205. October 14, 1711. Notes from a meeting of the Committee for Foreign Needs: Financial reports were read and decisions made concerning further funding. Swiss refugees, who had been to Prussia, were present in meetings on September 8 and 22 to explain their views. A letter to Runckel was read and payment for his services was discussed.

[page] 77[[1]](#footnote-1)

1711[[2]](#footnote-2)

The meeting of the Committee Members for the Swiss matters was held in Amsterdam on October 14.

The members present were:

From Amsterdam: all the Committee Members

Haarlem { Jan Schol

{ Ameldonck Leeuw

Leiden { Matthijs Oosterwyk

{ Hendrik Herding

Rotterdam { Christian Beuningh

{ Laurens Schijn

Zaandam { Claas Arendse Kaaskooper

{ Jan van der Ley

{ Jan Pietersz Kist

{ Lubbert Laurensz[[3]](#footnote-3)

Albert Pronk[[4]](#footnote-4)

Friesland { Hans Douwens[[5]](#footnote-5)

{ Adriaan Robyn

Groningen { Steven Cramer

and { Jan Frederikse[[6]](#footnote-6)

Deventer { Alle Derks

{ Dirk Janse

The financial statement presented showed that f 5089:15:8 was spent[[7]](#footnote-7) beyond the f 10,000 deposited. Each region has been supplied a copy.

It was resolved to deposit another f 15,000 for the benefit of the Swiss; this is 30 percent of the money collected.

What was resolved at the last meeting having carried, the third article concerning the covering of costs is approved.

The delegates who went to Prussia write from Danzig[[8]](#footnote-8) that [the land] in Lithuania is good and fertile, but that the houses are in very poor condition; that wood [page] 78 was to be given free of charge by the King for building purposes; what the land there is like for agriculture; and that 25 to 30 rixdollars would have to be paid for each farm of 30 morgens.

A letter was read aloud to Mr. Runckel, in which he was told that the migrants had left for Kampen, Zwolle, Friesland, and Groningen, and what was done with some of the money. Certification has been sent to him stating that Mr. Ritter had brought the banished persons to Amsterdam.

The delegates who had been to Prussia made their report on the land in Lithuania in the meeting here, on September 8, and had left again for Kampen to hear whether the Swiss would be inclined to go to Prussia. Also, a letter has been written to the Swiss and to Steven Cramer to encourage them to accept the offer of Prussia.

A letter of September 13 was read aloud from Mr. Runckel, in which he writes that the Lords of Bern would like to know where the banished persons would settle and to have assurance that they would not return to

Switzerland. Mr. Runckel also asks whether he will find [payment] from the Mennonite Church for his travel expenses to Basel, a daily allowance, and other costs made for the service of the oppressed, considering that he will not be able to receive it from their High Mightinesses [the States General].

A letter of September 22 from the Swiss in Groningen was read aloud. They reported that they are unanimously disinclined to go to Prussia, preferring to go to the Palatinate rather than to Prussia. The three Swiss coming into the meeting today declare similarly. It was said that this letter formed the reason for calling this meeting, seeing that it was also necessary to speak about further costs.

Concerning Mr. Runckel’s proposal, whose [page] 79 wages should be set at eight guilders per day for eight months: It is resolved that the Committee would ask Mr. Fagel’s thoughts on the matter.

There are several among the departing Swiss who have means. They have given Mr. Runckel 14,000 rixdollars for remittance; [and] he has remitted this to the Committee Members of Amsterdam. It appears as well that several have a substantial amount of money in hiding. Among them are a few Reformed.

It was proposed that half of the Swiss could find a life in Kampen. For the gentlemen at that place were favorably inclined toward them; many properties of church and municipal estates were about to be leased, they could get the rights of citizenship there and many advantages. [Further, they could] pasture six cows, two horses, and other cattle on a certain common land for 100 gold guilders.

A letter from the Lord of Bakkeveen[[9]](#footnote-9) was read aloud in which a few conditions are proposed upon which that land might be purchased. This lord sets the houses at 30,000 guilders, the land at 30,000 guilders, the canal at 2[0],000[[10]](#footnote-10) guilders, totaling 8[0],000 guilders. The person who had spoken with the lord judged that it should not be set at more than 40,000 or 50,000 guilders.

The choice of living in Kampen or in Prussia was given the Swiss before

they left their country.

