**History Student Association Excalibur**



Annual Report

 of the

39th board

**2022 - 2023**

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**Preface**

Dear members,

Hereby, the 39th Board of the History Student Association Excalibur presents the Annual Report of the association year 2022-2023. This report aims to look back and reflect on the past year. A year that has not gone by without a hitch, but is mostly marked by great moments at wonderful activities. From the very busy First-Years BBQ to the first Big Trip since 2019; from the reintroduction of the Batavierenrace to the launch of a new committee with a free Brussels excursion. Love congress, Members Choice Activity, Members Hours, Lunch Lectures, and I’m sure other words that start with an ‘L’ in Dutch collectively made for a year that can be described best as ‘leuk’ (‘fun’ in Dutch, ask Rinke).

 This year, as can be expected of any year, was not all rosy. Initial frictions arose with our FSCL neighbors, safes had to be pierced, maps fell off the wall, bank cards were not available, and the Faculty of Arts remained a challenge to deal with throughout the year. Furthermore, the camera was sadly lost with the work of many members on it. However, the Board has seen these challenges as things to learn from and as paragons of the resilience and flexibility of our amazing purple association.

 It is therefore this association and all of its now more than eight hundred members that the 39th Board would like to thank one last time for their tireless efforts and commitment throughout the year. All six of us have had a great year to never forget and we hope you have all experienced the same. We also look to the 40th Board with pride, confidence, and optimism, and are sure that they can give our beloved association a lustrum year that will be even more unforgettable than ever before.

Don’t be afraid, you are not rid of us yet, but for now: goodbye.

With cordial greetings,

The thirty-ninth board of History Student Association Excalibur,

Koen, Auke, Fleur, Rinke, Maaike and Tobias

**General Topics**

**General Member Assemblies**

During the past association year, the Board organized six General Members’ Assemblies (GMAs). In addition to the Annual General Assembly (AGM), the Semi-Annual General Members Assembly (SAGMA), the Election GMA, and the Policy GMA, two extra GMAs were organized this year: a GMA on the introduction and a successive GMA to change and eventually fully revise the HR. These last two assemblies were unfortunately unplanned and were the result of the changing policies of the Faculty of Arts. The Board would like to thank the association for its flexibility and active attitude concerning these unexpected GMAs.

For the GMA of the 3rd of July, the board decided not only to make an amendment to the HR but to fully revise the document. This choice was made in consultation with the candidate board. An HR change was already going to take place, for which a GMA was going to be specially organized. The HR otherwise had to be revised in the coming association year, which will already be a busier year because of the coming lustrum. By working with a member of the candidate board to completely revise the HR, the board killed two birds with one stone. For the candidate board, the workload was reduced in advance by not having to organize an HR GMA. For the current board, additional substance was given to a GMA that had to take place and would otherwise only include a minor HR change and a brief Audit Committee election. As a further addition to the HR, the rules surrounding authorisations were tightened, which will further the prevention of invalid authorisations.

The board is generally pleased with the turnout at the GMAs. Especially about the outlier at the Election GMA, where as many as 76 attended and the final vote count was 160. The board also enjoyed the after-drinks that took place after almost every GMA, with the occasional after-drinks missing free consumptions due to unexpectedly high turnouts at previous meetings.

The board is also pleased with the flexibility with which the English language was accepted by the members. A single international student present always meant that the GMA agreed to the language change. Also, many attendees drafted their questions and comments in English, even though questions in Dutch with English translation by the Board were still an option. The Secretary also managed each time to make Dutch minutes from English conversations without critical comments received afterward. The Secretary’s and Vice Secretary’s phones were used to make recordings at each GMA to develop these minutes.

**Alumni**

Past association year, another Alumni Day took place, organized for the first time this year by the new Career Committee. To create PR for this event, the Chair and CarCo used different channels. For instance, everyone from the Alumni File was emailed, Radboud Career Service was asked to contact their alumni file, which they did, the association’s LinkedIn account was used, university program chair Lien F. was asked to share the PR on her LinkedIn, PR was made in WhatsApp groups that contained alumni, and verbal PR was made with the heritage organizations participating in 024-Geschiedenis.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the committee members and supporting parties, the number of registrations remained low. Also, of the number of registrations, half of them did not show up, not even announcing their absence in advance. The activity did take place as planned and those present indicated that they found the lecture interesting and the tour pleasant and accessible. A few alumni who did not attend were told that they would have preferred a more informal program, such as a barbeque or drinks, where the focus was on easy contact with old fellow students. It is up to the committee and the 40th board to see how they want to proceed with this event.

Finally, after the Alumni Day, the Chair found out that a significant portion of the Alumni File had expired for several years already. He therefore, in collaboration with the Candidate Chair, deposited all expired alumni forms in the locked paper bin on the 12th floor of the Erasmus Building. They also contacted the alumni who indicated that they wanted a renewed document. Thus, they made a start to renew this file and thus legally preserve the alumni’s data from now on. The Board recommends that the 40th board schedule an annual time for this. This can, for instance, remain an annual task for both the Chair and Candidate Chair to encourage a proper board transition.

**Covid-19**

In the Policy Plan, the board spoke of the favorable developments that had occurred in the area of the coronavirus pandemic through 2022. To the joy of the board, these developments have continued and there have been no serious resurgences of the coronavirus and, by extension, new coronavirus measures during the past association year. Consequently, the organization of (physical) activities has not been affected. The board expresses the hope that from the upcoming association year, this subject will no longer have to be a fixed part of the policy plan and the annual report.

**GSV-Band**

Following the request from some members, a GSV-Band was also formed this year. The band consisted exclusively of GSV-members, but was outside the supervision of the board. The band had several rehearsal sessions, but eventually broke up for personal reasons between the members before any performance took place.

