

# A Usable Collection

**Essays in Honour of Jaap Kloosterman  
on Collecting Social History**

**Edited by Aad Blok, Jan Lucassen and Huub Sanders**



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# I.7 **The Importance of Friendship**

## The Shared History of the IAV/IIAV and IISH

**Francisca de Haan  
and Annette Mevis**

### **A Short History of the IAV/IIAV**

The Institute in Amsterdam, nowadays known as “Atria, Institute on Gender Equality and Women’s History”, is one of the oldest women’s libraries and archives in the world. It was founded in December 1935 by three Dutch feminists who had each been or still were active in the national and international women’s movement: historian Johanna W.A. Naber (1859-1941), international feminist and peace activist Rosa Manus (1881-1942), and economist Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot (1897-1989). The International Archives for the Women’s Movement (Internationaal Archief voor de Vrouwenbeweging, IAV), as the Institute was known until 1988, collected books, journals, photographs, and archives. The collection held in Atria still bears the name of IAV.

The International Archives for the Women’s Movement opened its doors to the public on 19 December 1936, with a festive event at which 77-year-old Johanna Naber was one of the speakers. The IAV’s goal was to promote knowledge and scientific study of the women’s movement in the broadest sense, a goal to be realized by establishing a library and archive in which the cultural heritage of women would be gathered and preserved, and by publishing books about the past and present of the national and interna-



**The official opening of the IAV on 19 December 1936, Keizersgracht 264 in Amsterdam. N.W. Posthumus sitting far right, third from right Rosa Manus, fourth from right Johanna Naber, and fifth from right Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot. Atria, collection IAV no.100014639; photographer unknown.**

tional women's movement.<sup>1</sup> At the official opening the Institute also presented its first publication, a brochure written by historian Jane de Jongh (1901-1982) entitled *Documentatie van de geschiedenis der vrouw en der vrouwenbeweging* (Documentation of the history of woman and the women's movement). Describing the new Institute's acquisition guidelines and research policies, the brochure stated:

The Archive aims to bring together a collection of sources in whatever form [...] that will contribute to the knowledge of women's role in history in general, and more particularly in the era of social development in the Western world when the struggle for the political, economic and social emancipation of women began.<sup>2</sup>

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- 1 *Jaarboek Internationaal Archief voor de Vrouwenbeweging I* (Leiden, 1937), pp. xii-xvi. Preface in English.
  - 2 Jane de Jongh, *Documentatie van de geschiedenis der vrouw en der vrouwenbeweging* (Leiden, 1936), p. 9 (Our translation, FdH and AM).

The IAV grew steadily in the following years, until the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands brutally interrupted this process. In June 1940, just a month after the Nazis occupied the country, German officers paid two visits to the IAV. On 12 July 1940, the *Sicherheitspolizei* removed the entire contents of the IAV and subsequently transported them to Berlin.<sup>3</sup> IAV founding President Rosa Manus was questioned by German police officers several times. She was finally arrested in August 1941 and held for some weeks in the prison for political prisoners in Scheveningen, near The Hague. Thereafter, she was transported from one prison to another in Germany for a period of seven weeks, finally to be incarcerated in Ravensbrück, the main Nazi concentration camp primarily intended for women prisoners. It is now believed that she was killed in a “Euthanasie-Anstalt” (“Euthanasia” institution) in Bernburg in 1942.<sup>4</sup>

The re-opening of the IAV took place in October 1947, with Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot succeeding Rosa Manus as president. Many efforts were made to trace and retrieve the stolen IAV property, but with only minor success. From the second half of the 1970s, spurred by the United Nations proclaimed International Women’s Year (1975) that furthered the rise of the women’s movement and a developing interest in women’s history, the IAV went through a period of spectacular growth. It received government funding, and in 1981 could move to larger premises. In 1988 it merged with the Information and Documentation Centre for the women’s

