

## Activity Report 2021 Nekbakht Foundation

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### 1. Introduction

Just like many other organisations, the Nekbakht Foundation has felt the consequences of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Travel by Board Members to the Biographical Department and its nearby buildings in Suresnes has been hampered considerably. Nevertheless, many activities have continued on a business-as-usual basis with most Board meetings taking place virtually.

### 2. Future strategy development

The last two volumes of stenographed lectures, to be known as 1926-III and 1926-IV, of Hazrat Inayat Khan Complete Works have been completed and ready to be published later in 2022. This was the motivation for the Nekbakht Board to start a strategic exploration of the scope and content of future activities. This will probably lead to a new version of the long-term strategic and expenditure plan, to be published in 2022. It is expected that financing the publication of books based on material in the Archives will gradually take less time and effort. Consequently, other activities will increasingly become more important, both in time and money investment. Strategic collaboration with other institutions that keep alive the memory and practice of Universal Sufism will become more prominent on the strategic agenda. Also, the Board considers financially supporting an initiative to create a special chair for Universal Sufism at one of the Dutch universities.

### 3. New US edition of Hazrat Inayat Khan's biography

Unfortunately, a long delay at the printing house end has resulted in stalling the process of getting the Biography of Hazrat Inayat Khan reprinted for a US audience. The Board now aims to have the project completed in 2022. As an interim solution, American readers may want to buy the EU version, which is still available, although shipping costs may be relatively high.

### 4. Complete Works 1926-III

The final corrections to 1926 III have been completed in the reporting year. As the total work will exceed 1000 pages, the decision has been taken to create two volumes, viz. 1926-III en 1926-IV. Several candidates for printing these volumes still remain, the selection will be made in Q2 of 2022.

### 5. Facsimile editions

After publication of *Sufi (a quarterly magazine 1915-1920)* and *Sufism (a quarterly magazine 1921 – 1924)*, it has now been decided to also publish facsimile editions of later magazines extending into the 1930s. This will probably be done under the name of "Sufi Record". Again with a run of 150 copies.

### 6. Editorial revamp of 1922-I.

The Board has decided that a new version of the 1922-I volume of the Complete Works will be produced, incorporating the knowledge acquired by Alex Dijk and Anne-Louise Wirgman as a

result of completing the Complete Works up to 1926. The aim is to produce a volume that contains much less footnotes and is more easily accessible. This is a pilot project to be finalized in 2022. If it turns out satisfactory, other volumes will follow.

#### **7. Contacts with The Universel in Katwijk.**

The Universel in Katwijk (formerly known as the Sufi Temple) has started with a rejuvenated Board and has developed ambitious plans for new activities and modernization of the premises. Since the support of organisations like these is within the Foundation's remit, the Board has decided to support the Universel in 2021 with a donation of € 15.000.

#### **8. Exploitation of real estate in Suresnes**

Plans for refurbishments of the building housing the archives (Rue de Tuilerie nr 34) have been agreed with the architect, and the project has started in early January 2022. If this project turns out satisfactorily, additional plans will be made for the houses located at Rue de Tuilerie nr 40 in order to enable a better exploitation of the foundation's real estate.

#### **9. Sufi Suresnes**

The Sufi Suresnes consortium started in 2020 as a collaborative effort of a number of organisations dealing with maintaining the legacy of Inayat Khan. An important aim is refurbishing and revitalizing Suresnes-based Fazal Manzil. The Nekbakht Foundation is one of the organisations participating on a voluntary basis. In 2021, a fundraising project was initiated for the modernization of Fazal Manzil. The Board has donated an amount of € 20.000. Moreover, a promise has been made that if a business plan will be developed by an outside expert to advise on the future exploitation of the building, the Foundation will contribute € 5.000.

#### **10. Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) registration**

The Foundation has timely registered itself in accordance with requirements under the new EU UBO guidelines.

#### **11. Website and newsletter**

An extensive rejuvenation project of the website has been carried out in collaboration with the Zegenrijk company. From a site with a Dutch and an English version, it has been transformed into an English only site, with a translation service in Dutch, German and French included. The site is now complete with a safety padlock and contains pages with annual reports and multi-annual policy plans to make the Foundation conform to Dutch reporting guidelines. Also, Board members and collaborators are now able to make changes to the site's content independently and at short notice. The site had 13.000 page views in 2021 (by 3.500 users), which was about 30% higher as in 2020.

The newsletter has a modest but enthusiastic and stable following of between 450 and 500 readers.

#### **12. Future publication projects**

The Board has decided to do a pilot experiment with the English translation of "Die Mitte der Religionen" by Figl. The Board starts an experiment with Printing On Demand. Also, the Board is considering publication of lectures by Inayat Khan given before 1922 (so-called "Early Works") as

a follow up to the period of 1922 to 1926 of the Complete Works.

### **13. The archive**

Much work has been done on cataloguing material, translation of historic press cuttings and facilitating database queries. Next steps will be a plan for the coming years to better use the material and digitize the archive contents.

### **14. Editorial Committee**

The editorial committee has been productive, issuing a proposal for new publications including a priority listing. The Board has accepted most proposals and several projects have already started (see elsewhere in this report). The Committee also welcomed a new member.

### **15. The invaluable workers for the cause.**

Apart from Qahira Wirgman, who manages the Biographical Department and much else, many workers, partly volunteers and partly paid via hourly rates, enable the Foundation to function. Here we should name in alphabetical order Den Anderson, Alex Dijk, , Ian Kingston, Saiqa Latif, , Hind Wakach, Joanna Watt, Claire Wery, and Wali van der Zwan.

### **16. Cooperation with other institutions**

The exchange of information, scanned letters or other documents, and translation and transcribing between the archives of the Sufi Museum, Den Haag and the Biographical Department continues to add pieces of the jigsaw puzzle on history and background and is also a source of great delight.

### **17. Financial report**

A detailed financial report will be issued separately. For now, it can be said that the Foundation continues to operate on a sound financial footing enabling it to continue financing promising developments in line with its articles of incorporation.

### **18. In conclusion**

The year 2021 has been hectic but also very fruitful. In spite of COVID-19 complications, the Board has continued to function, much maintenance work on operations and maintenance planning for real estate has been carried out and many other plans are waiting to materialize in 2022.