

# **A short biography**

**CHARLES EMILE BENJAMINS 1873-1940**

**A medical doctor's experiences**

**Semarang, Java 1901-1911 general physician**

**Utrecht, the Netherlands 1911- 1923 ORL specialist**

**Groningen, the Netherlands 1924-1939**

**Professor of Otorhinolaryngology and founder of  
Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum**

**Including a selection of  
Charles Emile's photograph collection Semarang: 1901-1911**

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**Bogor, Java**

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## 1. Introduction

Charles Emile Benjamins, 1873-1940, was a man of many talents. He was an acknowledged specialist for Ear, Nose and Throat diseases (Oto- Rhino Laryngology-ORL), professor, medical researcher and pioneer in surgery. He was also a gifted pianist and composer, a skilled photographer, a tireless traveler and a specialist in health issues related to swimming. Above all he was an amiable person, with a great interest in and compassion for his fellow man, an inspiring teacher and a clever organizer who easily mobilized people.

A major source for bio data of Charles Emile's life is a biographic note on the family Benjamins Sorg, prepared in 1933 by his mother Frederika Johanna Sorg. Her note is based on entries from her diaries that cover most of her life. Studying her note one realizes that she was a systematic and educated observer of her son's life. Her note with remarks by her grandchildren is attached as annex no 1.

The many stories told by Christina Catharina Hazenberg to her seven grandchildren about her life with grandfather formed another important source of information. Grandmother always enjoyed telling her life experiences to her grandchildren and others till she passed away in 1976 at the age of nearly 100 years.

Information on the medical experiences and achievements of Charles Emile Benjamins was kindly provided by Egbert H. Huizing, professor emeritus ORL- University Medical Centre Utrecht, the Netherlands, whose contribution is hereby gracefully acknowledged. Particularly helpful was his information on the role of Charles Emile Benjamins as founder, driving force and first Secretary General of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum- ORLAS, an international forum of ORL specialists. ORLAS still exists today and continues to be a major scientific forum for ORL specialists from all over the world.

Herewith I further like to thank Dr B.F.A.M. van der Laan, Head of the ORL Department University Medical Centre, Groningen, for making available several documents from the Opera Omni of Charles Benjamins, which collection is stored in the ORL Department.

N.B.A list with titles of the 369 publications from the Opera Omni from Charles Emile Benjamins is digitalized and available on request from [cvsanten@indo.net.id](mailto:cvsanten@indo.net.id)

I also like to thank Riewing Pilon for his assistance with obtaining information on Charles Emile music activities and finally my sister Anna Geertruda van Santen for editing the manuscript and my brother Marinus Johannes Pieter van Santen for his assistance with obtaining additional information.

A separate document contains a pictorial account of Charles Emile's life, including 147 digitalized images, which can be viewed at **[www.cvsanten.net](http://www.cvsanten.net)**.

The main part of this collection is formed by a unique series of 124 photographs taken by Charles Emile during his stay in Semarang, Java from 1901 to 1911. These photographs were digitally edited by Wiena Lorentz and Irfan, two young IT specialists from Bogor, Indonesia, whose work is herewith gracefully acknowledged.

May 2007, Bogor, Indonesia

Charles Emile van Santen, grandson of Charles Emile Benjamins

# 1. YOUTH 1873-1900

Charles Emile Benjamins was born on 13 July 1873 in Semarang, Java, as the third son of Henri Louis Benjamins and Frederika Johanna Sorg.

Henri Louis Benjamins, the father of Charles Emile, a 1<sup>st</sup> class medical officer, was a second generation army doctor. His father had also been an army doctor on Java, as well as his brother Eduard, while his other brother Ferdinand worked and lived most of his life in France.

In 1867, when Henri Louis was stationed as an army doctor in the garrison of Cilicap, West Java province, he met Frederika Johanna Sorg and married her on 5 June 1868.

Frederika Johanna Sorg, Charles Emile's mother, was born on 28 February 1843 in Fort Erfprins Surabaya, as the daughter of Frederik Johan Sorg, an army major, stationed in the Surabaya garrison and a local Javanese lady whose name has not been preserved as was the custom in those days.

Frederik Johan Sorg married, Freule van Kinschot, a Dutch lady in 1846 and registered his two daughters by his local lady, Frederika Johanna and Jacqueline 1845-1870, officially as his children. He passed away in 1851, after which their stepmother traveled with the two girls by sailing boat via Cape Town, to the Netherlands, where in 1852 she also passed away. Thereafter Frederika and her sister were educated by relatives. In 1865, Frederika Johanna took a job as a governess to the children of Baron van Sytzema in Bergen, Holland, after she had obtained her teaching diplomas in French and English. In 1866 she traveled back to Java. Here she first served as a governess to the children of Mr. Henny. In 1867 she was appointed as a governess to the family Du Perron in Cilicap, where she met her future husband Henri Louis Benjamins, whom she married on 5 June 1868.

In Cilicap their two eldest sons were born: Frederik Johan on 28 February 1869 & Henri Alfred on 28 April 1871. In 1872 Henri Louis was transferred to the Semarang garrison in Central Java Province. In this town Henri Louis bought a house at the Bodjongse weg no 6, where he started a part time medical practice. It was here, on 13 July 1873 that his third son Charles Emile was born.

Charles Emile and his brothers Frederik Johan and Henri Alfred attended the primary and secondary school in Semarang.

In 1874 Charles Emile's father took a two-year leave to Europe with spouse and three sons. After a three months' stay in Rotterdam, he worked for six months in a London hospital to update his medical knowledge, after which the family stayed in Paris with his brother Ferdinand for three months. Hereafter the family stayed in Amsterdam. In 1876 the family returned to Padang, Sumatra, Indonesia, where H.L. Benjamins was again stationed as military doctor. From Padang he went on several short assignments to the Atjeh Province, while his family remained in Padang, in which town the first photos of Charles Emile were taken: Image 001

In 1880 H. L. Benjamins was promoted major and again assigned to the Semarang garrison. Here he started his part time private medical practice again in his house on the Bodjongse weg no 6. In 1882 he was offered the position of chief medical officer in Jakarta. Charles's father however preferred to stay in Semarang and resigned from the military service to continue his clinic as a full time private doctor.

In 1888 the family returned to The Hague, The Netherlands. Charles Emile went to grammar school in Gouda and in 1892, after graduation, to Leiden University to study medicine.

Image 003, 1892, shows the family Benjamins, with Charles Emile as the youngest son, sitting right from his mother with his student's cap next to him on the table while in the middle behind the table stands his older brother Henri Louis in military uniform and on the right side his eldest brother Frederik Johan, who had studied business and worked as a volunteer with the Victoria trade company in Rotterdam.

During his student years Charles Emile worked as student assistant in the departments of internal diseases of Professor Rosenstein and pathological anatomy of Professor Siegenbeek van Heukelom. Already during his studies Charles Emile became interested in surgery and ear, nose and throat diseases, as is shown by the subject of his first medical article, written in 1899 while still a student: "Een struma op den wortel van de tong"- An enlargement on the thyroid gland. On April 28, 1899 he received his physician's certificate, which allowed him legally to practice as a medical doctor. From October 1899 to October 1900 he was a full assistant of Professor Rosenstein, internal diseases in the Leiden academic hospital, while working for his PhD degree which he received in early 1901 from Gent University. The reason for obtaining his PhD degree in Gent University was that Charles Emile's secondary school diploma was Hogere Burger School B, a grammar school education without Latin and Greek. Before 1920 in the Netherlands, students with this diploma were not allowed to write a dissertation. For this reason the professors of these students made arrangements with their colleagues from Gent University to have their students obtain their PhD in Gent University.

In addition to his medical studies Charles was active in student activities. He was a very talented pianist and was also member of Semper Crescendo the orchestra of "Het Corps", the main Leiden University students club, in which orchestra he played timpani-drums and piano.

## **2. SEMARANG 1901-1911**

On March 25, 1901, after graduation from Gent University, Charles returned to Java, together with his mother, widowed since 1899, in which year her husband Henri Louis had died from a gall bladder infection. In Semarang Charles Emile established himself as a general physician. His clinic was in the same house on the Bodjongse weg no 6, in which his father earlier had also run his doctor's practice. His mother stayed in the adjacent pavilion, living semi independent with her own servant. The house Bodjongse weg no 6, around 1910-1991, is shown in images 013; the street is named Jalan Pemuda today.

In August 1901, soon after Charles Emile's return to Semarang, his eldest brother Frederik Johan Benjamins passed away and Charles took care of his widow and children. His eldest brother Frederik Johan had already returned to Semarang in 1897, where he married Christina Catherina Hazenberg in 1899, while working for the Victoria Trade Company. Here a son, Henri Louis, was born on 15 February 1900 and on 29 October 1901 a daughter, Frederika Johanna, who was born three months after her father Frederik Johan had died during a cholera epidemic in 1901.

The official government statistics of 1901, the year of Charles Emile's return to Semarang, show that the population of the Semarang region in that year included about 2.7 million inhabitants.

The population of Semarang town in 1901 was about 100.000 with the majority of the 8.400 Europeans of the region actually living in Semarang town.

Population Semarang region 1901  
December 1901

Europeans	8.402
Indigenous	2.641.680
Chinese	32.701
Others	1.306
Total	2.684.089

Source : Regeerings-Almanak voor Nederlandsch-Indie, Batavia, Landsdrukkerij 1906 (Governments Almanac for Netherlands Indie, Government printer 1906)

Semarang in those days was already an important centre for collection and shipment of plantation crops from middle Java. Crops included coffee, sugar, tea, tobacco, rice and other food crops. Local headquarters for most plantation companies from Central Java were located in Semarang, which was also the backstopping center for their European staff and their families.

In addition to those living in the Semarang region, some of the Europeans living in the Yogyakarta and Solokarta regions, respectively 2.043 and 3.637 persons, would also travel to Semarang for modern medical services, which were only available in this town. In this context one should also consider the considerable army garrison stationed in Semarang, whereby the resident army general was responsible for the entire Semarang region. In those days the commissioned officers were Europeans and the non-commissioned staff originated mainly from Ambon and other parts of the archipelago.

In the early 1900s the number of Europeans in Semarang and hinterland which would need access to modern medical services, based on the above data, can be estimated at between 10.000 to 15.000 persons. In addition, some well-to-do members of the Chinese and the Javanese population of Semarang and hinterland were also starting to use modern medical services in that period, particularly if the doctor had a command of the Chinese and Javanese languages, as was the case of Charles Emile, who spoke both languages.

An illustration of the relative size of each category of patients who consulted a modern medical doctor is given in a medical article Charles Emile wrote in 1915. In this article Charles Emile indicates that in Semarang 79 % of his patients were European, 18 % Chinese and 3% Javanese (Opera Omni no 024).

In 1901 there were five Dutch general medical practitioners in Semarang and hinterland to serve the European population and those members of the Chinese and Javanese community who already were using modern medical services.

Charles Emile soon found out that his four colleagues were all very hesitant to conduct surgery and were glad if he was prepared to carry out surgery on their patients. Fresh from his studies in Europe and with an interest in surgery and ear, nose and throat diseases, he was keen to help out and at the same time increase his own experience.

