

A short history of Isaac Alfred Ailion
and his family

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Universiteit Leiden

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and his family**

(revised edition)

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Preface

"How did the money of a Jewish cigar maker who, though born in Amsterdam, was raised in London, come to be left to the University of Leiden?" This question could have been put to any number of story writers, but one may be sure that whatever plausible or less plausible tales they would have spun, none of their tales would have even remotely resembled the truth as it is told in the following pages.

The setting of the story has disappeared for good: the western enclaves in the treaty ports of Kōbe and Yokohama, the foreigners with their own clubs, their own newspapers, and their condescending attitude towards their Japanese hosts. Isaac Ailion was part of this setting, and yet, he was an exception, too. Where many did not, he did marry his Japanese wife, Masuda Tsuneko, and though he sent his sons to the English school, his children were raised to be bilingual. No relevant Japanese sources have been found, but in the western reminiscences of the Ailion family, intensive contacts with Japanese officials are noted. These might explain why the Ailions were not interned during World War II, though they had the Dutch nationality.

Why Dutch? Isaac might have claimed English nationality just as well. One imagines a quiet evening in a still alien Japan, some drinks with a ship's captain or a member of the legation, conducted in a language Isaac had been just too old to forget when his family moved to London in 1862 and now remembered with fondness. Once the choice was made, the family stuck to it, and the Ailions became the mainstay of the small Dutch community in Kōbe.

Leiden emerged on the scene much later. It is only in the 1960s that suddenly such names appear in the account as ambassador R.H. van Gulik, professor F. Vos, and the consul general W.Ch.E.A. de Vries. Was it their acquaintance with the two last surviving children that spun a web that eventually funnelled into Leiden?

There are other mysteries as well, such as, why was there any capital to be left at all? Three boys and three girls should have been more than capable to finish off between themselves whatever inheritance there was. But they did not. In the sources, they appear as an admirably close family: a devoted mother, dedicated children, and loving brothers and sisters. All six children worked, and all of them contributed to a greater or lesser degree towards the common purse. None of them married. Why not? Was it because they were half Japanese, half Jewish? But would that not have been more than compensated for by the fact that they were, on all accounts, well

educated, sociable, likable, and wealthy? There is some information that sheds light on this matter, even quite dramatically.

In the end, the fact that the family would die out with them, left the youngest of the children, Mabel and Charlie, with a cause: to perpetuate the name of their father. An Australian, Harold Williams, played a significant role in the final act. Serendipity never ceases to amaze one.

Together with the inheritance, the task to perpetuate the name of the Ailions has now devolved on Leiden University and its Chair for Japanese Studies. The bequest left by Mabel Ailion is an honour to the university and a boost for Japanese studies, but also a responsibility, a sacred trust, and an obligation. In the following pages, the story of the Ailion family is told and a short account is given of the way in which the Foundation has tried, ever since its establishment in 1983, to fulfil this trust.

Prof. Mr. P.F. Van der Heijden
President of Leiden University

Acknowledgments to the 1st edition (2000)

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Thanks are also due to Mr Richard Ailion of Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs Drs F. van Anrooy of the General State Archives, The Hague (Netherlands); Prof. Dr W.J. Boot, who thoroughly revised the text; Mr L.A. van Gasteren of the Foundation "Four Centuries of Dutch-Japanese Relations," Amsterdam; Mr A. Jacobus, London; Dr D. Kranzler, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mr G.M. Kruissink of Zeist (Netherlands); Drs H. Kuijpers of the Dutch Consulate, Ōsaka; Drs T. van Luin of the Foundation "Four Centuries of Dutch-Japanese Relations," Amsterdam; Dr R. Maliangkay, London and Leiden; Drs H. Moeshart, Leiden; Prof. Dr I. Nish, London; Mrs Kathryn M. Pearl of Great Neck (New York); Mrs R. Pennink-de Block, Velp (Netherlands); Mrs T. de Roos-Krouwel, Doorn (Netherlands); Dr D.M. Swetschinski, Newton (Massachusetts); Mrs Takata Yōko, who did research in Leiden and Kōbe and read and wrote Japanese for me; Rabbi M. Tokayer, New York; Mrs Ethel Del Valle, Santa Rosa (California); my respected teacher, the late Prof. Dr. F. Vos; and Mrs Drs H. de Vries-Van der Hoeven, The Hague, who enthusiastically gave information on their family or friends, the Ailions of Kōbe; to Drs P.L. Wijsman who, in my absences, took care of our library of the Department of Japanese and Korean Studies, Leiden University, assisted by Mr H. van Beugen (informant on Jewish culture, by the way); to the personnel of the "Instituut Collectie Nederland" in Rijswijk, of the library of the Jewish Historical Museum of Amsterdam, of the library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, and of the Registrar's Office of Amsterdam.

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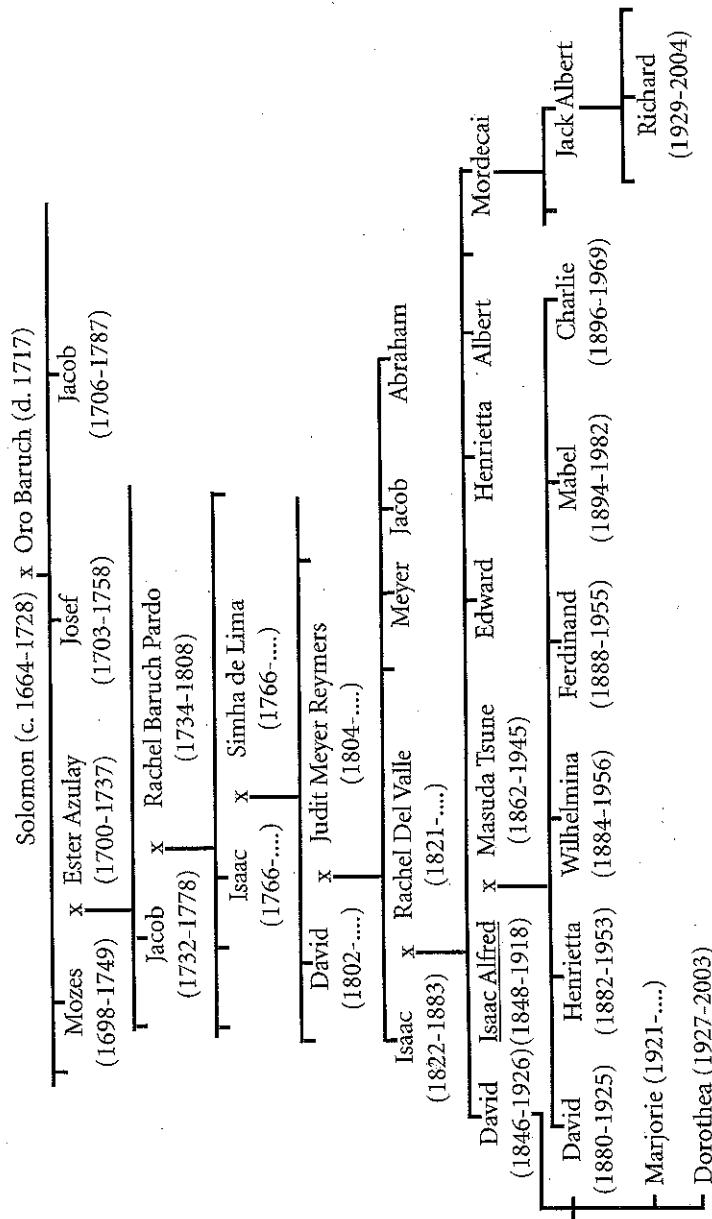
This edition is somewhat improved and expanded, especially concerning the medical record of I.A. Ailion, contacts of his family with those of his brother David in England, the relation of H. Williams with Mabel Ailion, and discrimination as experienced by children of the family. Also the record of the activities supported by the Isaac Alfred Ailion Foundation was expanded.