**Sustainability**

Over the past year, the board has tried to promote sustainability. A smaller print run for the Historical Institutional Journal (HInT) was considered, but the contract could not be adjusted during the year, so a smaller print run has not yet taken place. We recommend that the circulation be reduced in the future to reduce paper waste. The board ordered reusable plastic cups intended for member hours and activities. These cups were said by the supplier to be made of "hard" plastic, but this ultimately turned out not to be the case. The board tried to have the cups remade, but the supplier did not accept the return. As a result, the cups were put into use anyway. The cups can just as easily be put in the dishwasher and therefore reused. Although two cups must be used for hot drinks, they function adequately. In the end, the cups were often used at activities and, according to the board, they were still a good investment. Last year we did not succeed in collaborating with climate-neutral companies because, outside of merchandise of clothing, few purchases were made for merchandise. Cooperation was mainly with DressMe regarding merchandise. However, the coffee during member hours was fair trade.

**Inclusivity**

This past college year, the board did its best to make every member feel included in the association. For example, the board actively attempted to interact with as many members as possible at activities. Furthermore, the board attended a "Social Safety Training" offered by SOFv. In addition to previous critical self-reflection in the Semi-Annual Report, the board has done its best to organize more activities with themes related to social issues and inclusiveness. For example, an Early Modern Movie Night took place in the theme of LGBT history and a "Pride Month" drink was organized.

**Internationalization**

The board has worked on several items over the past year to make internationals feel at home within the association. For example, all documents concerning ALVs have been issued in English in addition to Dutch. Also, the ALVs (with permission of this ALV) were held in English when international students were present. In addition, the board did its best to communicate in English as much as possible and to maintain this language at activities where English was organized as the standard language. In a few cases, this was not always fully successful. For example, during the first Early Modern Movie Nights, a teacher presented in Dutch, which was against the agreement.

  Nevertheless, the board believes that it has adequately contributed to internationalization. For example, the board welcomes the fact that many more committees last year had international students present as committee members. This indicates that this group is becoming more adept at finding its place in the association.

**The Safe**

During the past association year, a problem arose with the association's Safe. When opening the safe, it constantly displayed an orange light: the sign that you had either entered the code incorrectly or something else was going on. Given that the board was sure it did not enter the code incorrectly, they started looking for the possible other cause. This could lie with having already keyed in a wrong code too many times or dead batteries, both of which unfortunately could not be confirmed. The treasurer therefore started looking for the spare key, which could be used in case of either of these two causes. However, it turned out that there was no clarity on who this key could be with. It could even be that this key was in the safe.

 The board was therefore faced with a choice: have a professional look at the safe, conclude that it had to be opened by brute force, or have a member of the association do it and thus save money which could then go towards a new safe. Fortunately, the association's accounts showed that the closed safe had already been written off and so a new one could possibly be fetched. Given the contents of the safe, a new safe did not seem unnecessary to the board. After the safe was opened by drilling with the help of a member of the CoA, no key to the safe was found there either.

In the meantime, the board had already ordered a new safe. This safe would have roughly the same size and therefore also provide enough space for the items that originated from the old safe. The board regretted the need to purchase a new safe but also recognized that the old safe was also in need of renewal. Before it was found that the old safe no longer opened, it could be seen that the top right corner of the safe was no longer secured properly. So, one also had to lift the door of the safe to get the safe open properly, after entering the code. The newly acquired safe has two emergency keys, which were entrusted to two members of the board. In addition, the company the safe was purchased from has indicated that in case of a breakdown of the code lock or loss of the emergency keys, they can assist in opening the safe, so a new drilling session will not be necessary.

**Member Choice Activities**

The Member Choice Activity created by the 39th Board was organized once during the past association year. The members chose cantus as an activity by a large majority after completing the digital ideas form. The organization of the cantus was undertaken by the Secretary. After the cantus, the board asked the members by means of a digital form to share their opinions about the cantus, which many members did. A detailed reflection on this can be found in the Semi-Annual Report.

 Due to the high volume of submissions of ideas, the high vote count in determining the activity, the high attendance at the cantus, and the positive feedback from members after the activity, the board considers the first-ever Members' Choice activity a success. The possibility of organizing another Member-Choice activity in the second semester was considered, but due to the busy association agenda, this was not successful. The board expresses the hope that another Member Choice Activity will take place at the association in the future.

**Membership Cards**

Reusable plastic membership cards have continued to be used this past college year. The sticker system using different colors each year remained active. Freshmen received a new membership card with a red sticker. PR was made for other members to pick up a red sticker during one of the membership hours to keep the pass valid. In addition, the red sticker has been communicated to the partners of the association.

Furthermore, a digital membership card has been added to the portal so that members can show their pass there when they do not have the physical one with them. Despite the fact that some members have already used this, there is not yet much awareness about this digital membership card. The 39th Board therefore recommends that the 40th Board make PR about this. Moreover, this card could be expanded in the future, but for now, it already works at some partners, such as Café de Camelot and Café de Professor.

**Privacy**

The association camera was stolen last year during Inglorious at Sjors and Sjimmie by an unknown person. We left the camera including the bag in the checkroom, however when we retrieved the coats the camera was missing. This was only discovered the next day due to a miscommunication. After an investigation by the board, it was found that we cannot hold Sjors and Sjimmie liable for this. After it was determined that the camera was gone, an initial effort was made to get the camera back to the location. Unfortunately, this brought no success. It was then decided to proceed to press charges, which has been done. To date, there is no news about the report that was made. It was therefore decided to purchase a new camera. The quality of this camera is much better than the old one, so better and more beautiful pictures can be taken. However, the new camera was still missing a flash. With the permission of the GMA, we can still purchase this. Apart from the camera incident, no privacy-related issues have occurred. Because of the camera incident, a data breach occurred. Because the SD card of the Docent-Bite-Dog Committee was in it, we contacted all teachers who were in the recordings about this incident. The pictures posted on the site are still only viewable through the portal for account holders only.

