Papers Rosa Manus
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The Fourth Conference of the International Women Suffrage Alliance was held in Amsterdam June 15-20, 1909. Delegates from twenty-one countries attended. I was then the President, and am now the only living member of the Board at that time.

On the first morning as I entered the front hall of the Concertgebouw where the Conference was held, I saw a dignified young woman sitting with arms folded as though waiting to take action. Before her was a small table with paper and pencils ready for business. By her side was a blackboard with plenty of chalk in place. I said "good morning", and asked what she was expecting to do. She replied that she intended to take the names and plan the directions for all who wished to see the sights of Amsterdam. Conveyances, guides, and all conveniences were to be placed at the disposal of delegates who wished to become acquainted with the attractions of the famous old City. This was my first introduction to Rosa Manus who was twenty-four years of age at that time. It was also the first public task she had ever undertaken.

I went to the hall at an early hour every morning, and always found her there prepared for her special work. I paused and had a short conversation with her each day, and continually heard reports from the delegates of the excellent plans made and carefully carried out to acquaint them with the City of Amsterdam.

I remained a few days after the Conference and had a fine drive about the City with Mrs. Manus and her daughters, and one day I took dinner with the family. When we parted, Rosa and I were fast friends, and I predicted to Dr. Aletta Jacob, President of the Dutch Suffrage Association, that she would develop into an active and helpful assistant.

The Conferences were held every other year in the capital cities of European nations, and at each Conference new auxiliaries were added and new victories never failed to be recorded.

Rosa worked in Holland through the years, and never failed to attend each Conference as a delegate. She was a use-
ful, intelligent, and helpful worker at the Conferences.

Twelve years passed with constantly growing strength in
the spirit and numbers of our movement. The "Call" issued
for the Eighth Conference held in Geneva in 1920 included
these words:

"Since the last Congress, held in Budapest in 1913, the
greatest of world wars has devastated the earth. Out of its
cruel sorrows and tragedies women of many nations have emerged
politically free. The last seven years have witnessed victories
for the cause of woman suffrage in no fewer than sixteen
countries. In Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, British East Africa,
Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland,
Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Poland, Rhodesia, Russia and Sweden
women have been wholly or partly enfranchised, and in the United
States of America, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, New York, South
Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Michigan have been added
to those States which have given full equal suffrage to women;
the Federal Amendment has passed both Houses of Congress, and
has been ratified by thirty-two of the necessary thirty-six
States. The triumph of justice is assuredly one of the most
definite and permanent results of the world-war now visible.
There is universal regret among women that their political lib-
erty has come through the suffering of others, but they rejoice
that it is here. No more shall effort be wasted in the strug-
gele to secure to women the rights of responsible citizens. In-
stead, endowed with new privilege and power, they are free to
turn their hearts and hands to the great problems of national
life."

The Governments of twenty-two countries appointed official
delegates to tell the Conference what kind of suffrage had
been granted in their respective lands. The name of Rosa Manus
by this time had become familiar to workers in the suffrage
movement all the world around.

The Ninth Conference was held in Rome in 1925. In order
to make plans for the Conference and its program I went to Rome
to confer with the local committee some months in advance. Rosa Manus met me at Naples and accompanied me on a long and eventful trip that followed. She paid her own expenses and I paid mine. She assisted me in every task to be performed.

We arrived in Rome at the moment when the King summoned Mussolini in order to appoint him Premier if he could form a cabinet. An army of bright looking young men had marched upon Rome, and this was the Italian answer to their plea. The City was quarantined, and no one could leave it until the organization of the Government was complete. Soon, however, the Premier and cabinet were approved, and the world moved on again as usual.

We had seen day after day great truck loads of unfriendly newspapers brought to a park and burned in never ceasing bonfires, and with never lessening crowds looking on. The Facists were quietly marching unarmed through the streets, and thus Mussolini became the ruler of a great nation.

We moved on to visit many lands which had given the vote to women in order to ascertain whether the action was likely to stand fast or be overthrown by the uprising of an opposition.

We visited Austria, Hungary, Germany, and Czechoslovakia. In Germany I had an engagement to speak in the halls of the Reichstag with a woman member of Parliament presiding over it. I fell ill before reaching Berlin, and announced to Rosa that I must have a doctor and go to bed for a day or so. She secured the husband of her sister who had been an army surgeon throughout the first world war, and appointed herself as my nurse. When the day came for the speech, the doctor accompanied me and sat nearby ready to administer any sort of assistance that became necessary. Rosa was a constant, patient, and able nurse, and I soon recovered and went on my way. I never forgot, however, the able services of Dr. Jacobi and Rosa Manus who helped me through a threatening disaster.

We visited in all these countries the chiefs of the political parties, and if there was any opposition to the grant of
Woman Suffrage, it was not revealed to us.

We sailed away to the new field of South America with the assurance that all was well in Europe. Here we visited Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Columbia. We made a brief stop at the Dutch Island of Curacao and Panama. We had interviews with the President or substitutes, in all of these countries, and had usually more than one public meeting and several small ones. We sailed back to Europe from Panama, after an absence of seven months.

Mr. and Mrs. Manus, Rosa's parents met us in Paris. Rosa and I attended to our suffrage business in the day, and every evening Mr. Manus took us to a new place for dinner, and later in the evening, to the theatre or other entertainment.

Again we returned to Rome and finished the preparation for the Congress. Miss Manus and I had spent seven months in making a survey of the conditions in Central Europe and South America. The President was able to say in her address to the Congress:

"We do not come to Rome in this year of 1923 to hold our Ninth Congress as timid suppliants for small favors. Our Congress represents women of forty nations, and there are only sixty nations in the world. In other words, women of two-thirds of the nations of the world are represented in this gathering. Of these, the delegates of twenty-five nations are voters on equal terms with men, and among them are women members of Parliaments and Councils of great cities. The delegates in this Congress who are still pleading for the vote, represent fifteen nations only. The majority of us are enfranchised. We too, are a part of the collective rulers of nations."

We had interviews with Mussolini five different times while in Rome, and each time he promised us faithfully that if he should remain in power as long as six months, he would give the vote to women.

During all this trip the responsibility naturally was mine, but Rosa was a constant and intelligent helper as well as
an enjoyable friend. The work in Rome was heavy and often difficult.

Rosa was faithful in all services to be rendered, intelligent in judgment, and never once failed to be on hand when a difficulty had to be overcome. From a young girl aged twenty-four, unfamiliar with suffrage work or problems, she had marched forward until the movement became great and victorious. I retired from the Presidency of the International Alliance at Rome. Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby took the leadership, and Rosa became the Vice President.

In her own country she had been active in the care of refugees throughout the first world war, and she had been decorated by the Queen in honor of her services. She was taken prisoner by the Nazis on Aug. 19, 1941, and died before her sixtieth birthday. She had been under surveillance since the Nazis invaded the low countries in the Spring of 1940, after which all her friends were anxious as to her destiny.

During our long friendship Rosa paid me three visits of some length in the United States, and was always my house guest. The last one was a very special trip to observe my eightieth birthday in 1939. Here she addressed a group of the American Jewish Congress, and told about her work with the refugees in Holland. She was a woman of noble character, high purpose, and a never failing desire to render service.

I was deeply touched when I learned that at the moment the Nazis came to take Rosa away they found her writing me a letter. It was left on her desk unfinished and was sent to me afterwards by her sister, Mrs. Stern, who later was herself seized by the Nazis and never heard from again. Rosa little knew that those few lines were a Good-Bye to me. Her experience has been an example of the thousands of similar Nazi war-victims.