

news and miscellanea



Kadin Eserleri Kütüphanesi Ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı ***The First and Only Women's Library and Archives in Turkey***

Aslı Davaz

Co-founder of the Foundation and Current President of the Executive Committee

A Dream Became Reality Twenty Years Ago

The story of the foundation process of the *Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı* (Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation) in Istanbul is a long one. When I started to explore this project in 1985, it seemed more like an impossible dream than a serious project. When in 1988 I met another of the future co-founders, Şirin Tekeli, it was still a dream but no more an impossible one. A subsequent meeting with three other future co-founders – Jale Baysal, Füsün Akatlı and Füsün Yaraş-Ertuğ – turned the dream into a serious project.

The Aims of the Foundation

In December 1989, the founders established the legal status of the Library, which was then opened to the public on 14 April 1990 in its current premises.¹ The Library has celebrated its twentieth anniversary this year (see the separate conference report below). These twenty years have been a long process of struggle for the survival of the Library and the organisation of the collections. According to the Foundation Bill, the purpose of the Library is 'to gather knowledge about the history of women, to present this information in an organised way to those who do research today and to preserve the written documents of today for future generations'.² The Foundation Bill further states: 'Documentation of women's history is a source of empowerment for women, as women have had limited access to education, to public expression and publication. In a number of cities all over the world, information centres, archives and libraries related to women have been formed in order to document women's lives and deeds and to facilitate research in the area of women's studies, based on this multifaceted collection of material.'³

The Acquisition Process

The Istanbul Women's Library and Archives cannot collect every written, oral, visual and three-dimensional document related to women. Although it is the only institu-



tion in Turkey to collect such materials on this scale, it has its limits. Generally poorly funded, the Library has more collections to pursue than its means allow, while it is also very conscious of the risk that material can be lost or destroyed.

Regarding the documents that we cannot acquire – for financial reasons, because of limited space, policy decisions or because they are part of other collections, such as religious institutions' records, government records, courts of justice records, censuses, trade-unions' and political parties records, etc. – we usually, if we can afford it, identify and make public these documents about women by producing bibliographies and catalogues. In these documents it is not the non-existent women but the invisible women for whom we look.⁴

The Istanbul Women's Library and Archives makes a special effort to acquire sources pertaining to daily and private life, diaries, women's private collections, family papers and archival collections, letters, records of women's organisations and campaigns, works of art, autobiographies, biographies, slides, films, video-tapes, drawings, posters and all kinds of movement materials that are expected to be read and then thrown away such as leaflets distributed on the streets. We also organise oral history projects on specific themes, for instance, 'The pioneer women of the early Republic' and 'Women Members of Parliament'. Tapes (oral documents) and their transcriptions are an invaluable source of information about women not found anywhere else. Our institution also collects noteworthy objects which belonged to prominent women and feminist activists (such as banners, badges, medals, pencils, T-shirts, etc.).

The Istanbul Women's Library and Archives is the depository of women's voices in all their multiplicity and variety. Thus the Library's policies differ from the male-dominated understanding of documents. In our case, there is no exclusion because we do not want to repeat the exclusion processes already existent in society. We have two selection criteria for documents. On the one hand, we try to preserve documents about the glorious history of women (the pioneers, the heroines, the avant-garde, the elite, the struggle) and on the other, we keep documents about women's oppression.

We realise this purpose by reinterpreting existing concepts and creating new ones. When we complete the acquisition process of documents, for example that of periodicals, we do not use the Dewey Decimal Classification System but, inspired by classification systems of other Women Libraries, we have created a new one. We also produce new documents, for example a bibliography of women's periodicals, created with the help of new concepts for bibliographical description. The simple but fundamental change we make when we reinterpret the classification systems that exist in general libraries is to introduce the concept of 'women'. All of this we see as part of a widening feminist consciousness of the importance of documentation. We try to save women's documents from family archives kept by male relatives (fathers, brothers, husbands) and therefore usually bound to remain unknown.

Among many problems of acquisition, one of the most crucial is the acquisition of contemporary documents. Women's organisations issue documents everyday and it is difficult to co-ordinate their acquisition all over the country. The process of reinterpreting concepts and creating new documents, on the one hand, and on the other hand spreading awareness among feminist activists and women in general of the importance of the old and new documents, form the basis of our mission as a women's library.