Since the early 1840s modern surgery in Europe and the USA had rapidly developed. This was initiated by William Morton's development of surgical anesthesia in 1846; Louis Pasteur's identification of bacteria as the source of infections in the 1850s; Joseph Lister's development of antiseptic surgery procedures in the 1860s; Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen's invention of X rays in 1895 and Karl Landsteiner's discovery of blood groups in 1901, allowing blood transfusions.

Charles Emile gradually improved his clinic for surgery. Image029. He further taught Christina Catherina Hazenberg, his future spouse, to assist him during operations and also trained two bright local Javanese boys to sterilize his surgical equipment and keep his clinic clean. In addition two coachmen, one for the day and one for the night, were instructed to take him to his patients and how to transport gravely ill patients.

### **A skull bone operation**

The following story told by Christina Catharina to her grandchildren illustrates Charles Emile's experiences with surgery.

One day Charles Emile, whose successful surgery work had started to be known, was asked if he was prepared to remove a life threatening skull bone tumor from the head of Colonel van Heutsz, the brother of Johannes Benedictus van Heutsz, Governor General of Netherlands Indie 1904-1909.

In spite of his lack of experience with skull operations at that time he volunteered on the condition that he received a written statement, that in case he failed he would not be held legally responsible. Furthermore he asked permission to practice skull bone surgery on some five prisoners, who had recently died. At that time skull bone surgery tools were not yet available on Java forcing Charles Emile to improvise and develop his' own set of tools among which a special set of chisels to work on the skull bone. Charles Emile, after completion of his preparations several weeks later, invited the colonel to his clinic for the operation. His spouse assisted as usual.

In those days ether was the only chemical available for anesthesia. After Charles Emile had applied ether to his patient he only succeeded in bringing him partly under anesthesia. It turned out that Colonel van Heutsz was resistant to ether, as he was a heavy alcohol consumer and regularly consumed up to two liters of Dutch gin a day.

Thus, when Charles Emile, started to work on the skull bone with his chisels, the pain became nearly unbearable for the patient. Charles Emile therefore whispered to the colonel and grandmother, who held the patients head, to let the patient hold his arm around her and squeeze her. Grandmother remembered that she was very frightened during the operation as she could hear every beat of the chisel on the colonel's skull. After the operation she remained black and blue for weeks from the colonel's squeezing.

After the piece of skull bone with the tumor was removed, the hole was closed with bees' wax and the skin stitched back on the skull. Fortunately Colonel van Heutsz quickly recovered from the operation and lived for another twenty years, making many additional useful contributions to society. We can assume that this skull bone operation was probably the first skull operation ever carried out on Java at that time.

### **His medical work in Semarang**

No records have been kept of the number of patients who visited his clinic. Yet we know from his mother's diary that he had a very busy clinical practice. However some indication on the number of patients is given in a medical paper he wrote in 1915. This shows that during the last three years of his work in Semarang 1127 ORL patients consulted him. One may assume that these patients formed only a small portion of all the patients who consulted him on other diseases.

In spite of his busy practice and his surgery work, he was already involved in medical research in those days, of which the result was reported in three papers he published during this period.- Opera Omni 003, 004, and 005. His Opera Omni shows that in total nine of his medical papers were based on research conducted while he was in Semarang.

### **Charles Emile's activities to promote the establishment of a hospital for Semarang**

Already early in his Semarang period he strongly felt the need for a modern hospital and was one of main promoters for the establishment of a hospital for Semarang. Unfortunately this hospital, the Juliana hospital, only materialized several years after his departure from Semarang. In 1913 Charles Emile wrote a short paper in support of the establishment of the hospital: "Het Juliana Ziekenhuis te Semarang published by van Rossen, Amsterdam.

After the hospital was established, Charles Emile regularly corresponded with the medical director of the new hospital from Holland, trained several of the medical staff in his clinic in Groningen and continued to support the hospital till he passed away in 1940.

### **Charles Emile's interest in Chinese medicines: his Chinese patients**

During his Semarang period Charles Emile, was very interested in Chinese matters, in particular in Chinese medicines. One of his friends, with whom he often discussed medical issues, was the owner of a large Chinese apothecary: image 035.

Charles Emile learnt to speak and read Chinese at such a level that he was able to read the local Chinese newspapers. The result of this was that most Chinese from Semarang and surroundings, who wished to consult a modern European doctor, became Charles Emile's patients.

In this context there is another anecdote from grandmother:

After the Chinese patient was cured, it was the custom to show his gratitude by sending the doctor a large cake on a porcelain plate. Grandmother faithfully collected the porcelain plates and took these with her to Holland. When she passed away in 1976, we learnt that most of these plates were original Qing Dynasty porcelain and were worth a small fortune!

### **Management of the doctor's household and clinic:**

In the early 1900s managing a household with a clinic attached in Semarang, involved a large staff. Grandmother employed some seventeen persons. See image 016 which shows eleven of her staff members and the son of the first coachman.

Underneath is a list of the domestic staff employed in Charles Emile's household and clinic, which may be interesting for us, living in the twenty-first century.

Function	Number	Function	Number
Major domus: chief of the household staff & butler	1	Cooks	2
Clinic assistants	2	Washing & ironing girls	2
Coachmen: one for the day & one for the night.	2	Floor cleaning girls	2
Grandmother Sorg's servant	1	Garden: gardeners	2
Children's personal servant	1	Whitewash man	1
The milch cow caretaker	1	Total	17 staff

We grandchildren were especially interested in the activities of two of the staff, the milch cow caretaker and the whitewash man:

### **The milch cow caretaker and grand mother's milch cows.**

At Charles Emile's request grandmother kept several cows to provide fresh milk for her children and selected patients. When in milk the cows were stabled in Semarang. The other cows were kept in the herd of the family Mc Gillevry who owned a tea plantation in Ungaran, which was located at a higher altitude above sea level, where the climate as cooler. The job of the milch cow caretaker, or milker, as he was called by grandmother, was the daily milking of the cows in Semarang and when needed, to bring the cows on foot from Semarang to Ungaran and back. During the absence of the milker while bringing cattle to Ungaran grandmother milked the cows herself.

### **The whitewash man**

In the early 1900s on Java, walls of houses and gardens were whitewashed with quicklime, as modern wall paints on an oil basis were not yet available. Due to the size of the house and the garden walls, its intensive use and the effects of the tropical climate, the whitewash man had a full time job: after he had finished one part of the house he moved to another part and after he had covered all rooms and garden walls, he had to go back to the first room to apply the next coat of white wash.

### **1905 European study leave to specialize in ORL diseases**

In May 1905 Charles Emile went to Europe for health reasons and took his mother and his sister-in-law Christina Hazenberg and her two children with him. The family stayed first in Paris, where he used the occasion to study ORL diseases with Professor Luc. There after the family traveled to Amsterdam where on 13 October Charles Emile married Christina Catharina, our grandmother in the offices of notary public Wertheim.

In early 1906 the family returned to Semarang where Charles Emile again opened his clinic. In addition to his very busy general medical practice he also started to receive patients with ear, nose or throat diseases.

## Music

In Semarang Charles Emile continued to improve his piano playing. He also regularly played piano trios with friends and was the instructor and conductor of a ladies' choir that mainly sung 19<sup>th</sup> century choir music.

## Photography

Another hobby of Charles Emile was photography, for which he used a camera with glass plates. He processed the exposed glass plates in the laboratory of his clinic, with the help of one of his clinic assistants. When making outdoor photographs, one of these assistants also joined him to carry the heavy equipment. It is particularly interesting to note that he also conquered the technique of taking pictures with artificial light, for which he used magnesium powder. See image 079, which was taken with magnesium lightning inside the Mendut Temple, part of the Borobudur temple complex, near Magelang, Central Java.

His magnificent collection of 124 photos, taken in Semarang during his ten years stay from 1901 to 1911, has been preserved. A selection of these photos is attached in annex 2. The entire collection can be seen on my website: [www.cvsanten.net](http://www.cvsanten.net), in the chapter: "The photo collection of Charles Emile Benjamins: Java 1901-1911"

Grandmother kept the collection of glass plates and camera till she died in 1976, but it is not known where these glass plates and camera are stored today.

The following list shows the subjects of his photographs of which a small selection is shown in annex 2.

List of the subjects of photographs taken by Charles Emile :

I	Youth 1873-1900	001-005
	Semarang Family & House 1901-1911	006-028
	Semarang Clinic CEB 1901-1911	029-034
II	Semarang Chinese apothecary	035-041
	Semarang town 1901-1911	042-067
III	Trip to Borobudur 1909	068-081
	Trip to Dieng Plateau 1910	082-096
	Cogwheel railway Ambarawa-Bedono 1909?	097-099
IV	Trip to East Java 6-20 July 1910	100-117
	Bromo Trip	118-124
V.	Utrecht The Netherlands 1911-1923	125-133
	Groningen 1923-1939	134-138
	ORLAS 1926-1939	139-146

To view the complete collection of images see web site [www.cvsanten.net](http://www.cvsanten.net)

## **Travels on Java**

Charles Emile made the following travels in Central and East Java.

### **Central Java**

1. Trip Ambarawa-Bedono: to visit this mountain cogwheel railway line, established in 1901 and in operation since 1907. The purpose of this 12 km long mountain railway was to transport plantation produce: coffee, tea and fire and timber wood, from Bedono at 711 meters above sea level to Ambarawa at 479 m a.s.l., from where the goods were further sent to Semarang by train. The line Semarang-Kedungjati-Ambawara-Yogyakarta had already been operating since 1868. Image 098 shows the train Ambarawa to Bedono in full operation.

Today 2006, the cogwheel train with the locomotive running on wood, is still in operation, mainly carrying tourists. The original two locomotives and a number of train carriages are still in pristine condition.

2. Trip to the Dieng plateau and Wonosobo

Here Charles Emile visited the beautiful Bima candi-temple with grandmother standing in front of the candi: 090. His photographs also include beautiful pictures of Wonosobo and surrounding mountains: Image 086

3. A trip to the Borobudur temple between Magalang and Yogyakarta: 068-081

Image 068 shows Dr. Vogel seated in front of the temple. Dr Vogel was a friend and colleague, who owned one of the first cars in Semarang: image 025. One may assume that he took Charles Emile and his spouse with his new car to see the Borobudur temple complex which at that time, 1907-1911, was under restoration by Theo van Erp, an army civil engineer.

### **East Java**

4. A trip to Surabaya, where he visited the family Harlof, 023 relatives of his spouse and to the well-known waterfall of Tretes. Image100

5. A trip to the Bromo massive from Malang via Nongkojajar: Images 118-123

6. A visit to Batu, a mountain resort above Malang and from there a trip along the road Batu to Pujon: Images 101-117

N.B. Probably some of these visits were combined in the same trip.

### **Modes of travel**

The question is often asked: “Which type of vehicles did Charles Emile use during his travels on Java in those days: horse drawn coaches, trains, automobiles, or litters?”

Grandmother mentioned the use of litters with four bearers when Frederika Johanna Sorg traveled with her grandchildren during school holidays to the tea plantation of the family Mc Gillevy which was located in the mountains above Ungaran.

#### **Automobiles and trains**

Charles Emile may have used the automobile of his friend Dr Vogel for some of his trips. Furthermore he may have used the train, as the line to Yogyakarta was already operational from 1868 onwards Semarang-Tanggung-Kedungjati-Surakarta-Yogyakarta-Ambarawa-Semarang and the line Jakarta-Semarang-Surabaya since 1896.

