

# Sources for Latin American Research

## At the International Institute of Social History

### *La Protesta*, Argentina

The International Institute of Social History (IISH), Amsterdam, is the world's largest documentation and research centre in the field of social history. Since its foundation in 1935, the institute has dedicated itself to the collection, preservation and availability of the heritage of social movements worldwide.

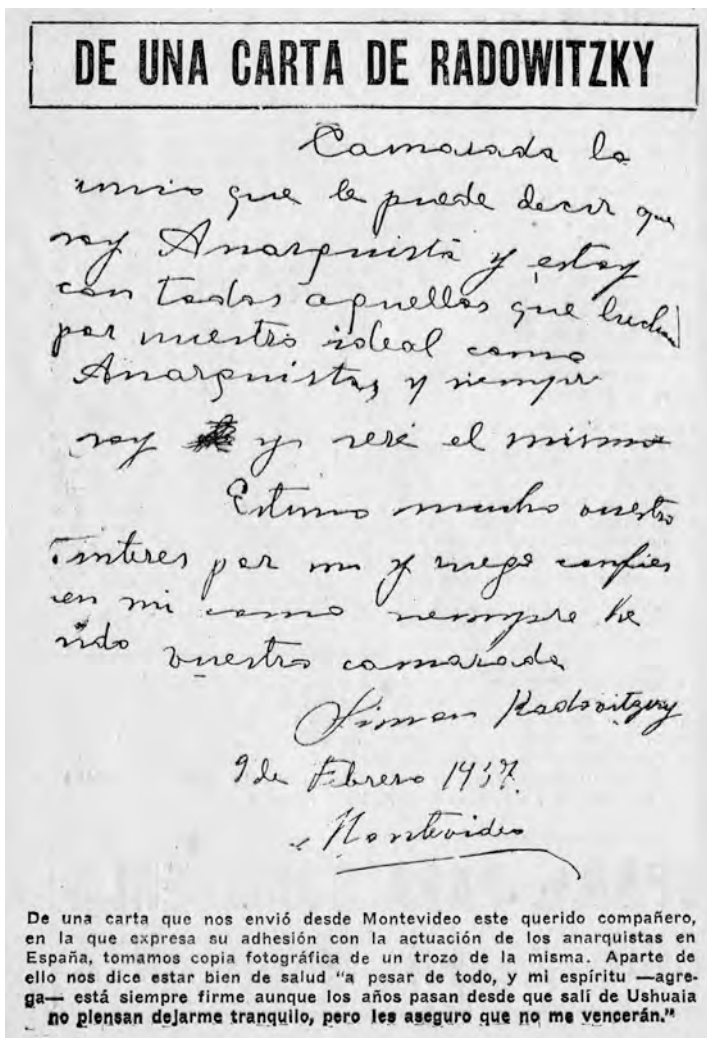
The Mexican, Chilean, Brazilian and Argentinian collections are quite substantial.<sup>1</sup> The larger share of pre-1940 material with respect to these countries came from the collection of Max Nettlau, a well-known Austrian historian and collector of anarchist papers. Accordingly, most of these materials are of an anarchist nature, reflecting the fact that anarcho-communism and anarcho-syndicalism formed two strong ideological currents in these countries prior to 1930.

#### **The newspaper *La Protesta* from Argentina**

The Argentinean newspaper *La Protesta* was founded in 1897. After some years it became the most important anarchistic newspaper in the country. It had close ties with the Regional Workers Federation (FORA) that was established in 1901. The history of *La Protesta* gives a good overview on the themes concerning the Latin American realities in the first decades of the twentieth century.

An illustrative example is the story of the Jewish worker and migrant Simón Radowitzki (1891-1956). He actively took part in the Labor Day manifestation of 1909, where the police – commanded by Capitán Falcón – was responsible for the death of eight workers and about a hundred wounded. A few months later Capitán Falcón was assassinated by Simón Radowitzki and the latter was sent to prison. In prison he was tortured. Ten years after his sentence, the newspaper *La Protesta* made his situation of maltreatment known, which had an enormous impact on the public opinion in Argentina. From this moment on, people constantly pleaded for his liberation. In 1930 Simón was exiled to Uruguay after 21 years of prison. In 1936 he left for Spain to fight for the 28<sup>th</sup> division (*la División 28*), from where he managed to send a letter to *La Protesta*. He also worked for the anarcho-syndicalist trade union federation CNT. In 1939 he was able to reach Mexico.

You can find stories like Radowitzki's in the newspaper *La Protesta*, which is a valuable source for the history of Argentina, for international anarchistic movements and for migration history in that period. *La Protesta* also published articles of other anarchists like Max Nettlau, Diego Abad de Santillán and Luis Fabbri. Santillán was the editor of *La Protesta* until the 1930s. The IISH has their papers in its collection.



The content of the letter of Simón Radowitzky:

‘Comrade, all I can say is that I’m an anarchist and I’m with all those fighting for our ideals as an anarchist and always I’m still the same. I appreciate your interest in me and trust me because I have always been your comrade. Simón Radowitzky, 9th of February 1937, Montevideo’.

From: Collection IISH, La Protesta March 1937, number 7855.



Portrait Simón Radowitzky  
From: Collections IISH, BG B3/495



Poster Simón Radowitzky, 1927  
From: Collections IISH, BG E3/290



An overview of the collection of 'La Protesta', in the archive of the International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam.

### Note

1. An overview of the Latin American Collections of the International Institute of Social History can be found on: <http://socialhistory.org/en/collections/latin-america-collection-guide>.