**Council of Advice**

Contact with the Council of Advice (CoA) has been largely positive and approachable in the eyes of the board. The board asked questions directly via the WhatsApp group during the year and found this to be pleasant. In addition, one CoA member attended the course offered by the SOFv on confidentiality. After the Annual General Meeting, three COA members became confidential contact persons within the association. The organization of more joint meetings did not come about outside of the DR change because the board saw no reason to do so.

 However, the DR amendment did give rise to more joint meetings because several board members and CoA members were part of the DR committee created by the decision of April 24, 2023, ALV. This committee was to work out the entry of the IC as a committee in the By-Laws. This DR change intensified the contact between the board and the CoA assisted the board in making this change go smoothly.

**Representativity**

The Board purchased appropriate clothing at the beginning of the association year and put it on at appropriate times. At the university or study program activities, the board suit was usually worn. At association activities and members hours, the board has worn the purple polo, with the exception of times when the proper attire was forgotten or when it was in conflict with a theme. The Board believes that it behaved appropriately and professionally when wearing board attire at activities of the association and other relevant activities, as well as in contacts between association and the study program.

**Well-being**

During the year, the board tried to keep an open attitude during the many organized activities and to address members as much as possible. The board tried to be attentive to members' concerns, both study-related and personal. By organizing as many member hours as possible during exam periods, the board has also tried to offer members a moment of relaxation between studies. Although attendance at member hours during exam periods was lower than outside of them, the board received positive feedback from several members about continuing the member hours. In addition, with an open-room policy on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., the board tried to be as accessible and available to members as possible. The board therefore looks back on this positively.

In addition, as mentioned in the ‘Council of Advice’ section, two new confidential contact persons have become active within the association. Members can also turn to them whenever they feel the need. The board introduced the confidential contact persons to the members by means of a WhatsApp message, which also explained how the persons in question can be contacted, namely by means of a specific email address. The page on the site has also been updated, allowing the confidants to be found digitally.

**Accountancy**

**Base Budgets**

The committees have largely kept to the base budgets offered by the board. This means that almost all committees have not exceeded this. Exceptions were made for the Travel Committee and the Acquisition Committee. In the case of the Travel Committee, this was because, unfortunately, fewer people came along than planned, causing cancellation costs to play a role. In consultation with the Travel Committee, we decided not to charge this to the members who did go on the Big Trip. For the Acquisition committee, it was because of DressMe's system, where the real price per item was only revealed afterward. The committee had drawn up prices with estimates, in consultation with the board, but these prices could not be achieved due to a lower circulation, but the board did not pass this on to the members who did order an item. After consultation, it was decided that in the next sale, an agreement would be signed, again giving an estimated price, but that no rights could be derived from this and that the money would therefore only be transferred after obtaining it. The income statements of committees progressed well in the second half of the year. Less steering was needed and there was more active communication, much to the delight of both sides.

**Payments**

Almost all payments were made by electronic means, as was the aim. Business apps also ensured that payments were easier to find, so losing records could become less frequent. The board has also been busy going after the creditor-debtor list. This has not had the desired outcomes in all cases. Because in recent years the method of payment has changed and the association used to work with paper registration lists and the like, it is difficult to really prove that people had registered and thus had to pay.

 In addition, Mollie has had an update: it has become easier to see who has paid. Unfortunately, the system does not yet show descriptions, so it is still not clear which activity is involved, but more detailed information is already available. The cost is still €0.36 per transaction for the person who paid. The association does not see this money coming in. The board is still looking critically at Mollie's system, mainly due to the cost side for members, but the change within the system has made it easier for accounting to track who has paid.

**Conscribo**

Conscribo had an update mid-year. This took a lot of getting used to at first and it also caused huge delays in collecting membership fees. In fact, this update was also accompanied by the difficulties the association had with Rabobank. The update also meant that some buttons no longer had the same function as before and some functions had been added and some also deleted. All this together meant that membership fees were not collected until early 2023 and the board also had to chase non-payers until later in the year. In addition, the system is sometimes a bit slow in storing accounting information, but the information does seem to be stored better even after, for example, the internet or the device being worked on goes down.

**Finance Committee**

In the first half of the year, the Commission and the Treasurer saw very little of each other, partly due to the problems associated with the debit card. This was fortunately picked up more in the second half of the year through more frequent meetings. The Finance Committee was able to step in where needed and provided support when requested. In addition, there was a rotation during the Election GMA, so that at present two new members are part of the Finance Committee.

**Rabobank**

During the 2022-2023 association year, there were unfortunately problems with Rabobank at several points. This first started with Rabobank's long processing time in creating and sending the new debit card. This meant that the Treasurer initially had to use the previous board's debit card. It was then blocked by Rabobank before the new debit card arrived.

Then, on several occasions over the past year, the board had the problem that Rabobank was seemingly not quite coping with all the payments the association was trying to make. The Treasurer went after this, but did not get an adequate answer from the bank as to exactly why this was the case. At these times, things went wrong because the money was already out of the association's account but was not yet credited to the accounts of the beneficiaries, often the members. This meant that members often had to wait longer than appropriate for their money.

**Committees**

**Acquisition Committee**

Over the past year, the General Board Member of External Affairs, together with the Acquisition Committee, has entered into three new collaborations. These collaborations are with Bar de Regenboog, Café de Professor and de Gebroeders van Lymborch Huis. This latter collaboration was made just before the summer vacation, so no PR was done on this. The advice is to make PR about this next year. All these collaborations are pleasing so far.

