Brief Description

Title: Papers of Petrus Johannes Idenburg, Director of the African Studies Centre
Origin: African Studies Centre Library, Leiden University
Dated (mostly): 1937-1961
Dimensions: 4 boxes
Languages: Dutch, English, French, German, Afrikaans
Summary: Collection of correspondence, article manuscripts and reprints, lecture notes, and miscellanea collected by P.J. Idenburg

Biographical history: (from Wikipedia) Petrus Johannes Idenburg (born 28 January 1898 in Hillegersberg, The Netherlands; died 27 December 1989 in The Hague) was a jurist specialized in constitutional law, lector at Leiden University and researcher of Africa. He graduated in law in 1920 from the University of Amsterdam and continued his studies at the London School of Economics. Back in the Netherlands he became a secretary of the mayor of Amsterdam in 1922 and secretary of (the board of the Curators of) the University of Amsterdam and later of the University of Leiden. Idenburg was a board member of various Dutch-South African associations. Due to his refusal to cooperate with the German occupation authorities to dismiss non-Arian university teachers, he resigned as a secretary of the Curators of Leiden University in June 1942; in 1945 he was restored. In 1947 he founded the Afrika-Studiecentrum, Leiden, which he led as a director from 1947 to 1963. From 1947 he taught African studies at Leiden University. From 1963 to 1968 he was a special lector for Constitutional Law of Africa. He was a member of the Advisory Council for Development Cooperation for many years. Peter Johannes was an elder brother of the statistician and director of Statistics Netherlands Prof. Dr. Philip Idenburg.

Repository: African Studies Centre Library.
Keywords: League of Nations / Permanent Mandates Commission ; South Africa ; Namibia ; Tunisia ; Democratic Republic of Congo ; Soviet Union ; constitutional law ; African studies ; academics ; travel ; personal archives (form)

Origin and Acquisition

Acquisition: Unknown, likely collected by P.J. Idenburg, and left at the African Studies Centre where he was a director from 1947-1963.

Content and Composition


Folders entitled:

- Z.W. Afrika (v. Asbeck Mandatencommissie 1937)
- RegeringsCommissie Zuid Afrika
- ZAfrika 1937
- Rapporten Reis Z.Afrika 1937
- Z.W. Afrika
- Zuid Afrika
- Zuid-Afrika
- Zuid-Afrika 1937 1939
- Idenburg Afrikaanse reizen
- (Folder without a title)
Single copy of a monthly magazine:

- Zuid-Afrika Maandblad voor de cultureele en economische betrekkingen tusschen Nederland en Zuid-Afrika, J.H. de Bussy Amsterdam, juni 1937 No. 6 (contains an article detailing Idenburg’s upcoming journey to South Africa)


Folders entitled:

- Idenberg (sic) / Emanuel
- Collegedictaat
- Moskou 1960 VS 1961
- Correspondentie
- Bukavu – conferentie aug/sept 1955 (containing further folders such as Tunesië and Congo)
- Lezingen overdrukken

*Box 3: labelled ‘Archief Idenburg *INCIDI *International African Institute’

Folders entitled:

- INCIDI
- INCIDI 1 tijdelijke map
- INCIDI 2 tijdelijke map
- Intern. African Institute tot 1952

N.B. INCIDI means Institut International des Civilisations Différentes (Brussels)

*Box 4: labelled ‘Archief Idenburg Extra doos 2017 *INCIDI *International African Institute’

Folders entitled:

- INCIDI 3 tijdelijke map
- INCIDI 4 tijdelijke map