Grandmother, while giving many details of her travels with grandfather, was not specific about the modes of travel used.

### **3. UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS: 1911-1923**

#### **ORL SPECIALIST AT THE ST ANTONIUS GASTHUIS**

In April 1911 Charles Emile and his family, including his mother, went on leave to Europe, in particular to study ORL diseases in Berlin with Professor Killian and in Heidelberg with Professor Jurasz.

Another purpose of the leave was to enter his children Han and Dee for their grammar school studies in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Charles Emile furthermore worked for a few months in Utrecht as a volunteer in the physiology laboratory of Professor Zwaardemaker, the foremost medical physiologist and otorhinolaryngologist of the Netherlands at that time.

Charles already planned to return to Semarang in early 1912 when he was asked for the position of ORL specialist at the St Antonius Gasthuis, a large hospital in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Charles Emile accepted the position with the additional advantage that he could continue his exciting physiological work on the anatomy and histology of the labyrinth in Zwaardemakers' clinic and could also be close to his school going children, Han and Dee.

#### **His medical work in Utrecht**

The medical research work he did during his Utrecht period 1912-1923 is described in 73 medical papers: He was the single author of 43 papers, while 13 of these papers were also published in another language: French, German or English. Another 13 papers were written with a co-author. He further supervised four articles by other authors. The articles cover a wide range of ORL subjects. Major subjects on clinical research include:

- Studies on the labyrinth;
- Studies of specific diseases among which pneumosinus dilatans;
- Development of specific surgical techniques such as dacryocystorhinostomy.

Source: Egbert H. Huizing and Paul van den Broek. 75 Years ORLAS. p12

His Inaugural Address as Professor of Otorhinolaryngology at Groningen University: "Hyper sensitivity diseases of the upper respiratory channels" was based on his extensive experiences with treating respiratory allergies.

In addition to his clinical research he continued his physiological research work in the physiology laboratory of Professor Zwaardemaker. Using his experiences in this field he wrote with co-author J.H.O. Reys in 1924 a physiological textbook used by many generations of medical students: Beknopt leerboek der physiologie, which publication was followed by reprints in 1929 and 1934.

During his period in Utrecht he was also active in the Dutch Society for ORL Specialists: 1919: Assessor of the society- responsible for the journal; 1920: Chairman of the Society.

## **Non medical activities**

### **Music:**

During this period, he every day played the piano and also regularly participated in chamber music groups, often with members of the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra. His first musical compositions were written during this period.

### **Promotion of swimming:**

During his period in Utrecht he started to promote swimming for health purposes and prepared instructions on how to improve the water quality of the swimming pools. In this context he was a jury member in swimming contests, as was recorded in several newspaper articles, among them the 19 August 1924 number of the Algemeen Handelsblad. See image 19 August 1924  
In 1920, together with co-author F.C.G. Duvergé he wrote a publication with swimming guidelines: “Zwemmen: Handleiding voor zwemmers en voor het zwemonderwijs” The reprints of this text book in 1926 and 1930 were written with R.Hoogland as co-author.

## **4. GRONINGEN, THE NETHERLANDS: 1924-1940 PROFESSOR OF ORL AT GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY**

In 1924 Charles Emile was appointed professor in ear-nose and-throat diseases at Groningen University. He gave his Inaugural Address on the subject of “Overgevoeligheids Ziekten der Bovenste Luchtwegen”-Hyper sensitivity diseases of the upper respiratory tracts- on Saturday 20 September 1924

### **Activities as a professor:**

Charles Emile’s activities as ORL professor were manifold and included:

1. Conducting research, his main task.
2. Lecturing: General introduction courses on ORL diseases for medical students.
3. Training residents in becoming ORL specialists and coaching PhD students working on their dissertations.
4. Managing the ORL clinic of which he was the head, seeing patients who were referred to him and conducting surgery when needed.
5. Reviewing ORL publications by other authors.

### **1. Conducting research**

The result of his research during the period 1924-1939 is summarized in 291 papers, including research conducted under his supervision by his assistants and students preparing to become ORL specialist or working on their dissertations.

His clinical research was by nature directly linked with the medical problems of the patients referred to him, while his physiologic research was more fundamental of nature.

The main subjects of his clinical research were summarized by Egbert H.Huizing and Paul van den Broek (3) as follows:

- Clinical research in allergology
- Labyrinthine function based on animal experiments with Eelco Huizinga, his senior assistant
- Acoustic subjects together with the physicist H.C. Huizing.
- Bronchoscopy
- Bony tumors of the nose and sinuses

To illustrate his broad interests and wide range of activities, the following table shows the titles of a selection of the publications he had been associated with, including:

- His Inaugural Address;
- Clinical lessons: ten public lectures addressed to his peers, including ORL specialists and medical researchers in related fields;
- Dissertations of the ten PhD students who studied under him;
- Nine papers on research conducted when he was resident in Semarang, Java;
- Nine papers on acoustical subjects. In addition three of his students choose an acoustic subject for their dissertation:-Huizing H.C. Hacquebord P. and Pannekoek F.J.M

NB. H.C.Huizing, a physicist actually did his dissertation with Prof F. Zernicke, the professor in Physics at Groningen University and later Nobel price winner, with Charles Emile as co- promoter. It is to be noted that the papers written by the physicist H.C.Huizing were written under his own responsibility, while Charles Emile’s responsibility was obviously restricted to the ORL aspects of the research conducted in the acoustical laboratory.

**Overview of selected research papers, written or supervised by Charles Emile, 1924-1939**

Subject	Date	Ref no
<b>Inaugural Address:</b> Overgevoeligheidsziekten der Bovenste Luchtwegen/ Hyper sensitivity diseases of the upper respiratory tract	Sept 24	079&080
<b>Ten clinical lessons</b>		
1 Over keel abscessen/ Throat abscesses	June 28	129
2. Bronchostenose bij kinderen /Bronchostenose in children	Febr 1929	137
3. Osteomyelitis der schedelbeenderen bij ontstekingsprocessen in den neus en de neus-bijholten . Osteomyelitis of the skull bone caused by infections in the nose and the paranasal cavities	Nov 1930	184
4.Trombose van den Sinus cavernosus/Trombosis of the Sinus cavernosus	July 31	205
5. Verbranding van de slokdarm door chemische stoffen. Caustic lesions of the oesophagus by chemical compounds.	April 32	214
6. Over langzaam verergerende hardhoorigheid. On slowly increasing hearing deterioration.	Febr 33	234
7. Het neus-keelholte fibroom The nasopharyngeal fibroma	Dec 1934	259
8. Aangeboren epitheel gangen en cysten op de neus rug. Congenital ducts and cysts on the nasal dorsum.	May 1936	278
9. Praeventie in de neus-keel-oorheelkunde . Prevention of Otorhinolaryngology diseases.	April '38	324
10. Slokdarm kanker/ Cancer of the oesophagus.	Oct '38	327
<b>Dissertations by his assistants</b>		
1 Oldenstam R.A. Over het z.g.n.vliegorgaan in het middenoor der vogels. On the flying organ in the middle ear in birds	June 25	92
2 Hiddema.A. Over den Index Vocalis About the Index Vocalis	June 28	150
3.Vermeulen B.S. South African: Ondersoekings oor die werksame stowwe van verskillende gramineeën pollens volgens die Dale metode. Research on the active components of gramineen pollen by the Dale method.	Oct 30	180
4. Struiken.J.M.H Onderzoekingen over histamine achtige stof in roggen pollen Research into histamine like matters in rye pollen	July 31	204
5.Huizing H.C. Absolute metingen der geluidsintensiteit ter bepaling van het minimum audible. Promoter Prof. F. Zernike. Absolute measurements of sound intensity to determine the hearing threshold.	Nov 32	230
6.Hacquebord P. Onderzoekingen over boventonen bij stemvorken. Research into the upper tones in tuning forks.	July 33	245
7. De Graaf J. Onderzoekingen over de locale passieve pollen-overgevoeligheid Research on the local passive pollen hypersensitivity to pollen.	Dec 33	251
8. Ter Heege F.H. Röntgen onderzoek van het rotsbeen Röntgen examination of the petrous bone.	May 34	265
9. Pannekoek F.J.M.Onderzoekingen over het hooren in lawaai Investigations on hearing in noise.	Sept 34	267
10. Weersma P. Experimentele onderzoek naar de eisen te stellen aan het gehoor Van bestuurders van motor voertuigen. Experimental research into the requirements of the hearing capacity of motor vehicle drivers.	Dec 38	342

**Papers on research conducted when stationed in Semarang, Java.**

1. Twee gevallen van arsenic –nekrose van het gehoororgaan door inblazen van warangan poeder. Two cases of arsenic necrose of the ear caused by insufflations of warangan powder	1908	003
2. Ein Fall von doppel seitiger Nekrose des ganzen Gehörorganes u.s.w A case of bilateral necrosis of the ear.	1908	004
3 Een Mucocèle van de wiggebeensholte. A mucocèle of the sfenoid.	1911	005&006
4 Vergelijkende gegevens uit de neus-keel-oorheelkundige praktijk op Java en in Nederland: Over Adenoïde vegetaties. Data from the ORL practices on Java as compared with the experiences in the Netherlands: Adenoïde vegetations	1915	024&026
5 Vergelijkende gegevens uit de neus-keel-oorheelkundige praktijk op Java en in Nederland II: Over middenoor ontsteking. Data from the ORL practices on Java as compared with the experiences in the Netherlands: Otitis Media – middle ear infections	1919	057
6 Referaat over hooikoorts verwekkende peppertree. Hay fever caused by the peppertree	Dec 1923	073
7 Die Tropenkrankheiten des Ohres. Tropical ear diseases	Oct 1926	103
8 Die Tropenkrankheiten der Luftwege und der Mundhöhle. Tropical diseases of the air passages and the mouth cavity	July 1928	130
9 Over hooikoort –pollinosis in Indie- Pollinosis in Indie	Aug.32Jan.33	217& 233

**Papers on acoustic (audiological) subjects**

1. Ueber den Hauptton des gesungenen oder laut gesprochenen Vokalklanges I & II/ About the basic sound of sung or spoken vocals	1913	014& 015
2. Quelques remarques sur l'examen de la fonction auditive par le langage articulé Remarks on the auditive aspects of the spoken word	May 1930	159
3. Recherches sur les plaques telephonique Huizing H.C. Investigations on the telephone plates	April 1930	182
4. Over hoorende visschen. About the hearing of fishes	June 1933	238
5. Vervorming bij de telefoon Huizing H.C. Deformation by the telephone	Oct 1933	250
6. Untersuchungen Uber Obertöne von Stimmgabeln und U förmigen Stäben mit hilfe der Elektronenröhre P Hacquebord & H.C. Huizing . Research about the upper tones of tuning forks and U shaped sticks with the assistance of the electronic bulb	June 1934	266
7. Over de eischen te stellen aan het gehoor van bestuurders van motor Rijtuigen. Requirements to hearing for drivers of motor vehicles.	Febr 1936	275
8. Tetrodekoppeling bij laagfrequent –en gelijkstroom versterking Huizing H.C. Tetrode links of low frequency and direct current amplification	Dec 1934	291
9. Over het meten van geluid Huizing H.C. About measuring sound	March 1938	339

In addition Charles Emile was involved in:

- 22 papers which he wrote originally in Dutch and which papers were afterwards submitted in a second language, either in French, German or English
- 42 papers in which he shared authorship with one or more colleagues and
- 139 papers were written by other authors under his guidance, among which:
- 79 papers by E. Huizinga, his senior medical assistant and his successor as ORL professor.