How to Counter the Historical Omission of Women in Libraries and Archives?

In this consciousness-raising process, we have to create a tradition for women to deposit their collections and personal papers in our library, and for activists to deposit documents that would otherwise be condemned to oblivion. The practical problems that can arise from these donations primarily relate to space. Inside the institution, we have to ask ourselves about the aim of the collection, the purpose of its future growth, its problems of acquisition, preservation, dissemination and bibliographical control, always informed by the feminist consciousness regarding documents. We try to document the domination and resistance processes in women's lives and struggles. Sometimes, in the framework of a specific event, we find these two sides, the domination and the gestures of resistance, but in other cases, we see only one side. Even so, our acquisition policy always includes the search for both dimensions thereby realising our mission, which we sum up as undoing the historical omission of women in the acquisition, preservation and dissemination of documents.

The Collections of Our Library and Archives

The Library sections are: Books, periodicals, ephemera, audio-visual collection, women artists' collection, women writers' collection, newspaper and magazine articles, women's oral history collection, private archives collection, women's organisations' collection.

Books

The Library contains over 11,800 books written in Turkish and other languages by women or about women. All books are classified on a computerised system.

Periodicals

The periodicals section consists of forty complete sets of Ottoman and early Republican periodicals pertaining to women and published between 1867 and 1928; 236 titles of women's periodicals published since 1928 and written with the new Turkish alphabet; and more than 120 titles of women's periodicals in foreign languages.

Grey Materials

Statutes of women's organisations, panel discussion texts, unpublished theses, all kinds of information relating to women; documents and statistics are classified under various topics in 230 boxes. The section also preserves 482 Doctoral and Masters theses dealing with women and gender in Turkish society.

Newspaper Clippings Collection

The collection contains articles, interviews and cuttings from the majority of Turkish daily newspapers, weekly and monthly periodicals published since 1990, and now

comprises tens of thousands of clippings. Material pertaining to women's activities and studies in Turkey and the rest of the world has been accumulated in 280 boxes.

Audio-Visual Collection

Activities organised by and/or in the Library since its opening have been photographed and filmed. Information and documents about women from Ottoman times to the present are included in the visual archive which comprises approximately 1,000 slides, 250 colour and black and white photos, postcards, 15 video/film tapes, 97 audio tapes and approximately 650 local and foreign posters classified according to subject.

Women Artists' Collection

This collection provides documents on the work of past and living women artists as well as on women in the field of plastic arts (painting, sculpture, photography, marbling, engraving, illustration, graphic arts, cartoon, installation, etc.). Documents belonging to 842 artists are classified in this section, including slides of the work of eighteen of them. Files opened for each artist comprise their curriculum vitae, publications about them and their own printed documents (catalogues, invitations to exhibitions, posters and similar printed materials) and photographs. Among the 842 artists are such names as Hale Asaf, Tomur Atagök, Hale Tenger, Lütfiye Batukan, Aliye Berger, Zerrin Bölükbaşı, Nevin Çokay, Hamiye Çolakoğlu, Alev Ebuzziya, Neşe Erdok, Ramize Erer, Seniye Fenmen, Ayfer Karamani, Füreyya Koral and Şükriye Işık.

Women Writers' Collection

This collection is made up of two thousand files about 951 women writers, including Asiye Hatun, Leyla Hanım, Şazi Şaziye, Şeref Hanım, Nigar Hanım, Yaşar Naziye Hanım and Fatma Aliye Hanım. It includes thirty files for Halide Edip Adıvar, twenty-seven files for Erendiz Atasü and forty-nine files for Adalet Ağaoglu. These files are classified separately for the pre-Republican (mid-nineteenth century up to 1923) and the Republican periods (from 1923 until today) and comprise interviews with the writers, information on their works, newspaper and magazine articles, criticism and promotional writing. The aim of this collection is to build up a women writers' archive.

Collection of Unpublished Articles

Over 1000 articles in the field of women's studies written in Turkish, English, French and German are available to researchers, and related entries may be found in a computer-aided retrieval system.