In addition, efforts have been made to make the deals the association has more evident on the website and social media. The website is up-to-date with its collaborations and a promotional video has been made for the association's deals that has been shared in WhatsApp groups and Instagram.

Furthermore, new merchandise has been released. In winter, a winter line was created with different hoodies and sweaters. This winter line was successful and sold well. However, with the winter line, something went wrong with the prices. The prices at DressMe had gone up in the time between receiving the quote and actually ordering the merchandise. This took a fair amount off the Acquisition Committee's budget, which ultimately caused the committee to go over its budget since merchandise for the launch still had to be ordered. The committee went over its budget in consultation with the Treasurer of the 39th board, as the committee (and the board) did not want to cut back on merchandise for the launch of the upcoming lustrum year.

Finally, a summer line of T-shirts was released. These sold reasonably well. Unfortunately, ordering of this summer line started too late, so the merchandise could not be picked up before the summer vacation. The designs for the summer merchandise had been ready for a while, but contact with DressMe was difficult, so it took a while until the merchandise could be ordered. The committee could have been better on top of this. Moreover, things went wrong with DressMe as they had printed almost half of the merchandise incorrectly. The members who had ordered were informed about this and if they wanted to have their T-shirt re-printed, they could do so for free at DressMe. A follow-up order was then placed and the summer merchandise still came good. The merchandise was picked up by the members within a few weeks after the summer vacation.

In conclusion, DressMe is a difficult partner to deal with, but there is really no better option than DressMe for the association. After all, DressMe is very inexpensive and when there are problems with orders, they are very helpful and make sure to accommodate the association somewhere.

**Activities Committee**

The Activities Committee has again organized many different and fun activities during the past association year, culminating in the members' weekend. The enthusiasm for the members' weekend was fairly high and it was a successful weekend. Furthermore, the Activities Committee organized the returning Diner Rouler, but unfortunately, the attendance was rather low. This may be because it was organized around Christmas and the weather did not cooperate. The committee also organized a karaoke night and a pub crawl which were well received by the members.

**Archive Committee**

The Archives Committee and Secretary look back on a successful year. To the memory of the Secretary and the committee, for the first time in years, there is an almost complete archiving of all committee and board documents. The reason that the archiving cannot be called complete is that a malfunctioning laptop at a committee did not save the minutes of a meeting. Therefore, these minutes could not be archived.

 The reason for the good archiving lies largely in the systematic monthly archive rounds used by the committee. This kept the collection up to date and required very few meetings. The Secretary explained this system to the Secretary of the 40th Board and recommended that he adopt it. One downside, however, is that the committee did not undertake a committee outing. This was the planning, but because the outing was pushed forward, procrastination ended up being postponed.

**Career Committee**

The launch of the Career Committee (CarCo) went smoothly. After the committee fair, the committee had a good number of enthusiastic members. It was able to quickly help out with 024-History. The event was completely reorganized from a weekend at many locations to a 9-day week at a single location. The reorganization of both 024 and the PubCo into the CarCo collectively ensured that the association only helped in practical ways, with little involvement in the program. The number of members attending could also be counted on two hands, as the program was geared more toward citizens and less toward students. The committee was not very satisfied with these changes, which is why it spent the rest of the year working hard to influence next year’s edition, to which the CarCo looks optimistically.

The Political Excursion had gone smoothly except for a few teething problems. In the registration process, the permissible reasons for authorizations were not clear and on the trip itself, there were some ambiguities about the evening program, which led to somewhat chaotic situations in the city. Nevertheless, the committee can be quite satisfied that without experience it organized a completely free trip for thirty members which had no further difficulties.

For the Career Market, the committee cooperated with multiple Arts Faculty study associations, notably Babylon and G.A.G., and with Radboud Career Service. It was able to attract a good number of diverse companies. Although the number of attending members was not huge, which may partly be due to the location in the EOS building, the number of students present was. The Board hopes the number of attendees will grow as the event gains name recognition over the years. As a result of a survey, the companies expressed satisfaction with the activity.

For the rest of the year, the committee has been busy preparing for 024-History next October, which will be called the Nijmegen History Festival (NHF) starting this year, in part because of the CarCo. In the historic Old Cave, the committee will host a letter locking workshop for elementary school students and a Silent Disco open to all in the evening. All in all, the Board is pleased with the accomplishments of the newly started committee and the commitment of its members. It is eager to see what the future will bring to this committee.

**Concert Committee**

The Concert Committee (CoCo) has had an eventful year. Where in the beginning everything was running smoothly within the committee it had to deal with setbacks during the year. The annual music quiz was fun and a great start to the year for the committee. Then the festivals were divided among the committee members and the committee could start mailing the relevant festivals. This way there was one festival per two committee members for which they were responsible, which made it easy to keep an overview. First came Paaspop, during the organizing the committee had conversations with the Paaspop management about the complaints from the previous year and we as a committee managed to get the association to no longer have to work at the Warehouse, among other things. After the registrations were opened a large group was slowly but surely formed that went to Paaspop. After the festival we had another feedback moment together with the presidents and those responsible for Paaspop. The cooperation went smoothly and next year both parties will strive to work together in the same way. Then it was Pinkpop's turn as a festival, here we had the places occupied in no time. These people received a free ticket for the rest of the weekend in exchange for volunteering.