2. Lecturing: General introduction courses on ORL diseases for medical students.  
An instruction film about the ORL training for medical students in his clinic shows that apart of following lectures, the students had to participate in a one month practical training period.
3. Training residents in becoming ORL specialists and coaching PhD students working on their thesis. A total of 17 ORL specialists and ten PhD students graduated under his supervision. The basic ORL specialization scheme was that a resident physician joined a specialized ORL university clinic for a two-year period. Those of the students interested in research used this period to simultaneously work on their dissertation on an ORL subject.

Below is a list of the residents who became an ORL specialist under Charles Emiles' guidance. Seven students of the following list simultaneously worked on their PhD dissertations\* during their ORL training period:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Training completed</b>	<b>Place of settlement.</b>
Name	Training completed	Place of settlement
Weg D.J.	1925	Leeuwarden
Müller J.C.	1926	Velsen
Nienhuis J.H.	1928	Almelo
Edens J	1929	Hengelo
Vermeulen B.S*	1929	Groningen
Nienhuis-de Jong J.	1930	Almelo
Struiken J.M.H *	1930	Breda
Pannekoek F.J.M*.	1931	Eindhoven
Hacquebord P.*	1933	Enschede
De Graaf J.*	1933	Groningen
Ter Heege F.H*	1934	Haarlem
Van Dishoeck H.A.E.	1936	Amsterdam/Leiden
Samplonius A.M.	1938	Rotterdam
Siemens B.W.L.	1937	Amsterdam
Weersma P.*	1937	Utrecht
Oostingh R.	1939	Den Haag
Pothoven W.J.	1940	Groningen

It has been reported that Charles Emile had a special gift to involve his assistants and senior students in his research activities which covered many new subjects, methods and approaches. Students found him an inspiring teacher.

### **Related medical issues and interests**

#### **1. Establishment of a new ORL clinic.**

Soon after his appointment the University's Managing Board allowed him to build a new clinic. This gave him an opportunity to design lecture rooms, surgery theaters and laboratories especially adapted to support the clinical and physiological research he was planning. He also designed workshops in support of these activities, in particular for developing surgery- and research tools and was fortunate to hire two very skilled amanuenses: Volckman & Kuitert, whose excellent work very much supported his research activities.

## **2. The development of new surgery tools.**

One of the outputs of his workshop was the development of new surgery tools. In this context therefore another of grand mother's stories:

“Around the 1960s, twenty years after he passed away, one of his cousins Benjamins had to undergo an ORL operation. After the surgeon successfully completed the operation he asked her if she was related to the late Professor Benjamins, the ear-nose-throat surgeon. After our cousin confirmed that Professor Benjamins was her uncle, the surgeon told her that the surgery tools he had used for the operation had been designed by her uncle”.

At that time, Charles Emile's tools were the most efficient surgery tools available. One may assume that grandfathers' surgery tools stayed in use till the development of laser surgery for ORL.

## **3. Acoustic laboratory**

One of the laboratories he established in his new clinic was an acoustic laboratory. Charles Emile was one of the first ORL specialists to be interested in hearing problems. He realized that to solve some of these problems, the knowledge of the physics of sound of medical specialists was insufficient. Physicists would have to assist medical science to solve such problems. He therefore requested his colleague Dr F. Zernicke, the professor of physics at Groningen University and later Nobel price winner, to send him his brightest Ph D students. Following this Charles Emile established an acoustic laboratory with Henk.C. Huizing for this research, whereby Huizing was responsible for the relevant research in the physics of sound, while Charles Emile stimulated the research and saw to the related ORL aspects. The result of this work was presented in four dissertations- Huizing H.C.; Pannekoek F.J.M.; Haquebord P.; and Weersma P. and nine other papers on acoustic research topics.

## **3 Hearing deficiencies**

Charles Emile was the promoter of specialized education for children people with severe hearing problems or deaf born as is shown in his paper "The need for specialized education for children with poor hearing" (Meer bijzonder onderwijs voor het slechthoorende kind August 1935 Opera Omni No 272)

He was an active board member of the Groningen Doofstommen Instituut, a society running a school for children deaf born or with severe hearing problems. After his death the Journal of this Institute memorized his considerable contributions in this field.

## **4. Promotion of the quality of swimming pool water**

In Groningen Charles Emile was also promoting swimming and improving the hygienic quality of swimming pool water. He was co-initiator and commissioner of the Society "the Helper Zwembad", a Society which operated and owned a public swimming pool in South Groningen in combination with providing central heating for the Helper quarter of Groningen town. His thoughts on this subject were summarized in a number of news paper articles on the medical significance of swimming. He was also editor and wrote introductions for text books on swimming education with his co-author R.Hoogland, 1926, which publication was reprinted in 1930. It was an update of his 1920 publication: "Swimming: A guide for swimmers and swimming education with co-author F.C.G. Duverge. In 1939 he further wrote a report on "Requirements of swimming water" for the Association of directors of public swimming pools in the Netherlands.

## 5. Anti-noise campaign

Charles Emile was very concerned about the damage to hearing caused by excessive noise, in particular noise produced by vehicles and industrial equipment. He established a committee for the reduction of noise for the town of Groningen, of which he was the chairman.

To establish an objective measurement he ordered with assistance of Henk.C. Huizing a Bell & Howell Sound Level Meter from the USA, recommended by Zwicker, a professor in physics of Delft University. This equipment was used in the campaign to reduce noise. Image no 146 shows Charles Emile on his motorcycle, while Henk C. Huizing, his physicist assistant, operated the Sound Level Meter assisted by P Weersma, a resident in training for ORL

## 6. Medical textbooks

Charles Emile was also the author/co-author and editor of several national and international text books for medical students:

Text books in Dutch:

- An introduction to physiology with co-author/editor: J.H.O. Reys - 1924, 2<sup>nd</sup> print 1929; 3<sup>rd</sup> print 1934; supplementary exercise book 1935
- The bronchoscope as diagnostic and therapeutic tool: 1931;
- The sense organs, part VI in: The Netherlands physiological text-book by G. van Rijnbeek, editor: 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1940, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1946

Text books in German:

- Diseases caused by infections and parasites-
- Dermatosen, tropical diseases and bleedings-  
in Volume 4: The diseases of the air passages and the mouth.

Two sections of the standard text book on: Neck, nose and ear diseases by J.F. Bergmann, published by Springer in Berlin in 1928,

“Die Krankheiten der Luftwege und der Mundhöhle

Deel: Tl. 4: Infektionskrankheiten, pflanzliche und tierische Parasiten,

Erkrankungen bei verschiedenen Dermatosen, Tropenkrankheiten, Blutungen /  
bearb. von C.E. Benjamins ... [et al.] 1928: Springer, Berlin

Editor: J.F. Bergmann Handbuch der Hals-, Nasen-, Ohrenheilkunde ; Bd. 4: 774 p”

Text books in French:

Bony tumors of the nose and the sinuses, Part 31 of the monograph

Oto-rhino-laryngologiques published in 1938 in Bordeaux by Delmas.

“Les tumeurs osseuses du nez et des sinus: analyses en allemand et anglais / C.E. Benjamins 1938, publisher [Bordeaux] : Delmas Series Monographies oto-rhino-laryngologiques internationales no 31, 314 p”

## 5. ORLAS 1926-1939 COLLEGIUM OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGICUM AMICITIAE SACRUM

In June 1926 Charles Emile Benjamins, together with his friend and younger colleague Dr P.H.A De Kleyn from Utrecht, developed the idea to start an international organization or forum where ORL specialists from different countries could meet and discuss their research findings with their peers.

The following story which Christina Catharina told her grandchildren, explains the reasons for Charles Emile's initiative. Several years after the First World War his friend Adriaan De Kleyn made an extensive study tour to several European ORL Centers and afterwards discussed with Charles Emile how he had observed that their mutual friends and colleagues from Germany and France and other countries were not on speaking terms with each other any more. In particular their German and Austrian friends were completely ignored by their colleagues from France, Belgium and the other allied countries. This was a political issue, caused by the First World War, and completely outside the responsibilities of individuals. Saddened by this account and remembering that before 1914 they had always had very intensive contact with ORL colleagues from both Germany and France they contemplated how to change this situation. Actually, Charles Emile had obtained his main training in ORL diseases in France and in Germany. He terribly missed these international contacts both professionally and personally. Gradually Charles Emile and his friend Adriaan developed the idea that if they could only bring again together their German & French friends in an international meeting in neutral surroundings it might be possible to overcome this sad situation. Particularly, if such a meeting was to focus purely on research issues, while avoiding political issues, to be held in a neutral country together with colleagues from other neutral countries, such as The Netherlands, Switzerland or in the Scandinavian countries.

With this idea in mind, Charles Emile and his friend Adrian De Kleyn invited on June 1926 some sixty ORL friends from fourteen European countries, whom they knew were interested in ORL research and would possibly react positively. On purpose, political issues were not mentioned. Their invitation letter mentioned:

“that at meetings of the Oto-rhino-laryngological societies and at international congresses the subjects dealt with are of a widely divergent character.

Purely scientific subjects often do not receive sufficient attention, chiefly on account of the following reasons:

1. On account of the great number of papers read whereby the attention is distracted and too short a time is allowed for each speaker
2. On account of the presence of a number of members whose interest in purely scientific subjects is only slight.

We have therefore decided to invite a number of colleagues whom we know to take an interest in scientific problems to form an international Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum“.

This was followed by a brief description of the set up and rules of the Organization.

The letter concluded with: “We should highly appreciate it, if you agree to join this Collegium and would communicate your intention to us.”

Fortunately most colleagues reacted very positively, even though some mentioned possible political conflicts. Very wisely Charles Emile and Adriaan De Kleyn completely ignored these concerns.

In view of the overall positive reactions he and his friend De Kleyn therefore invited only one month after the initial letter on 27 July 1926, all who had reacted positively to the foundation meeting of ORLAS in Groningen, the Netherlands in October 1926.

Following this, on 9 October 1926 the foundation meeting of ORLAS was held in his clinic in Groningen, the Netherlands in which meeting thirty four colleagues from thirteen different European countries participated. Image 142: Foundation meeting ORLAS 9 October 1926. Charles Emile was selected as the first Secretary General of ORLAS and was its organizer, its driving force and main facilitator from 1926 till his death in 1940. Prof Zwaardemaker, the Nestor of the Dutch ORL community, accepted the invitation to become the president of the foundation meeting.

Thereafter every year ORLAS organized a meeting in a different European country:

Groningen 1926	Madrid 1932
Zürich 1927	Prague 1933
Copenhagen 1928	Stockholm 1934
London 1929	Budapest 1935
Frankfurt 1930	Venice 1937
Bordeaux 1931	Groningen 1938

The tenth ORLAS meeting was again held in Groningen. Due to the Second World War there were no meetings between 1939 and 1947, in which latter year the first meeting after the war was organized in Brussels, Belgium.

To day ORLAS is still an important forum, where ORL specialists from all over the world meet to discuss their research findings. In August 2002 ORLAS celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary during a special meeting in the Netherlands. Most of the 434 (202 regular) members from 42 countries joined the celebrations in the Netherlands and the opening ceremony was attended by her Majesty Queen Beatrix from the Netherlands, indicating the importance of ORLAS.

