Apart from Nanna there were a cook and a kitchen hand in service. Mrs. Boissevain discussed the menu planning daily with the cook and sometimes they hosted large dinners.

Twice a week a seamstress came. Not only were nearly all the children's clothes handmade, but those clothes were also worn by subsequent children and often needed mending or adjusting. They of course also need towels, aprons, sheets, curtains etc. and all this created more mending work.

According to oral accounts, Nanna did not have her own bedroom. Her bed stood, maybe slightly separate, in a large room, while Emily, Teau



## NANNA 1861-1944

and Els slept in the other half of that room. Above her bed hung a picture of the Eye of God Who Sees Everything, which some children found quite frightening. Nanna had a cane chair, of which she was very fond. This chair stood somewhere to screen off the little privacy that she had and this chair was clearly off-limits for the children.

According to the older children everyone loved Nanna. She was kind and just 'a real darling', according to Teau. Sometimes one of the children would say: 'Nanna, you will surely go to heaven.' 'Oh dear child,' Nanna would say then, 'I only want to be where you are.' (Apparently it was not certain that the children were going to go to heaven!) But even the sweetest of kids sometimes cause heartache: they get childhood illnesses and get big bruises on their knees. Two of the children were prone to asthma. One day when there was a reception at the house and the children hung over the banister to admire the visitors and the ladies dresses, Teau fell over the banister and was terribly bruised by a lamp that broke her fall. In the summer of 1913 Marie wrote a postcard to Nanna who apparently stayed in a pension in Zandvoort with the two youngest children, Els (6) and Dieuke (2?), while Teau (7?) is probably ill: *'Temperature is fine now. She now has some pills for her cough. She is very skinny. What is important is to keep everything calm and to eat well. It is therefore a blessing that the little ones are away, it is much quieter without them (...).'*

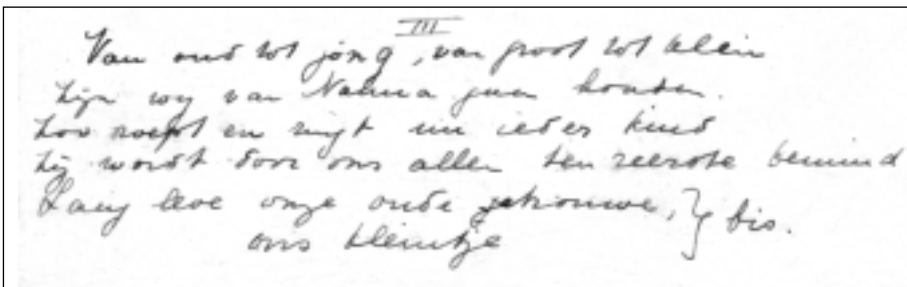
Although it really was the butler's job to take the children to school, Nanna did this too quite regularly. In the wintertime she wore a fur scarf which she treasured. When the children hung on her arm and the fur scarf was in danger of being squeezed her standard expression was: 'Careful child, you're squashing it.' According to Dieuke, Nanna could be pretty grumpy. Dieuke probably was a difficult child. When she was little she had protracted milk-scab, a disease that itches terribly and therefore troubles the child a lot. The "treat-



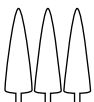
*Nanna (52 years old) and Dieuke Boissevain (3), Summer 1914.*

ment" mainly consisted in soaking in bran baths. Of course that too was Nanna's job. With the later children there would have been times when Nanna was probably just tired. As far as we know Nanna hardly had any contact with her own family. She did have a cousin of whom she was very fond. Sometimes they would tease her about that: "Come on Nanna you can tell us, what is going on between you and your cousin?" And then she would always answer: "Child, I love my cousin but only as far as is appropriate."

After WWI Charles and Marie Boissevain bought the country house 't Witzand in Blaricum. Nanna, 60 years old, moved with them again in 1922. That year they celebrated extravagantly that Nanna had been in their service for 30 years. The children wrote songs and Nanna was presented with the texts in an album with photo's of all the children mentioning



*Last lines of poetry out of a jubilee song for Nanna, 1922.*



## NANNA 1861-1944

the period: 1892-1922. The songs speak for themselves about the loving relationship Nanna had with the children but also that Nanna, after child number 6, had slowly had enough of all the hustle. On one photo taken in May 1931, Nanna sits amidst many flowers, the occasion being her anniversary: it was probably already for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. A year later it has been 50 years since Nanna, now 70 years old, started her service with the Pijnappel family. This too is celebrated in a big fashion at 't Witzand. There is also a dinner party with a menu "1882-1932" on which is a photo of Nanna, probably taken at Teau's wedding in 1929.