For part of the new information I wish to thank mrs. Marjorie Ailion Phillips, her sister Dorothea Ailion Smith (deceased), mrs. Judith J. Williams Mason and her sister Carol Williams Holsworth, who all live or lived in Australia.

Prof. Dr W.J. Boot and Prof. Dr W. van Gulik helped me again with comments and in other ways.

A.M.O.

Simplified branch of the Aylion / Ailion familytree



With special thanks to Len Yodaiken (Kfar Hanassi, Israel)

Amsterdam - London

According to unofficial sources, Isaac Alfred Ailion (1848-1918) came to Japan in 1872. We do not know whether he was a young businessman supported by his family, or one of those adventurers whom the tides of fortune washed up on the shores of Japan in those days. Whatever may have been the case, once Isaac had set foot on Japanese soil, he stayed there. No letters or diary by his own hand have come down to us. Only some photographs survive, that he had made in later years for his family in Europe and which tell us that he was still in contact with them. Also some of his children later went to visit their relatives in England. Isaac himself, however, never went back to Europe and never met his relatives again.

As a globetrotter Isaac was no exception in the Ailion family. His ancestor, Solomon ben Jacob Aylion (c.1664-1728), was born in Saloniki, Greece, in a Jewish community with Spanish roots¹. He went to London in 1689, where he became a rabbi, but because of his involvement in some quarrel, he left that city again for Amsterdam in the Netherlands in 1700. Here he was a chief rabbi (*haham*) until his death². He had three sons, Mozes, Josef and Jacob, who appear on a list of administrators of the Jewish cemetery of Ouderkerk, south of Amsterdam³. From Mozes, the genealogical line passed through Jacob, Isaac, and David, to Isaac (whom we will call 'Sr.') and his brothers Meyer, Jacob, and Abraham⁴.

The Ailions were Sephardic Jews. As a rule these tended to be better off than the Askenazy Jews, who migrated to the Netherlands from Central and Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, many of the Sephardim were just as poor. The Ailions may not have been exactly poor, but they certainly were not wealthy. Isaac Sr.'s father David was a tailor, and Isaac Sr. and his brothers were working in the tobacco trade. More precisely, Isaac Sr. was a cigar maker, as was his brother Meyer, while his brother Abraham was working as a cigar dealer. They probably worked at home, not in a factory, making this new product that had become known in the Netherlands around 1825⁵. With their large families these Jewish people lived in their own quarter of Amsterdam, criss-crossed by such streets as Weesperstraat and Muiderstraat. Here, in Weesperstraat 107, Isaac Jr. was born on March 19, 1848, as a son of Rachel del Valle and Isaac Ailion.

When he was a few years old the family moved to Dusseldorf, a Catholic but tolerant city in Germany, where brother Edward and two sisters were born. In 1862 Isaac Sr. emigrated with his wife Rachel and his children to London, as many Dutch Jews, cigar makers and others, did in the course of the nineteenth century⁶. His

brother Abraham would follow later. The 1881 census of London shows Isaac Sr. (commercial traveller) and his wife and sons Edward (29, dock labourer), Albert (20, cigar maker), and Mordecai (17, diamond cutter) as living in Mile End Old Town. In neighbouring Whitechapel lived his eldest son David (cigar dealer) with wife and six children, and with a domestic Irish servant⁷. Such first names as Edward and Albert indicate the adaptation of the continental Jews to life in England⁸. Isaac Jr., too, may have gotten his second name Alfred when he lived in London as a boy.

By the time this census was taken, Isaac Jr. had been living in Japan for nine years already. As we said above, how he came there is not known. It might be that Japan attracted the attention of the Ailions through their trade. When in 1861 the American Civil War began, this caused American tobacco exports to drop dramatically. For the duration of the war, Japan, China and other countries filled the gap; hence, Japan became a well-known name in English tobacco trading circles, also with small dealers⁹.

Japan

Isaac Alfred Ailion came in 1872 to join the firm of Walsh, Hall & Co. at Yokohama. The foreigners enjoyed extraterritorial rights then and were living in the foreign concession in a separate part of the town. There were a few other Japanese cities where foreigners were permitted to reside. Yokohama and Nagasaki were the most important places.

The settlement of foreigners was a new development. For over two centuries, from 1639 till 1854, the Dutch were the only westerners who were allowed to trade with Japan, but their freedom of movement was severely limited. They had to live on the small island of Deshima that had been built in the harbour of Nagasaki. Then, in 1854, the United States forced the opening of Japan, and in the treaties that were concluded with the U. S. and the other western nations it was stipulated that a num-



Weesperstraat 107, where Isaac was born. The number was 61 (see arrow) in the 1950s, when this photo was taken. The houses do not exist anymore (photo of the Registrar's Office of Amsterdam)

ber of ports (Kanagawa, Yokohama, Hakodate, Nagasaki, Niigata, Hyōgo) would be opened to foreign trade.

In reaction to the western threat, the Japanese government (the Tokugawa shogunate) embarked on an ambitious program of modernization, which was given added impetus by the Meiji Restoration of 1868, when the emperor took over the government from the Tokugawa family. An army of foreign experts was invited from the United States, England, France and Germany to modernize Japan's juridical, military, and financial institutions. The Dutch were also active, e.g. the civil engineers J. de Rijke and G.A. Escher, who were engaged in canalization and harbour construction. The Japanese were not only interested in Western ideas and technology, but also in Western products. Western-style clothes and food became the fashion, and their spread was helped by the Meiji authorities who did not hesitate to dictate "modern" styles of dress and haircut to the people.

Already in the 1860's, Japan appeared on the financial market of London in search of funds. Soon the Oriental Bank, that played a leading role for China and Japan, opened a branch in Yokohama. It was followed by the Netherlands Trading Co., that employed agents in Kōbe, Ōsaka, Nagasaki and Yokohama. In 1870 the new Meiji government sought funds in London and Paris for railway construction, and early in 1872 it was seeking another loan for mining and railways¹⁰. 1872 was also the year in which the so-called Iwakura Mission visited England (in August) as part of a tour that took it through the United States and most of Europe. Among the members of the mission were some of the most important politicians of the new regime. Its original purpose had been to re-negotiate the unequal treaties that the shogunate had concluded with the western nations, but before long it had become clear that that was asking for too much too soon. The mission did, however, afford its members a first hand opportunity to study the modern western world, and its influence on subsequent Japanese politics was of major importance.

In the following decades, Japan became politically and economically an international power. In 1895 Japan defeated the weakened Chinese empire, which had to cede the island of Taiwan to Japan and was also forced to pay a heavy indemnity. In 1905 Russia, a European power that posed a threat to Japan's interests in Korea, was brought to its knees, and in 1910 Korea was annexed by Japan.

In order to finance its modernization, Japan had not only to borrow, but also to export. A first attempt to explore foreign markets for Japanese products was made at the World Exhibition of 1862 in London. The products of Japanese handicraft that

were exhibited there made a deep impression on the West, and one of the products on show, Japanese porcelain, was to become an important trade item. The idea of exhibitions caught on, for in the same year that Isaac Jr. arrived in Japan, an international exhibition was held in the ancient capital of Kyōto¹¹.