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- 3 Francisca de Haan, “A ‘Truly International’ Archive for the Women’s Movement (IAV, now IIAV). From its Foundation in Amsterdam in 1935 to the Return of its Looted Archives in 2003”, *Journal of Women’s History*, 16:4 (2004), pp. 148-172. Documents concerning the closing of the Institute and the looting of the collection by the German police, Atria, IAV Collection, archive IAV, inv. no. 53 [hereafter, archive IAV]. Regarding the IISH, Peter Manasse writes: “The fate of the International Institute for Social History during World War II is well known. In July 1940, the SD closed the Institute and denied access to Director Posthumus. In January 1941, Rosenberg independently decided to take over the Institute for use as a depot for other stolen collections. The Institute’s collections were subsequently shipped to Germany.” Peter Manasse, “Preservation of Historical Records and a Pro-Active Approach to Collections”, in *The Return of Looted Collections (1946-1996). An Unfinished Chapter* (Amsterdam, 1997), pp. 118-121, 121.
- 4 For more details see Chapter 8 by Myriam Everard, in Myriam Everard and Francisca de Haan (eds), *Rosa Manus. Internationalist – Feminist – Peace Activist (1881-1942): Essays, Pictures, Documents* (tentative title, book to appear in 2015). Although contemporaries (during and in the early years after the war) mainly described Manus as a victim of Nazi anti-Semitism, she was arrested and detained as a political opponent of the Nazis because of her international, pro-peace and anti-fascist activism in the 1930s; her arrest and imprisonment preceded the deportations and mass murder of Dutch Jewry, which began in July 1942. For more details about Rosa Manus and her activities, see De Haan, “A ‘Truly International’ Archive”, and Myriam Everard, “Manus, Rosa”, in Els Kloek (ed.), *1001 vrouwen uit de Nederlandse geschiedenis* (Nijmegen, 2013); or Myriam Everard, *Manus, Rosa*, in *Digitaal Vrouwenlexicon van Nederland*, available at: <http://www.historici.nl/Onderzoek/Projecten/DVN/lemmata/data/Manus>; last accessed 18 August 2013.

movement (IDC) and the feminist journal *LOVER* to form the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (abbreviated in Dutch as IAV). An important element of this process of change and growth for the IAV was when its archival department came into being in the 1980s, which played a significant role in the development of women's history as a recognized academic field in the Netherlands.<sup>5</sup>

### Broader Historical Context

The establishment of the IAV in 1935 was part of a larger trend in the inter-war years to create private (as opposed to state) archival institutes to collect and keep the records of social and political groups whose records were in danger of disappearing or being destroyed by state powers that regarded them as unwanted or dangerous.

First, with the Western so-called first wave of feminism ebbing away and its pioneers retiring from public life or passing away, it was necessary to create institutes where their papers and those of women's organizations could be properly kept. In a letter in 1936, the IAV's first librarian, E. (Bep) Ferf formulated this as follows:

It is a great pity that so many documents about the difficult period in the beginning of the struggle for the vote and rights for women, have been destroyed. Therefore we hope to convince the women of the world that here in Holland we have a safe place and that everything: books, letters, pamphlets a.s.o. can be send [*sic*] to us to build up a library, where the women interested in the women's movement will have the possibility to study this movement in past and present.<sup>6</sup>

It is no coincidence, therefore, that a number of such initiatives were taken at this time, with the founding of the Women's Service Library in London in 1926 – later renamed Fawcett Library and now The Women's Library – and of the Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand in Paris in 1931 as major examples.

Second, feminists were deeply worried by the assaults on and further threats to women's rights by right-wing, authoritarian and fascist governments in Europe at the time. They were involved in efforts to defend women's rights, both nationally – in the Netherlands, for example, IAV founders

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5 Francisca de Haan and Annette Mevis, "The Making of the Collection Internationaal Archief voor de Vrouwenbeweging (IAV). Seventy-Five Years of Collecting, Receiving, and Refusing Women's Archives (1935-2010)," in Theo Vermeer, Petra Links and Justin Klein (eds), *Particuliere Archieven. Fundamenten in beweging. Jaarboek 12* ('s-Gravenhage, 2013), pp. 150-168.

6 Letter in English from the IAV Librarian, E. Ferf, to Phyllis Lovell, October 9, 1936. Quoted in De Haan, "A 'Truly International' Archive", p. 148.

Rosa Manus, Johanna Naber and Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot participated in efforts to defend women's economic rights – and internationally, at the League of Nations.<sup>7</sup> The establishment of women's libraries and archives was part of this attempt to oppose the dangerous political trend at the time, both by safekeeping the movement's documents and by using these institutes as springboards for informed action against reactionary policies. These historical factors were all part of the IAV founders' motives to set up their institute.

The books and documents of feminists and women's organizations, however, were certainly not the only ones in danger of disappearing or being destroyed in the interwar period: so were the books and collections of other progressive, especially left-wing, individuals and organizations. Thus economic historian N.W. (Nien) Posthumus took the initiative to establish the International Institute of Social History (IISH), intended as a safe place for books and archives that were under threat by fascism, Stalinism, and Nazism.<sup>8</sup> This is where the shared histories of the two Amsterdam institutes, the IISH and the IAV, started.