However, things went wrong with Down the Rabbit Hole (DTRH). Where the association was able to get many places together with AKKU in previous years, this time it was a tricky issue right from the start. Mojo (the organizer of the festival) had already given away some of the places that we could normally claim. As a result, the association was able to attend DTRH with far fewer people. However, through a lot of work, the CoCo managed to get places through other means. In the end, the CoCo managed to get a reasonable number of people to go to DTRH. This was done through Paaspop and Kees (an organization the CoCo often collaborates with for free tickets), because these two partners still had spots available. Because fewer people were able to work, the association lost a lot of budgeted income from the CoCo. We also included the 40th in their budget for next year to take this into account. Perhaps it would be an idea for next year to request the same kind of conversation with Mojo as was done at Paaspop. At the Zwarte Cross everything went smoothly, as usual the enthusiasm was not very high given the planning, but still the association had a small delegation at the Zwarte Cross. The last festival was Lowlands, again the spots we were able to obtain were filled pretty quickly by enthusiasts.

**Congress Committee**

The Congress Committee was able to look back on a successful congress this past year. Initially at the beginning of the college year it seemed to be a problem whether the committee could be filled as two members remained on the committee. Fortunately, this number had increased considerably to seven members after the committee fair. Cooperation with Ex Tempore was once again successful. For example, the committee membership consisted of about half of Ex Tempore members and the journal was able to write articles in collaboration with speakers from the conference a year earlier. As agreed, Ex Tempore helped the committee enrich the congress in the form of contributions from speakers in articles and providing advertisements for ExTempore members. Also, ExTempore's reputation as a scientific journal helped the committee in recruiting speakers.
 The congress itself can be seen as a success. Compared to a year earlier, the PR was up and running a lot earlier. All spots for speakers were filled and the venues were also a lot more logically aligned with the congress schedule this year. The speakers themselves were also very satisfied with the organization of the congress day. Committee members were generally positive about the attendance from the public. With a total of more than 60 visitors, the congress managed to attract more visitors this year than in the past three years. Nevertheless, this can be viewed critically because the evening lecture in particular was much more crowded than the other lectures. Compared to last year, the situation around dinner has also improved. Using our own buffet instead of dinner vouchers proved to be a wise decision.

  A few critical notes can still be noted. For example, next year the budget could be more strictly monitored since it has not been fully spent. Keeping a closer eye on the budget may solve this problem for next year. It was also suggested from the committee that on the day of the congress there were still a fair number of lectures taking place. This made it difficult for congress visitors to attend a full day. In conclusion, the board is very positive about this year's congress and looks forward to the congress in the 2022-2023 college year.

**Teacher-Bites-Dog Committee**

The Teacher-Bites-Dog Committee got off to a successful start this year. It immediately had a good number of members and quickly started interviewing a selection of teachers. However, the committee suffered badly from the loss of the camera and the interview clips on it. Despite this setback, the committee worked hard to still make a fun video and organize an activity where a good number of students and, as a result of good PR such as posters on the tenth floor, even a number of teachers attended. The committee was also satisfied with the cooperation with Cafe ‘t Haantje.

**Freshmen Committee**

As planned in the Policy Plan, the board gave the committee a lot of room to fill in activities themselves. In particular, the Mario Kart tournament was a great desire of the committee members. However, attendance among first-year students was not always high. The Secretary reached out to several committee members and other first-year students to find out the reason for this. These conversations revealed that many first-year students could not find a room, creating a major barrier for them to attend evening activities.

To address this problem, the committee moved one evening activity to a daytime activity in the form of a game afternoon. During this game afternoon, however, attendance was also low. In fact, during the week of the activity in question, there were strikes by the public transport staff. As a result, lectures were given digitally and many students who did not live in the city could not come to Nijmegen.

Despite the not always high attendance, the committee looks back on a successful year. Major activities such as the First Year Barbecue and the Parents' Day were well attended and members indicated that they considered these activities successful. The committee has also indicated that it appreciates the opportunity to contribute its own ideas for activities.

**Party and Drinks Committee**

The Party and Drinks Committee can look back on a nice and smooth year. The Gala went smoothly because of the early preparations. In addition, the drinks and parties also went well. Thanks to an enthusiastic committee, no meeting was ever boring. The opening drink was a nice start to the year and immediately created a nice atmosphere within the FeBo. The Sinterklaas drink had a slightly different format than expected due to a lack of enthusiasm. The parties in the second semester also had enthusiastic attendees, such as Temptation Meadow in the Plak, the Final Party, and the Carnival Party. The second Inglorious was also enjoyable, but there was little enthusiasm within the association for that party. This may be partly due to the events at the beginning of the year surrounding InGOALious (as also reflected in the Half-Year Report). In addition, the General Board Media member noticed a difficult relationship with Inglorious, due to some of the members being inactive within this subcommittee and frequent miscommunications. Finally, the Proud2befaudt party was enjoyable and fun, in this the cooperation with the other associations did run smoothly.

**Historical Institutional Journal (HInT)**

The HInT released many editions during the year. Although not all of these were on time, the committee still made sure to achieve the quantity agreed upon beforehand. The delays were related to the layout process. Namely because, there was no roadmap for the layout for a while. Within the layout, it was explained to new layout members how it worked, but there was always someone who had done the layout before. Halfway through the association year, however, this ran aground, leaving the layout team without clear guidelines. Also, the university did not renew its licenses on certain software, including the software used by the HInT. This also eventually made it necessary for the HInT to get its own programs, paid for by the association. In the end, a clear roadmap was established and the layout team was able to clear all the backlogs properly.

 A more flexible contract was also explored, but this proved difficult due to troublesome contact with BladNL. The online HInT has unfortunately been rather absent this year. This has had several reasons, including all the work there was with the site this year. This has unfortunately been at the expense of the online HInT editions. The site should by now be ready to post the HInT magazines again, but this has not happened so far. From the editorial side, there appeared to be a preference mainly for the physical editions, also because the editorial team was aware of the problems the site was having, including slow loading.

