

*news*  
from the

# Schlesinger Library

FALL 2000

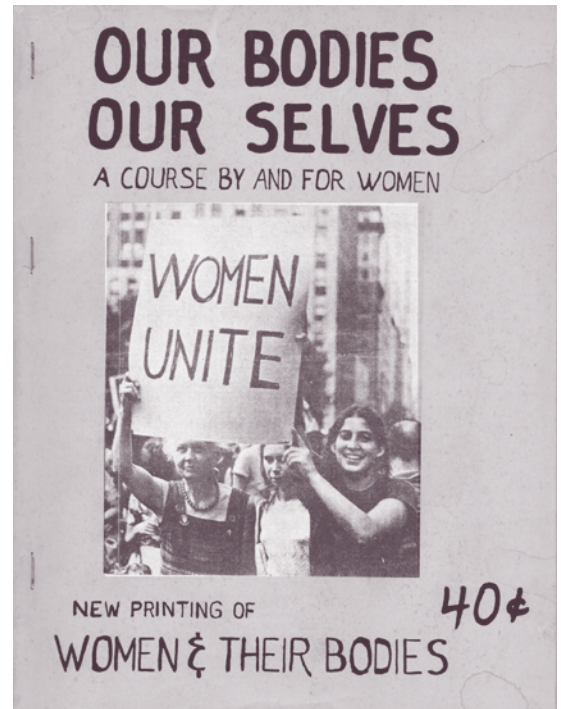
## Taking Charge of Our Bodies, Ourselves

**W**omen's bodies and women's health have always been major collecting areas at the library, as collections such as the Ladies' Physiological Institute of Boston (1848), the Lydia Estes Pinkham Medicine Company (purveyors of herbal remedies for female maladies), and the National Abortion Rights Action League attest. Holdings in this area expanded significantly this year with the arrival of the records of the Boston Association for Childbirth Education (BACE), Elisabeth Bing and Lamaze International, the Women's Community Health Center, and addenda to the Boston Women's Health Book Collective.

The earliest of these four organizations, BACE was founded in the late 1950s to reform obstetrical and maternity care and disseminate information about natural childbirth. Lamaze, founded in 1960 as the American Society for Psychoprophylaxis, focused on similar issues, advocating a method of childbirth centered on pain suppression and a drug-free delivery.

100%  
Natural

With the advent of the women's movement in the mid-1960s, female sexuality and self-determination emerged at the center of women's health concerns. In 1969, a group of laywomen, determined to confront a medical establishment they viewed as condescending and non-informative, got together to develop their own course on women's health. They promulgated the results of their research through presentations and, eventually, through the publication of the ground-breaking volume, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, published by the Boston Women's Health Book Collective in 1971. The Women's Community

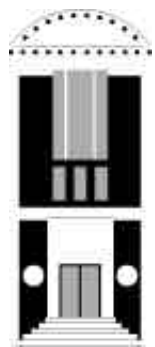


■ 1971 edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*

■ Left and below: Buttons and bumper sticker from the records of Lamaze International

Health Center, founded in 1974 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is representative of the many women-owned and controlled centers that sprang up around the country offering low-cost health care and educational programming.

Although these newest collections are unprocessed and portions of some are closed, most are available for research. Together they represent important new documentation of women's efforts to better understand and take control of their bodies and their health. ■



Radcliffe



**LAMAZE IS  
A LABOR OF LOVE**

Larry Fox Buttons / Bumperstick  
Box M, Valley Stream, N.Y. 1  
(516) 781

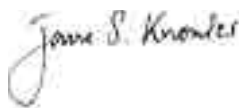
## *Dear Friends of the Library:*

In the midst of today's digital revolution, we hear much about the demise of the book and the obsolescence of libraries. If you need a book, why not read an e-version, or order it from amazon.com, or buy it at a mega-bookstore, where you can get an espresso and a comfortable chair? At the Schlesinger Library, we strongly believe in the rich variety of experiences libraries can offer, and, at the same time, we are striving to increase both digital resources and electronic accessibility to our collections. No ostriches here.

