

The beginning of the Wg-vdE family bond and family fund

The family tree starts with Marinus Wiessing and Mathilde van den Eeckhout, who married August 1877 in Vlissingen. Three sons and one daughter grew up.

The bond started in 1917, when the three brothers Henri, Cornelis (Kees) and George Wiessing set up a fund for the livelihood of their sister Anna. Anna, the only daughter of Marinus Wiessing and Mathilde van den Eeckhout, was a teacher. In 1917 she was 34 and it became clear she would not marry. So she would not have much income when she was older and she was not always in a good health. Her brothers, who were better off, set up a fund for their sister as a wedding present for their parents' 40th wedding anniversary.

Statutes

'...On the 14th of August nineteen hundred and seventeen in Batavia, the three sons of Marinus and Mathilde established a foundation in memory of their parents' forty-year marriage out of gratitude for the sacrifices they made for their education and study.'

This is how the very first statutes describe the foundation, and this phrase is used again and again with every amendment, because it is such a beautiful phrase and refers to its origins.

The first foundation board

The foundation was established in Batavia (Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia) where Kees was living at the time. We suppose that Kees contacted his brothers with the proposal for the fund.

The 1st board consisted of the three founders: Henri (as eldest brother) chairman, living in Amsterdam, Kees (who was the most familiar with money and well to do) secretary-treasurer in Batavia, and George as ordinary member at that moment living in Oruro, Bolivia. Together they raised 800 guilders as their wedding present.

New statutes

The very first statutes are probably still in Batavia because those in the family archives date back to 1940, drawn up in Amsterdam, when the war had already begun. They were redrafted there because otherwise Anna might no longer be able to benefit from them.

Forgotten

For a very long time, probably until Anna's death in 1953, apart from the three board members no other family members knew about the foundation, despite the fact that apart from Anna's upkeep, the statutes described a second objective.

'The foundation aims:

a) to make life easier for the founders' only sister, Anna Maria Mathilde Wiessing, by providing financial support, especially when the self-supporting activity of this woman has ended; and b) to provide support from the income to all descendants of the Wiessing - van den Eeckhout couple and their spouses, both male and female, and whoever will be equal to them.'

As long as Anna lived, the money was hers alone. And the fewer people knew about it, the fewer people would claim it.

The next generation of board members

The board of the Foundation rarely met. After all, there was only an account to be managed and Kees could handle that himself. When Kees died in 1957, Frans, George's eldest son, was appointed secretary-treasurer by Henri and George. Henri, finding out after Kees' death that he was on the board as well, said, 'you can give my position to my son Jan'. Whether Jan joined the board directly then or only after his father's death in 1961 is not entirely clear.

Growth

The board consisting of George, Frans and Jan, functioned for many years. George was an important member, deciding where the money was invested (so that income from interest was obtained). Those investments were usually semi charitable, such as the expansion of a hospital. The foundation also had a good savings account and its fortune continued to grow. It grew from 'fl. 4,100 on 31 December 1957 to fl. 94,800 on 1 January 1979', as a quote reads from a 1980 letter by Frans Wg, asking family members for proposals on the future of the foundation.

He and Jan, as the remaining board members, were then left with all kinds of questions about how to continue with the Foundation, as George died in 1975 as the last of the three founders.

All the descendants of Marinus and Mathilde were invited to a meeting on the future of the foundation.

How to proceed?

During that first meeting in 1980, with many family members present, elaborate discussions took place about the various propositions on how to proceed with the foundation.

There were some ideas about splitting up the money or donating it entirely to charity; also about changing the Foundation into an association.

But in the end, it was decided to set up an association alongside the foundation, the purpose of which would be to organise family gatherings to strengthen the bonds between the descendants, as well as to advise and monitor the foundation board. Moreover, it was decided to expand the foundation board from 3 to 5 members.

The Association

As early as October 1981, a meeting was set in Loosdrecht, the founding meeting of the Association. Frans Wiessing, treasurer of the Foundation and Inez Marijnen, eldest granddaughter of George, who became the first Association president, went to a notary and had the deed drawn up. Many people present at that meeting immediately became members and the first family activity was organised in the summer of 1982, in the Biesbosch.

The Association looks after all non-financial matters affecting the family and is supported by the Foundation where necessary. It publishes the family magazine - the Stamstem - and organises annual family days. For further information see association ([link.....](#)).

The Foundation

And here we have arrived at the situation we currently know: a foundation with a board of five people who manage the family capital. The board members are nominated by the family association and are appointed for life. They handle applications and decide to whom money is lent or donated.

Despite all kinds of provisions in our social legislation nowadays, it is still occasionally necessary to assist someone in very difficult circumstances and we still do so. But the requests have long since gone beyond 'support for basic necessities' as stated in the founding statutes.

The Foundation mainly provides support for all kinds of 'social, educational and/or cultural purposes', such as demands for scholarships, special trips, instruments or special tools for study purposes. Moreover, the foundation offers help to first-time buyers with an incentive loan and financial support to make one's home more sustainable. The latter two goals are not explicitly mentioned in the statutes of the association but are provided by the board.

If you are somehow a descendant of the couple Marinus en Mathilde and somehow in need, you can send an application letter to the board.

The last time the statutes of association were amended, was on the occasion of securing the inheritance of (for our generation now great-uncle) Kees, because our foundation was not allowed to own immovable property and it had inherited, among other things, half of his house in Laren after the death of his wife, aunt Enny, in 1999.

Applications

Applications for financial help for yourself or others in the form of a loan or a donation are addressed to the secretary-treasurer of the Foundation, who presents applications to the board:

Pia van Oord-Wiessing
Vlaardingsekade 54
2636 BD Schipluiden NL
piavow@entreeadvies.nl

Send your application with motivation and, if possible, an instalment proposal.

The Foundation lends an amount up to €2,000 interest-free. Above that sum bank based interest rate will be applied.

The board decides whether help is a loan or a donation. For reasons of privacy, the board does not disclose information to third parties. However, applicants may be asked to voluntarily write something in the family newsletter *Stamstem* about her/his project, so that other family members can also enjoy and perhaps be inspired by activities taking place and supported by the family.

The board

Elvira Nolten, chairman
Pia van Oord-Wiessing, secretary-treasurer
Henriëtte Wiessing, member
Floor Pieters, member
Marco Wiessing, member
Sven ten Haaf, member

April 2025