Professor Posthumus was well established and well connected, and had a talent for setting up (important) historical institutes: the list of his initiatives, besides the IISH, includes the Netherlands Economic History Archive (Nederlandsch Economisch-Historisch Archief, NEHA, 1914), and the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Instituut voor Oorlogs-, Holocaust- en Genocidestudies, NIOD, originally the Rijksinstituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie, RIOD).<sup>9</sup> The IISH was founded on 25 November 1935. It was located on Keizersgracht 264, and opened its doors to the public on 11 March 1937.

It is not clear who was responsible for the IISH/IAV cooperation the way it emerged,<sup>10</sup> but both personal connections and shared political views played

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- 7 Entries Maria Grever on J.W.A. Naber, and Francisca de Haan and Annette Mevis on W.H. Posthumus-van der Goot, in *Biografisch Woordenboek van het Socialisme en de Arbeidersbeweging (BWSA)*, available at: <http://socialhistory.org/bwsa>; last accessed 18 August 2013. Carol Miller, "'Geneva – the Key to Equality'. Inter-war Feminists and the League of Nations", *Women's History Review*, 3, no. 2 (1994), pp. 218-245. On Rosa Manus's role in the League of Nations, see various articles in Everard and De Haan, *Rosa Manus*.
- 8 Jan Lucassen, *Tracing the Past. Collections and Research in Social and Economic History: The International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands Economic History Archive and Related Institutions* (Amsterdam, 1989), p. 14.
- 9 In his efforts to establish the IISH, Posthumus was "bijgestaan door een staf met als bibliothecaresse de weduwe van zijn studievriend Adama van Scheltema, Annie Kleefstra. In de persoon van de directeur van de Centrale Arbeiders Verzekeringen Depositobank Nehemia de Lieme vond hij een onmisbare steun voor de verwezenlijking van zijn plannen wat betreft de financiering." Entry N.W. Posthumus, *BWSA*, also for the other data mentioned here, available at: <http://socialhistory.org/bwsa/biografie/posthumus>; last accessed 17 August 2013.
- 10 Neither the article of 9 January 1937 in the *Algemeen Handelsblad* referred to below

a role. IAV founding President Rosa Manus by 1935 had been active in the women's movement for almost three decades. She was an exceptionally talented organizer, and one of her first major projects was the "Tentoonstelling 'De Vrouw 1813-1913'" (Exhibition 'Woman 1813-1913'), which she co-organized together with Dr Mia Boissevain. Professor Posthumus was a member of the commission responsible for the exhibition's Historical Division ("Historische Afdeeling"),<sup>11</sup> as was Johanna W.A. Naber.<sup>12</sup> Two of the three later IAV founders, therefore, Naber and Manus, worked with Professor Posthumus as early as 1913 on a historical women's movement project (and Naber had been Manus's feminist mentor since 1908).<sup>13</sup> Willemijn van der Goot, the youngest IAV founder and the Institute's secretary, in December 1930 became the first Dutch woman with a PhD in economics. Her advisor was Professor Posthumus, and the two were married less than a month later, in January 1931.<sup>14</sup> Rosa Manus and the Posthumus couple also lived close to each other and, as various letters show and Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot later said, there was a personal bond between them.<sup>15</sup>

In 1930 Rosa Manus began to create what she called "a feministic library". As she explained in a letter to the American feminist, social work pioneer and peace activist, Jane Addams:

Her [Aletta Jacobs's] papers and intimate letters as well as her library have come to me and I am organising in my office [in the Vrouwenclub-Lyceumclub] a feministic library in connection with my own books and it is my intention to make this library useful to the women of the world.<sup>16</sup>

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nor Posthumus-van der Goot in a 1981 interview adequately mention Rosa Manus's role in the process of establishing the IAV. For us, her key contribution has only become fully clear after the return of her archives (part of the IAV archives stolen by the Nazis in 1940 and returned to Amsterdam in 2003). Mirjam Elias, "Interview met mevrouw W.H. Posthumus-van der Goot. 'De generatie van de verwerende meisjes'", in *Jaarboek voor Vrouwengeschiedenis*, 2 (1981), pp. 222-235.

11 *Catalogus van de Tentoonstelling "De Vrouw 1813-1913" "Meerhuizen"-Amstedijk Mei-October 1913* (Amsterdam, 1913), p. 27.

12 Entry J.W.A. Naber in *BWSA*, available at: <http://socialhistory.org/bwsa/biografie/naber>; last accessed 17 August 2013.