Women's Oral History Collection

The section began with the transcription of audio and video recordings of discussions held during the pilot project of Women's Oral History that took place a few years ago with support from the government's General Directorate for Women's Status and

Problems. The collection comprises the audio cassettes of interviews made in 1994 of fourteen women born prior to 1923, transcriptions, photographs taken during the interviews as well as video recordings of four of them. Colleagues from this section are at the present time conducting interviews with the first graduates of the *Erenköy* Girls Lycée in Istanbul who are still alive, as well as with women with professional careers who have made important contributions in their respective fields.

Private Archives and Women's Organisations Collection

Personal documents, for example, of Müfide İlhan, Hasene Ilgaz, Cahit Uçuk, Süreyya Ağaoğlu and materials of women's organisations, such as *İlerici Kadınlar Derneği* (Progressive Women of Turkey) and *Hemşireler Derneği* (Nurses Association), are preserved as a special collection and are accessible to researchers according to the terms stated by the donors. At present the section contains 903 boxes of documents.

Conclusion

The most important field of activity of the Istanbul Women's Library and Archives is to collect documents and to accumulate historical sources. Then comes the work of cataloguing these documents and data, preserving and rendering them available. Cataloguing is a particular concern for us because existing classification systems are unsatisfactory in terms both of the headings and the language used. This is why, in collaboration with the former IIAV, now called Aletta, we have translated the European Women's Thesaurus into Turkish and adapted it to the Turkish context. The Foundation has published thirty-six books related to its collections (bibliographies, catalogues, agendas, transcription of Ottoman women's periodicals) and has organised over four hundred cultural activities (seminars, symposiums, exhibitions, conferences). Our Women's Library and Archives is a reference institution and has no lending arrangements. For more information, please visit our website at www.kadineserleri.org.tr

◆ Notes

1. See also Sirin Tekeli, 'The Women's Library and Information Center', in *Kadınların Belleği/Women's Memory. Uluslararası Kadın Kutuphaneleri Sempozyum Tutanakları/Proceedings of the International Symposium of Women's Libraries*, Istanbul: Metis Yayınları, 1992, 261–268.

2. *The Foundation Bill* [of the Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation], Istanbul: December 1989, 1 (unpublished).

3. Ibid.

4. *Kadın Süreli Yayınları Bibliyografyası: 1928–1996, Hanımlar Alemi'nden Roza'ya* (Bibliography of women's periodicals: 1928–1996, from Women's World to Roza), ed. Aslı Davaz-Mardin, Istanbul: Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı (Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation), Türkiye Ekonomik ve Toplumsal Tarih Vakfı (The Economic and Social History Foundation of Turkey), 1998; *Türkiye'de Kadın Konulu Belgelerin Ulusal Bibliyografyası Dizisi: 1, Kadın Konulu Kitaplar Bibliyografyası 1729–2002* (National bibliography of documents about women in Turkey Series: vol. 1, Bibliography of books about women 1729–2002), Istanbul:

bul: Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı (Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation), İletişim Yayınları, 2006; *İstanbul Kütüphanelerindeki Eski Harfli Türkçe, Kadın Dergileri Bibliyografyası (1829–1927)* (Bibliography of women's periodicals in Ottoman Turkish [1829–1927]), eds. Zehra Toska et al, İstanbul: Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi Vakfı (Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation), Metis Yayınları, 1993.



Women's Memory: The Problem of Sources

A Conference Report

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Kadın Eserleri Kütüphanesi ve Bilgi Merkezi (The Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation, WLICF) in association with Kadir Has University organised an international conference in İstanbul entitled 'Women's Memory: The Problem of Sources' to honour the twentieth anniversary of its establishment. The conference took place from 17 to 19 April 2009. The topic was chosen because women's history sources had not been systematically discussed in Turkey before then. Some of the objectives of the symposium were: raising consciousness regarding the preservation of archives and documents about women; the development of new approaches for the classification of documents about women by transcending traditional archival methods; and the development of new ways to facilitate access to documents for scholars researching women's and gender history.