Originally, Japanese export consisted mainly of raw materials such as raw silk, tea and rice. From 1890 mats were, next to porcelain, important export items, and raw silk was replaced by textile manufactures. Another example of Japanese manufactures are clocks, that were first imported, but after Japan started its own industry, they became from 1900 an export item¹².

As a result of all these developments, Japan's open ports flourished. Perhaps, in the better regulated 1870s, profits were not as large as they used to be in the unruly 1860s, which might explain why some of the early traders left and why the Netherlands Trading Co. closed all of its branches in Japan. On the other hand, between 1879 and 1889 the trade volume of e.g. Kōbe increased fourfold.

Ōsaka and Kōbe

Life in Japan had not been peaceful at first. Around the time of the Meiji Restoration foreigners had been the target of xenophobic samurai. "These are bad times for Japan when a samurai must die merely because he cut down a barbarian"; one such samurai told the Yokohama crowd before his execution in 1864. And many foreigners left Ōsaka in 1868 when the imperial troops set fire to its castle, stronghold of the Tokugawa. But then order was restored.

From Yokohama Ailion went to Nagasaki and a short while later to Ōsaka, where he represented the insurance firm of E. Fisher & Co. of Yokohama. He travelled in the interior, having encounters with highway robbers. The Japanese government asked him to teach the fermenting process of tobacco to the Japanese¹³. In 1879 he moved to Kōbe, a harbour that had been opened for foreign trade and residence on January 1, 1868, only a few years before his arrival. The city was newly formed on that occasion from the ancient harbour Hyōgo and three rural villages, one of which gave the new city its name. Here Ailion was to stay.

In the 1870's Kōbe's infrastructure was improved. A telegraph service was started between Ōsaka and Kōbe in 1870, and a railway was opened in 1874. Nevertheless, the number of foreigners living in Kōbe was still small. In 1878 there were less than 250 western nationals living in this second largest international port of Japan, women and children included. They were mainly British, American and German, but

there lived also a few Dutchmen (in 1881 fourteen people: nine male, two female, and three children).

Next to their firms and warehouses, the foreigners soon started their own newspapers, social and sports clubs, and schools. Among the clubs they founded, we find the International Club (later named the "Kōbe Club"), with its K.R.A.C. (Kōbe Regatta and Athletic Club), and Club Concordia. Though this latter was labelled a "German" club, it had not only German, but also Dutch and Scandinavian members. One of its founders was Isaac Ailion¹⁴.

The businessman

Another trace of Isaac A. Ailion in Japan is his signature on the marriage certificate of the Dutch hotel keeper E. Bongers, who was married with a German woman at the Dutch Consulate in Kōbe in 1876. Ailion's profession is given as "inspector of tobacco" (in Ōsaka). But tobacco was not to remain his core business (though Japan became a cigar producer in the 1890s).

Information on Isaac Ailion's business activities during these years is fragmentary. In official Dutch records he is called a merchant in Ōsaka (March 1879) and in Kōbe (Oct. 1879)¹⁵. He survived the bankruptcy of the Oriental Bank in 1884, which may have cost him several thousand dollars. Around 1886, he had become an agent for the American firm R. Isaacs Brothers Co., importer of watches, clocks, animal hides, etc. into Japan, and exporter of rugs, mats, and so on¹⁶. In 1911-1913 he was a partner in Whymark, Ailion & Crombie, who were auctioneers, valuers, surveyors, real estate agents and general commission agents.

The Ailion family

His activities as a tradesman brought Isaac Ailion considerable wealth. He had a large house built near the historic Ikuta Shrine in the heart of Kōbe. "It was constructed of wood in the colonial style, with verandahs running across the front, both upstairs and down-



I.A. Ailion in a photostudio, 1886

stairs on the ground floor. The verandah on the ground floor was of large squares of white marble. The front garden was in the Japanese style, with trees, shrubs, stones and stepping stones, and a large pool with carp. At the sides of the house there were the vegetable garden, flowers, and loquat, peach, fig, and persimmon trees." The servants lived behind the residence¹⁷.

Here Isaac lived with his Japanese wife, Masuda Tsuneko (1862-1945). Their relationship had not been at all to the liking of Tsuneko's family. On the day she left her parents' house, the Masuda had a Buddhist priest intone the sutras for the dead¹⁸. At first, Isaac and Tsuneko (or Tsune, as she was usually called) were



Ferdy, Mabel, David, Henrietta, Charlie and Wilhelmina, c.1905

not married. Between 1873 and 1898 Japanese law would have required Isaac Ailion to become a Japanese national if he wanted to marry her and stay in Japan. After deliberations probably conducted in Japanese, as Tsuneko spoke no English then or later, apparently they had decided to forgo marriage for the time being. When they eventually married, which must have been after 1897¹⁹, Tsune became a Dutch citizen. The Ailions were "fiercely proud of their nationality, and loyal to their Queen"²⁰. Later visitors noted in one of the rooms a lifesize portrait of Queen Wilhelmina on the day of her accession to the throne.

In 1880 their first son, David, was born. Then followed Henrietta (1882), Wilhelmina (1884), Ferdinand (1888), Mabel (1894), and Charlie (1896). The boys went to the English Mission School in Tor Road, and were active in sports. Their sisters attended a Japanese school for girls. They learned to read Japanese much better than their brothers. Later, the two eldest sisters helped their mother at home.

Every now and then, before and after 1900, pictures were taken of the Ailions by the studio of Sota Ichida, the most successful photographer of Kōbe²¹, and sent to their relatives (uncles David and Edward, aunt Henrietta) in Europe with whom they kept contact. Only of Tsune no photo's of those years are to be found.

An esteemed Dutchman

Not only was Isaac Ailion a successful businessman and familyman, he was also a valued member of the foreign community. In the 1870s he was invited to join a hunting party with prince Henry of Prussia. But near a temple the party was arrested by Japanese police, who did not believe a prince and grandson of the German emperor would debase himself by hunting together with a group of merchants. At the police station they saw how wrong they were and were relieved no diplomatic scandal ensued²².

Ailion was appointed consul for Portugal (the Portuguese Consulate was at the same address as his employer E. Fischer & Co.). In the 1880's and 90's he was an assessor

at the Dutch Consulate, and in 1903, acting as Interim Consul, he officiated at the marriage of the Dutch Acting Consul Mr H. van Oordt. Witnesses on this occasion were the Consuls of Sweden and France²³. He also stood by his countrymen on less festive occasions, as is witnessed by Ir. De Rijke, who wrote in 1881 to his fellow engineer Escher how grateful he was to Ailion for the support he had given him day and night when his wife was dying.



Isaac Alfred as mermaid, 1896

Neither was Isaac too shy to play a role in entertainment. In the 1890s he organized amateur concerts, and there are photographs showing him as a ballet master of a troupe of male dancers, and as a mermaid in a comedy staged at the Club Concordia²⁴.

The Meiji government showed its appreciation for Ailion's activities on the occasion of the Fifth National Industrial Exhibition of Ōsaka in 1903, where he even had received the Emperor and Empress, by awarding him the Order of the Rising Sun fifth class. A proud Ailion sent a picture of himself with decoration "to my dear



Decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun, fifth class

brother Edward and family, 27 April 1905¹²⁵.