At the library, you can browse the newest acquisitions in women's history, gender studies, and culinary history, chosen by our Curator of Books, Barbara Haber, who has years of experience in book selection. You can find a cozy chair—we have those—and read any one of thousands of older books no mall bookstore or public library has on their shelves. Our 8,000+ feet of manuscript collections are unique: these original documents exist nowhere else in the world. We offer a new film series, exhibitions, book launchings, lectures, and seminars presented by the library's fellows.

On the electronic front, all of the library's book and manuscript holdings are described on HOLLIS (the Harvard OnLine Library Information System) and searchable remotely. Wherever you live, you can explore our new database of digitized photographs described in this issue. Or make use of our excellent on-line finding aids to some of our most important manuscript collections, or find out what's new via our web site. Soon you will even be able to visit an electronic version of the history of Radcliffe College. Our reference librarians are happy to help you navigate through this digital forest.

While we are busy planning the library's digital future, we are also taking steps to ensure the long-term preservation of its priceless collections. Our in-house book repair program, described in this issue, is underway, and, as I write, workmen are hammering new windows into place and putting the finishing touches on our new roof. Please stop by, either in person or virtually. Just mind the scaffolding. You will find much to enrich your life, but no espresso, at the Schlesinger Library.



Jane Knowles, Acting Director



LILLIE LEGGIO

### **A VISIT FROM MISS MANNERS**

*Recently, staff pored over the library's collection of etiquette books to prepare for a visit from Miss Manners, who was at Harvard to lecture on—what else—civility. Miss Manners, a.k.a. Judith Martin, whose biography notes that she was “born a perfect lady in an imperfect society,” turned out to be not a bit intimidating, but gracious and very, very witty. After touring the building from top to bottom, Miss Manners formalized the gift of her impeccably well organized papers to the library.*

### STAFF NEWS:

Staff assistant Anne Lafferty has headed off to Memorial University in Canada to pursue a doctorate in folklore studies. In September, Deirdre O'Neill, staff assistant to the director, left the library to take on two new challenges: becoming mother to her two-year-old adopted daughter Tina and taking a position as a teacher in a pre-school serving children with special needs. Receptionist/staff assistant Kate Blatt's creativity has been recognized by an art boutique in New York City and by a start-up toy company, so she left the library to devote more time to making her amazing mobiles as well as prototypes for toys. (Kate leaves behind a wonderful collection of clay miniatures of library staff, housed in a case in the reception area.) Wendy Thomas, head of public services, returned from a year-long leave of absence, during which she traveled the world visiting women's libraries, to be offered a position at one of those institutions. Wendy left us to become humanities librarian, in charge of the reference desk and book selection, at London's Fawcett Library (soon to become the National Library of Women), the United Kingdom's oldest and most comprehensive library on women in society. The spring newsletter will bring word of the new individuals joining the library staff to take on the responsibilities so capably performed by these departing colleagues.

## Photo Project Receives Mellon Grant

Since we last reported on the Photo Access Project in the fall of 1997, many exciting developments have taken place. Most recently the library was awarded \$295,000 by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to more than double the project staff and complete the cataloging and digitization of 20,000 photographs over two years. These photos will join 16,000 images already in our photo database, thanks in part to two earlier Mellon grants, and available over the internet as part of Harvard's cross-disciplinary Visual Information Access (VIA) database.

In 1997, we digitized our first photographs. In 1999, with a selection of photographs from collections most in demand, the library was one of the first repositories to contribute records and images to VIA. We have continued to add photographs from collections that build on the library's strengths and those of the database. With this new Mellon grant, we will be able to add all of the photographs from processed and semi-processed manuscript and photograph collections.

While the focus of the Schlesinger Library is on women's history, our photographs document social, cultural, and intellectual history, gender studies, geography, and much more. This project, by virtue of its scope and its retrieval power, has already begun to expand the use of neglected



■ *Miss Higgs teaches a citizenship class at the North Bennet Street Industrial School. Some of the terms used to catalog this image in our database include teachers, classrooms, immigration, social settlements, and women. 1935*

photographs and enable patrons to use photographs in new ways. Using our database and VIA, researchers all over the globe are able to see images in new contexts. Searches that bring together photographs from different collections and in different formats will affect the kinds of questions scholars will ask, contributing to new approaches and new research. The library's photographs in VIA can be found at <http://via.harvard.edu:748/html/VIA.html>. ■

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*News from the Schlesinger Library* is published from time to time to inform those interested in the library about recent acquisitions, special projects, and the programs offered by the Radcliffe Institute's research library on the history of women in the United States. It is written and edited by members of the library staff and designed by Jean Hammond.