13 Myriam Everard, Chapter 1, "Rosa Manus: The Genealogy of a Dutch Jewish Feminist", in Everard and De Haan, *Rosa Manus*.

14 See their entries in *BWSA*, available at: <http://socialhistory.org/bwsa/>; last accessed 17 August 2013

15 Letters for example in archive IAV inv. no. 105. "Ik heb echter weinig persoonlijk contact met hen gehad, behalve met Rosa Manus. Zij woonde vlakbij en had een enorme begaafdheid om met verschillende soorten mensen om te gaan." [The latter refers to the generally elite character of the liberal women's movement]. Elias, "Interview met mevrouw W.H. Posthumus-van der Goot," p. 230.

16 Letter to Jane Addams 29 July 1930, Atria, IAV Collection, archive Rosa Manus, inv. no. 68.

According to a well-informed article in the *Amsterdamsche Dameskroniek* (Amsterdam Ladies' Chronicle) of January 1937, sometime in the early 1930s Professor Posthumus, director of the NEHA in Amsterdam, asked Rosa Manus if she would consider depositing this library in the Economic-Historical Library (part of the NEHA). Prof Posthumus probably asked this in 1932, when Manus, following the death of her father, left her rooms in the Vrouwenclub-Lyceumclub and moved with her mother to the Jacob Obrechtstraat in Amsterdam. Manus's answer to Posthumus's question, however, was a resolute "no" because she had no intention of letting another institute "eat up" her precious books and papers, even if the housing conditions and care for the materials would be excellent.<sup>17</sup>

A few years later, the IISH was established. Posthumus-van der Goot, who, together with her husband, Prof Posthumus, devoted a great deal of time and energy to women's work and position in society, then went to Rosa Manus to inform her that the IISH's board wanted to make available several rooms for a separate library for the women's movement. "That is something else," Rosa Manus reacted. "I would be in favour of that, if we then make it into a separate institute. In that case our library will remain a separate whole ["*één afzonderlijk geheel*"] but will also be accessible for everyone".<sup>18</sup>

It now seems likely that, in addition to those already mentioned, Jane de Iongh, historian, NEHA Librarian until 1935 and IISH board member, also played a role in the process of conceiving of the IAV as an independent institute and/or of creating space for that separate institute within the IISH. Jane de Iongh had become involved in the women's movement via Rosa Manus in 1934, in the context of actions against the government policies to curtail women's economic rights. In 1935, De Iongh spent time in England to do research for a book about the history of the movement. She and Rosa Manus had by then become friends. In a letter of 5 November 1935, Manus invited De Iongh on behalf of Posthumus-van der Goot and herself to become a board member of the soon to be established IAV. Jane de Iongh, because she was also an IISH board member, could be a "helping link," Manus wrote:

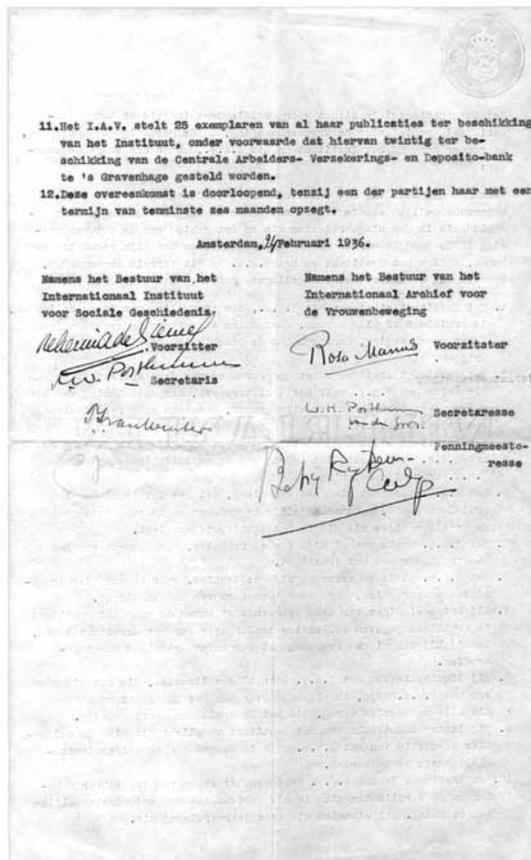
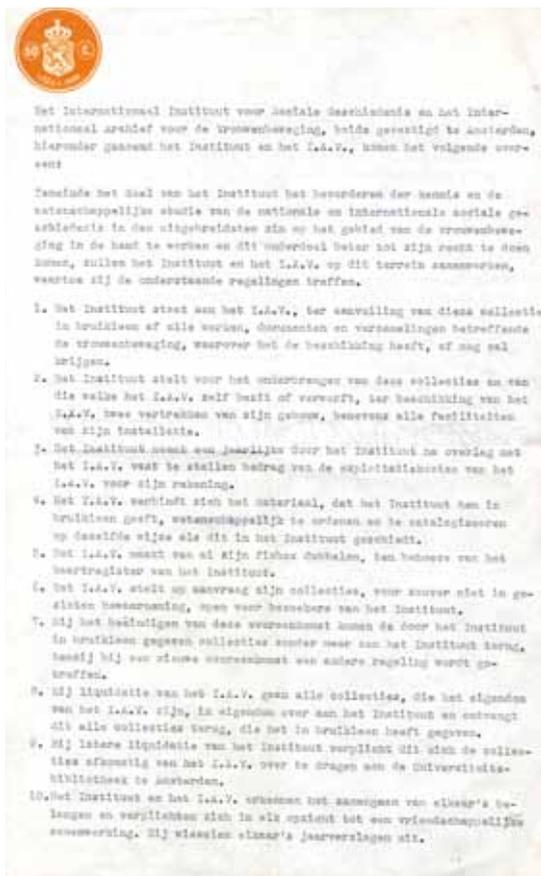
We will send you, as soon as we are ready, the memorandum and articles of association, so you can make yourself familiar with the kind of work involved here. This Friday we'll have our first visit to the notary and soon then the foundation will be a fait accompli. This is so much fun really and I certainly believe that after all you've been the animator of something like this; since it all got going when you came to talk to me about those things last year.<sup>19</sup>