**Internationalization Committee**

The Internationalization Committee has had an active year with new activities. In addition to more traditional activities such as lunch and a presentation evening, the committee has been given room to fill in new activities. Here creative activities have emerged such as an ice skating night and a laser game activity. The karaoke with UNICEF also took place this year. The karaoke was attended by many members where an amount of over 100 euros was raised for UNICEF. The cooperation with the UNICEF board was unfortunately difficult. There was a sentiment from the committee that the work around cooperation was mainly done from the side of the Internationalization Committee. Also, the committee was not happy with the strained communication with UNICEF and it was hoped that the PR from UNICEF could be done on a somewhat larger scale. Nevertheless, the committee looks back on the karaoke night positively.

  A recurring problem that the committee struggles with is that there are still fairly few international students attending InterCom activities. The committee has worked hard to make activities as accessible as possible to this group. In addition to this problem, there was also varying motivation in the committee which resulted in some members participating more than others. As a result, the distribution of work was sometimes somewhat uneven.

About the planning, the committee is reasonably satisfied. However, it was difficult and time-consuming to come up with ideas for free activities. By having to organize a little less of these free activities with the committee being assigned more regular activities, the committee hopes to function better.

  Nevertheless, the Internationalization Committee raised its profile with large-scale activities that allowed the committee to make itself more prominent. Also, the activities were well attended and the committee contributed to charity. Finally, the committee regularly provided advice to the board regarding internationalization. Consider, for example, better use of English in PR and other pieces. Furthermore, the committee was positive about the policy on internationalization that has been implemented in recent years.

**Lustrum Committee**

As envisioned by the board, the Lustrum Committee has been launched. The committee has fourteen members as of September 2023. The preparations for the lustrum year that have already been made concern a set-up for a lustrum week and the activities therein. In addition, the Lustrum committee is already working on the first activity of the lustrum year, which will take place on October 18. In consultation with the candidate board, two entries were chosen for a potential lustrum logo. In the end, after a vote, the current lustrum logo was chosen.

**Education and Lectures Committee**

The board looks back positively on the Education and Lectures Committee this past academic year. Compared to previous years, the committee has been a lot busier with more activities. Also, the Thesis Symposium was a completely new experience for this committee. The activities were generally very well attended with numbers sometimes exceeding 50 people. The cooperation in the committee went well with all committee members actively participating in the process of devising and preparing activities. In this way, the committee represented extremely well the educational side of the study association.

Despite all these positives, a few small things went a little awry. For example, the committee had trouble preparing for the thesis symposium early which led to some stress at times. For the end result, however, this resulted in little to no negative impact and, after some time to get used to this, the committee delivered a successful thesis symposium. Furthermore, the Museum Day was attended by fewer people than had been hoped for. This may be due to when it took place and the rescheduling of this activity caused confusion. Finally, the committee regrets that there was little enthusiasm from teachers to visit activities to which they were invited. The hope is that next year there will also be a greater willingness from teachers to participate, as speakers or visitors, in these activities.

**Podcast Committee**

For the committee, the first few months involved finding its place within the association and the online podcast environment. There ended up being five episodes, with the later episodes already moving more in the direction the board had envisioned beforehand. At times it still seemed somewhat unguided, but already a growing amount seemed to have more structure. The committee, despite its start the year before, was still very youthful and everything was still very new, so the podcast often tended to go more in the direction of a social rather than an educational or informational podcast.

The recordings continued to be listened to in good numbers, although the committee was advised to shorten the recordings somewhat, as the 50-minute episodes were not always listened to in their entirety. This is where the committee sees room for improvement for next year. However, it can look back with satisfaction on at least 50 listeners per episode, not counting the last episode, which came out during the summer holidays. The functioning of the committee proved efficient. There were clear roles and deadlines, although, partly due to exam periods, these were sometimes postponed.

**Travel Committee**

The Travel Committee organized two trips last year. The Small Trip went to Lille and the Big Trip went to Lisbon and Porto. For both trips, the possibilities of cancellation insurance were considered, but the risk for which the association would insure itself was very small and this would not be cost-effective for the association and the travelers. For both trips, the cancellation conditions of the hostels and the means of transportation were taken into account. These cancellation conditions were fortunately good. The possibilities of a summer trip were looked into, but in the end, it was decided not to organize it anymore in consultation with the committee.

The enthusiasm for the Small Trip was great and about fifty travelers joined the trip after increasing the number of travelers allowed from the usual number. It was a successful trip, but it may also have been a bit busy for the committee to take so many travelers on the trip. After the Small Trip, the committee has been busy organizing the Big Trip. In doing so, the committee encountered some problems. Initially, the Big Trip was supposed to go to Madrid and Lisbon, but Madrid turned out to be more expensive than expected. It was decided to go to Lisbon and Porto to make the trip cheaper. A movie and a PR message were made about this. Unfortunately, there was little enthusiasm for the Big Trip and therefore the trip did not fill up.

This will probably be due to the high price of the trip. Moreover, the registrations took place late due to the adjustments that had to be made in the trip location. The board decided to go ahead with the trip anyway and the association paid the cancellation fees that came with it. These costs ended up being 320.25 euros. In the end, 21 travelers went on the Big Trip. The trip itself went fairly smoothly, except for a few things like unexpectedly having to pay for a church and having to have a time slot at a museum. These things should be better figured out by the committee in the future. All in all, we can look back on a successful trip.

Finally, the committee held applications for the next association year in order to replenish the committee. A number of applicants came forward, all of whom were accepted into the committee. As a result, the committee is well-filled. They are already busy organizing the Small and Big Trip for the anniversary year.

**Social Media Committee**

The Social Media Committee had an uncomfortable start this year because the entire committee was filled with new people. Partly because of this and because in the beginning it was testing for the General Board Media member what the added value of the committee could be. This changed around the beginning of period two, allowing the committee to prove its added value. The committee, especially the committee chair, helped create TikTok content and Instagram content. In addition, the committee members helped create banners for PR of activities. At the end of the year, the committee was less active again, partly because there were few banners left to create.