In 1919 Sacha (Sara Adriana Petronella Boissevain, 1919), the first grandchild and the oldest one of Menso (NP p 72) is born. When the children later on visit 't Witzand with the grandchildren, Nanna baby-sits once again. Nanna now has her own bedroom and a lounge/dining room where the grandchildren take their warm meal at lunchtime. And it is thus that several of the older grandchildren can still remember Nanna too. Sacha remembers that when one of her aunties entered the room, Nanna would dunk a potato in the gravy and they would eat it then.

In the winter of 1930/31 and in 1934 Mary de Jong - Boissevain (Maria Cornelia Boissevain, 1899) stayed at 't Witzand with her children Heentie (1926), Menso (1927) and Jan Toon (1929). Heentie and Menso remember that Nanna always got angry when the children would spill some food. She would then put newspapers on the floor under the seat of the culprit, usually one of the youngest two. But she also taught the children to butter their bread very thick and press chocolate hail or "muisjes" into it. Jan Maurits Huisken (1931), Teau's oldest son, once had the following conversation with Nanna: Nanna: "No, that is impossible, I will be long dead by then." Jan Maurits: "That's ok, I will just blow you up again then." Several people remember that Nanna often knitted baby socks at 't Witzand. Mary got the pattern of her. Nanna liked to sit by the window in her favorite chair, often wearing a long black dress and a grey bun on her head. When Charles Boissevain went bankrupt in 1936, 't Witzand had to be sold. The couple Boissevain - Pijnappel move into a cottage, "Little Witzand", built on a small piece of land which used to be part of the original block of land of 't Witzand.

In 1936 when Nanna is 75 years old she moves back to Amsterdam, probably to a flat in



*Nanna depicted on a menu card for a dinner offered at her 50th jubilee in service of the Boissevain - Pijnappel family, 1932.*

the Mesman household in the Jan van Eijckstraat 28. Judging by the stamp 'Inv.Wet' in the register for births, deaths and marriages she is entitled to a benefit according to the Disability Act, a type of pension for people who haven't saved for their old age. In February 1938 she moves to the Nicolaas Maesstraat 88 and a year and a half later she goes to the 's Gravelandseweg 116 in Hilversum. There she is closer to Teau Huisken - Boissevain (Catharine Josephine Boissevain, 1905), who is one of the few who has the time and the means to look after Nanna. Because of this close contact, her daughter Isabel Huisken (1934) also still remembers several stories and sayings of and about Nanna.

When Nanna lived in Hilversum and started to grow a bit demented, she one day took a train and tram to Amsterdam, looking for a number "eightandeighty" in a street close to the Concert Hall, where she used to live. That rhymes with the address where she lived before moving to Hilversum: the Nicolaes Maasstraat is only 200 meters from the Concert Hall as the crow flies. It took the people there a long time to figure out where she actually had to go, to go back to her



## NANNA 1861-1944

present home.

After a few years in Hilversum it became clear that Nanna couldn't continue to live on her own. Charles Boissevain had died in November 1940. Marie Boissevain - Pijnappel was by now also over 70, but maybe she has been able to use her weight to find a good place for Nanna. Marie had as member of State, for years been a very successful committee member of the Provincial Hospital, or rather the mental asylum Meerenberg in Santpoort. That is where Nanna was admitted. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1942 her address becomes Brederodelaan 54 in Bloemendaal. With a heavy heart Teau brought Nanna from Hilversum to Santpoort. But apparently Nanna didn't realize what was happening and was very impressed with the lovely hotel with the kind people. Later on Nanna had to shift to the psychiatric hospital Den Dolder, which is now psychiatric hospital Willem Arntz Hoeve. Sometimes Nanna didn't recognize Teau anymore when she came to visit in Den Dolder.