Around 1913 his eyesight began to fail. An operation in Kyoto for cataract was unsuccessful. Then he had a stroke, but recovered though he was blind now. He showed symptoms of diabetes. A few years later he had a second stroke. Isaac A. Ailion died, almost seventy years old, on January 13, 1918. "Thereafter, his studio photograph stood in a silver frame on a round table in the family sitting room, and fresh flowers were placed each day in a tall crystal vase beside it"¹²⁶. He was buried at Kasugano Foreign Cemetery. The text on his tomb is in Hebrew and Dutch, languages that his wife and children did not, or hardly know.

The next generation in business

The two most important events for Japan in the early part of the twentieth century were the First World War and the great earthquake of 1923. Both events, however, were not without benefit to Kōbe. Since in World War I Japan was an allied power, the German residents in Kōbe were banned from trading, but the Japanese businessmen and those of other nationalities profited by a trade that more than trebled between 1913 and 1918. Especially exports soared, and Kōbe's trading volume surpassed that of Singapore and Hong Kong. Even the Netherlands Trading Co. was moved to reopen its office in Kōbe. The earthquake, which struck eastern Japan on September 1, 1923 was a national catastrophe. The quake itself, and the disastrous fires that followed, destroyed most of Tokyo and Yokohama and killed some 140,000 people. One consequence was, however, that many foreign firms moved their activities from Yokohama to Kōbe, which temporarily increased in importance.

The Ailion sons followed in their father's footsteps, and all entered upon careers as businessmen. As will be mentioned later the children were 'half-castes' and as such probably had more problems than their father. They continued to live together and contributed towards a joint family income. However, they did not set up a joint partnership, but worked for separate firms. The eldest son, David, was the first to

seek employment. In 1910 he went to work with Berigny & Co., which was an Agency for the Imperial Insurance Co., but he also worked for the German firm Thomas & Co.²⁷. Moreover, until their father died, he and Ferdy were partners with B. & J. Guggenheim (New York and Kōbe) in the Japan Import and Export Commission Co. After World War I, David worked for Messrs Sale & Frazar.

Ferdy, the second son, became the owner of Caro Trading Co., formerly Caro & Haber. He was assisted by his sister Wilhelmina, and the two of them added substantially to the family's wealth²⁸. Their office was at the address of Coro Co. This Coro Co. (Cohen & Rosenberger, Inc.), a New York firm of importers and manufacturers of pearls and jewelry, was their main trading partner, whom they supplied with synthetic gem stones both before and after World War II²⁹. In 1920 Ferdy met the Australian businessman Harold S. Williams, who would remain a lifelong friend of the family and was to become the chronicler of the early western settlements in nineteenth century Japan. Williams and Ferdy Ailion became good friends, engaging in sports together and collecting books and "things Japanese" in curio shops.

In December 1926 Charlie, the youngest of the children, was elected director of F.M. Jonas Co., and in 1932 he established himself as Export, Import and Commission Merchant C. Ailion Co., also at Coro's address. In between, in 1929, Charlie made a world tour, visiting porcelain and pottery factories in eight European countries and the United States. This trip probably combined business with pleasure, for porcelain was one of Charlie's hobbies. In Japan he was privately collecting Japanese and old Dutch porcelain ware, and later, in 1959, he would publish a book about the Japanese potter Bandō Hōroku, whom he knew personally³⁰.

The youngest daughter, Mabel, had artistic interests, but like her brothers and sisters she also earned her keep by working as a typist for Findlay, Richardson & Co., the firm where Williams worked, and other foreign companies in Kōbe³¹.



Mabel in 1910

The family in the 1920's

The Ailions occupied a position of some social eminence in Kōbe. According to Japanese custom, this entailed amongst other things the practice of receiving calls from important visitors at New Year. "Then it was especially the eldest sister, Henrietta, who prepared the magnificent black lacquered, gold embossed five-tiered boxes, each tier of which was filled with delicacies for the many guests. They were replenished throughout the first three days of the New Year when friends and businessmen came to tender their good wishes. Presents were prepared, for the family and staff, for all those who delivered food, newspapers, etc. to the house."³² For the highest ranks, the best silver sake cups were brought out. Mrs. Williams wrote that she and her husband always went to visit the Ailions on the second day because there were so many Japanese officials on the first.

Misfortune struck the family when David died in January 1925, according to the obituary of peritonitis, in the Imperial Hospital of Kyōto. He was only forty-five years old. Friends of the family thought his death a mystery, and some speculated that David might have had a love affair with a Japanese woman, but because of some family pact was prevented from marrying her, and therefore had committed suicide. At his funeral, friends like F.M. Jonas and Professor S. Ōmura were among the pallbearers. The Dutch Consul Mr C.S. Lechner gave an address at his grave³³. In the 1920s and 1930s some of the children went by boat to visit relatives in England, where they met children and grandchildren of their uncle David in Manchester³⁴. They brought Japanese presents and after returning home they even sent more.

Sports and balls

The boys were active members of the K.R.A.C.. David and Ferdy both played soccer, Ferdy also rugby, hockey and waterpolo. Charlie was a strong baseball player, whose exploits at times even made the newspapers.

When Ferdy died in 1955, his old friend Bennie Abraham reminisced in the K.R.A.C. paper how "Fredy" had joined the club in 1906 and had taken part in sport events for nearly half a century. "Speedy, with plenty of weight, he became the safest full-back for Kōbe in rugby football. With the Japanese spectators his popularity was very great ... To him the club owes most for its thriving condition today." Ferdinand had served the K.R.A.C. over long periods as a member of various committees, and had been elected president in the difficult years 1946-47³⁵. After his death, his surviving brother and sisters donated in his memory three silver trophies to the

K.R.A.C., which were to be used as prizes for the annual Rugger and Soccer Interport competitions and the Club Billiard Championship³⁶.

In November 1930 Charlie became a kind of national hero. In the zoo of Koyoen park a ten year old boy, Sugita Hiroshi, had climbed on a bears' cage and got his legs terribly injured by the animals. Charlie managed to get the boy away, and was praised in letters from Japanese as well as foreigners. Unfortunately, the boy died a few weeks later and the bears were shot, but Charlie was duly rewarded by governor Shirane Takesuke of Hyōgo prefecture³⁷. Also at other occasions Charlie would show that he was not a mere spectator when people or animals were in danger. He saved a dog out of a



Ferdy



Charlie as „Traffic Regulations“, 1934

landslide, and in 1960, when a Dutch neighbour, Mrs De Raadt, phoned him to tell that strange people were walking around her house at night, he appeared with his dog and a toy gun!

Charlie was as colorful as his father had been. He sang at the New Year's party of the Kōbe Women's Club and on other occasions³⁸. In the 1920's and 1930's, he took part in fancy dress balls that were organized to collect money for the International Hospital of Kōbe and for Club Concordia. On photographs we see him as Charlie Chaplin, or as a "Bale of rug." He won prizes as "Barber's pole" and "Traffic regulations." On a photo-

graph taken at the 1934 KRAC Gymnasium Hospital Ball, he is shown together with Ferdy and Mabel and his friends W. Lackie, H.S. Williams and F.M. Jonas, who was then President of the KRAC.

Even in the 1930s, when the army was tightening its grip on Japan and the country was gradually gliding into war, social life still had its highlights. On August 31, 1933, the Dutch community celebrated the birthday of Queen Wilhelmina with a reception at the Consulate-General, given by Mr Lechner and Mr N.A.J. de Voogd. In the evening festivities were held at Club Concordia, where Ferdy and Charlie Ailion were present, with Mr H. Hagemeyer (of Hagemeyer & Co., Kōbe), Mr B.H. van Ketel (manager of the Netherlands India Commercial Bank), and many others, including foreigners. Most German members of the Club Concordia were liberal businessmen, and in the 1930's they did not sympathize at all with rising Nazism at home³⁹. The fortieth anniversary of Queen Wilhelmina's reign in 1938, however, was celebrated with Dutch nationals only; "because of the present circumstances", the Dutch diplomats thought this more appropriate.