While selecting topics for the conference, the organisers had in mind a number of the problems encountered by those who do research in the Turkish archives: finding reliable methods of searching sources; difficulties experienced when trying to access information; developing strategies for the use and process of raw already accessed data; and various issues related to the research process. The conference was attended by fifty-six participants from ten different countries: the Netherlands, Syria, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Australia, Germany, the USA, Canada and Turkey. The programme included individual and group presentations related to the following topics: Research and Sources; Women's Archives and Women's Libraries; Private Archives; Classification Systems and Thesaurus; Oral History; Literature; Cinema; Art and Art Works; Using Technology; Periodicals; and Women's Organisations.

The panel 'Research and Sources' comprised two sessions and focused on problems encountered by historians working with a wide variety of documents on women's issues for the long period spanning the Ottoman Empire and the early Turkish Republic (i.e., from the sixteenth century until the 1920s). Especially interesting was the paper 'The Impact of Women's Letters on Individualisation and the Modernisation Process of Ottoman Women', presented by Ömer Delikgöz and Nazmi Ziya Şehit, about women's letters published in women's magazines and journals between 1869 and 1923. The

authors evaluated the significant role letters played in the emergence of women as modern individuals and in women's attempt to position themselves in the process of Ottoman modernisation and outside the boundaries of the roles traditionally attributed to them. Marina Lushchenko presented a paper about 'The Correspondence of Ottoman Women during the Early Modern Period (16th–18th Centuries): An Overview of the Current State of Research, Problems, and Perspectives', in which she argued that historical studies of women's correspondence could open up new perspectives for the explanation of women's domestic and social roles. Asma Ramadan Al-Sheikh Khalil's presentation outlined women's place in Ottoman Syria during the sixteenth century. The paper discussed the accessibility of sources related to women's endowments in Syria and mentioned the difficulties the author experienced when trying to access necessary documents, while also suggesting steps that could help to overcome existing barriers.

Oral history is a serious alternative to traditional historical research. Not surprisingly, the Oral History session was full of colourful papers based on interesting interviews with a variety of women in different circumstances. 'Women's Narratives in Local Notable (*Eşraf*) Families', presented by Gül Özsan, Ayşe Durakbaşa and Meltem Karadağ, summarised the results of a collective project funded by TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey). The research, conducted in five Turkish cities – Muğla, Aydın, Denizli, Gaziantep, and Kahramanmaraş, concentrated on the social capital of local distinguished families. The authors briefly discussed the ethnographical and oral history methods used in the project and suggested possible interpretations of the differences in construction of family narratives with regard to two basic concepts: 'family myths' and 'family metaphors'.

The research findings demonstrate that women occupied a central position in the formation of the provincial Turkish bourgeoisie and *eşraf* relationships. The women interviewed implicitly or explicitly emphasised that they experienced their positions as wives or daughters in these families as influential. The stories of women from *eşraf* families provide significant clues as to how women constructed and experienced modernisation and nationhood at the local level.

The session on Women's Organisations spelt out the difficulties encountered by researchers who explore the controversial history of women's organisations during the Republican era. In her paper 'The Turkish Women's Alliance', Nevin Yurdsever Ateş told the story of women's attempts in June 1923 (i.e., before the declaration of the Turkish Republic) to establish a political party called *Kadınlar Halk Fırkası* (the Women's People Party). Because during the Ottoman period it was against the law for women to establish political parties, officials refused to authorise it and on 7 January 1924, women founded instead an organisation called *Türk Kadınlar Birliği* (the Turkish Women's Alliance).

The use of film in women's studies in Turkey is a recent development and relatively few researchers have used film as an historical source. In order to arouse researchers' interest in this issue, one of the panels at the conference was devoted to films as sources for women's studies. Some papers concentrated on how, during the inter-war period, some Turkish actresses became role models for Turkish women in terms of behaviour and dress. Another paper concentrated on how films reflect the social and political at-

mosphere of their period, while a third group of papers addressed the question of what a feminist perspective in film studies can be. In her paper called 'Turkish Cinema: An Identity Construction Institute', Deniz Bayraktar discussed fashion and style in Turkish periodicals of the 1950s and analysed Turkish cinema of the 1960s to demonstrate how fashion and cinema formed an integrated system of gendered representation.