When the nurse said: "There is Teau", then Nanna would answer: "No, that is not Teau!". But when she was facing away from the door when Teau entered and Teau would say: "Nanna, I'm coming to visit you", then Nanna would immediately say: "Oh, there's Teau!".

According to The Register for births, deaths and marriages Johanna Maria de Graaff, Nanna, for most who knew her, died at 82 years of age, in Zeist on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1944.

Many thanks to Teau, who before she died, loved to tell stories about Nanna and to Isabel Versfelt - Huisken (Teau's daughter), Sacha Boissevain (Menso's daughter), Heentje Kooiman - de Jong and Menso de Jong sr. (Mary's children) and Charles Boissevain (Bob's son, NP p 74). The author would be grateful for anyone with more information about Nanna: [klnienhuys@zonnet.nl](mailto:klnienhuys@zonnet.nl).

*Klarissa Nienhuys, Groningen*

## INFORMATION SOUGHT

### The adopted children of Mia Boissevain

**D**r. Maria Boissevain (1878 - 1959, NP p 54) was the youngest daughter of Jan Boissevain and Petronella Gerharda Johanna Brugmans. She was a biologist and very active in the Society for



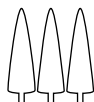
*Mia Boissevain in 1913.*

Womens Suffrage. She wrote a biography about her life and family until 1915 ('Een Amsterdamse familie' republished in a limited edition). Information on the rest of her life is rather scarce.

Mia lived with her youngest brother Walrave Boissevain between 1912 - 1915, after he became a widow and she looked after his two children Jan Gédéon Jérémie and Harry. Mia hardly mentioned this at all and neither did Walrave in his biography ('Mijn leven', published in 1950).

Mia adopted two English girls: Marguerite Irene Galloy (born 01-06-1916) and Nellie Gladys Studd (born 28-01-1919 in Thorpe Essex). Mia lived in Switzerland with her adopted girls from 1925 or 1926 until 1928. After this she lives in the Netherlands for a while. From the thirties she probably lived in London where she finally also dies. Does someone have more information on Mia for me, to publish in one of the following Boissevain-Bulletins?

*Klarissa Nienhuys ([klnienhuys@zonnet.nl](mailto:klnienhuys@zonnet.nl))*



## VARIOUS

### Natasha Boissevain

Natasha died last February the 13<sup>th</sup>. A picture of her appeared in 1950 and in 1951 in - among others- the well known weekly the Saturday Evening Post in a full page advertisement for a (in those days) well known cigarette brand (such advertisements - see the back cover of this Bulletin - were still allowed in those days). She was certainly a beauty and in the advertisement she was presented as the beautiful young debutante of the season at a party of New York's high society. In Nederland's Patriciaat 1988 (NP p 100) she is mentioned, albeit very incomplete through lack of details. In the nineties Tice Boissevain (NP p 65) rekindled the contact with her, Natasha Arabella Helen was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1932, daughter of John Magee Boissevain and Suzanna Saroukhanoff.