In 1936, money was collected for a wedding present to Princess Juliana and Prince Bernard, whose marriage had been announced for the following year. Being fervent Dutch Orangists, the Ailions of course contributed their share. The celebration of the royal wedding was combined with the foundation in Kōbe of the As-



Sitting, from left: Charlie, F.M. Jonas, Mabel, two others and Ferdy. Behind Mabel stands H.S. Williams.

sociation of Netherlanders in West-Japan. The Association started with some eighty members. Ferdy became a member of the board; the first president was Mr P. de Vries⁴⁰.

Until the end of 1941 Charlie and Mabel were active performers. Mabel sang at the foundation of the Association of Netherlanders, and at the Kōbe Women's Club. In November Charlie gave a lecture on Dutch pottery at the Tor Hotel.

In 1940 he privately published a work on this subject: *Dutch pottery and porcelain found in Japan*, followed in 1941 by *Unfamiliar specimens of Japanese ceramic art*. With the former book he intended to collect money for Nazi-occupied Holland.

At the height of the Pacific War, when he had virtually nothing else to do⁴¹, Charlie made a complete survey of forty-seven Japanese kilns. In 1944, he also published a book called *Deshima*, which on the title-page carried a photograph of the model, made by him of wood and moss, of the old Dutch settlement on Deshima.

The war

The year before Japan joined the war, a most remarkable group of refugees arrived in Kōbe. Thousands of Ashkenazy Jews, fleeing to Lithuania before Hitler's advancing armies, obtained there Dutch entry visas for the island Curaçao (in the Caribbean) from the Dutch consul Mr J. Zwartendijk, and, armed with these papers, they had received transit visas for Japan from the Japanese consul Mr. Sugihara Chiune.

When 200 of them were sailing from Vladivostok to Japan in December 1940 without the proper papers, the Dutch Consul Mr De Voogd provided them with visas. A thousand Jewish refugees stayed in Kōbe for a period of eight months. They were supported by American Jewish relief agencies, the local Ashkenazy community and, less, by the Sephardic Jews of Kōbe, until they were shipped off to Japanese-controlled Shanghai. They were relatively safe there until the end of the war. There is no information that the family of the originally Sephardic I.A. Ailion played any role in the relief⁴².

After its attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Japan found itself at war with the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Netherlands. Dutch and allied friends of the Ailions had left Japan already, or were interned, like the diplomats Mr J.B.D. Pennink and Mr W.H. de Roos in Kōbe, and the first secretary of the legation in Tokyo Dr. R.H. van Gulik, to be exchanged for overseas Japanese diplomats. Harold Williams had joined the Australian forces, and their friend J. Pearl of Coro Co. fought in Europe.

The Ailions, however, could stay in their own house. Though they would be followed by police, they were allowed to go out whenever they wanted to⁴³. This was surely due to their good standing with the authorities of Kōbe and other Japanese, and maybe to the fact that their father had been decorated by the Meiji Emperor in 1903. More than once, however, officers of the Military Police (*Kempeitai*) visited Tsuneko Ailion and tried to pressure her into becoming a Japanese citizen again, thus making her children Japanese as well. She steadfastly refused, saying: "My husband did me the honour of marrying me in the Dutch Consulate and he registered our children there. I will not give up his name or our Dutch nationality."⁴⁴ There are no indications that the Jewish blood of the Ailion children posed a problem with the Japanese. Despite their alliance with Nazi Germany, the Japanese did not share their anti-Semitism or implement any anti-Semitic policies.



Tsuneko Ailion

The bombardment

Gradually it became clear that Japan was losing the war. Food and medicines became scarce and allied air raids hit the big cities. Kōbe, too, was heavily bombed; in the end, eighty percent of the city was destroyed. On June 5, 1945, their mother's birthday, the Ailions had to take refuge in the pond of the Ikuta Shrine to escape the fires that were caused by a bombardment. Standing in the muddy water, Ferdy and Charlie supported their aged mother during the six hours they had to wait before the ground had cooled sufficiently for them to walk on. Then their mother had a stroke.

Their house was destroyed, but they could stay in the house of a friend in Kitano-chō. Here Tsune Ailion died on June 30, eighty-three years old. On a small handcart her children brought the roughly made coffin to the Kasugano Foreign Cemetery, where Charlie and Ferdy dug her grave⁴⁵. She had been a strict mother who had taught her children to be proud of the good name of the family, and a hostess who took care of food and drinks but otherwise was not to be seen when the visitor was a male. Also she did not join her husband or children to parties⁴⁶. Mrs Williams, who returned to

Japan in 1948, remembered her as a lady dressed in brown and gray kimonos, with *obi* (sashes) in subdued hues and with patterns of minute design. "She most strongly disapproved of the gay colours and large designs of the then modern kimono."⁴⁷

Liberation and reconstruction

After Japan's surrender in August 1945, the American army occupied the country.

Harold Williams returned to Japan, as a member of the Australian War Crimes Section of the Allied Forces and came to visit them in 1946, bringing medicines and winterclothing. He found his once robust buddies Charlie and Ferdy thin and haggard. But the brothers started to reestablish their business with the help of their old friend Joseph Pearl of Coro Co., while Mabel became a translator and typist in American employ in the Kōbe area.

During the occupation the Ailions were visited by a young American soldier named Richard Ailion, who had been told by his father to visit them. Richard was a grandson of Mordecai Ailion, the younger brother of Isaac Alfred. Mordecai had lived some sixteen years in South Africa, then returned to London. His son Jack Albert, Richard's father, emigrated after World War I to the United States. The Kōbe Ailions practically adopted Richard as their son. During the year and a half that he was stationed in Japan, he took great pleasure in taking his wealthy aunts and uncles to the American PX store where they could buy things that were not available elsewhere⁴⁸.

The Ailions bought a damaged house on a large, appealing lot in Kitano-chō, and replaced it with a grand new house. In December 1949 their new home "Noilia" (Ailion reversed) was inaugurated with a party for two hundred guests⁴⁹. From these days onward, Charlie could be seen wearing a big cowboy hat, smoking cigars, at home usually accompanied by his dog. At tourist sites he became an attraction for amateur photographers. He also travelled a lot, to Nikkō, Hokkaidō, and other places, preferably where hotsprings were available.



„Noilia“



Ferdy, Joseph Pearl and Charlie with geisha and business relations at „Kitcho restaurant“, Ōsaka, February 1952

The waning years

In February 1953, the eldest sister, Henrietta, died after a long illness. She had not only played an important role in the household, but she had also taught western etiquette and English to Japanese women who were marrying a foreigner. "The oldest lady of the Dutch community in West Japan" was buried in the family grave at Kasugano⁵⁰.



Ferdinand, Henriëtta, Wilhelmina, Charlie and Mabel (1949)

In February 1955, Ferdinand Ailion died, one day after hospitalization. After the war he had never fully recovered his health, but had remained a diligent worker. There were wreaths from Joseph Pearl and from Coro Co., New York, and many others.

In August 1956 Wilhelmina died. Again Consul General De Roos spoke at the graveside, saying there was "happiness in

remembering how gracefully she lived with human beings, with her dogs and her flowers."