**Sports Committee**

The Sports Committee recovered much of its lost experience this year through meetings with former members and the efforts of committee members to create a script, among other things. The Volleyball Tournament was well attended, even among first-years. At the Teacher-Student-Football, the fun was also not dampened by the shortage of teachers, and the Eighty-Years-War Game had enough enthusiasm among members despite the cold. At the latter activity, though, members did call for innovation, so the Board recommends the 40th board and the committee to look critically at the ideas used for free activities next year. The pool activity had a good turnout, even with attendees stating that it was their first activity. In addition, this year the committee was able to participate in a real Batavierenrace for the first time since corona, which was arranged properly despite the lack of direct experience and the absence of the board representative. To close the year, the committee moved the Beer Olympics from winter to summer, to make sure the committee was not dependent on an indoor venue. Thus, it decreased the entrance fee for members by organizing the event in Park Birkenstein. Fortunately, the change in location did not spoil the fun and the attendees indicated that they had an enjoyable evening.

**External Contacts**

**Faculty Student Council of Arts**

At the beginning of the year, the 39th board had regular struggles with the Faculty Student Council of Arts (FSCA) regarding noise complaints due to busy members' hours. This has been the subject of several discussions between the two organizations. At the same time that we had taken measures, such as a temporary closed-door policy with the new welcome sign and reduced volume when playing music, the members’ hours had also become somewhat less crowded. Both of these two developments ensured that the nuisance at the FSCA was reduced to such an extent that they no longer contacted us about it. The year ended with a good relationship between the 39th board and the FSCA, especially through cooperation in the situations with the Faculty of Arts explained below.

**Faculty of Arts**

The Chair has served as the association’s representative to the Faculty of Arts this year. Since this year, the faculty has had monthly meetings with all study associations of Arts and LETO. The Char has found the contact with and the attitude of the faculty difficult throughout the year. There remained a clear imbalance of power throughout the year and miscommunications occurred with regularity. Furthermore, there was a party organised by the faculty where board members of various associations were used as ‘volunteers’ on threat of taking away association funding if refused. Next to this, through enforcement of the faculty, with threats of completely excluding the GSV from the introduction week and again of taking away subsidies, the Introduction Commitee became part of the GSV. Attempts to work with the FSCA to improve relations between associations and faculty so far only ended in symbolic gestures from the faculty. The board strongly advised the XLth board to keep a critical eye on the relationship with the faculty. Especially in the drafting of the faculty ‘Memorandum of Understanding’, a document that describes the cooperation between faculty and board members, and the ‘toekenningsbrief’, the document in which the faculty subsidy is determined.

**Umbrella Association LETO**

Contact between the board and LETO has been smooth over the past year. Nevertheless, the board believes that not many issues came up at LETO that were relevant to the association. The Theme Rounds organized by LETO mainly discussed problems that small associations face, such as not being able to find board candidates. Nonetheless, the Board sees membership in LETO as a positive addition because of the contact it promotes with other societies under the Faculty of Letters. Contact with these other Arts associations has been excellent throughout the year and LETO, as an umbrella association, has made a positive contribution to this by organizing activities and meetings where the board has met with other boards.

**Study Program**

Past year, the Chair had semi-regular contact with the program chair. Especially with the activities of the CarCo, he benefited greatly from this contact, in the form of advice and making connections. The Chair is very satisfied with the congenial and helpful attitude of the program chair.

Furthermore the programme chair has kept the board informed of the activities of the programme, such as promotions and orations. The board sent a delegation to all these activities. The board also sent two separate semi-annual plannings to the teachers through the programme chair, listing all activities they were welcome. The board is not sure if this has had an effect, given that the teachers only attended activities they traditionally attended. The board, however, does not rule out that it might have helped attract teachers to attend these activities. A Student-Teacher-Drinks was supposed to take place at the end of the year, however, but did not take place, unfortunately, due to a lack of enthusiasm among teachers.

The Board also worked together with the Education Committee (OLC) to increase its name recognition among members. Both the OLC and Board have found this cooperation enjoyable. The Board even looked into the possibility of having a board member sit on the OLC by default. However, this did not work, as the OLC needed to maintain its democratic nature. Finally, the Chair, together with the Candidate Chair and the Candidate Vice Chair, met with the new program chair to get acquainted and discuss what the program and the association can do for each other in the coming year.

**Collaboration Organization of Faculty Associations (SOFv)**

Once again this year, the board enjoyed a successful collaboration with SOFv. The SOFv kept the board informed about governance trends and the general state of affairs at the level involving the umbrella association. In addition, the board attended several of the trainings offered by SOFv. These include, for example, a "Social Safety" Training and a Treasurer Training. In addition to the courses offered, the board was also very satisfied with the communication with SOFv in which the grants regulated by SOFv were used on several occasions.

**Students of History Netherlands (SGN)**

The General Board member of External Affairs has represented the association within the Students History Netherlands (SGN) through (almost) monthly meetings with the other SGN boards. This year's SGN day took place on June 9 in Amsterdam. The SGN had an additional SGN activity in Rotterdam on March 7. Both days were fun, but unfortunately, the attendance of the association on these days was quite low. Only board members went to these days, but otherwise, no other association members went. This is also because the promotional materials were sent very late from the organizing associations and the SGN day on June 9 took place close to the exams. The board did have two more board meetings with the other SGN boards in order to get to know each other better.