### That difficult name

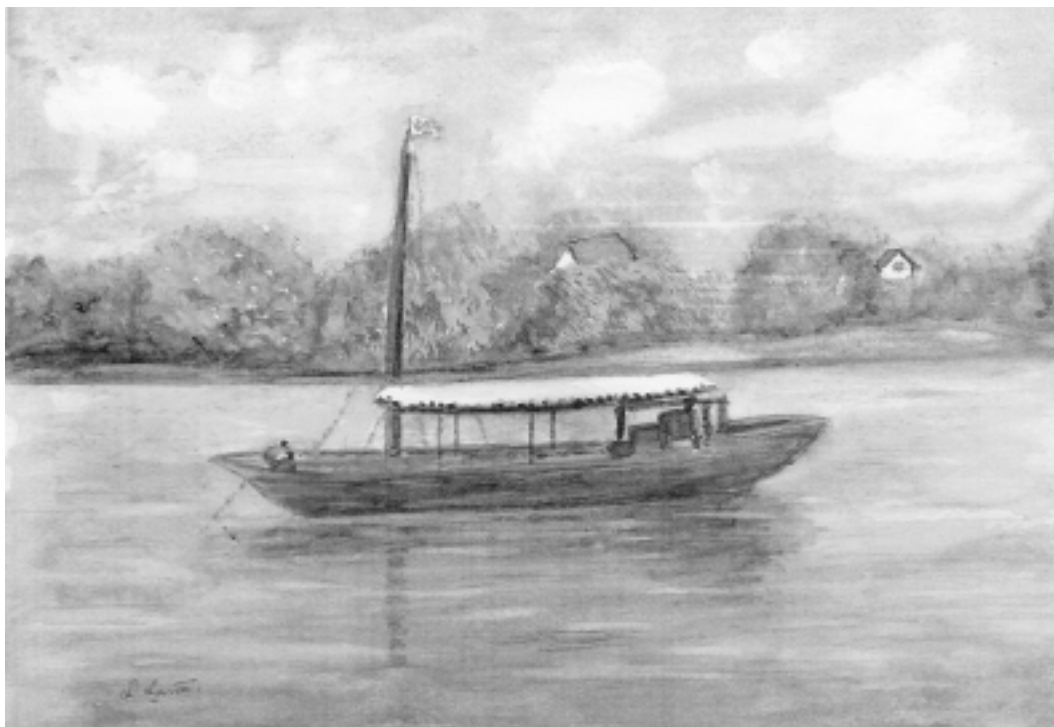
In the financial world collections clerks used to play an important role in the trading between banks and stock markets. One of them used to refer to the then well known banking firm Boissevain Bros. as 'Bozeman'. The bank's cashier who had often tried to correct him - to no avail

- once took some more time for this and explained it again to him in great detail. The collections clerk then answered: 'Now I get it, I will get it right from now on. Here is 15.000 guilders from Mr. Bozeman'.

### Nella's Savoir-vivre

Petronella Johanna Boissevain (1881 - 1956, NP p 69) was the ninth child of Charles Boissevain (linguist and editor in chief of the Algemeen Handelsblad) and Emily Héloïse MacDonell. She had several family members who were actively involved with womens suffrage (VKR).

Her older sister Maria van Eeghen - Boissevain (1869 - 1959) and her sister-in-law Marie Boissevain - Pijnappel (1870 - 1950) were both active members of the union for the VKR. Nella's cousin Mia Boissevain (1878-1959) for a long time, was one of the pillars of the Association for Women's Suffrage. And Nella's brother Eugen Jan (1880 - 1949) married Inez Milholland in 1913, one of the protagonists of women's suffrage who became famous in the United States.



*Small transport boat as already in use in the 17th century on the Dordogne river, close to the City of Bergerac in France where the Boissevain family originates. Drawing by Lies land - Boissevain, 2004.*



## VARIOUS

Nella too has contributed to this battle. On behalf of the Union she went to an international gathering on women's suffrage in Stockholm, in 1911. She was sponsored by a couple, possibly her brother and sister-in-law Charles and Marie Boissevain - Pijnappel. After this trip Nella reports back to the Union about her Stockholm visit at several different gatherings. In June 1912 Nella Boissevain becomes undersecretary of the

Union. On that occasion Maria van Eeghen resigns as chair and Marie Boissevain - Pijnappel follows in her footsteps. In July 1914 Nella gives up her position.

Less than a year later Nella marries Eduard Theodoor Hissink in Soerabaja on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1915. Later on they move to Leeuwarden, where Hissink becomes CEO of one of the branches of the Amsterdamse Bank.

In the Amsterdam municipal archives is a copy of Nella's propositions 'to the obtainment of a doctorate in the Ars Vivendi, according to the decision of the senate against reservations of the

faculty to defend the Ars Vivendi 23-10-1943.' The reason for this date is unclear. Nella is then nearly 62 years old. Nella's propositions regarding the "Art of Living" read as follows:

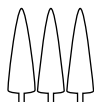
- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| I.    | I have achieved nothing in my life.  |
| II.   | The first five children are extremely busy, after that it is a piece of cake.              |
| III.  | Cheating is morally acceptable, as long as no-one sees you.                                |
| IV.   | Weeding is good for the liver.   |
| V.    | Children under one year are boring.  |
| VI.   | At least 300 people can camp on the Ebbinge.   |
| VII.  | Father is always the culprit.  |
| VIII. | Every house has to be renovated 12 times.  |
| IX.   | There is always room for one more.   |
| X.    | I am an old woman, who is not good for anything anymore.                                   |
| XI.   | I always recover sooner than someone else..  |
| XII.  | You can't be held responsible for your bad habits, you learnt them of your second cousins. |
| XIII. | Us Boissevains have no vitality.   |
| XIV.  | This year we will not celebrate Sinterklaas.   |
| XV.   | Just a little present for everyone and a (chocolate) letter.                               |

*Source: several issues of De Ploeger, (the journal of the Union of Women's Suffrage), 1910-1914.*

### Memorial

During the reunion at the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montessori High school in Amsterdam, a memorial was unveiled on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, as a reminder of the pupils and co-workers of the school who died during the Second World War. It contains 25 names, of which 21 were (ex-) pupils. They were between 15 and 25 years old when they were taken into

captivity, put in jail, shot, gassed or died of exhaustion in the concentration camps. Among them are Gideon (Gi) and Jan Karel (Janka) Boissevain (NP p 56), sons of Jan Boissevain (also died, NP p 55) and Mies Boissevain - Van Lennep. An impressive solemn ceremony, of which Saskia and Annemie Boissevain and Hugo de Groot where part.



## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES - additions and corrections

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### NEDERLANDS PATRICIAAT 1988 (VOLUME 72)

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PAGE	NUMBER	NAME
61	VIIIb-10	Mia Canters-Boissevain, died Rotterdam 2 June 2005.
75	Xj-4	Valentijn Boissevain and Esther Maria Cornelia (Isaney) Boissevain-van Hall divorced 16 June 2003.
81	Xn-2	Dana Gideon Boissevain and Delia Bunch have a daughter: Brandy Lee Boissevain, born Alameda (CA, USA) 10 July 1986 Dana Gideon married ... June 1990 Nani Newton, born ... 14 March 1961. They have a son: Eric Michael Boissevain, born ... 18 July 1991.
96	Xr	Robert Eric Boissevain, died Vedbaek (Denemarken) 30 December 2004.
97	Xt-1	Daniel and Rosa Boissevain-Goldstein had a third child: Linda Britt Boissevain, born Zutphen 19 January 2005.
97	Xt-2	Willemijn Boissevain en Ronny Strijk had a second child: Lotte Strijk, born Apeldoorn 5 December 2005.
100	IXq-2	Natasha Arabella Helen Ford-Boissevain, died Greenwich (NY, USA) 13 February 2005.
112	IXt	Walter Boissevain, died Weybridge (Surrey, England) 13 October 2005.
115	VIIIq-3	Mathilde (Thilly) Margaretha Cornélie Davies – Boissevain, died Falmouth (Cornwall, UK) 30 November 2005.
116	Xw-2	Geoffrey Todd Boissevain married in Ford Erie (ONT, Canada) 6 August 2005 Janna Bulk (pianoteacher), born Dunville (ONT, Canada) 21 June 1982, daughter of Frank Bulk and Els Lammers.
143	IXaf-4*	Marianne Bertha Boissevain-van Gumster, died Deventer 10 October 2005.

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Above we mainly followed the pedigree system that is printed in "Nederland's Patriciaat" 1988 (volume 72) and in the Boissevain-Bulletins of 1991 till and including 2001. We added children of Boissevain-born females and their spouses, even when they do not bear the name Boissevain. We do have many pedigree extensions along female lines. Particulars may be obtained from Robert Lucas (Bob) Boissevain, Esdoornkade 4, 2101 WN Heemstede (the Netherlands); phone and fax +31. 23. 528 6849; e-mail [rl.boissevain@worldonline.nl](mailto:rl.boissevain@worldonline.nl)

We shall be glad to receive further information. Keep us informed of births, deaths, marriages (and divorces) and change of addresses! Copies of "Nederland's Patriciaat" 1988 (volume 72) can be obtained from the Central Bureau of Genealogy, P.O.Box 11755, 2502 AT The Hague (Netherlands).

*Illustration back cover: Natasha Boissevain in a cigarette advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post of November 11, 1950.*