The presentation of Kayla Malouin and Leah Niederstadt in the Art and Art Works panel – 'Collecting Art, Creating a Legacy: A History of the Wheaton College's Permanent Collection' – offered an initial exploration of the collection's history. They argued not only that the donated objects help us understand these women's interests, their personal stories and connections to Wheaton College in Illinois, USA, but also how non-traditional sources (objects, musical records, etc.) could serve as excellent resources for exploring women's personal lives.

One of the panels focused on literature, an indispensable basis for women's studies. The subjects covered included the significance of the analysis of literary works from women's perspectives, the sociology of literature and an analysis of specific Turkish authors from the Second Constitutional and Early Republican eras (from 1908 to the 1930s). The session entitled 'Using Technology' centred on how large archives on women have been developed recently in Australia and the USA by means of technology, on the difficulties encountered in the process and ways of overcoming such difficulties. In 'Out of the Shadow: Using Technology to Illuminate Women's Archives', the Australian researchers Nikki Henningham, Joanne Evans and Helen Morgan gave an account of how the Australian Women's Archives Project (AWAP) was established in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and the National Foundation of Australian Women (NFAW) in 2000. They reflected on its role as information infrastructure, and discussed the potential transformations in researchers' and archives' practices that could emerge from the utilisation of information harvesting and information networking technologies. On the Women's Archives and Women's Libraries panel, Krassimira Daskalova spoke about 'Women's and Gender History and the Topographic Places of Memory: The Need of Women's History Archives'. She pointed out the necessity for establishing both traditional and digital historical archives, providing sources for writing women's and gender history and the history of feminisms in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Access to sources only becomes possible when they have been classified and catalogued. The more rigorous the classification, the more accessible the sources become. For the panel on this topic, 'Classification Systems and Thesaurus', the keynote speaker, Tilly Vriend, discussed the history, development and use of the (European) Women's Thesaurus, designed some years ago by the Amsterdam-based International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement, IIAV (since the summer of 2009 renamed Aletta - Institute for Women's History). In 'The Turkish Women's Thesaurus', Sönmez Taner provided information not only about the definition, objective, structural characteristics and fields of usage of the Thesaurus but also about the role of the Women's Library and Information Centre Foundation in Istanbul in the creation of the Turkish Thesaurus. Sample entries from this Thesaurus were presented.

In conclusion, the Istanbul conference was a valuable forum that illuminated the steps to be taken towards raising consciousness about collecting the necessary docu-

ments and information for the development of women's and gender history, and towards constructing the social, cultural and political bases for women's memory. For this purpose, individuals, NGOs and especially women's associations have to preserve their documents effectively. It is also necessary to establish a procedure for donating private archives. It is beyond any doubt that each and every step that makes access to women's documents easier is beneficial for the research on women and gender – past, present and future.



Women Writers in History

Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture

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'Women Writers in History: Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture' is a collaborative COST Action that started in October 2009 and will last four years. 'Women Writers in History' is an initiative of the NEWW network (New approaches to European Women's Writing; see www.womenwriters.nl), based at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and managed by Suzan van Dijk. During this COST Action, European scholars will collaborate – in the real and virtual world – to increase our understanding of women's role in international literary history. Fifteen European countries are participating, but Action intends to include an increasing number of countries over a period of four years. Among the present Management Committee members are scholars representing Slovenia and Serbia.

The reason for launching Action now is that research in women's literary history threatens to reach a dead end. There is insufficient knowledge about the contemporary reception of primary texts and we still rely too much on traditional, yet often arbitrary, choices and qualifications made in the context of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century canonising. Testimonies of the reception of women's writing by contemporaries (male and female, at home and abroad) are crucial for any attempt to estimate correctly their historical significance. What was these women's influence? Which active roles did they play as authors and readers in the broadest sense of the word, *i.e.*, including their roles as transcribers, translators, mediators and educators? What happened to their work when it fell into the hands of mainstream canonisers? How is this to be explained?

Thanks to technological advances 'lost' traces and testimonies of women's literary impact can be recovered and computers' artificial 'collective memory' can be reintegrated. These new sources make it possible to address and even answer the questions just listed. This allows us – as an *expected long-term result* of our project – to do justice to women's role in literature and to present a more balanced view of historical liter-

ary communication. This is especially important for 'smaller' and less internationally known literatures, not only those of countries like Portugal or Switzerland, but also those of 'new' countries such as Slovenia, Serbia and the Baltic states who may wish to address their pre-communist history. Researchers here need to situate 'their' women's literary activities within the larger European context, considering that it is impossible to compare, for example, Slovene women writers with their male Slovene counterparts, as they wrote about different themes in different ways and genres, whereas comparison with their female contemporaries in other literatures helps to situate them and to throw new light on their work. This new study of women in literature will lead to a new way of looking at Europe's literary past – male *and* female – that also implies a different perspective on Europe's *present*.