In 1960-61, Kōbe City moved the Kasugano Cemetery for Foreigners to a new location in Shūhōgahara. Charlie insisted that the family remains would be reinterred in a family plot in the Jewish section of the new cemetery, in spite of some opposition from the Jewish community⁵¹. He also designed the last three tombstones of the family. The first was to be a book, opened in the first half, the second a halfway open volume, and the third, a closed book. The names of the living were still in red. Charlie, being the youngest, had his name engraved on the last book.

Maybe because the house had become so empty, Charlie and Mabel decided to make a trip around the world. This they did in 1957-58. There are a few photographs, many slides and a tape that tell us they visited Hawaii, Mexico, the States (San Francisco, New York, etc.), London, Rome, Paris, Madrid and Lissabon, and Egypt. In the States they talked with Richard over the phone, but their schedules did not allow them to meet. They did, however, visit their second cousin Philip Del Valle and his wife Ethel in Pasadena, California, and spent a week in New York, in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where they met the Pearls⁵².

Highlights

Upon return, life resumed its course. Charlie was now a retired businessman, who took a lively interest in his various hobbies and his many social obligations. One project that must have been on his mind and on that of his sister, was how to prevent that in future the name of the family would be forgotten. At least, such a preoccupation may have been at the back of the generous gesture that he made in 1959, when he presented,



Ambassador De Voogd making his speech to Charlie, Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau. Left of De Voogd is Mrs. Williams.

"in honour of the fiftieth birthday of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands", his collection of nineteenth century Dutch porcelain to the state of the Netherlands.

The donation was gratefully accepted. The main part of the Petrus Regout ware returned to its town of origin, Maastricht, in the deep south of the Netherlands, where it is kept in the Museum Bonnefanten; a small part of the porcelain collection, together with some miscellaneous objects, went to the National Museum of Ethnography in Leiden⁵³.

When the Dutch Crown princess Beatrix visited Tokyo in April 1963, Charlie was introduced to her as the donator of the Regout porcelain. The princess also inquired after his book *Deshima*, and Charlie readily presented her with a copy. That same year he travelled to Tokyo as a representative of the Netherlands-Japan Society, and together with Mabel he was introduced to Prince and Princess Mikasa, the brother and sister-in-law of the emperor⁵⁴.

More glory befell Charlie in 1964. In his quality as correspondent of the Netherlands-Japan Society in the Netherlands, the rank of Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau was conferred on him in a ceremony at the Consulate-General. Many diplomats and friends were present, and Ambassador De Voogd recalled in his speech that he had known the Ailions for thirty-four years, and mentioned Charlie's



Mabel at an exhibition of her paintings, with Kumada-sensei, May 1961

various publications. Charlie thanked him for the honour done to "the House of Ailion", and told his guests that right behind where the decoration was pinned, he carried in his pocket photographs of all the members of his family. He especially thanked his sister Mabel "who has always given me motherly guidance ... and kept me out of jail." He also mentioned his father's decoration, and how he had followed in the steps of his father at dress-up parties. His speech showed that family feelings ran strong. Mabel handed him a card that day in the same vein: "To dearest Charlie, heartiest congratulations. ... With fondest love from: Papa, Mama, David, Henrietta, Wilhelmina, Ferdie and Mabel, Kōbe." Later, he and Mabel went to the cemetery to inform the family of the honour received⁵⁵.

The press, too, paid suitable attention to the event. The *Mainichi Daily News* of May 22 published an interview with Charlie, in which his expertise in tea ceremony, flower arrangement and porcelain were mentioned. It concluded: "... He now lives with his sister, an accomplished vocalist and artist in Bonseki, wood carving, flower arrangement and Sumie painting."

The newspaper report was true. Mabel Ailion had a considerable talent for the arts. Not only did she sing, she also joined Jean Williams for weekly *sumie* (Chinese ink painting) lessons with Mrs S. Sawada at Ashiya. Later on, in the 1960s, she took Jean with her to Mr Kumada, who taught the Hosokawa school of *sumie*. Mabel was a serious student who exhibited her screens, scrolls and paintings at Kumada-sensei's annual exhibitions, and she received a number of diplomas until she achieved teacher status herself⁵⁶.

Mabel also took wood carving lessons. Charlie made sketches for her teacher to use on the lids of the wooden boxes. One such sketch was of a huge samurai, who found his way to the lid of a large box in which Charlie stored his woodblock prints. *Bonseki*, the art of making miniature landscapes on black lacquered trays with stones and sand, was another art at which Mabel excelled. Her teacher was Miss Thoms, a former classmate of Mabel's, of mixed Danish and Japanese descent. Here again, Mabel participated in exhibitions and received diplomas. Charlie helped her, buying rocks and making sketches⁵⁷.

One of the last prominent social occasions at the Ailions' was a tea party given on July 7, 1965 for Dr. Robert van Gulik, who was on his way to Tokyo where he would succeed Mr De Voogd as ambassador. In that same year Professor F. Vos of Leiden

University came to give a lecture for the Japan-Netherlands Society of the Kansai, which was established in 1959 by Matsushita Kōnosuke, the founder of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.. Professor Vos met Charlie on that occasion; the next time he would see him, Charlie would be on his deathbed.

Generally, however, Mabel and Charlie lived a quiet life, at home with the servants. Lunch was usually skipped as they had breakfast rather late, but the three o'clock tea was never missed. Charlie worked on his collections, including one of newspaper clippings. He had such scrapbooks as "Art & History", "My activities", and "Scandals and Crooks". They included also such memorable events as the honouring of Harold Williams with the Hyōgo International Cultural Award (November 1967), and the sudden death of Ambassador Van Gulik in September 1967.

Charlie's death

On December 26, 1968 Charlie wrote Richard: "We are both in perfect health, very active socially and enjoying our lives." In February 1969 Mabel wrote him in the same vein, though she added: "My friends all tell me that I look way younger than Charlie."

Charlie had diabetes, and had been told so many years ago. Harold Williams had urged him several times to see a doctor again, but Charlie believed in a cure of hot



Mabel at the funeral of Charlie. On her side stands Consul-General De Vries.

springs and less drinking. When he died, however, the cause was not diabetes, but a prostate operation. The operation itself was successful, but complications developed, and in the aftercare a, possibly fatal, mistake was made.

On April 9, 1969 Charlie Ailion died, 73 years old. The elders of the Jewish community at first opposed Charlie's burial in their section of the cemetery, and it took all of Harold Williams' powers of persuasion to convince them that nothing in the funeral would offend Jewish faith. In the end, the elders gave their consent; the new Consul-General Mr. W. Ch. E. A. de Vries spoke at the funeral⁵⁸. After Charlie's death, the Williamses regularly drove Mabel to the cemetery, where she put fresh flowers in front of the tombstones. Then they drove around the hills and had their afternoon tea overlooking Kōbe.

The testament

It turned out that Mabel was not prepared for business matters or administration. Charlie had taken care of all financial and official matters of the household, and now that he was no more, Mabel had to phone her friends every now and then to ask for advice.

She had not made a will, and she was unwilling to discuss the subject, as this might invite bad luck. The Williamses remembered how concerned Charlie had been about the case of a wealthy citizen of Kōbe who had died intestate. Charlie himself, however, had not done anything about it either, because he thought that he still had all the time he needed to arrange his family's affairs.

