**APLONIA ZEVENBERGEN (1880-1966) – life & movements 1892-1925**

Aplonia's Rotterdam *Bevolkingsregister*\*\* (population register) listing from the 1890s–1900s is very dense in information, and hard to make full sense of. It’s her first as a separate individual – she had previously been listed with her parents. She registers three times in Rotterdam, in Dec 1892, Sep 1904 and Feb 1908, the gaps between being when she is living elsewhere.

From 1892 she seems to have been living with her parents/father almost all the time (‘*der vader’* is the listed head of household) at a string of different addresses in Rotterdam between then and 1899. Her occupation is maid/domestic servant ('*dienstbode*'), though it’s unclear when that began; possibly right at the beginning, aged 12 – if so she wasn’t living-in with her employer. What is certain is that on 10 Mar 1899, aged 19, she moved in with the Jansens at Westerhade 17 (presumably as a live-in servant), and stayed with them until 18 Feb 1901. She then had two further residence/?live-in jobs with different people in Rotterdam, before moving in Feb 1904 to Gravenhage (the old name for Den Haag). She returned to R’dam in September 1904 (her second registration date), lived with her parents for a while (‘*de ouders’*), then had two other residences/jobs in the city before apparently moving to Antwerp on 22 June 1906. Adrianus Jansen had been living there since 3 April – but not, it now seems, his wife. Aplonia clearly wasn’t on the official radar – I imagine that unlike Adrianus she came in quietly as an ordinary visitor, not an intending resident (which would make sense for an exploratory visit), and we don’t know where she was staying. But I would guess it was with Adrianus at Belegstraat no. 4.

Her preliminary visit must have turned into a longer stay, presumably with Adrianus, for it was only in Feb 1908 that she returned to Rotterdam (her third registration date). But this was probably just to settle her affairs and regularize her emigrant from Holland/immigrant to Belgium status with the Dutch authorities. We know from her first (12 Feb 1909) document in the Antwerp police file (attached) that on 18 Apr 1908 she had been issued with an official change of residence certificate by Rotterdam Town Hall (‘*le Bourgmestre’*), and this same date appears on her Dutch *Bevolkingsregister* record as when she departed for Antwerp. In the event, though, it seems she did not go then, for the same Antwerp document and all subsequent ones give her date of arrival in Anvers/Antwerp as 2 Feb 1909. In this first document, she is staying at rue van de Werve...but either it was just an accommodation address to keep the truth secret, or she wasn’t there long: all later records give her residence in Antwerp from 2 Feb 1909 – 24 Aug 1914 as Adrianus’s Belegstraat address. The first one also gives her ‘Legal address abroad’ as her parents’ home at Westzeedijk 297 in R’dam, and her occupation as ‘*femme à journée’* – a daily domestic servant or charwoman.

On 24 Aug 1914 Adrianus and Aplonia returned together (or at least on the same day) to Rotterdam. I haven’t searched Rotterdam records fully for evidence (if any) of residence there with Adrianus, but his *gezinskaart* doesn’t show her with him at any point – frustrating, but not surprising. By c. 1924/5, though, they were apparently living together at Rubensstraat 41, which several 1925 Antwerp documents give as their previous address in R’dam.

*\*\*It may be of help to give translations of the relevant column headings on her Bevolkingsregister page:*

*(2) Date and year of registration (3) Family name (family name of the woman) (4) First names (written in full) (5) Sex (7) Date and Year of Birth (8) Place of Birth (11) [Religious] Denomination (everyone's to be given) (12) Office, profession or business (13) Residence (14) Date and Year of establishment in the Municipality (15) Previous Residence (With designation of the province for natives, the country for foreigners) (16) Date and year of departure from the municipality (17) Where did they go (Municipality and province for natives, country for foreigners) (18) Date and Year of Death (19) Statements regarding legal domicile (20) Comments*