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17 Ro van Oven, "Van en voor vrouwen", *Amsterdamsche Dameskroniek*, 30 January 1937 (our translation and paraphrasing, FdH and AM).

18 *Idem*.

19 Carbon copy of a letter from Rosa Manus to Jane de Iongh, 5 November 1935.



The Treaty of Friendship, signed on 24 February 1936. Atria, archive IAV, inv. no. 146.

Even though Manus was not very specific here, it is clear that Jane de Jongh played a role in the process leading to the establishment of the IAV. Her involvement in building up the new Institute is underscored by the fact that she accepted the invitation to become IAV board member and wrote *Documentatie van de geschiedenis der vrouw en der vrouwenbeweging* (Documentation of the history of woman and the women's movement), a brochure outlining the IAV's acquisition guidelines and research policies, as mentioned above.

archive Rosa Manus, inv. no. 96, one of a series of letters between them (translation Aleid Fokkema). See further Thea den Hartog, "Jane de Jongh (1901-1982). De historische verbeelding van het feminisme", in *Jaarboek voor Vrouwengeschiedenis*, 14 (1994), pp. 181-192.

The cooperation between the IISH and IAV was made official in an agreement, the “Treaty of Friendship”, signed on 24 February 1936.<sup>20</sup> According to this document, the IISH would provide on loan to the IAV all its materials related to the women’s movement. To house these collections as well as those the IAV continued to acquire, the IISH made available to the IAV two rooms with all related facilities, and agreed to cover part of the IAV’s operational costs (for heating, cleaning, the use of telephone, etc.). The IAV agreed to catalog the material made available by the IISH according to the IISH’s system, and to allow IISH visitors to see its materials. (For the original text and more details, see the photograph of the Treaty of Friendship).

A letter from IAV president Rosa Manus to Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot (who was abroad) in April 1936 captures her appreciation, as well as the good atmosphere between her and the Posthumus couple:

At this very moment we are actually sitting at a desk in the I.A.V. [...] We are very pleasantly sitting here in the sun and are very pleased with these beautiful rooms. Please do tell the Professor that the green filing cabinet is a jewel, for which I am deeply grateful to him.<sup>21</sup>

### **Not Just Smooth Cooperation ...**

The two institutes, then, were off to a very good start, and relations generally remained cordial, even as leadership changed over time. However, and probably unsurprisingly, in later years there were some important issues due to financial restraints as well as disagreement over which of the two institutes was entitled to certain documents.

The initial offer of two rooms for a separate women’s movement library within the IISH building and the related financial support made it possible to set up the IAV. The significance of this arrangement is further illustrated by the fact that in the period from 1935 to 1981, the IAV was housed away from the IISH for only nine years, from 1960 to 1969. The IAV much regretted that separation. The official reason why the IISH in 1960 asked the IAV to move from the Keizersgracht to a school in the Balboastraat was that it needed the IAV rooms for its own employees.<sup>22</sup> Still, it seems likely that the

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20 Document in archive IAV, inv. no. 146. Atria received the signed document in 2012 from the granddaughter of Fernanda Schreuder-Feith, IAV librarian from 1947 to 1950. Other, not signed versions were already present in the IAV archive. The contract was not notarized, but was a deed with a seal (“op zegel”) (minutes Board Meeting IAV 11 February 1936), archive IAV, inv. no. 1. “Treaty of Friendship” is our term for this document, FdH and AM.

