

FREDERIK KOOL †

On December 13, 1982, the Editorial Adviser of this periodical, Frederik (Frits) Kool, died at the age of 60, having served the Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis for almost thirty-three years.

When Mr Kool started working for the *Bulletin of the International Institute of Social History Amsterdam* in January 1950, he was a convinced Council Communist, and he approached the history of the working-class movement as a source of wisdom and inspiration rather than as an object of detached study or curiosity. As he moved politically to the right during the subsequent years, this process changed the nature, but not the intensity of the interest he took in the history of that movement. On the contrary, he still broadened and deepened his knowledge of its various currents during these years. Thanks to his erudition, and no less to his almost natural gifts of flair and creativity, he was eminently qualified to become the first Editorial Secretary of the *International Review of Social History* in 1956. He prepared this new periodical with energy, enthusiasm and ingenuity. Many contributors will remember his sound advice, which bore upon the content as well as the form of the manuscript they had submitted. In 1964 he assumed the position of an Editorial Adviser. On his own account he also became editor of the well-known *Dokumente der Weltrevolution*, published in Switzerland in six volumes (1967-76).

As the years passed Mr Kool became more critical of the organized working-class movement and what he saw as its equalitarian collectivism. At the same time he became ever more gloomy about the deterioration of the natural environment, and he combined these concerns with a rather elitist type of liberalism. Consequently, even his scholarly interest in labour history tended to flag. His pessimistic state of mind was aggravated by delicate health. As a result of all this the final years of his life were certainly not the most easy ones.

By us, and probably by others as well, he will be remembered above all as the first Editorial Secretary of the *International Review of Social History*. In this respect he has made a unique contribution.

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