In 2004, the Dutch Collegium members who organized the 2002 ORLAS meeting at Noordwijk aan Zee decided to establish a 'Benjamins prize'. This prize is to be awarded to a young ORLAS member or other young reseacher, preferably under the age of 40 but not older than 45, for a high-quality study in the field of Otorhinolaryngology. The jury of the prize consists of the President, the President-elect and the General Secretary of the Executive Committee. The Benjamins prize was for the first time awarded to Prof. Christian Matthias from München at the ORLAS meeting in Moscow in 2006.

For a more detailed account of ORLAS, the reader is referred to the special monograph produced for the occasion of the celebration of 75 year ORLAS:

Vivat Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum 1926 -2001  
written by Egbert H. Huizing and Paul van den Broek, two ORL professors who were intimately involved in ORLAS.

## **Charles Emile's other interests**

### **1. Music**

Charles Emile was musically gifted. He was a pianist, a composer and a music organizer.

#### **Composer:**

Unfortunately no complete list of his compositions was kept, but the author of this biography is familiar with the following compositions composed by him:

1. Trio in C Dur (C Major) for piano, violin and violoncello by Charles Benjamins 1931, published by G. Alsbach & Co, Amsterdam. See annex 5
2. The Diana Suite for full symphonic orchestra, 1938, which was performed on 3 May 1939 in Groningen by the GOV, the Groningen Municipal Orchestra conducted by Kor Kuiler, the orchestra's permanent conductor. See annex 5
3. A Ballade for baritone and piano on a mediaeval poem.
4. An Elegy for piano which was played during his cremation on February 1940

#### **Pianist and chamber music player**

According to grandmother, Charles Emile played every evening from 7 to 8 on his beautiful Steinway grand piano, before he withdrew to his study to work on his medical papers or on his compositions.

He regularly played chamber music with members of the professional Groningen Municipal Orchestra. Reviewing his music library we found many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century piano trios, quartets, and other chamber music pieces including the Trout quintet by Schubert. Many of the scores in his music library were marked with his annotations, indicating an intensive use. Every year he organized several house concerts to which he invited his friends.

Charles Emile was chairman of the board of the Groningen Municipal Orchestra from 16 April 1925 till his death in 1940. During his chairmanship several new issues were introduced in cooperation with Kor Kuiler, the permanent conductor of the orchestra at that time. An example is the traditional annual performance of the St Mathew's Passion by J.S. Bach during the week before Easter by the orchestra and the local Bekker choir, which tradition was introduced by him in 1928 and which is still kept today, 2006.

On May 3, 1939 his Diana suite for symphony orchestra was performed by the orchestra with much success. A review of the concert of 3 May mentioned that orchestral coloration had been very skillfully composed and that it was a pleasure to listen to the Diana suite; "Professor Benjamins is a very gifted musician"- 4 May edition of "The Nieuwe Provinciale Groninger Courant", a local newspaper. Charles Emile described this composition in the program booklet for the concert as follows: "A hunting horn motif forms the basis for the suite, which is a musical description of a hunting scene in which Diana, goddess of hunting, leads a hunting procession through the forests."

Such was the appreciation of the orchestra and its public that on the first concert after his death the program was adjusted and started with the "Marcia Funèbre"- the funeral mars from the Eroica Symphony by Ludwig von Beethoven after which there was a moment of silence to commemorate him.

## Charles Emile's Concert Organ

When grandfather passed away in 1940, he left a considerable amount of money to the orchestra, deposited in the Professor C.E.Benjamins G.O.V. Fund, to be made available after grandmother had passed away. Grandmother died in 1976. The original intention of Charles Emile was for the Fund to make special concerts possible, which were beyond the budget resources of the orchestra. During Charles Emile's stay in Groningen in the 1920s and 1930s the orchestra was a private association. The limited funds of the association did not allow hiring top class soloists or guest conductors. Therefore, Charles Emile hoped that with his funds it was possible to hire high class soloists and conductors occasionally to improve the programs of orchestra's weekly concerts.

When the funds finally came available in the late 1970s, the Groningen municipal orchestra had become a semi-government institution, whereby the orchestra was entirely subsidized by the municipality.

At that time, in the mid 1970s, a new concert hall had been built for the orchestra. The concept for the new concert hall included originally a concert organ. Unfortunately, due to budget restrictions, ultimately the concert organ had to be scrapped. The sad situation created a big problem for the many choirs, which form a very faithful though often somewhat conservative section of the Groningen music world. These choirs traditionally perform 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century oratorios -among which oratorios by Bach, Haydn, Handel and Mendelssohn for choir and symphony orchestra, whereby a concert organ is essential.

In view of this situation the board members of the Municipal Orchestra, together with a special concert organ committee, tried to find a solution for the lack of a concert organ.

In the 1970s the price of a concert organ was already high and amounted to about € 250 000 in today's prices. Under the existing Dutch government art subsidy system, subsidies are only granted when the applicant of the subsidy can show a substantial initial capital. In a similar way private donors, such as companies, also require a substantial initial capital of the applicant, before donations are made. Initially, the attempts to find funds for a concert organ appeared hopeless.

Suddenly, however, in late 1976 when my grandmother, Charles Emile spouse, had passed away at the age of a hundred years, his funds became available to the board. In view of the urgent need for funds to buy a concert organ, the orchestra's board asked the heirs permission to use these funds as the initial capital for a new concert organ. This was agreed to by uncle Han and my mother. After these funds came available, the board could finally arrange the required government subsidies and donations from industries. The well-known Dutch organ builder Leeftang from Apeldoorn was subsequently asked to build the organ.

In the end we may conclude that financing of the concert organ with the funds of Charles Emile is thus in complete agreement with his sincere wish that his legacy was to be used to organize concerts which would otherwise not have been possible. Many generations of choir singers in Groningen since then enjoy performing their oratorios with the support of the concert organ, which without Charles Emile's funds would have never have been possible.

The organ was completed in early 1980. The first concert with the organ was on 14 March 1980. The program included organ pieces by Mozart, Schuman, Andriessen, Poulenc and Cesar Franck. Some of pieces the organ played together with the orchestra while other pieces were for organ solo. The newspaper reviews praised the organ for its artistic qualities, in particular its possibilities for symphonic music, including oratorios and found that the new organ was a considerable enrichment of the music world of Groningen.

## **2. Motorized vehicles**

Charles Emile was not very fond of automobiles. In Semarang he still used horse drawn coaches to visit his patients. In Groningen he preferred to use a light motorcycle to travel to his clinic. When, at a later age, he developed heart trouble, grandmother had to kick start his motor cycle every morning. To reach his clinic he started his travel along de Hereweg, the main entrance road to the town of Groningen. After about one and a half kilometer when he approached the railway-viaduct the traffic-police officer on duty stopped all traffic to allow grandfather to safely climb the steep viaduct with his light motor cycle and resume his way to his hospital. On the way home his motorcycle was started by Eelco Huizinga, his senior assistant and later successor.

### **His retirement and passing away**

After having suffered from a debilitating liver disease for several years, Charles Emile felt increasingly ill and decided to resign at the end of 1939. He gave his public Farewell Address on 12 December 1939 and was knighted as Ridder van de Nederlandsche Leeuw, a high decoration for services to the country in science and culture, granted by her Majesty, Queen Wilhelmina.

Charles Emile passed away on Monday 5 February 1940, at the age of sixty six years. Several articles were written for his commemoration and many attended his cremation, during which occasion his own composition Elegy was played. He was remembered as a very gifted man: witty and polite and with a great interest in and helpful to his fellow man.

## REFERENCES:

### A. Scientific documents written by Charles Emile Benjamins or prepared under his guidance:

During his life Charles Emile was associated with 369 articles & monographs on medical subjects, which papers are compiled in his Opera Omni and stored in the ENT Diseases Department of the University Medical Centre of Groningen University, the Netherlands.

- 166 Papers of which he was the single author, among which were:

-10 Clinical Lessons

- 9 Papers on tropical medical subjects

- 4 Papers on acoustic subjects, which specialization was called Audiology after World War II  
From the other papers, nine papers on acoustic subjects, six papers were written by his co-worker the physicist and later professor of Audiology Henk C. Huizing and three by other Ph.D students.

- 22 Reprints of an earlier article in a second language:

French, German or English

- 42 Papers in which he shared authorship with one or more colleagues and

-139 Papers which were written by other authors under his guidance, among which.

- 79 by E. Huizinga, his senior medical assistant, later his successor as ORL professor.

- 10 Dissertations by respectively: 1.Oldenstam R.A.; 2.Hiddema A.;

3. Vermeulen B.S.; 4. Struiken J.M.H.; 5.Huizing H.C. ; 6. Hacquebord P. ;

7 De Graaf J. 8.Ter Heege F.H.; 9.Pannekoek F.J.M and 10.Weersma P.

### B. Text books on medical and related subjects:

#### Publications in Dutch

- 1924 An introduction to physiology ( Beknopt leerboek der physiologie, door C.E. Benjamins ;J.H.O.Reys et al. 1924,Thieme Zupthen t 2<sup>nd</sup> print 1929, 3<sup>rd</sup> print 1934
- 1931 The bronchoscope as diagnostic and therapeutic tool- De bronchoscopie als diagnostisch en als therapeutisch hulpmiddel door C.E. Benjamins: Haarlem 1931,Bohn
- 1940 Part 6 The sense organs in:  
The physiological text-book by G. van Rijnbeek, editor (Nederlandsch leerboek der physiologie:Onder leiding van G. van Rijnbeek Deel 6 : De zintuigen door C.E Benjamins, Amsterdam 1940/1946 Swets & Zeitlinger

#### Publications in German

- 1928 Diseases caused by infections and parasites- in German.
- 1928 Dermatosen, tropical diseases and bleedings-.in German  
of Volume 4: The diseases of the air passages and the mouth:. Two sections of the standard text book on: Neck, nose and ear diseases by J.F. Bergmann, published in 1928 by Springer in Berlin,  
“Die Krankheiten der Luftwege und der Mundhöhle  
Deel: Tl. 4: Infektionskrankheiten, pflanzliche und tierische Parasiten,  
Erkrankungen bei verschiedenen Dermatosen, Tropenkrankheiten, Blutungen /  
bearb. von C.E. Benjamins ... [et al.] 1928: Springer, Berlin  
Editor: J.F. Bergmann Handbuch der Hals-, Nasen-, Ohrenheilkunde ; Bd. 4: 774 p”

## Publications in French

- Bony tumors of the nose and the sinuses, Part 31 of the monograph Oto-rhino-laryngologiques published in 1938 in Bordeaux by Delmas.  
“Les tumeurs osseuses du nez et des sinus: analyses en allemand et anglais / C.E. Benjamins, 1938, publisher [Bordeaux] : Delmas  
Series Monographies oto-rhino-laryngologiques internationales no 31. 314 p”

## Other publications

- 1920 A guide for swimmers and swimming educators (Zwemmen: Handleiding voor zwemmers en zwemonderwijs with co-author F.C.G. Duverge, 1920 Sijthoff.  
Revised as: Schoolzwemmen with co-author Hoogland R De Volharding 1926 & 1930)

From among his 369 scientific papers the following were consulted for this biography: A digitalized list of the titles of all 369 papers is available from [cvsanten@indo.net.id](mailto:cvsanten@indo.net.id)

1. Benjamins C.E. 1915 Eenige vergelijkende gegevens uit de neus-keel-oorheel kundige praktijk op Java en in Nederland. Over adenoïde vegetaties. Geneeskundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch-Indie Deel 55 afl 4. Javasche Boekhandel & Drukkerij
2. Benjamins C.E. 1919. Eenige vergelijkende gegevens uit de neus-keel-oorheel kundige praktijk op Java en in Nederland. II : Over middenoorontsteking. (No publisher indicated)
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# Maps

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## 2. East Java: Locations visited by Charles Emile 1901-1911



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## **Annex 1**

### **A BIOGRAPHIC NOTE: FAMILY BENJAMINS SORG 1843- 1933: BY FREDERIKA JOHANNA SORG 1843-1940:**

#### **A) Summary of the original document of seven pages in the Dutch language**

Frederika Johanna Sorg was born 28 February 1843 in Fort Erfprins Surabaya, Indonesia, daughter of Frederik Johannes Sorg, a major in the Dutch Indonesian army and a Javanese lady, whose name was not recorded, in line with the customs of those days.