It was Harold Williams who insisted on prompt action. He persuaded Mabel to invite the Consul-General and his wife, and Mr N. van Zelm of the Consulate. On May 15, 1969 there was a meeting at which Williams' draft of a testament was read. He explained to Mabel that this was a chance to keep the name of the Ailion family alive forever. The purport of the draft was that Mabel would leave almost all of her assets to Leiden University for the establishment of a "Foundation of Isaac A. Ailion and Family of Kōbe, Japan" for the promotion of Dutch-Japanese cultural relations. At the suggestion of Consul-General De Vries, both the Japanese Department of Leiden University and the Dutch-Japanese cultural relations were specifically mentioned in the draft. He advised Mabel to sign, which she did a few weeks later. Her will was then deposited at the Consulate.

Until her death in 1982, Mabel did not go out often to visit her few friends or participate in social events. But from 1971 onwards, she started to receive guests again

on New Year's Day. When Mr Van Zelm and, in 1973, Consul and Mrs De Vries left Japan, the new Consul-General Mr G.M. Kruissink and his wife, the Williamses, and other helpful friends continued to assist Mabel in various ways. The Kruissinks offered their cook to her so she could have a reliable friend in the house.

The old lady died at the age of eighty-eight. It appeared then that she had altered her will in the presence of Mr Kruissink and made a bequest of ten million yen to the cook. She also left some money and objects to Richard Ailion, Dorothea Smith and a few other family and friends like Joseph Pearl.

Again, the elders of the synagogue were unwilling to allow the burial of another practically non-Jewish Ailion, but Mr P.A. Campanella, a well-known personality in the international community of the Kansai, won them over, and the Rabbi of Tokyo came to Kōbe to say *kaddish* over her body. Harold Williams spoke a few words to those present in the Ailion house. The people who came for a last farewell were "pathetically few", in the words of Mrs Williams, as compared with the large groups that gathered at the funerals of Ferdy and Charlie⁹⁹.



The family tombs in 1999 / photo: Y. Takata

The Ailion Foundation

The house and land of the Ailions were sold for 620 million Yen, most of which, NLG 7.111.800, was inherited by Leiden University. On June 13, 1983, the "Stichting Isaac Alfred Ailion Foundation" (in short: the Ailion Foundation) was established in Leiden, the Netherlands, in order to implement the will of Mrs Mabel Ailion. As the bylaws stipulate, the aim of the Foundation is to maintain and promote the cultural relations between Japan and the Netherlands and to support, in this context, the activities of the Department of Japanese Studies of Leiden university. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes, but due attention is to be paid to the advice of the head of the Centre for Japanese Studies.

The first board consisted of Mr. K.J. Cath, chairman of the Board of Leiden University, Prof. Dr. F. Vos, head of the Department of Japanese and Korean Studies, Mr. J. N. Rost Onnes, director of the ABN Bank, Mrs Dr. M. E. van Opstall of the National Archives in the Hague, Prof. Dr. W. R. van Gulik, director of the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, and Dr. D. P. den Os, Secretary of the University.

Chairman and secretary have changed a few times, Prof. Vos was succeeded by Prof. Boot, and Mrs Van Opstall by Mrs. Drs. F. van Anrooy. Now the board is composed as follows: Prof. Mr. P.F. Van der Heijden (chair), Prof. Dr. W.J. Boot, Prof. Van Gulik, Mr. Rost Onnes, Mrs. Van Anrooy and Dr. R. Louw (secretary).

The capital of the Foundation has grown from NLG 7.1 million (€ 3.2 mln) to more than € 5 million in 2008. The increase was most notable in the first ten years. Annual subsidies, guaranties etc. amount to several hundreds of thousands of Euros.

In the 25 years of its existence, the Foundation has supported Japanological projects and cultural and scientific events undertaken by various individuals and institutions in Japan and the Netherlands.

A major beneficiary is the Japan-Netherlands Institute (JNI) in Tokyo, that was established a few years before the birth of the Ailion Foundation. It is funded now mainly by the Dutch government, the Ailion Foundation and several Dutch Universities, including Leiden University. A small staff facilitates courses of Dutch language (since the start there were more than three thousand students) and other subjects, and is intermediary for researchers and students from the Netherlands to

study in Japan as well as on Japan. The JNI also functions as initiator or organizer of symposia on a wide range of subjects. The results have been published between 1989 and 2001 in seven volumes of the *Journal of the Japan-Netherlands Institute*. Also a *Bulletin* and a *Newsletter* are published. Between 1979 and 2004 the JNI has published 25 other titles, e.g. ten volumes of the *Diaries kept at the Dutch Factory in Nagasaki during the early 19th century* in Japanese translation, and the *Deshima diaries: marginalia*, vol. 1: 1700-1740 (1992) by P. van der Velde and R. Bachofner and vol. 2: 1740-1800 (2004) by J. L. Blussé and others.

A related project in Leiden is the publication by the Institute (Centre) for the History of European Expansion of *The Deshima dagregisters: their original tables of contents*, translated from the Dutch and edited by Van der Velde, Blussé and others, supported by the Ailion Foundation from 1984 to the present.

The research and publication project of Dr. F. Lequin on the life and works of Isaac Titsingh (1745-1812), Director of the Dutch Factory on Deshima, Nagasaki, and a 'cosmopolitan Japanologist', was supported by the Foundation in the 1980s and again from 1992 to the present. Two volumes of *Private correspondence*, a biography, travel journal and a history of Titsingh's Japanese collection have been published, and three more titles are scheduled.

The library of the Centre for Japanese Studies of Leiden University received from the start annual subsidies for the acquisition of books on Dutch-Japanese relations and also of books and periodicals related to Japanological subjects. The library of the Leiden Ethnological Museum is supported in the same way.

Many staff members and some students of the Centre for Japanese Studies have received grants and scholarships for visits to Japan, conference participation or even a Buddhist pilgrimage. The Centre occasionally could appoint temporary staff for teaching and research purposes, and implement projects for computer assisted language instruction, for databases and multi-media facilities (also for students). In 1992 a 'Yōrokai' conference for European students of Japanese was made possible in Leiden. Also visiting students who do research on Dutch-Japanese relations have successfully applied for support.

The Netherlands Association for Japanese Studies occasionally received support for symposia and publications, and the "Visual documentation and presentation of the Dutch-Japanese relations, 1600-1900", a project run by Prof. W. R. van Gulik and the late Prof. E. Zürcher, was supported for several years.

The year 2000 was the year in which four centuries of Dutch-Japanese relations

were commemorated. Many of the activities and publications were supported by the Foundation, such as a documentary film by Hans Keller on the annual 'Court Journey' of the Dutch Director from Nagasaki to the Shogun in Edo (present-day Tokyo), exhibitions on the House of Orange held in Japan by the Dutch Palace het Loo Museum, an exhibition of Dutch paintings and books in the possession of Waseda University in Tokyo, held in Leiden University Library, and participation of Dutch scholars in a symposium on Dutch-Japanese relations in the Edo-period. In the same year the new premises of the Japan-Netherlands Institute in Tokyo were officially opened by H.R.H. the Crown prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands.

Numerous other projects, exhibitions, and publications have also been sponsored by the Foundation, and on every occasion due mention is made of this institution that carries the name of Isaac Alfred Ailion.