It was also said that for a few families there is the option of grazing cattle between[[11]](#footnote-11) Heerenveen and [Bakkeveen] in Friesland.

There are 26 families now, consisting of about 130 persons, in Sappemeer in Groningen. The friends of Groningen judged that property could be found for them there, since the properties there could be purchased or rented. It was approved that no estates or lands were to be purchased, only rented.

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It was further resolved that the friends at Deventer, Friesland, and Groningen will look about for suitable places to rent there and to report on this to the Committee.

Steven Cramer reports that the friends in Kampen had already rented a few places from the lords there for a period of ten years. If the Swiss are still renting it after that time, they have the option of renting it for another ten years. [There is] one location for 132 guilders, being 18 morgens of land for cultivating and pasture and bringing in an estimated 61 guilders a year. There is a smaller one of 8½ morgens for 6 guilders, bringing in an estimated 24 guilders. In addition there are [locations] of 13 morgens for 80 guilders, bringing in an estimated 51 guilders. There is another one in Kamperveen of 18 morgens for 110 guilders, bringing in an estimated 50 guilders; another of 16 morgens for 90 guilders, bringing in an estimated 50 guilders; another of 18 morgens for 75 guilders, bringing in an estimated 50 guilders; another of 20 morgens for 100 guilders, bringing in an estimated 50 guilders; another of 17 morgens for 90 guilders, bringing in an estimated 50 guilders. It is not presently known which Swiss friends will locate there, Steven Cramer had given his name as the renter of all these places.

The friends from Friesland are asking Siewert Jansen and Boterman to help them in the Swiss matters.

It is understood that in the case of the Palatine families in Groningen, the collected money is for the adults generally, but that the children are the

responsibility of the particular congregation where they will end up.

Steven Cramer suggests that most of the Swiss at Kampen are not inclined to live in the city, but it is necessary that some take up residence in the city to maintain citizenship for them and others in order to keep cattle. This is left up to them to do as is proper. Among the Swiss in general remains seven thousand one hundred seventy-two rixdollars, which they have transferred.[[12]](#footnote-12)

Finally, it was resolved that, just as the expenses of the Swiss have been paid from the collected money from the beginning of 1710, they will continue to be paid from it as long as the adults are living and needing support. And also the children until they are of age or 20 years old, and those mentally or physically handicapped [shall be supported] longer.

[page] 81

1712. I have received, from Christian Beuningh, a financial report of credits and debits on the money collected for the Swiss, made by those from Amsterdam in the years 1710 and 11. From this financial report it appears that they had received from the special regions: f 11615:14:-

But debited in various entries: *f* 5871:17:8

Therefore received more than spent: f 5743:16:8

On March 16 Christian Beuningh received

the letter below[[13]](#footnote-13) from Amsterdam.

Copy.

1. 205 These pages are also numbered 219-223 in the upper right corner and appear to be torn from the day book (Aenteekeningen) A 1009 of Hendrick Toren of Rotterdam, where those page numbers are missing. From page 213 onwards Toren’s handwriting disappears and is replaced by other hands. Starting in March 1711, conflict between the Rotterdam congregation and Toren’s favor of the liberalizing Collegiants increased until Toren was dismissed from his ministry and church membership in 1712. Hazewinkel, pp. 233-235. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Here was mistakenly written 1712. These minutes seem to be the final copy of a rough draft of minutes on pages 73-75 followed by an empty page 76. Pages 73-75, accordingly, are omitted from the present volume. However, six lines from page 75 were skipped, but are inserted where they belong on page 80. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. or Louwerse, p. 73. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. a North Holland Frisian, p. 73. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. or Douwes, p. 73. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. or Frericks, p. 73 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. On p. 73 this sum is given as 9000 gulden and 89-15-6. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The rough notes on p. 73 here add “August 12.” [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Bakkeveen is 17 miles, about 27 kilometers, southwest of the city of Groningen. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See the previous minutes, correctly stating that the vaert (“canal”) should cost 20,000 guilders, adding up to a total of 80,000 guilders. Then the following statement makes more sense as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Dutch: “between.” Some cancelled words read: “en Bakkeveen,” which is more correct, since some Swiss families were settled in Gorreveen, near Gorredijk, which is about halfway between those two villages. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. This paragraph, which had been omitted here, is added here from the rough notes on page 75. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The letter immediately following in the Aenteekeningen of Hendrick Toren, is dated March 15, 1712, and not included in this volume. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)