Frederik Johannes Sorg married with a Dutch lady, Freule van Kinschot, some time after 1845 and legally acknowledged Frederika Johanna and her sister Jacqueline Sorg, 1845-1870, as their daughters. Freule van Kinschot was a good stepmother for the two girls. In 1851 Frederik Johannes Sorg passed away, after which Freule van Kinschot took her two step daughters to the Netherlands. In 1852 Freule van Kinschot unfortunately also died. An uncle took over as guardian. Unfortunately, he and his wife were not very pleasant for Frederika and her sister Jacqueline. In spite of this the girls received a good education for the period and in 1865 Frederika obtained her teaching diplomas for French and English after which she took a job as a governess to the children of Baron van Sytzema in Bergen, Hindelopen and Workum. In 1866 Frederika traveled again to Indonesia to accept a job as a governess to the children of the family Henny in Batavia- Jakarta. In 1867 she became a governess to the family Du Perron in Cilacap Central Java, where she met her future husband Henri Louis Benjamins, who was an army doctor. On 5 June 1868 she married Henri Louis Benjamins in Cilacap, Java.

On 28 February 1869 her son Frederik Johan was born and on 28 April 1871 her son Henri Alfred was born, both in Cilacap, Java. In 1872 her husband H.L. Benjamins was transferred to the Semarang garrison, in which town he started a part time private doctor's practice. On 13 July 1873 Frederika's 3<sup>rd</sup> son Charles Emile, was born in Semarang.

In 1874 the family took a two-year leave and traveled to Europe. After a stay in Amsterdam, Henri Louis worked in a London hospital for six months to update his medical knowledge. Thereafter the family stayed three months in Paris to meet his brother Ferdinand, who lived in that town.

In 1876 the family returned to Indonesia to Padang, Sumatra, where H.L. Benjamins was again stationed as a military doctor. While stationed there, he had several short assignments in the Ajeh region, while his family remained in Padang. During this stay in Padang his brother, Eduard Benjamins, also an army medical officer, joined him in Padang with wife and children Maurice, Rosine, and Mathilde.

In 1880 H.L. Benjamins was promoted to the rank of major as chief medical officer and again assigned to the Semarang garrison, Central Java. He again started his part time private medical practice in Semarang.

In 1882 he was offered a new assignment as chief medical officer in Jakarta. However, as he preferred to stay in Semarang, he resigned from the military. Since then he was a full time private practitioner in Semarang, with his clinic located at the Bodjongse weg no 6.

In 1888 the family again traveled to Holland to live in The Hague. Charles Emile went to school in Gouda and after that in 1892 to Leiden University to study medicine. He obtained his Ph D degree from Gent University in 1901, after which he returned to Semarang, Java together with his mother Frederika Johanna, as his father Henri Louis had died in 1899 from a gall bladder infection.

In Semarang he established himself as a private doctor with a practice in the Bodjongse weg no 6, the old house from which his father had also earlier conducted his doctor's practice.

In the mean time his eldest brother Frederik Johan, who had studied business, had already traveled to Semarang in 1897, in which town in 1899 he had married Christina Catherina Hazenberg, while working for the Victoria Trade Company. Here, Henri Louis was born on 15 February 1900 and Frederika Johanna on 29 October 1901.

Frederik Johan died during a cholera epidemic, in July 1901, three months before the birth of his daughter. His youngest brother Charles Emile took care of his widow and children as well as of his mother, who lived in the same compound in the adjacent pavilion.

In 1905 Charles Emile took leave for medical reasons and took his mother and his sister - in law, Christina Catharina Hazenberg and her two children with him. After a stay in Paris, in which period Charles Emile also studied ORL diseases with Professor Luc, the family traveled to Amsterdam where Charles Emile married Christina Catharina in the office of notary public Wertheim. In 1906 the family returned to Semarang till 1911.

In 1911 the family again traveled to Holland, where the children Han and Dee, went to school staying with the family Beversluis, while Charles Emile went to Berlin and Dresden with his wife and mother to specialize as an ear-nose-throat specialist. In 1912 when already plans had been made to return to Semarang Charles Emile was appointed as ear-nose and throat specialist at the Sint Anthonius Gasthuis, a large hospital in Utrecht. His son Han after graduating from the gymnasium, studied law at Leiden University and later specialized as a notary public. He graduated in 1926. His daughter Frederika Johanna, after having studied several years for her matriculation examination at Ravenscroft boarding school, England, went to study English in Utrecht and later in Groningen, where she obtained her English Teaching Certificate in 1924.

In 1924, Charles Emile, was appointed as full professor in ear-nose and -throat diseases at Groningen University. He asked his daughter to help him as an assistant, partly for his allergy research, but mainly to help him with his numerous international contacts in the English language, in which language he was less proficient as compared with his proficiency in German and French.

In 1926 Charles Emile established ORLAS: The Collegium for Oto- Rhino- Laryngologium Amicitiae Sacrum, an international organization for the promotion of research in ear nose throat diseases, together with A.P.H.A. De Kleyn, his friend and colleague from Utrecht. The foundation meeting of ORLAS from 8-10 October 1926 was in Groningen in his own clinic. Thirty four colleagues from 13 different European countries joined the foundation meeting. This was followed by annual meetings: Zurich 1927, Copenhagen 1928, London 1929, Frankfurt 1930, Bordeaux 1931 en Madrid 1933, in which Frederika Johanna Benjamins participated as international secretary. She resigned in 1934 to marry Hendrik Johan Carel van Santen.

On 12 December 1939 grandfather gave his farewell lecture at Groningen University as professor, as he had decided to resign due to a serious liver disease. On 5 February, 1940 grandfather passed away. Frederika Benjamins Sorg, passed away on 17 December, 1940 at the age of nearly 98, heart broken, due to the passing away of her youngest son Charles Emile Benjamins.

The above text is a summary of a Biographic Note of seven pages on the Benjamins Sorg Family, written in 1933 in the Dutch language, by Frederika Johanna Sorg, mother of Charles Emile. The Note is based on her diary entries, which covered most of her life and was put on paper by her granddaughter Frederika Johanna Benjamins. In 1988 the note was re- edited by Henri Louis Benjamins, her grandson.

## B. The original biographic note by Frederika Johanna Sorg, 1933

### Familie Sorg. Later Benjamins-Sorg

In Juni 1933 werden deze aantekeningen over de Familie Sorg bijgeschreven door de oudste kleindochter van Frederika Sorg, dochter van Frederik Johannes Sorg, Overste in het Ned. Indische leger, weduwe van Dr Henri Louis Benjamins Het was naar aanleiding van het lezen van de familie aantekeningen, dat het verlangen opkwam om nu het geheugen van deze Frederika Sorg nog zoo scherp was, op te tekenen de voornaamste punten uit haar leven en uit dat van hare zuster Jacqueline, die echter vroeg gestorven is.

Frederika Sorg is nu in Haar een en negentigste jaar en is nog buitengewoon soherp van geest. De gebeurtenissen in de families van haar zoons en kleinkinderen boesemen haar zeer veel belangstelling in, en ook wat er in de wereld gebeurt volgt zij nog met groote interesse. Haar oogen en haar gehoor kan zij nog goed gebruiken en bijna dagelijks maakt zij een wandelingetje met haar schoondochter Christina Catharina Hazenberg, getrouwd met hare jongsten zoon Charles Emile Benjamins, Hoogleeraar in de otologie in Groningen. Ook de reis en treklust, die zij haar hele leven heeft gehad is nog aanwezig en nog steeds worden plannen gemaakt om op reis te gaan...

Sommige aantekeningen in dit boek zijn terug te vinden in Familie aantekeningen I

- 1843  
28 Febr. word Frederika Sorg geboren, dochter van Frederik Johannes. Overste in het Ned Indische leger te Fort Erfprins bij Soerabaia.
- 1845 werd Jacqueline geboren.
- 1851 Na de dood van Frederik Johannes gingen zijn tweede vrouw, geb. Freule van Kinschot en de beide meisjes per zeilschip over de Kaap de Goede Hoop naar Holland. Zij gingen in Hasselt (Overijssel) wonen om dicht bij Kampen te zijn, waar een groot vriend en zwager van Frederik Johannes Sorg, Johan Christiaan Schmidt, woonde. Frederika ging hier naar school. Hunne Stiefmoeder was eene hoogstaande vrouw en gaf de kinderen een perfecte en liefdevolle opvoeding.
- 1852 Overleed de Weduwe Sorg, geboren van Kinschot en nu kwamen de beide meisjes in huis bij hun toeziende voogd, genoemde Johan Christiaan Schmidt, die getrouwd was geweest met een zuster van F.J. Sorg, Jansje. Deze was gestorven en Christiaan Schmidt was hertrouwd met Jansje Teune, eene zeer eenvoudige vrouw, ruw en onaardig. De voogd, die aan de drank was, sloeg de kinderen en liet ze armoedig gekleed gaan. Hier bleven zij 1,5 jaar totdat hun voogd Jacques Sorg in Holland kwam. Op het bericht, dat deze komen zou, kreeg J.C. Schmidt een beroerte en overleed. Dit gebeurde in Wijhe, waarheen de familie vanuit Kampen verhuisd was.

Familie Sorg 2.