MATILDA: Joint European Master's Degree in Women's and Gender History

Francisca de Haan

MATILDA is the first Joint European Master's Degree in Women's and Gender History. Set up as part of the Erasmus programme with funding from the European Commission (DG Education and Culture), MATILDA is designed for students wishing to develop expertise in women's and gender history, as well as in European history, and who are interested in inter-cultural exchange. The programme of study is spread over two years, includes 120 ECTS points and links five leading European universities in an exciting venture. The partner institutions are:

- *the Universität Wien (coordinating institution)*
- *the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski*
- *the Université Lumière Lyon 2*
- *the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest*
- *the University of Nottingham*

Students can expect to study in at least two different countries over the course of four semesters. The MATILDA curriculum includes courses in core subjects in Women's and Gender History (theory, methodology and practice) and specialist options covering medieval to modern periods, such as: History of Nationalism; History of Post-Colonialism; History of Post-Socialism; History of Masculinities; History of Gender in the Sciences; History of Gender and Work; History of Gender and Education; Comparative History of Women's Movements; Women's Oral History and Gender and Religion. MATILDA supports integrative perspectives which go beyond local, regional and national histories in order to situate these histories, as well as European history as a whole, within broad contexts. With its focus on comparative, entangled and transnational history, MATILDA aims to explore the history of gender differences and simi-

larities in European cultures and societies, to investigate the role of gender in shaping European history and to challenge gender inequalities.

In addition to study in at least two different countries, there is an annual summer Intensive Programme (Summer School) during which all students on the course come together with members of the faculty in order to learn and to strengthen co-operation. The first Intensive Programme took place in July 2009 in Lyon, France, attended by some 25 students. By all accounts, it was a great success. The next Intensive Programme will take place in Nottingham U.K. in July 2010.

For more information, please see <http://matilda.ned.univie.ac.at/node/46> or write to matilda.history@univie.ac.at



Aletta – Institute for Women’s History (the Former IIAV)

Annette Mevis

In August 2009, the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement (IIAV) in Amsterdam has changed its name to Aletta – Institute for Women’s History. This internationally orientated women’s library and archive was founded by three Dutch feminists in 1935 as ‘International Archives for the Women’s Movement’. At the present time Aletta has a collection of 95,000 books, 6,000 titles of women’s and feminist journals from all over the world, 1,200 linear metres of archival documents and 30,000 photographs and posters.

The reason the IIAV changed its name is that the institute hopes to become better known to a broader public, both in the Netherlands and internationally. ‘Aletta’ is a reference to one of the most famous Dutch feminists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Aletta Jacobs (1854–1929). But Aletta is more than a reference to an inspiring woman and international activist – it is also a symbol for all women who dare to make change happen.

In addition to her new name, Aletta has also updated her website, already one of the most used sources of information on women worldwide. The most important change is that there is now one single, Googlian search function that allows one to search in all the databases, giving immediate access to articles, images, book titles, archival documents and much more. Aletta has also become part of WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org/>), the largest bibliographic databank worldwide.

Regarding the archives, however, our mission and policy remain the same: we still focus on collecting and preserving the archives of women and women’s organisations. Aletta at the moment has almost 600 archives of individual women and women’s organisations. The archives originate mostly from the Netherlands, but some contain letters by feminists from Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe such as Rosika Schwimmer, Františka Plamínková or Avra Theodoropoulos, to name a few. In addition, some major international women’s organisations have chosen Aletta as the home

for their archives: the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW); the International Federation for Research in Women's History (IFRWH); and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). These archives are valuable sources for the writing of women's history and they contribute to our broad mission to preserve women's cultural heritage.

For more information, please visit the website at www.aletta.nu or write to the archivist, Annette Mevis, at a.mevis@aletta.nu.