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■ *Historian Blanche Wiesen Cook (center), lecturer at the spring Friends of the Schlesinger Library event, and Radcliffe Institute acting dean Mary Maples Dunn (right) review photographs of Eleanor Roosevelt owned by Barbara Kates-Garnick (left).*

## *Recent Researchers and New Reference Tools*

While some people visited their local library this summer to check out beach reading, others headed to the Schlesinger Library to work on forthcoming books, articles and dissertations. Camped out in the manuscript reading room and the book stacks, scholars came from around the country as well as from abroad. Among the familiar faces were Julia Abramson, Assistant Professor of French, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, University of Oklahoma; Ruth Fairbanks, doctoral student from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Ronald Zboray, Associate Professor, Department of History, Georgia State University, and Mary Zboray, research associate, Georgia State University.

Abramson's work focuses on "how ideas of nationalism and legitimacy influenced the development of gastronomic writing in post-Revolutionary France." Fairbanks, who received one of the library's research grants, examined several manuscript collections for her dissertation, *Pregnant Workers: Women's Jobs, Their Bodies, Welfare and Equality from 1940-1943*. The Zborays searched manuscripts and diaries for information on reading in New England during the Civil War.

Scholars new to us included doctoral candidate Deborah Siegel, who is investigating feminism and popular culture from the 1970s to the present, and Professor Ian Dowbiggin from the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, who is researching the history of birth control.

To highlight the work of "our" scholars, and to keep library patrons apprised of new scholarship based on the library's holdings, we now display these new works in the reference room. A recent display included Amy Trubek's *Haute Cuisine: How the French Invented the Culinary Profession*; Ellen S. More's *Restoring the Balance: Women Physicians and the Profession of Medicine, 1850-1995*; and Sarah Deutsch's *Women and the City: Gender, Space, and Power in Boston, 1870-1940*.



JOANNE DONOVAN

■ *Display of recently published works by scholars who used the library's holdings includes More's book on women physicians.*



JOANNE DONOVAN

A new reference tool that will benefit all of our researchers is the improved Harvard library portal (<http://lib.harvard.edu/>), which includes the online catalog and electronic resources formerly found on HOLLIS PLUS. Also new in the reference department are the following bibliographies created by staff noting books and manuscripts in the library's collections: *Jewish Women*; *Women Immigrants*; *Radical Women*; and *Fashion and Beauty*. These join 27 other bibliographies on a wide variety of topics that are available for free in the library and, in many cases, through our web site (<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/libcolls/bksper/bibs/index.htm>).

As we head into fall, we look forward to serving the Institute's new fellows, new and returning scholars, students, and the general public. If you have a reference question, please contact us by e-mail at [slref@radcliffe.edu](mailto:slref@radcliffe.edu), by phone at 617-495-8540 or by mail, Schlesinger Library, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

■ *Associate professor, author, and Bunting/Schlesinger fellow Ellen More, at work on her next book in the manuscript reading room*

## THE HOLLY NEAR PAPERS: READY FOR RESEARCHERS

Archivists have completed arranging and describing nine cartons of the papers of Holly Near, a major force in the women's music movement. The collection documents Near's career thus far as singer, songwriter, co-founder of Redwood Records, actor, author, and activist, who uses her music to agitate for women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, human rights, and peace.

Born in 1949 and raised on her family's ranch in Potter Valley, California, Near began singing and acting at the age of seven. Her activism also started early: from 1971–1973 she toured Vietnam with Jane Fonda and the Free the Army Show, an anti-war show for GIs stationed in Southeast Asia. In 1973, Near released her first album, *Hang in There*, and quickly became a prominent figure on the women's music scene.