- 1854 Deze nieuwe voogd was nog veel erger dan J.C.Schmidt on hier zijn zij ongeveer een half jaar gebleven.Zij waren half in de kost op een school van Juf. v.Gogh,aan wie Frederika Sorg nu nog met groote dankbaarheid denkt,daar deze een groote steun voor Haar is geweest.Deze Jacques Sorg was getrouwd met Julie Ruzette.  
In een advertentie las hij eens,dat in Den Bosch een weduwe meisjes in huis nam voor f.200.--gulden 's Jaars en hierheen zond hij beide meisjes.Dit was een geluk voor hen.Zij kwamen nu in huis bij Mevrouw Gerlings,die een allerliefste dame was en de meisjes vol liefde opnam en hen zorgvuldig,heel eenvoudig opvoedde.Hier bleven zij anderhalf jaar.
- 1856 De voogd verhuisde naar Zaltbommel en de meisjes werden van school genomen en daar op de school van Juffr.v.Es geplaatst.De dames Gerlings hadden de meisjes op het hart gedrukt vooral examens af te leggen en zodoende op hun achttiende jaar behoorlijk hun eigen brood te kunnen verdienen.  
Door het telkens van school veranderen voorzag Frederika dat zij dit nooit zouden bereiken en sprak daarover met Juffr.v.Es. Deze ried haar aan Dominee Hoyer te raadplegen en deze schreef aan de toeziende voogd Groebitz, diaken van de Luthersche kerk in Kampen. Ook Ds.van Anrooy en Ds Lohr werden er in gekend.  
Groebitz nam de meisjes aanvankelijk voor een paar dagen mee naar Kampen, maar toen hij na een paar dagen van al hun ellende thuis hoorde-ook hier werden zij heel ruw en slecht behandeld,hield hij ze bij zich.  
De voogd,Jacques Sorg probeerde ze terug te krijgen en er is zelfs een recht zaak van gekomen.Maar er waren vele getuigen,die getuigden van zijn dronkenschap en hij werd ontheven van de voogdijschap.De meisjes waren den laatsten tijd bij hem zijnde,in Oosterhout bij Juffr.Kramer op school geweest.
- 1857 In Kampen werd v.Schouwenburg voogd.Frederika kwam daar in huis. Jacqueline bij de fam.Groebitz.Zij kwamen weer in de halve kost bij bij juffr.v.Gogh.Hier nu kwamen zij in kennis met Anna Vink,die in Lochem op kostschool was.Beide meisjes gingen nu ook daarheen.(Juffr ten Sijthof).Toen deze Juffr.ten Sijthof een erfenis kreeg,verplaatste zij haar kostschool naar Oosterbeek bij Arnhem en hier haalde Frederika haar lagere Akte.Toen ging zij op de school van een nicht van de v.Schouwenburgs lesgeven en verder studeren voor de Fransche Akte.De eerste maal zakte zij hiervoor en zij vroeg en kreeg verlof van haar voogd om naar Juffr.v Gogh terug te mogen gaan.
- 1863 Hier haalde zij haar Fransche diploma.Nu haalde zij nog een Engelsche Akte samen met Louise Kattenburg.  
Zij schreef op een advertentie,waarin een Gouvernante gevraagd werd En af als referenties op de directeur van haar school en Mevr.Bade-v.Kinschot en Mevr.Spengler-Nauta,haar tantes.Het toeval wilde dat degeen,die de advertentie geplaatst had Baron v.Sytzama beide laatste dames kende en dadelijk Frederika aannam tot gouvernante van zijn kinderen Geertruid en Daniel.

### Familie Sorg 3.

Zij woonden eerst in Bergum, later in Hindeloopen en Workum. Hier had zij het heel goed en de kinderen hielden veel van haar.

1864 tot 1866 bleef zij bij deze familie v. Sytzama.

Toen Mevr. v. Sytzama overleden was in dat jaar, wilde Frederika haar lang gekoesterd plan om naar Indie te gaan, verwezenlijken. Jacqueline was intussen ook onderwijzeres geworden en zou ook mee gaan. Een Broer van Tante Julie, vrouw van de vroegere voogd, zou met zijn gezin per zeilschip naar Indie gaan en zij zouden meegaan. Maar, daar stond een advertentie, waarin een gouvernante gevraagd werd voor 2 kinderen, die op eigen kosten naar Indie zou willen gaan. Deze Betrekking kreeg Frederika bij de familie Henny, advocaat in Batavia. Zij gingen met de Fransche Mail. Gouverneur Generaal Meyer was ook aan boord en deze familie kende Tante Bade heel goed.

In December kwamen ze in Batavia aan en woonden in een vleugel van een hotel. Mevrouw Henny was een zenuwpatiënte en was niet altijd aardig voor Frederika.

Indertijd had Frederika in Kampen Kapitein de Pauw en zijn vrouw leren kennen en daar deze weer terug in Batavia waren, ging zij hen opzoeken en vertelde daar van haar moeilijke leven. De fam. wilde haar dadelijk bij zich behouden, maar Frederika is weer teruggegaan naar de fam. Henny en heeft ze den dienst opgezegd, zoo gauw als mogelijk was. Zij waren toen nog heel aardig voor haar en gaven bij het afscheid f. 300.-- salaris voor 3 maanden cadeau.

Toen zij bij de familie de Pauw logeerde, inviteerde Kolonel Wasklewitz, Chef van de Geneeskundige Dienst haar om bij hen te komen. Daar leerde zij de familie de Bruin kennen. Directeur van de Burgerlijke Openbare Dienst. Daar is zij Gouvernante geweest en heeft het aller Heerlijkst gehad. Zij werd als dochter des huizes behandeld. Zij gaf les aan Lucie en Henri de Bruin en nog een meisje Moll van Charante. Eens op een receptie bij Kolonel Wasklewitz, ontmoette zij Mevr. Henny. Weer die haar inviteerde een Zondag bij hen door te brengen, wat zij ook deed.

Intussen was Jacqueline aangekomen, die zich aan boord verloofd had met luitenant Catenius. Zij logeerde bij de fam. de Pauw en kreeg al gauw een betrekking bij Soerabaia.

Een klein jaar bleef Frederika bij de fam. de Bruin, die tot haar Spijt met verlof naar Holland gingen. Hier had zij ook Lien Houtdrijver en Mevr. du Perron leeren kennen. Na het vertrek van de fam. de Bruin logeerde Frederika bij de fam. Wasklewitz en kwam op aanraden van Mevr. du Perron bij diens zoon in Tjilatjap in betrekking. Hier leerde zij kennen Henri Louis Benjamins, Officier van Gezondheid le Klas.

Familie Sorg 4-

- 1868 5 juni trouwde Fredrika Sorg met Henri Louis Benjamins in  
1869 Tjilatjap. Jacqueline kwam in haar plaats bij de familie du Perron.
- 1869 werd Fredrik Johan geboren op 28 februari.  
1870 stierf Jacqueline aan typhus. Zij liet een zoontje, Frederik, na.  
1871 werd op 28 april Henri Alfred geboren.  
1872 werd Jacqueline geboren, die na zes maanden stierf; men vermoedde door vergiftiging.
- 1873 13 juli werd Charles Emile geboren in Semarang, waarheen de familie Intussen verhuisd was.  
1874. met twee jaar verlof naar Holland op de "Conrad". Eerst Rotterdam, toen  
1875. London, een half jaar, waar Grootvader in de hospitalen wilde werken. Daarna 3 maanden naar Parijs om zijn broer Ferdinand op te zoeken.  
Weer naar Holland in Arnhem om dicht bij de tantes, Mevr. Bade en Freule Philipine van Kinschot (Tante Pe) te zijn.
- 1876 terug naar Indie, geplaatst op Padang. Hier zijnde kwam zijn broer  
1877 Eduard Benjamins, ook Officier van Gezondheid le klas met vrouw en drie kinderen, Maurice, Rosine en Mathilde ook in Padang. Eduard was doodziek, maar herstelde. Na enige tijd werd Henri Louis naar Atjeh gezonden, de familie bleef echter in Padang, waar zij woonden in een huis op palen.
- 1880 Henri Louis Benjamins werd gedetacheerd naar Semarang. Hij had de rang van Major en kocht een huis op Bodjong. Toen hij van hieruit zou worden overgeplaatst naar Batavia, heeft hij ontslag genomen en vestigde zich als gewoon dokter (arts).
1888. De familie ging naar Holland. Zij reisden samen met de familie van Schouwenburg. De familie ging in den Haag wonen. Charles Emile ging in Gouda op de Rijks HBS.
- 1892 Sept. Charles Emile ging in Leiden studeren en de familie verhuisde mee, Henri Alfred was in dienst, wilde officier worden. Frederik was op een Handelsschool en kwam later in Rotterdam bij de Victoria Mij, waarvoor hij een tijd in Oberlahnstein geweest is en ook nog in Engeland voor zijn taal-kennis.
- 1897 Frederik Johan ging naar Indie  
1898 Henri Alfred naar Indie.  
1899 Frederik Johan trouwde Christina Catharina Hazenberg te Semarang. 3 januari stierf Henri Louis in de ouderdom van .j. aan een galblaas operatie. Charles Emile wordt arts op 28 april.
- 1900 Henri Louis geboren, zoon van Frederik Johan en Christina Hazenberg.  
1901 Fredrika Sorg ging met haar jongste zoon, Charles Emile, die in Gent zijn dokters bul gehaald had, op 25 maart naar Indie. Deze Charles was van 1 oct. 1899-1 okt. 1900 assistent geweest in het Leidsche Academisch Ziekenhuis. ( Prof. Rosenveld)  
Frederik Johan gestorven tijdens een Cholera epidemie.  
Frederika Johanna, dochter van Frederik Johan en Christina Hazenberg geboren drie maanden na het overlijden van haar Vader.

## Familie Sorg 5

- 1905 mei naar Holland voor ziekte van Charles Emile. Hij bekostigde de overtocht van Christina Catharina en hare twee kinderen, Zij gingen over Parijs, waar zij enige tijd bleven, daarna de winter in Amsterdam. Ook Frederika B. Sorg was bij hen.
- 1906 Allen weer terug naar Indie, nadat beterschap was gekomen voor Charles Emile.
- Tevoren, op 13 oktober 1905 huwde hij Christina Catharina in Amsterdam. In Semarang weer in hetzelfde huis op Bodjong. Razend drukke praktijk: Toch had hij nog tijd voor zijn muziek en speelde zoveel mogelijk ook trios en leidde een dameskoortje. Ook Henri Alfred was in Semarang, waar hij een boekhandel en uitgeverij bezat en getrouwd was met Julia Martherus en drie dochters en twee zonen kreeg. Fredrika Sorg woonde in een vleugel van het huis en ging in vacaties van de kleinkinderen met hen in het gebergte logeren bij kennissen, o.a de familie Mac Gillevry, of de heer Boers. Dit omdat in de vakantie kinderen uit heel midden Java naar de dokter werden Gebracht en die dus niet weg kon.
- 1911 april ging het hele gezin naar Holland met verlof. De beide kinderen kwamen bij de familie Beversluis, hoofdonderwijzer in Utrecht - Puntenburg school - en Charles Emile ging met vrouw en moeder naar Berlijn en later naar Dresden om zich te bekwamen in de oor-neus-keel heekunde - oa. Bij Prof Kilian. Daarna naar Amsterdam.
- Toen in 1912 plannen gemaakt werden om weer terug te gaan naar Semarang, werd Charles Emile aangeboden neus keel oorarts in het Sint Anthonius Gasthuis te Utrecht te worden. Hij was reeds buiten bezwaar van 'slands Schatkist assistent bij de physiologische hoogleraar Zwaardemaker geworden. Tevens wilde hij de kinderen niet alleen laten en besloot toen om niet terug te gaan.
- tot 1924, woonde de familie aan de Maliesingel 42 ,terwijl grootmoeder woonde op Maliesingel 45.
- 1914 Han naar het Gymnasium
- 1915 Dee naar het Gymnasium
- 1920 Han student in Leiden. Rechten. Dee naar kostschool in Engeland - Ravenscroft vanuit De vierde klas Gym.
- 1921 Candidaats rechen op 4 oktober door Han.
- 1922 Dee voorgoed terug uit Engeland , waar zij op Ravenscroft Prefect en daarna Headgirl was, nadat zij het toelatingsexamen voor de Universiteit matriculation had gedaan. In Utrecht begon zij te werken voor het examen Middelbaar Engels.
- 1924 werd Charles Emile benoemd tot Hoogleraar in de Neus-Keel-Oorzaken in Groningen als opvolger van Prof. Schutter. Frederika Sorg kocht een huis in Groningen om dicht bij de familie te blijven die op de Verlengde Heereveg 143 ging wonen.
- 1925 Mei slaagde Han voor zijn doctoraal Rechten en in augustus slaagde Dee Voor Middelbaar Engels A waarna zij laborante bij haar vader werd.
- 1926 Han slaagt voor 2e deel Notarieel examen.
- Charles Emile richt het Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologium op, waarvan van Ieder land maar tien aangezochte wetenschappers lid mochten zijn

Familie Sorg-later Benjamins 6.