**Internal Contacts**

**Drinks**

There have been drinks every month for the past year, with the exception of January because of the exam period. The board is generally satisfied with the turnout of the drinks. Especially in the beginning of the year the attendance was high. At the end of the year the board noticed that attendance at the monthly drinks was a lot lower. Contact with the Camelot was generally fine, but responses were not always prompt. This was sometimes difficult with the PR since it often contained the deal that fit the theme of the drinks.

It was also found that sometimes things can go wrong with the checkout at the Camelot. This happened at the K3 drinks, where payment should be made afterwards. However, this was hardly ever done, which meant that almost the entire drinks budget went through in one go. After this, good arrangements were made with the Camelot about paying for drinks. This incident did not happen again.

Finally, drinks took place at the Vrijheidsmuseum. The museum had organized this drink well, despite the difficult contact with the museum in the beginning of organizing the drink. Unfortunately, the turnout for the drinks was quite low. This is probably due to the time when the drinks took place and the location of the drinks. Hopefully in the future the drinks can take place earlier in the year so that the turnout can be higher.

**Committee Chair Meetings**

The General Board Member Internal Affairs held two committee head meetings this year. One of these at the beginning of the college year and one at the end of the college year. The committee head meetings were helpful so that the committee chairs could share their concerns regarding the committee and the board with the board member. In addition, the calls also functioned to provide feedback to the board. With this feedback, for example, PR committee officers can now access the membership database on the site.

  At the second committee head meeting, there was not much to discuss. However, this conversation did act as a way for committee heads to give their opinions on the semi-annual plans. This information is useful to the General Board member Internal Relations for reflection. This feedback can also be used at the discretion of the General Board Internal Relations member of the 40th Board. In addition to the general meetings, one-on-one meetings were held by the General Board Member Internal Relations with the committee heads in January. Feedback from this information was incorporated into the mid-year planning.

**Committee Board Officers**

The committee officials generally functioned well this year. However, a few difficulties did arise regarding committee treasurers and budgets. These were in error at some, with the Treasurer having to do a lot of work to get the budgets in order. Fortunately, this was a minor problem and everything else went smoothly.

**Internal Constitution Drink**

On Monday, November 14, 2022, the Internal Constitution Drink was held at Bar de Regenboog. This was perceived by the board as a successful activity. Many committees came to congratulate the board on their constitution, and above all, it was an enjoyable evening.

**Members Hours**

Almost every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, members could gather in the members' room for coffee, tea and a biscuit. Although the long-term aim was to continue this outside in fine weather, this did not always prove possible, both due to the lack of fine weather and the organizational difficulties of getting up and down from the 12th floor to the lawn. Indeed, running back and forth of the board from the kitchenette on the 12th floor to the grass field proved difficult to sustain. The hours were very busy, especially at the beginning of the year, partly due to the flow of enthusiastic freshmen. This meant that four cans of drinks were therefore not enough to supply everyone.

**Promotion**

**Lecture Talks**

From the beginning of the year, the Chair, regularly supported by the Vice Chair, attempted to give lecture talks every month to the first-year and second-year bachelor students of the History program and the Comparative European History program. However, after the January and early February exam period, the Chair and Vice Chair lost their rhythm in this and forgot to give the April, May and June lecture talks. They regret this turn of events, but fortunately have not observed any negative impact on attendance at activities, given that the crowds were already decreasing in size before the lecture talks were forgotten and they did not drop further significantly.

**Facebook Group**

The association's Facebook group has been little to no use over the past year, as Instagram has taken over Facebook's position within the association in recent years. There were also few requests from the committees for PR through Facebook.

**Instagram**

Over the past year, the association has also been active on Instagram. Instagram was used to announce activities, which was done both through videos and banners. In addition, photos of activities and other atmospheric impressions have been posted on Instagram. Finally, the Instagram account has been used to share interesting activities and job opportunities for our members.

**LinkedIn**

The association's LinkedIn profile was little used during this year, as expected. For the alumni day and for the Congress, the LinkedIn page was used as a means of promotion.

**Newsletter**

The newsletter has again been sent via mail to members during the past board year. During this year an attempt was made to distribute the newsletter to members monthly. Unfortunately, this did not succeed monthly during busy times, such as during exam periods and the Grand Trip. This was because the General Board Media member ran out of time and then prioritized other tasks, such as creating banners and distributing PR. It was also considered that during exam periods there is little news to report around the association. The newsletter was used for spreading news around activities, spreading interesting vacancies for history students and for spreading for activities of the faculty, among others. Also, as has been the case in past years, the newsletter has been bilingual this past year.

**TikTok**

During the past year, the association became active on a new social media platform called TikTok. Consequently, during the first semester, this medium was used for uploading videos and content. In addition, it succeeded well in showcasing some of the atmosphere within the association. In addition, PR for the TikTok account was created via Instagram. Furthermore, the Social media committee regularly helped create fun content, this was seen as enjoyable by the General Board Member Media.

**Website**

Last year, the website did not appear to function adequately as desired. The site was slow at the beginning of the year and some plug-ins were not working properly. As a result, the board decided to approach Thalia for possible help. They sent out a PR message and that's how we got in touch with the student who helped us over the past year. This student then helped throughout the year for 100 euros. He made sure that the site worked better, was faster and stayed up to date. However, the site still does not work ideally, but due to lack of financial possibilities, this was not realistic, since this was not budgeted for and a lot of money had already been invested in a 'good working' website in recent years. The intention to update the English site was also not successful, because the site is so slow and it takes a lot of time to adjust the site, creating one page would already take four hours.

**WhatsApp Group**

The association's WhatsApp groups remained the most important groups for spreading information about activities. During the year, an average of between two and three PR messages per day were delivered. As part of the internationalization of the association, continuing the policies of the 38th board, messages were sent first in English and then in Dutch. The Excel sheet already existing for this purpose was used for this purpose, in which committees could put their PR.