21 Letter in archive IAV, inv. no. 105 (Our translation, FdH and AM).

22 Discussed in a letter of 4 January 1960 from IAV treasurer Lien Kleinhoonte, to her fellow board members, archive IAV, inv. no. 36.

IISH policies regarding the IAV were also related to its then director's views and priorities. Historian Adolf Rüter, Nien Posthumus's successor as IISH director, appears to have been the least IAV-friendly of the IISH directors.<sup>23</sup> From 1947 until 1953 the IISH paid the IAV an annual sum of fl. 600 (six hundred guilders), as well as providing the two rooms and paying for the costs related to the IAV functioning there. Rüter ended the additional yearly subsidy in 1953.<sup>24</sup> Two years later, in 1955, he tried to get the IAV to leave, efforts the IAV leadership successfully opposed, with support from the Amsterdam Bureau for Organization and Efficiency (Bureau voor Organisatie en Efficiency van de Gemeente Amsterdam). The IAV leadership regarded their being housed within the IISH as so crucial that in a confidential letter from 1955 they referred to "this whole issue for the IAV as one of 'to be or not to be'."<sup>25</sup> Once the IAV had been forced to live on its own in 1960, it tried to improve its connections with women's organizations such as the Dutch Association for Women's Interests, Women's Labor and Equal Citizenship (Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen, Vrouwenarbeid en Gelijk Staatsburgerschap), and in 1961 explored the possibility of moving in with the Amsterdam Public Library (Openbare Leeszaal). An IAV report about that potential development tellingly stated: "That is why it is better not to make known such plans to the Institute of Social History, since that might give the Institute a motive to sever ties that the Institute might like to see severed but the IAV certainly not".<sup>26</sup>

Friction also occasionally arose between the IISH and the IAV about their core business, the collecting and keeping of archival collections. Table 1 lists a number of collections that are partly stored in the IISH and partly in the IAV, sometimes for clear reasons, in other cases less so, and in a number of cases not without this having been contested. Generally speaking, since the women's movement and the labour movement had some very different strands but important overlaps as well, especially in the case of left-feminist women and their organizations, it is not always easy for archive creators to decide what is the best place for a collection, the IAV or the IISH. A striking example is that of the left-wing Nederlandse Vrouwenbeweging (Dutch Women's Movement, NVB), founded in 1946 as a broad women's movement

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23 In 1951 and 1952, Posthumus and Rüter co-directed the IISH. Posthumus stepped down on 31 December 1952.

24 Hence the year immediately after Posthumus had retired. "Annual Report" 1953, archive IAV, inv. no. 38; see also the letter from Rüter to IAV, 20 April 1953, and the striking reply from Posthumus-van der Goot, 30 April 1953, archive IAV, inv. no. 27.

25 See letters 1955 in archive IAV, inv. no. 33. The "to be or not to be" were their words.

26 Report 8 November 1961, archive IAV, inv. no. 33, p. 2: "Daarom is het ook tegenover het Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis beter voorlopig geen ruchtbaarheid aan dergelijke plannen te geven om het Instituut niet een mogelijk motief te verlenen de banden te verbreken die het Instituut misschien wel, maar het I.A.V. zeker niet verbroken zou willen zien."

to democratize society, including the fight for women's rights, to prevent a revival of fascism, and to work for permanent peace. On the one hand, in the postwar years IAV president Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot refused to include the NVB journal in the IAV collection because of her anti-communist sentiment. On the other hand, the NVB had its own concerns and it appears to have been difficult for them to decide where to deposit the organization's archive: did they want to make an alliance with the ("bourgeois") women's movement, represented by the IAV, or with the labor movement, represented by the IISH? In the early 1980s, IAV archivists were in contact with the NVB about their archive, and in their annual meeting of 27 April 1985 the NVB decided to deposit their papers in the IAV.<sup>27</sup> Sometime after 1985, the NVB changed its mind and decided to store its collection in the IISH instead of the IAV – without informing the IAV of this change. A further issue in relation to the NVB archive is that in 1983, the Dutch National Archives and the IISH, as part of a broader attempt to demarcate which institute acquired which papers, had agreed that "archives in the field of the women's movement" were to go to the IAV.<sup>28</sup> In light of the agreement between the National Archives and the IISH, the question is whether the latter, once the NVB announced that its archive would go to the IISH, pointed out to the NVB that the IAV might be the appropriate institute for its papers?