1927. Han verlooft zich met Elisabeth Roggenkamp.

1929. Han na slagen 3<sup>e</sup> deel is candidaat notaris, wordt volontair in Groningen en candidaat in Appingedam.

1930 Han krijgt een baan op het notariskantoor Lambert in Rotterdam en trouwt op 23 juni Elisabeth Mary Roggenkamp.

In 1928 vergadering van het Collegium in Zurich

In 1929 idem in London

In 1930 idem in Frankfurt a/M

In 1931 idem in Bordeaux

In 1932 alleen bestuursvergadering in Madrid vanwege het IIde Internationale ORL Congres aldaar.

1931 4 Aug. wordt Christine Millicent geboren, dochter van Henri Louis Benjamins.

13 october. Daar de baby nog zoo klein is, vieren we de zilveren bruiloft van Charles Emile Benjamins en Christina Catharina Hazenberg met een intiem diner in Rotterdam, waaraan ook Frederika Sorg aanzat, het bruidspaar en de kinderen, met schoondochter. Ter eere van deze gebeurtenis werden nog een paar dagen in Amsterdam (zonder de Rotterdammers) doorgebracht.

1933. De zestigste verjaardag van Charles Emile wordt op buitengewoon gezellige wijze gevierd. De hele familie werd uitgenodigd om een hele week aan zee door te brengen in Bergen aan Zee. De dag zelf was een echte feestdag met blijde gezichten: bloemen, telegrammen, brieven en kaartjes. Het had n.l. in de Groninger Courant en het Nieuwsblad van het Noorden gestaan met een portret en zoo kwam het, dat van allerlei kanten gelukwensen kwamen. Op den dag zelf kwam Rosine de Jong, dochter van Eduard Benjamins met hare dochter Vera Enthoven (later gehuwd met Peter de Kroes)'smiddags kwam Christiaan-Dick Lieshout, weduwnaar van Louise Hazenberg, jongere zuster van Christina. Het was een echt genoegelijke, huiselijke verjaardag. De versierde stoel ontbrak zelfs niet. De feestweek duurde van 8-16 Juli. Gelogeerd in Pension Bakhuis.

Een paar dagen na thuiskomst werd Charles Emile eerelid gemaakt van de Hongaarsche Neus-Keel-Oor Vereeniging. Het was zijn derde eerelidmaatschap. Polen en de Madrileensche Otologen hadden hem eerder reeds eerelidmaatschappen gegeven.

1940 Begon de 2e Wereld oorlog.

Eind 1939 had Charles Emile Benjamins wegens ziekte zijn ambt van hoogleeraar neergelegd met een afscheidscollege op 12 December. Op zijn ziekbed werd hij nog geridderd - Ridder in de Nederlandse Leeuw, doch op 5 Februari stierf hij. Thuis verpleegd door zijn Vrouw en Henri Louis en diens echtgenote Elisabeth. Het was inmiddels een dreigende oorlog. Snachts kwam zijn vroegere operatiezuster Geertruida Timmer hem verzorgen.

Op 10 Mei brak de oorlog uit. In Rotterdam werden op 14 mei bij het bombarderen van de stad velen gevacueerd. Het gezin van Henri Louis en Elisabeth met hun drie kleine kinderen bleef in eigen huis daar Sohiebroek, waar zij woonden, weinig last van het bombardement had. Wel bleef het gezin - Henri Louis was onder de wapenen - de dag van 14 mei in de sloot van het weiland achter hun huis.

Familie Sorg-later <sup>B</sup>enjamins 7.

vervolg 1940. Zij kregen veel evacuees uit Rotterdam. Het hele gezin van hun dienstbode Annie Renes kwam bij hen in huis.

Het onderdeel van Henri Louis (3e Afd. 115e Regiment Artillerie) was op 13 mei vanuit de Grebbelinie bij Amersfoort achter de Waterlinie getrokken, waar hij met zijn onderdeel, de Munitiecolonne, waarvan hij Commandant was, ingekwartierd op de boerderij van de familie Henning Bolt (broer van de Amsterdamsche Notaris)

17 December ging Frederika Sorg heen, hoogbejaard, 97 jaar. Zij kon het verlies van haar jongste zoon Charles niet verwerken en na een paar maanden in het huis van haar schoondochter door deze verpleegd te zijn, stierf zij en werd zij begraven in het Familiegraf in Leiden (Groene Steegje), alleen door Christina, Henri Louis en Henk van Santen begeleid.

De grafrechten werden ongeveer in de jaren 1980 overgedragen aan de Gemeente Leiden, die van de begraafplaats een wandelpark wilde maken. Het Kerkhof was al vele jaren geheel "vol".

Additionele Aantekeningen 1933-1940 Familie Benjamins

Kinderen van Henri Louis Benjamins en Elisabeth Roggenkamp

1931 4 Augustus Christina Millicent Benjamins

1933 23 December Henrietta Elizabeth Emily Benjamins

1935 26 Mei Frederik Johan Benjamins

1941 23 Januari Maarten Theodore Benjamins

Frederika Johanna, kleindochter van Frederika Johanna Sorg trouwde op 28 September 1934 met Hendrik Johan Carel van Santen, bedrijfsleider van de boekdrukkerij van J.B. Wolters uitgeverij te Groningen. Hun kinderen waren:

1935 4 juli Charles Emile van Santen

1937 16 juni Anna Geertruida van Santen

1938 14 november Marinus Johannes Pieter van Santen

## **Annex 2**

### **A biographic note on Christina Catharina Benjamins Hazenberg 1876-1976**

Christine Catharine Hazenberg, Charles Emile's spouse, was born near Paseruan, East Java on 22 August 1876, in the coach to the clinic. Her father, H.L Hazenberg was a notary public in Paseruan, Jepara and was later transferred to Semarang. Christina was the eldest of eleven children and had to help her mother, raising her younger brothers and sisters. Due the situation Christina only attended eight classes of elementary school. In 1898 she married Frederik Johan Benjamins in 1898, who worked for the Victoria Trade Company in Semarang. The couple had two children: a son Henri Louis, 15-2-1900 to 12 -12-1993 and a daughter, Fredrika Johanna, 29-10-1901- to 22-03-1994.

Her first husband F.J. Benjamins passed away in early August 1901 during a cholera epidemic three months before his daughter was born. She, remarried in 1905 while on leave in Holland in Amsterdam This time she married Charles Emile, her husband's youngest brother. The ceremony took place in the office of Notary Public Wertheim in Amsterdam.

Christina was a remarkable woman, very intelligent and keen to find out things by herself. In spite of a very limited formal education, she managed to be a good companion to her intellectual second husband; she managed to run a complex household and receive the many guests of her husband, officially or otherwise. Her task as hostess included the ability to speak in foreign languages to guests from many different nationalities. This she managed reasonably well, though she had to make a tremendous effort to succeed in this. She had wide interests and read extensively. She remained alert and fit until her old age and remained interested in both the world around her and in her children and grandchildren. She passed away in 1976 at the age of nearly 100 years.

### **Annex 3**

#### **A Note on Bodjongse weg 6, Semarang based on a trip to Semarang, from 14 to 16 September 1985 by Charles Emile van Santen**

The purpose of my trip was to locate the house of my grandparents on the Bodjongsche weg no 6. Semarang. Uncle Han had sent me a map of Semarang of approx. 1910, on which the house: Bodjongsche weg no 6, opposite to kampung Sajidan was marked. Comparing this map with a recent map of Semarang of 1980 it appeared that the name of the road had changed into Jalan Pemuda.

In Semarang it was easy to find Jalan Pemuda. In 1985, this street is still a very wide and quiet avenue in the older northern downtown part of Semarang. Counting from the crossing with formerly Gang Warung, today Jalan Depok, it was easy to find plot no 6, opposite Jalan Sajidan. It appeared that the land had been bought by the town's gas company in 1917, according to a marker stone, as all buildings on the plot dated from 1917. Today, 1985 there is still a dealer in gas bottles operating from the plot together with ASTRA Graphica, a whole saler in engineering design and stationary equipment.

The layout of plot no 6 was, however still the same as the original and it was easy to image the house on the plot, using my grandfather's 1901-1911 pictures and the map of 1910. I thus found the location of the house where my grandfather, mother and uncle were born and where my grandfather had his clinic from 1901-1911!

Walking to the adjacent plot no 5, I saw that this still contained the original buildings of the 1890s'. From the manager from the ASTRA Auto 2000 car dealer presently occupying the plot and from one of his retired staff, I learned the following: In 1917 the coach makers Fuchs and Rens established their business on plot no 5. In 1925 the coach workshop was converted into the headquarters of the Mercedes dealer for Central Java. In 1970 ASTRA Auto 2000 bought the plot and established the Toyota dealership for Semarang.

As the layout of the buildings is still the same, I took several pictures and looking at these one can still image the house of my grand parents on the adjacent plot.

In 1985 Jalan Pemuda was still a quiet street. Other buildings in the old part of Semarang which in 1985 could be recognized from my grandfather's 1910 pictures were:

- The Central Semarang Post Office and the adjacent Town Hall;
- The "House with the thousand windows", - Gedung Lawang Sewu, the former Head Office of the Nederlands Indische Spoorwegen – the railway company;
- The Central Tawang railway station
- The building of "The Factory of the Nederlandse Handel Maatschappij", the head office of the Dutch Governments' trade company.
- The Chinese temple Sam Po Keng-Gedung Batu, 17 Century, modernized in the 1970s.

Charles Emile van Santen September 1985

#### 4. Selected photographs from the Charles Emile Benjamins Collection

Page no	Image no	Title
Front	010	Charles Emile in his doctors coach
3	001	Charles Emile 1880 8 years old
5	003	Charles Emile, his parents & brothers 1892
5	013	His house Bodjongse weg 6 Semarang
6	006	Charles Emile with his children, 1908?
7	029	Clinic of Charles Emile
8	035	Chinese Apothecary
9	016	Domestic staff of Charles Emile
10	079	Mendut Temple: Budha and Bodisattvas
11	082	Railway bridge Parakan: Weliri-Magelang
11	086	The road to Dieng Plateau
11	091	Bima Temple with Grandmother
11	068	Borobudur Temple
11	094	Sumbang Sindoro Massive
11	101	Bromo crater
20	146	Charles Emile's motor cycle: decibel test
21	142	ORLAS Foundation Meeting Groningen 9 October 1926

#### 5. Municipal Orchestra Groningen Concert 3 May 1938: Diana Suite for symphony orchestra by Charles Emile Benjamins