



Fig.1
Jules L. Puech

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by

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On-the-move Summary

- Jules Louis Puech (JLP) was a French Feminist, Socialist and Pacifist of the early 19th Century
- The research aimed to establish which of those three themes was most important to him, examining his correspondence with peers and involvement in societies
- JLP was in at least 24 societies of which 11 were socialist and 8 pacifist
- Most correspondence was with pacifist societies however
- It emerged that JLP aimed to establish peace through an international social community, linking both Socialism and Pacifism together

Introduction

Jules Louis Puech (JLP) was a French Feminist, Socialist and Pacifist who was especially politically active between 1910 and 1940. He is mainly remembered for writing a publication on 19th Century socialist Flora Tristan. Together with his wife, Marie-Louise Puech, he got involved in many societies. The aim of the research was to pin down who JLP had correspondence with during his active time and to examine his involvement in societies in order to determine which of the themes, Feminism or Pacifism, had come first, had influenced the others and was the most significant to him.

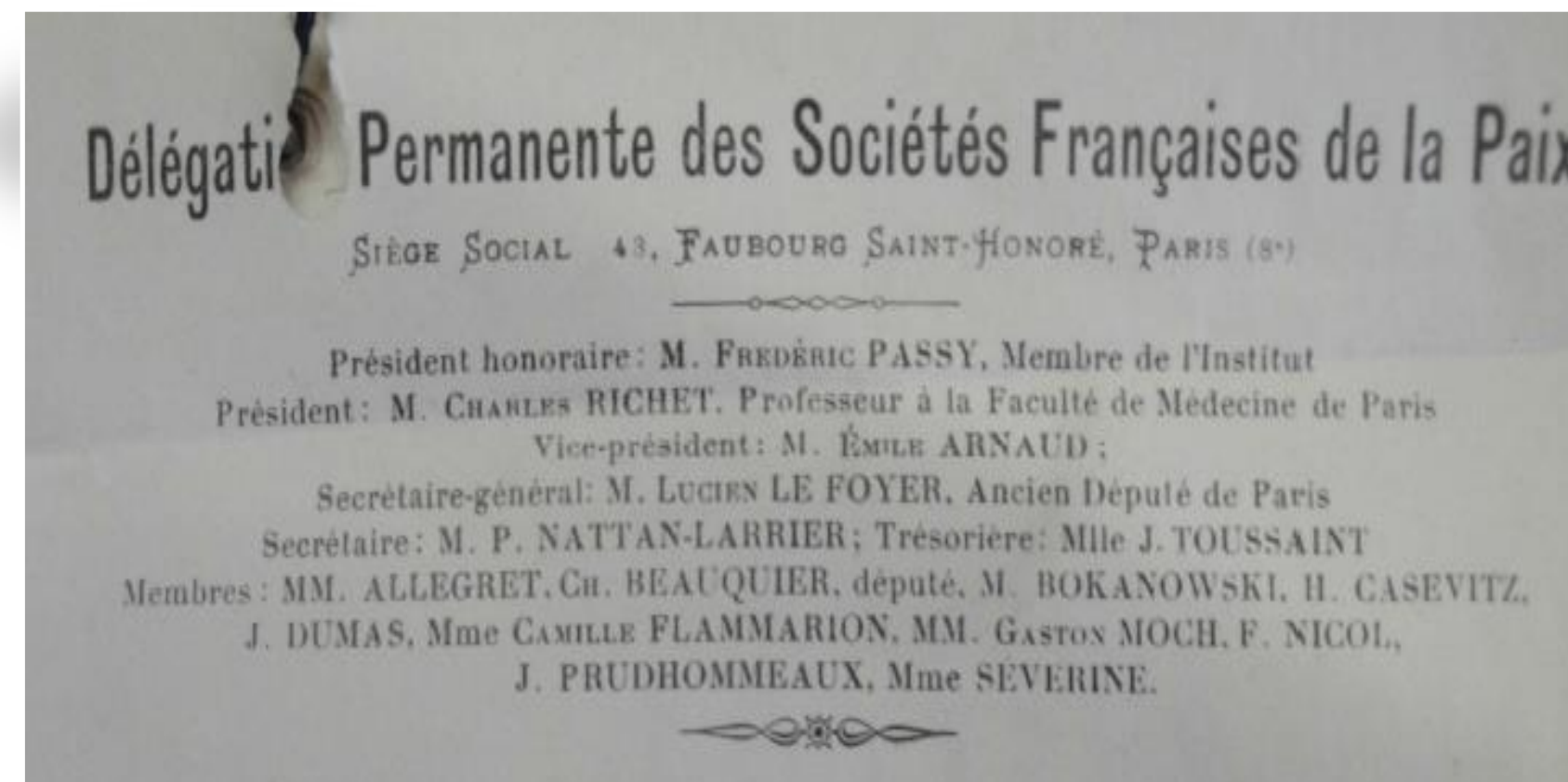


Fig. 2.1 – JLP is not listed as a member

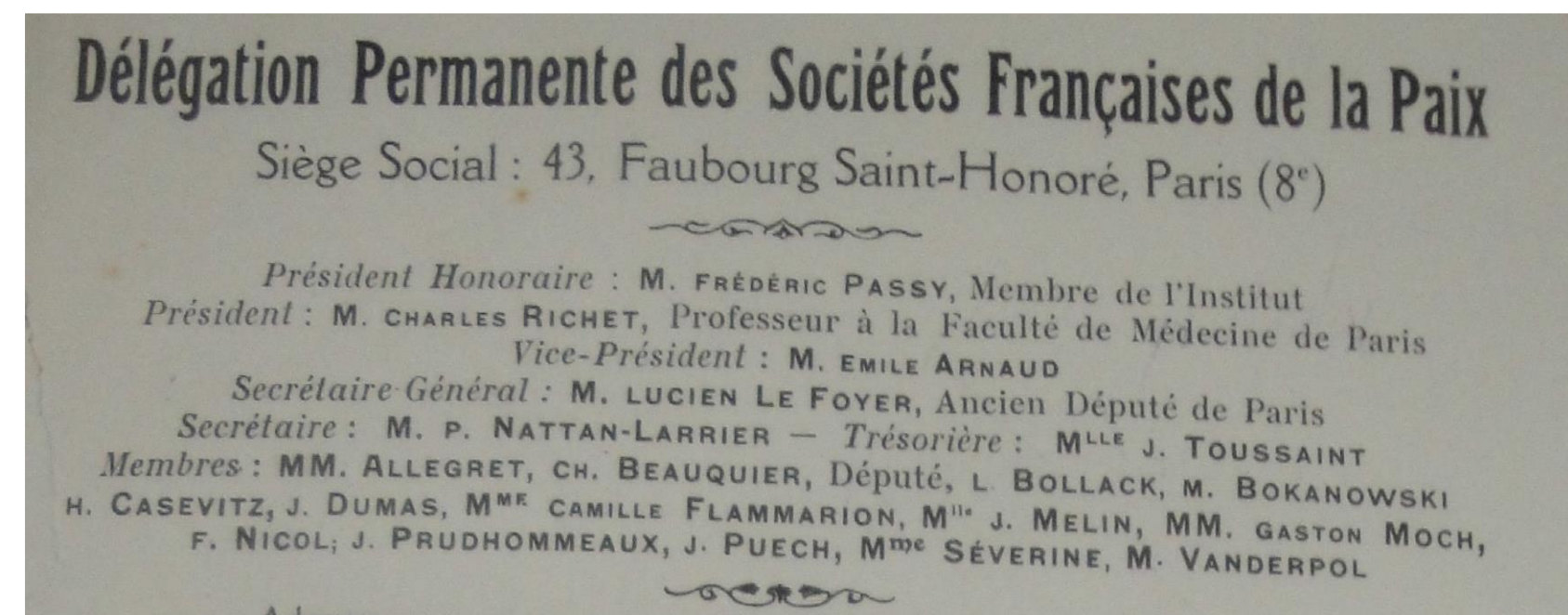


Fig. 2.2 – JLP is a listed member (last line in the middle)

Problems

It was not always easy to determine which societies JLP was active in, as he would receive newsletters from societies he was a member of and from societies that were hoping to recruit him as a member alike. One such example is given in Figure 5, where he receives a newsletter from 'La Délégation Permanente des Sociétés Françaises de la Paix' in 1910 and he is clearly not a member. On the next newsletter in 1912 however he is clearly stated as a member.

Furthermore, whilst the fact that almost all correspondence was in French did not cause any complications, the fact that certain letters were handwritten made identifying them difficult. Unfortunately this meant that a very small number of files were regrettably disregarded.