NOTES

- 1) Goodblatt p.192; Yodaiken (p.24b) found a town of the name Ayllon, 70 km North-east of Madrid.
- 2) Roth p.286; *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 1971, vol.3:996 ("Ayllon"); Da Silva Rosa p.111-112, with picture of "Salomo Aelyon".
- 3) D. Henriques de Castro p.39. This Jacob moved to Germany, his son to Lithuania; see Yodaiken's article, p.24b.
- 4) data from the Registrar's Office of Amsterdam.
- 5) Shuyterman p.17.
- 6) Jacobus p.44.
- 7) data collected from the Public Record Office by dr. R. Maliangkay, London.
- 8) Jacobus p.48.
- 9) Alford p.115.
- 10) Suzuki p.35,53.
- 11) Mossman p.448.
- 12) Department of Agriculture and Commerce p.387-397.
- 13) *Chronicle & directory 1875* p.339, 356. In the *Chronicle & dir. 1874* no Ailion is mentioned yet. *Mainichi shinbun* of 5-1-1951 in an article on Isaac's sons: "father was a tobacco trader at Deshima". And see *The Japan Weekly Chronicle*, Jan. 17, 1918, p.81.
- 14) Williams 1958:66,70,77; Williams 1975:16,19,25; *Geschichte des Club Concordia* p.25,82.
- 15) data from the archives of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; in part collected by Mr P. Oost.
- 16) *Kōbe hajime monogatari ten*, p.97; data of 1886 and 1897; it is interesting to note that Ailion's name is spelled in Japanese 'Airion', which is closer to the Dutch pronunciation than the later form 'Erion'.
- 17) G. F. Williams p.1.
- 18) G. F. Williams p.1; in her letter of June 5th, 2002, Mrs. Marjorie Phillips tells how Tsune nursed a very sick Isaac Alfred.
- 19) N. Koyama p.159-160; on p.161 Koyama mentions the pattern that foreign men had a Japanese servant or mistress with whom they married after living together for some years. They often had children before marriage. Between 1881 and 1897 the names of I. A. Ailion and 6-8 other Dutchmen, 2 women and 2-3 children are registered by the Dutch Consulate in Hyōgo, but no Mrs Ailion or children (copybooks of outgoing letters of the Dutch Consular Archive of Kōbe. P. Oost, who relies on official documents, says under 'Masuda, Tsune' that it is uncertain that David and Ferdinand are her sons. But we have no doubts about this.)
- 20) G. F. Williams p.2, and confirmed by later friends Mrs De Vries (07-98), Mrs T. de Roos-Krouwel (07-98) and Mrs Pennink (18-11-98).
- 21) T. Bennett p.184.
- 22) *The Japan Weekly Chronicle*, Jan. 17, 1918, p.81.
- 23) data P. Oost.
- 24) *Geschichte des Club Concordia* p.55,56,75.
- 25) Umetani, Noboru (ed.)/ *Meiji gaikokujin jokun shiryō shūsei*, vol.4 (1991), p.143: "1904: I.A. Ailion".
- 26) G.F. Williams p.2. The medical history of his last years is in his obituary of *The Japan Weekly Chronicle* of Jan.17th, 1918.
- 27) *Kōbe Directory* of 1900, 1911 (p.56,92), 1912 (93,102), 1913 (114), *Kansai Directory 1918-19*.
- 28) G.F. Williams p.4,7, and *Kōbe Trade Index 1927-1928*; Caro Trading exported silk and cotton goods, matings, camphor, rugs, beads etc.
- 29) Richard Ailion, letter of 2-9-1999; K. Pearl, letter of Oct. 1999. Coro Co. started business around 1900 and was the largest of the costume jewellery manufactures. The brand name can still be found on Internet.
- 30) see M. Fitski 1999.
- 31) G. F. Williams p.7.
- 32) id. p.4.
- 33) *Japan Weekly Chronicle*, 5-2-1925. For the surmises see Mrs Williams (p.2). Her daughter Judith, later Mrs. J.J. Mason, confirms in a letter of July 1st 2007 that Mabel, who was her godmother, told her in secret that "the six children swore a sacred oath that they would never marry. They did not want their Eurasian children to go through the same" [i.e. the discrimination of 'half-castes' at school and in society]. That was why David who was in love committed suicide. The sacred oath is corroborated by Peter Williams, brother of Judith, to a third person. They say this was the reason that their father Harold, who fell in love with Mabel upon meeting her, could not marry her. This love, says Mrs. Mason, caused her mother to write unkindly about Mabel in her

chronicle, which influenced the first edition of this booklet (about Mabel being at a loss after Charlie died).

- 34) Letters (e.g. June 5th, 2002) from Marjorie Ailion Phillips (born 1921) and her sister Dorothea Ailion Smith (b.1927), who also phoned the author. In the albums in the library in Leiden is a photograph of Wilhelmina and Mabel returning from Naples ca. 1925. In her letter of 5-8-2002 Mrs Phillips writes that her family from Japan came on visits five times before and after the war.
- 35) Williams/ *Kōbe Regatta & Athletic Club* p.71.
- 36) *K.R.A.C. Magazine* article of 1955.
- 37) *Kōbe Yūsin Nippō, Ōsaka Mainichi & Tōkyō Nichi Nichi* of 7-11-1930, *South China Morning Post* of 19-11-1930.
- 38) Newspaper report.
- 39) Lehmann, 1988:31.
- 40) Data from the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.
- 41) Words used in an interview with Charlie Ailion in *Mainichi Daily News*, 22-05-1964.
- 42) Kranzler, esp. p.341 n.37,46 and telephone conversation 21-07-1999; Shatzkes p.41,43 n.17; M. Tokayer, fax of 20-11-1999.
- 43) R. Ailion in letter of 18-05-1999; see L. de Jong/ *Het koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de 2e wereldoorlog*, 11b 2e helft, p.741: about 350 enemy civilians were not interned in Japan.
- 44) G. F. Williams p.1.
- 45) G. F. Williams p.3; the cremation she mentions is not confirmed in Charlie's book (see below), p.23-26, or in the records of Kōbe Foreign Cemetery in Shūhōgahara of 1961. In 1945 Charlie published privately his *So this is modern warfare: A personal account of the raid of Kōbe city*; on p.8-9 he justifies the bombings.
- 46) Letter of Mrs J.J. Mason, 1-7-2007.
- 47) G. F. Williams p.2. After Mabel died, Mrs Williams rescued the only photo we have of Tsune Ailion. Mrs. Marjorie Phillips in her letter of June 5th, 2002, mentions a photo that was lost of aunt Tsuneko in Japanese dress.
- 48) Letter of R. Ailion, 2-9-1999.
- 49) Newspaper article
- 50) Newspaper article
- 51) G. F. Williams p.9, and see Williams 1978.

- 52) Letter of Mabel to Richard Ailion, 26-2-1969; letters of Mrs E. Del Valle, 9-9-1999, Mrs Pearl, Oct. and Nov. 1999, Mrs. M. Phillips, 5-6-2002, to author.
- 53) In 1961 Charlie inquired critically why the porcelain was not exhibited yet, but it appeared he was partly mistaken about this. Mrs de Vries heard from Mabel that Charlie had visited the museum in Leiden personally.
- 54) Letter of Charlie to fam. Del Valle, 26-12-1963.
- 55) G.F. Williams p.7a.
- 56) id. p.6-7; photo albums which are kept at the library of the Japanese Institute in Leiden show many of the artistic creations of Mabel's hand.
- 57) id. p.6-7.
- 58) detailed description of the funeral in G. F. Williams p.10-11; and see H. de Vries p.3.
- 59) The whole section 'A testament' is taken from G. F. Williams pp.11-14. The text is confirmed and supplemented by H.S. Williams (letter to W. Lackie, 15-5-1969), by prof. Vos (written statement for the Ailion Foundation in 1983), and by H. de Vries p.5-6.

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