

Report of the Royal Academy Conference “Anton Pannekoek (1873-1960), Ways of Seeing Science and Society”, held 9 and 10 June 2016, and the Royal Academy Public Evening Symposium “Anton Pannekoek (1873-1950”, held on 9 June 2016

The 2-day international scientific Conference at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the connected Evening Symposium at the Academy for the general public, were organized in close relation with the art exposition “Aspects of the Milky Way” of German graphic artist Jeronimo Voss of Frankfurt am Main, at the Amsterdam Stedelijk Museum, from 15 May through 30 June 2016. This art project was inspired by the scientific and political work of Anton Pannekoek.

Anton Pannekoek was member of the Royal Academy, and we are very grateful to the Academy for hosting the scientific Conference and the Evening Symposium, and for substantial financial support for both these events.

Both the scientific Conference and the Evening Symposium were very successful.

Some 70 scientists from all over the world took part in the scientific Conference. The invited speakers and participants covered the various aspects of the astronomical work of Pannekoek and of his work as an internationally leading theorist of left-wing socialism during the first half of the 20th century. Before the 1917 Russian Revolution he worked closely with Lenin, but after this Revolution he strongly criticized Lenin’s way of organizing the Soviet Union, which led Lenin to write in 1921 a special booklet against Pannekoek’s ideas of socialism. Central theme of the Conference was the connection between his scientific and his political work, fields which Pannekoek himself kept strictly separated during his life.

There also was great public interest for the Evening Symposium, and all 200 available seats in the Tinbergen Hall of the Royal Academy were rapidly taken (although participation was free of charge, the public had to register through internet).

A copy of the Conference Program and the program of the Evening Symposium are enclosed, as well as a copy of the Conference poster.

The contributions of the Conference speakers will be published in the form of a book, by Amsterdam University Press.

The Scientific Organizing Committee the scientific Conference and the Evening Symposium:

Prof. Dr. E.P.J. van den Heuvel, Astronomy, Universiteit van Amsterdam (chair)

Prof. Dr. J van Dongen, History of Science, Universiteit van Amsterdam

Drs. Chaokang Tai, History of Science, Universiteit van Amsterdam

Dr. B. van der Steen, Labour History, Universiteit Leiden

Prof. Dr. R.A.M.J. Wijers, Astronomy, Director Astronomical Institute Anton Pannekoek, UvA

Jeronimo Voss, Graphic Artist, Frankfurt am Main

Drs. E. Uijtendewilligen, Staff Member of the Royal Academy

Amsterdam, 17 December 2016.