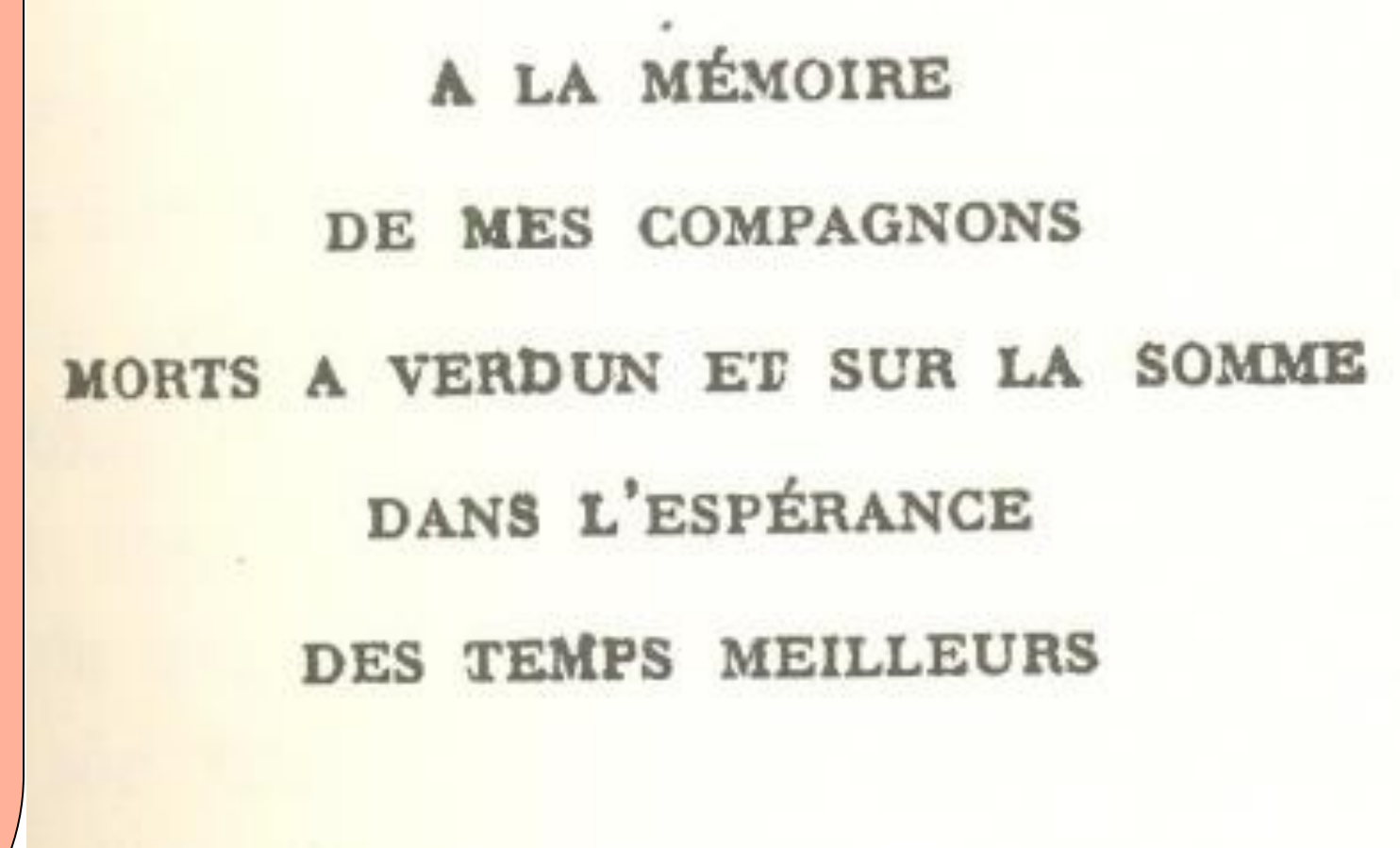