The collection includes material from Redwood Records, correspondence with activists and musicians, and fan mail. The six cartons of fan mail open a window into the hearts and minds of women whose lives have been touched by Near's music. Many speak powerfully about child abuse, politics, women's rights, coming out, and homophobia. The collection also includes posters, fliers, audiotapes, and photographs that document Near's ongoing contribution to women's music and people's lives. ■



## Schlesinger Library Awards and Grants, 2000-2001

### Radcliffe Fellowships

Virginia Drachman, Tufts University: *Enterprising Women: The History of Women in Business in the U.S., 1790-2000*

Cynthia Enloe, Clark University: *An Exploration of Oral Histories of Women in Federal Government in the U.S. and Abroad*

Glenda Gilmore, Yale University: *The Second Civil War: The South, the Nation, and the World, 1915-1955*

Helen Horowitz, Smith College: *Sexual Representation and Censorship*

Regina Kunzel, Williams College: *Outlaw Desire: Prison Sexual Culture and the Problem of "Situational Homosexuality"*

Ellen More, University of Texas, Medical Branch: *Mary Steichen Calderone and the Politics of Sex Education in America*

### Dissertation Grants

Ruth Fairbanks, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: *Pregnant Workers: Women's Jobs, Their Bodies, Welfare and Equality from 1940-1993*

Dayo Gore, New York University: *"A Candle in a Gale Wind": Black Women Activists and Post-World War II U.S. Politics, 1940-1960*

Cindy Lobel, City University of New York: *Consuming Classes: Food, Eating, and Responses to Changing Consumption Patterns in New York City, 1790-1860*

Anne Rapp, University of California, Santa Barbara: *Anna Pauline Murray: Race, Gender, and Legal Activism in the Post-War Years*

### Research Support Grants

Adina Back, Brooklyn College, CUNY: *Mothers Take to the Streets: The 1950s New York City School Boycotts and Legal Battles*

Wendy Chmielewski, Swarthmore College: *Resisting Nuclear Madness: The Utopian Vision of the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice*

Dennis Deslippe, Australian National University: *A Social History of Equal Employment Opportunity in the United States, 1965-85*

Judith McDaniel, University of Arizona: *Biography of Barbara Deming*

Cynthia Tucker, The University of Memphis: *Abigail Adams Eliot (1892-1992) and Martha May Eliot (1891-1978)*

### Carol K. Pforzheimer Student Fellowships

Robin Allen, Cabot House: *Women, Travel, and Colonial India: An Exploration of Late 19th/Early 20th Century Travel Complicated by Issues of Gender, Race, and Colonialism*

Judith Batalian, Adams House: *The Application of Color Theory to Mid-Victorian Domestic Design and Women's Fashion*

Prudence Beidler, Currier House: *Father-Daughter Relationships in France*

Jenny Chou, Lowell House: *White Slavery, Yellow Peril: Portrayals of Mormon and Chinese-American Women, 1870-1930*

Will Erickson, Dunster House: *Women, Friendship, and Political Participation: The Case of the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers*

Claire Farley, Kirkland House: *Pain, Power, and Childbirth: A History of the Epidural*

Ellen Harkavy, Pforzheimer House: *Education and the Port Royal Experiment*

Sarah Kennedy, Dudley House: *Breaking Silences: Working Class Women's Autobiographical Texts*

Angela Peluse, Cabot House: *Pom-Pom Power: The History of Cheerleading at Harvard*

Shauna Shames, Currier House: *Gender and Campaigns in Modern American Politics: Equality vs. Difference, Feminism in Women's Races for Public Office*

Jennifer Wagner, Adams House: *Is Sex Work Good Work?: The Prostitute's Experience in New York City*



Emily Miller-Francisco at the book repair workbench

she designed

### REPAIRING DAMAGED SPINES

The library isn't branching out into orthopedics. We are "operating" on spines of a different sort. While the Schlesinger Library is taking steps on several fronts to preserve its unique collections, one big step taken this past year was to add book repair capabilities in the technical services department. Emily Miller-Francisco, who joined the library staff in September 1999, agreed to tackle the growing number of worn and damaged books. The first step was to acquire the tools of the trade. For the past year, Emily has studied book repair with the Widener Library's outstanding conservation department. With guidance from conservator Nancy Schrock, she designed a book repair workbench for the library that arrived in the spring, and ordered supplies and tools, including a \$400 used book press, that she needed to get started. (Hint: we still need a high quality paper and matte-board cutter and a finishing press.) With her training nearing completion, Emily can now tighten hinges, mend page tears, reback books with damaged spines, and recase books that have had their covers torn from their text blocks. For several hours each week, she can be found evaluating the book collection and skillfully repairing the invalid volumes she has learned to resuscitate. ■