In addition, despite agreements outlining which archives in principle belonged where – in this case both the 1936 Treaty of Friendship between the IISH and IAV and the 1983 agreement between the National Archive and IISH – there is always a gray area, so that *ad hoc* decisions about archival destinations have to be made, which, in retrospect, may not always be the best.

And thirdly, the all too human factor of what Jacques Derrida called "archive fever" undoubtedly also played a role, and may sometimes have clouded judgement in the competition for some collections. "Archive fever" is the strong desire to possess certain documents for their intrinsic worth, their ability to highlight the historical role of particular individuals or groups, to help create or substantiate a particular narrative, or to increase the archival institute's name and fame. A January 1937 article in the Dutch national newspaper *Algemeen Handelsblad* about the newly opened IAV called a "Library for International Feminism" strikingly referred to IAV founder Rosa Manus's "verzamelijver" (collector's fervor), outlining how her strong desire to collect materials laid the foundation for the IAV's collection. Rosa Manus,

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27 Document containing agreements about processing the archive of the NVB, 27 May 1985, archive IAV, inv. no. 443.

28 Verslag van een informeel gesprek over de afbakening van het acquisitieterrein tussen het Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG) en het Algemeen Rijksarchief (ARA) op 28 november 1983, point 5 "Archieven op het terrein van de vrouwenbeweging: naar het IAV, zolang daar een deskundig archiefbeheer wordt gegarandeerd". The IAV in 1988 received a copy of this document from IISH archivist Atie van der Horst.

the article explained, soon after she became involved in the national and international women's movement started to collect material

related to the women's movement in all its phases. She continued this collecting for decades, and the many congresses she attended supplied her with a rich variety of materials. In addition, she acquired many important works published in this field, and this collection after Dr Jacobs's death [in 1929] was complemented with all the feminist literature this pioneer had owned.<sup>29</sup>

The newspaper article continued to observe how Rosa Manus's collector's fervor – reminiscent of Derrida's term "archive fever" – developed from a young woman's hobby into "a systematic bringing together and categorizing of insignia and menus, brochures, pamphlets, periodicals, annual reports, documents, letters, biographies, etc."<sup>30</sup> We cannot but assume that others involved in first creating and then consolidating and expanding the two institutes, the IAV and the IISH, were and are affected by the same fever, with the joys and sorrows it may have led to ... An example of archive fever might be how Jaap Kloosterman, then IISH acting deputy director of collections, dealt with documents belonging to Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot, co-founder of the IAV. Her papers have been stored in the IAV since 1990. In the spring of 2011, Jaap Kloosterman accepted Claire Posthumus's personal papers, which also included some items and documents belonging to her mother, Willemijn Posthumus-van der Goot (for example, her PhD degree, a diary, and pictures).<sup>31</sup> However, according to the principle of provenance generally maintained in the archival world, these items belong in Posthumus-van der Goot's personal archive in the IAV collection.

Nonetheless, while there remain some unresolved issues regarding a number of women's collections, the overall tone of this history is positive. The IAV's forced exile in the 1960s (for so it felt) ended when in May 1967 Frits de Jong, Rüter's successor as IISH director, offered the IAV space in the IISH's new Amsterdam premises at Herengracht 262 (where the IISH and IAV moved in 1969). IAV president H.P. Hogeweg-de Haart wrote a deeply appreciative letter to Professor de Jong, emphasizing "how delighted we are about your proposal [...] which will not only end the isolation in which the IAV found itself for years due to its location at the city's periphery, but will also allow us to renew the old ties with the IISH".<sup>32</sup>

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29 Annèlen, "Bibliotheek voor internationaal feminisme", *Algemeen Handelsblad*, 9 January 1937, Saturday supplement.

30 *Idem*.

31 *On the Waterfront. Newsletter of the friends of the IISH*, 2012, no. 23, p. 3; preliminary list archive Claire Posthumus.