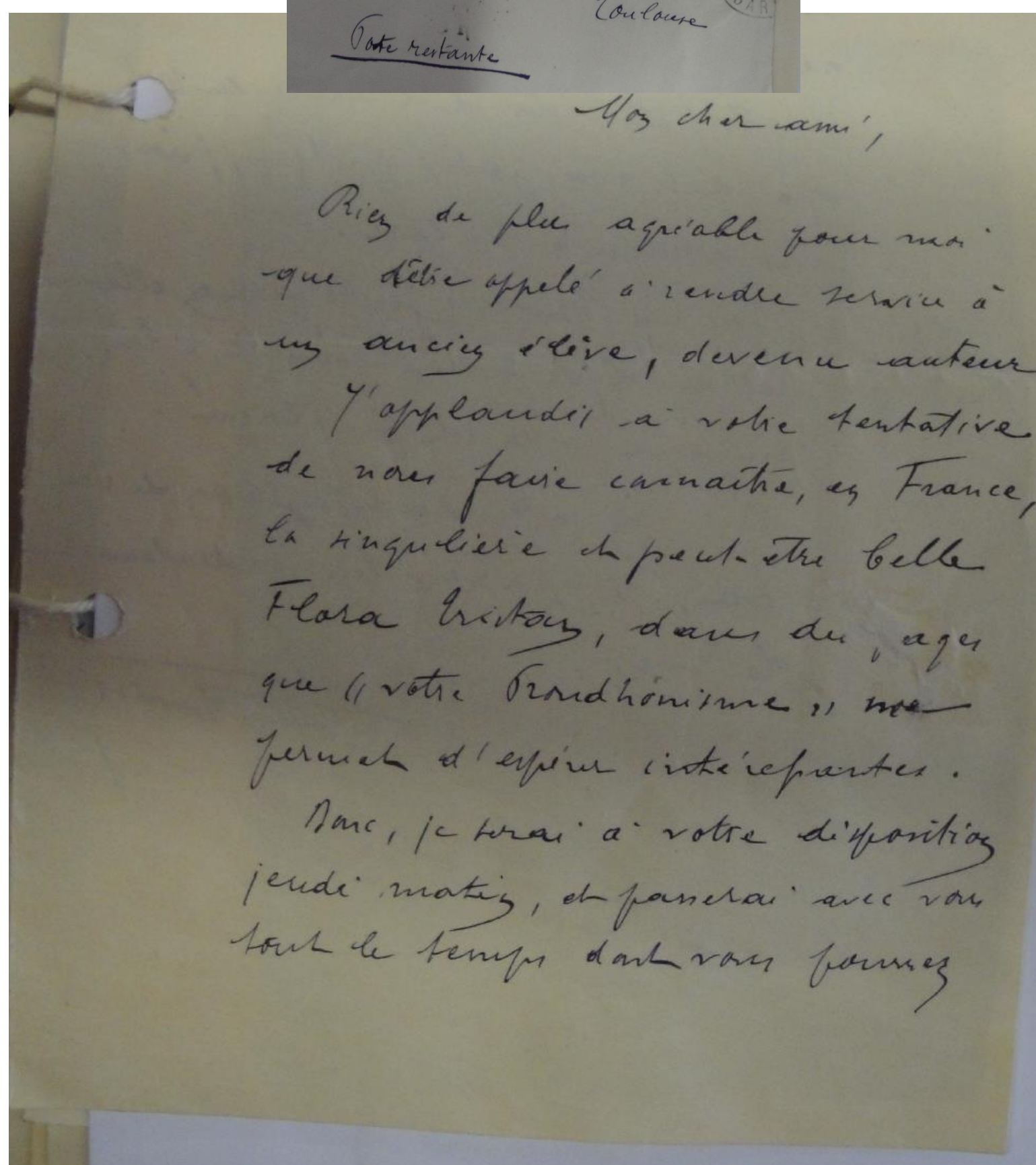


