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From De Kunst, 02-06-1923

### **A Temple for Art and Culture**

The *Vrij-Religieuze Tempel* ('Free Religion Temple') in Amsterdam. Last week the scale model of the *Vrij-Religieuze Tempel* made by the sculptor H. de Roo, which will be built on the corner of the Banstraat and the Viottastraat, on the basis of the beautiful design of architect GJ Rutgers, was put up for display in one of the shop windows of the art shop of Frans Buffa & Sons on the Kalverstraat - from now on in the art shop Fetter on the Weteringschans. The city of Amsterdam let a plot of about 800 square meters on a long-term lease for this building, whose design has attracted a great deal of attention and has been highly appreciated in professional circles. Among other rooms, the building will comprise a large temple room, accommodating 900 people. In this hall concerts will be given, and it offers the opportunity for displays of serious art. A smaller room, for about 375 people, is located on the first floor. There will be two additional rooms, for 200 and 150 people respectively, and two for around 50 people, on the ground floor of the building and in the outbuilding. Cloak rooms, a coffee room, central heating in winter, and air-conditioning in summer, ample easy seating and practical effective lay-out will contribute to the whole being a pre-eminently modern building. There will also be a library with specialist books in the field of free religion, for which the basis has now been created.

The foundation is in the hands of the De Vrij-Religieuze Tempel Ltd, the Society for the Promotion of Free-Religionist interests, established in Amsterdam. The society, being independent from all groups and organizations, wants to be able to act as a host for trade unions, denominations and corporations which have interests in religious areas, and moreover to give serious artists the opportunity to exhibit their work there. In this way, four larger and two smaller meetings can be held at the same time. The layout and entrances are such that one will not have the least interference from each other.

There is a great need in Amsterdam for an efficient and well-equipped building, where the various associations can find a decent and a good home for a reasonable price. As well this, it will also be a place where it is clear that one meets for not only enjoyment, and where one's higher self speaks. Thus this building will be the central point for Amsterdam of the free-religious life in its many variations, and, for the time being, perhaps for the whole of the Netherlands.

We can read about its construction in the magazine "De Tempel", which is devoted to "free-religious" schools of thinking and whose editors gave us the accompanying print on loan:

"It is now more than six months ago that the first plans for the construction of the Vrij-Religieuze Tempel in Amsterdam were revealed to the world. And although the call for financial support to those interested, in order to realize the construction, has not been completely unsuccessful, the result is still far from sufficient to start building. The first appeal involved commitments and deposits amounting to more than Hfl. 22,000. However, an amount of Hfl 100,000.- is needed. For this purpose a loan is issued at an interest of 6% per

annum. However, donations are also very welcome, as this reduces the operating cost and also benefits the future users of the various rooms in the building.

At the moment we are waiting for more money for the construction. The editors of "The Temple" write the following about this:

"Amsterdam, a city with 700,000 inhabitants, and the Netherlands need such a building. A building in which only the utterances of the higher "ego" of humanity will be expressed, where against a background of a true free religion and free opinions of the various religious groups an atmosphere will be created which will benefit spiritual man.

"Those who are fed up with just words, who long for action and also want to act themselves, help us. The Temple will be realised, the founders are convinced of this; it is up to you to reduce the time until it is created. Donations for this can be done at the office of the company; one can also register for bonds, which are issued to the value of Hfl 100, 500 and 1000. The prospectus is sent on request. The address of the company is: Valeriusplein 20 in Amsterdam, tel. South 9747.

“Here lies before us a good and great work in the field of free spiritual and cultural life. Once this building is erected, it will testify that our people not only feel for places of entertainment, but also know how to support serious work in the spiritual field, for which private individuals took the initiative.”