32 Letter H.P. Hogeweg-de Haart to Professor de Jong, 20 July 1967, archive IAV, inv. no. 166.

In 1981 the IAV moved to a nice building at Keizersgracht 10, which was necessitated by the Institute's unprecedented growth as a result of the active women's movement and the related strong interest in women's history. Good relations with the IISH remained, however, as was exemplified in the 1990s. For half a century, the location of many archives the Nazis had stolen from West-European countries during WW II, including those belonging to the IAV and IISH, remained unknown. In 1992, many of these archives turned out to be stored in a so-called "secret archive" in Moscow, where they ended up after the Red Army took them as war loot from Nazi-occupied territory. When it became clear that the IAV archives in Moscow would not be returned to Amsterdam any time soon, if ever, IISH director Jaap Kloosterman in 1994 used his connections and resources to have all the IAV papers in Moscow recorded on microfilm (33,663 exposures on 14 films), and gave these microfilms to the IAV (the IAV original materials were only returned to the Institute in Amsterdam in 2003). Historians Myriam Everard and Mineke Bosch, in an article about "Feminism as War Trophy," aptly concluded that Jaap Kloosterman deserves a place of honor in the annals of the Dutch women's movement.<sup>33</sup>

## Conclusion

Our essay has explored the shared history of the International Institute of Social History and the International Archives for the Women's Movement in Amsterdam. It has shown that the IISH's material support for the IAV has played an absolutely crucial role in the latter's history. The significance of this support is further highlighted when we contrast the IAV's relative success with contemporary efforts in the USA in the mid-1930s to establish a World Center for Women's Archives, which failed after a couple of years for a number of reasons, but primarily lack of financial support.<sup>34</sup>

As discussed above, the combination of having good personal relations and holding similar political views was behind the IISH-IAV cooperation. In the end, key to this shared history has been the fact that from the beginning in 1935, IISH directors such as founder N.W. Posthumus, Frits de Jong, and certainly not least Jaap Kloosterman, have actively supported the IAV/IIAV, thus acting in the spirit of the probably unique 1936 Treaty of Friendship.

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33 Annette Mevis, "Women's Archives Recovered", in *The Return of Looted Collections (1946-1996). An Unfinished Chapter* (Amsterdam, 1997), pp. 115-117, 116; Myriam Everard and Mineke Bosch, "Feminisme als oorlogstrofee. De vooroorlogse IAV-archieven in Moskou", in *Jaarboek voor Vrouwengeschiedenis*, 14 (1994), pp. 193-200, 197.

34 Briefly mentioned by De Haan, "A 'Truly International' Archive," p. 152; analyzed in more detail in Dagmar Wernitznig, "Memory is Power. Rosa Manus, Rosika Schwimmer, and the Struggle about Establishing an International Women's Archive", in Everard and De Haan, *Rosa Manus*.

**Table 1: Shared Archives IISH/IAV**

<i>Archive or Collection</i>	<i>IISH (in m<sup>3</sup>)</i>	<i>IAV (in m<sup>3</sup>)</i>	<i>Facts from IAV</i>
Bond van Leeraressen bij het Huishoudonderwijs	2.50	0.72	The IAV received this in 1975.
Rooie Vrouwen	30	0.68	Received in 1979, 1988, 2004, and 2007 by various donors to the IAV.
Jo van Gogh-Bonger	33 letters	8 letters	The IAV received the letters in 1985 from A. van Gogh-Vonhoff, Wassenaar.
Frederika Meijboom / Meyboom	4.50	0.05	The IAV received this in 1989.
Henriëtte van der Meij	0.75	0.02	The IAV received this in 1978.
Brecht van den Muijzenberg-Willemse	7.50	1.50	The bulk of the material ending up in the IISH was due to a “misunderstanding” by the executor (correspondence in the IAV-acquisition file).
Annie Romein-Verschoor	3	0.72	Family matter. The IAV received its part in 1978 from her son Jan-Erik Romein.
Mathilde Wibaut-Berdenis van Berlekom	2	0.02	Given to the IAV by A.J.C. Wibaut-van Gaskel, who had inherited these papers.
Clara Wichmann	everything	nothing	Offered to the IAV in 1959 and gladly accepted, in writing. Mies Campfens of the IISH told the IAV that it was the father of Clara Wichmann who offered the archive to the IAV, but the daughter wanted it to go to the IISH.
Claire Posthumus	Not yet on the website IISH	0.12	Donated by Claire Posthumus to the IAV in 1990 and 2000.
Anna Catharina Ploeg-Ploeg	In archive H. Ploeg (nos. 7-22)	0.24	The IAV received this in 2003 from Anneke Linders, at her specific wish.
W.H. Posthumus-van der Goot	unknown	7.36	Donated to the IAV by her daughter Claire Posthumus in 1990.
Nederlandse Vrouwenbeweging (NVB)	16.50	0.36	The IAV received some records in 1993 and others in 2003 from Jolande Withuis.