Fig. 5 – Dedication in JLP's book "La tradition socialiste en France et la Société des nations"

Fig. 3



Research

The first step was to devise a method of storing relevant information on the more than 300 files on JLP, that would range from letters, over postcards to newsletters from societies. Using an Excel table that would record date, place, names of people involved, society involved and a short summary among other important information occurred to be a more than satisfactory solution. Figure 2 and 3 are examples of the correspondence which needed to be examined. Figures 2.1 and 2.2 are the heads of society newsletters (the rest was omitted due to spacing problems). Figure 3 is a handwritten letter sent to JLP. Using the excel table allowed me afterwards to easily access information such as in how many and what type of societies he was involved and who he had the most correspondence with were easy to gather.

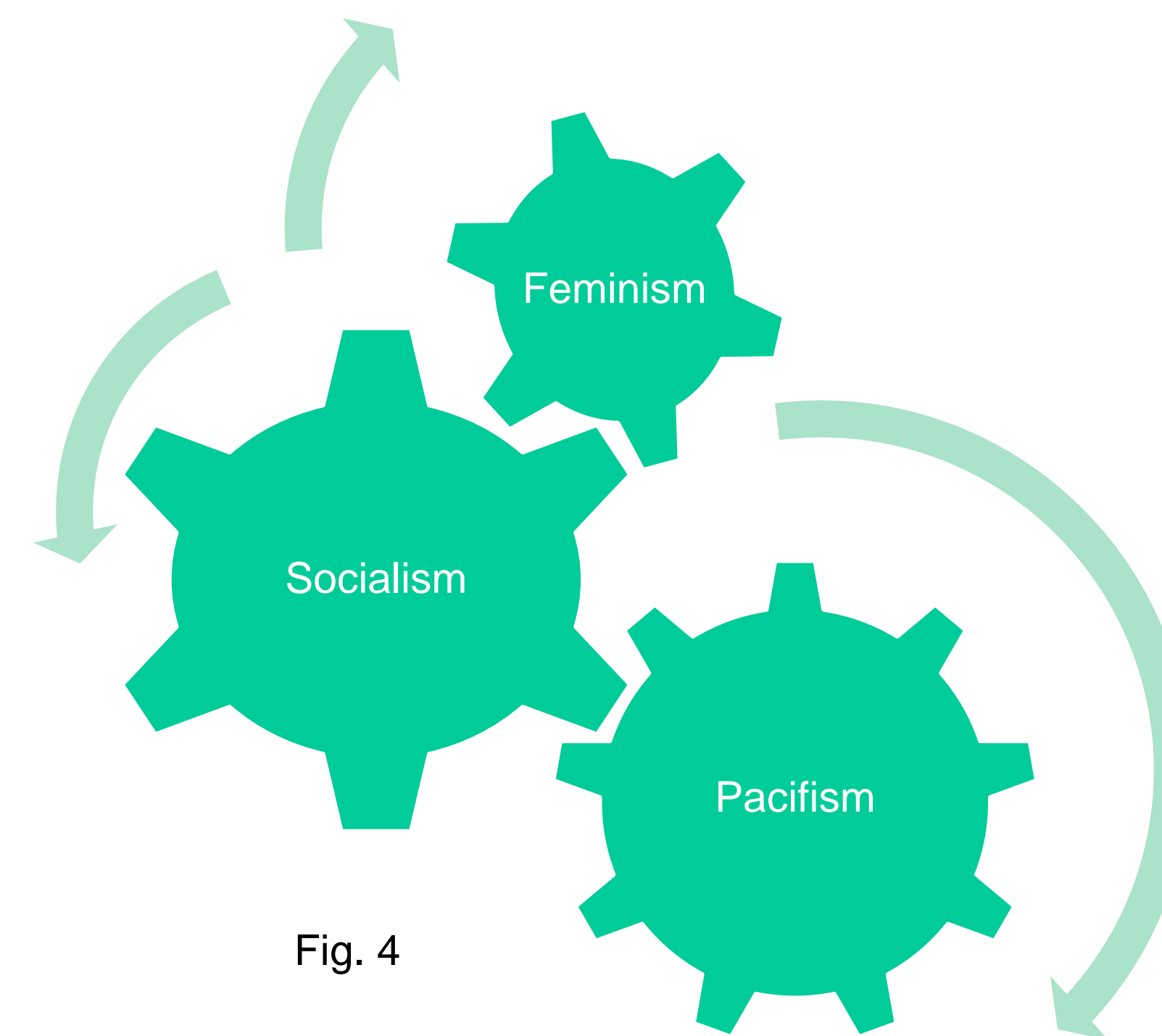


Fig. 4

Findings

The research established that JLP was associated with at least 24 societies, of which 5 were of Feminist, 11 were of Socialist and 8 were of Pacifist nature. While this may suggest that JLP was primarily concerned with Socialism, it has to be pointed out that the societies he was most involved with were Pacifist, most notably "La Paix par le droit" - Peace through justice - whose journal he ran.

The predominant themes JLP was concerned with were therefore Pacifism and Socialism but it is not possible from the research to determine which theme had come first. It all tends towards the conclusion, that JLP wanted to achieve peace through arbitration and justice (whereas other Pacifists at the time believed peace could be achieved through war). This is supported by the dedication at the beginning of one of JLP's publications about socialism to the 'memory of his comrades that died in Verdun' (Figure 5).