

news
from the

Schlesinger Library

FALL 2001

Historian Nancy Cott Named Director of the Library

In early August, Dean Drew Faust shared this exciting news with the Radcliffe and Harvard community and the world: "It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that Nancy Cott will become the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library and Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences."

Cott's joint appointment, effective January 1, 2002, breaks new ground for us: it promises closer ties among the Library, the Institute, and the Harvard faculty and the potential for stimulating collaborations. Cott brings just the right qualities to make this promise real. Author or editor of seven books and dozens of articles, Nancy Cott has defined the field of American women's history since the appearance of her first book, *The Bonds of Womanhood*, published in 1977. In her most recent book, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*, published last winter, she continues her penetrating analysis of women's place in America that has won her so many accolades. A member of the Yale history faculty since 1975, Cott has also chaired the Women's Studies and American Studies programs there and currently holds a Sterling Professorship, Yale's highest honor. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell, Cott received her doctorate from Brandeis. Her many honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Charles Warren Center, and the Harvard Law School.

Her ties with Radcliffe and with the Library are strong and deep. She was awarded the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association Graduate Society medal in 1997. Since she first became a "regular" in our reading room in the 1970s, she has been one of the Library's most ardent supporters. A

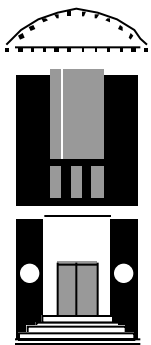


WEBB CHAPPELL

■ *The Library's new director, historian Nancy Cott, explores the stacks*

member of the Library's Advisory Board from 1977 to 1981, she was also a visiting scholar at the Library in 1991 and 1997. Footnotes citing the Library's manuscript collections are plentiful in her writings. And she has already donated a collection of her own to the Library: letters from noted historian Merle Curti and law professor Detlev Vagts regarding Charles and Mary Beard that aided her in editing *Woman Making History: Mary Ritter Beard through Her Letters*.

"I cannot imagine a better person to lead the Schlesinger Library," Dean Faust's announcement concluded. Neither can we. ■



Radcliffe

“Enterprising Women” Is In Business

Meet Katherine Goddard, publisher of the first signed copy of the Declaration of Independence and owner of a print shop in colonial Baltimore. Meet Madame C. J. Walker, whose hair care products brought her from her slave parents’ cabin to her own estate next to the Vanderbilts. And meet Ida Rosenthal, who assured the nation’s women that they could run their own businesses or win elections—as long as they did it in their Maidenform bras. These are just three of the women whose lives unfold

in “Enterprising Women,” the ambitious new exhibition organized by the Schlesinger Library that spans 250 years of American history, from the birth of a new nation to the birth of a new millennium.

The exhibition and its national tour are made possible by generous funding from Ford Motor Company and AT&T. Additional support is provided by the Cabot Family Charitable Family Trust.

Last year, we described our hopes for “Enterprising Women,” a project on a scale far larger than anything the Library has ever attempted. Now we have concrete news. The exhibit, which includes material from not only the Library’s collections but items loaned from a mind-boggling array of other institutions, will fill nearly three thousand square feet of exhibit space. It will open in October 2002 at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Massachusetts, and then travel across the country to New York City, Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, and, we hope, to Washington D.C. and Los Angeles.

“Enterprising Women” examines the obstacles and issues, such as family ties, marriage, motherhood, and race, women in business have faced. It will also explore how they capitalized on their understanding of the female consumer: Lydia Pinkham, whose papers are at the Library, provided herbal remedies not available from physicians for gynecological ailments; Hazel Bishop’s “kissable” lipstick (there are a few tubes in her papers here) left an indelible mark on the cosmetics industry.

We are eager for the Library’s friends and all women across the country to meet Goddard, Walker, Rosenthal, and their sister enterprising women when they come to a city near you. We’ll keep you posted! ■

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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■ *Ida Rosenthal (1886-1973) turned a modest dress-making enterprise into Maidenform Incorporated and revolutionized women's fashion from the inside out.*

■ *Lydia Pinkham (1819-1883) brewed and bottled her personal remedy for women's ills in her kitchen and made a fortune promising women that they could find health and strength in her unique concoction of herbs and alcohol.*

Dear Friends of the Library:

It has been a busy summer outside and inside the Schlesinger Library. Outside, the Yard turned into a construction site as bulldozers ripped out an old heating pipe and buried a new one. Serenity is now restored—as I write, new grass is sprouting and new paths have reconnected all the parts of Radcliffe.

Inside, we have witnessed a ferment of research. Ten students awarded Pforzheimer fellowships set to work on their senior theses. Other Library grants brought five senior researchers and five graduate students to the Library. What astonishes us is the range of their topics and those of the other researchers who mine our rich holdings. This summer researchers have been digging for information on paleobotany in Kazan, family planning in Mexico, the art of Judy Chicago, the change of style and topics in college writing, songs sung by African American women in the late 19th century, images of water in domestic settings, western women at work on the home front during World War II, the development of workmen's compensation in New York State, and the single woman in America in the 20th century.

Next year we hope to bring even more researchers to the Library. Thanks to the generosity of family members Margo Blackwell Gubser and George H. Blackwell, a new grant of \$1000—the Alice Stone Blackwell Award—will support research on equal rights for women or equal empowerment of women in their societies around the world. The Schlesinger will also participate, along with 14 other New England institutions, in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. Seven grants of \$5000 will be offered to support research at a minimum of three different institutions. Joan Challinor, chair of the Advisory Committee, has made our participation in the consortium possible.

The innovative ways in which our public services staff is assisting all of our researchers and reaching out to the wonderfully diverse crop of Radcliffe Institute Fellows is a story in itself, and one that you will find in our spring issue. Also in that issue will be a full report on an exciting October event—a celebration of the special relationship between historian Anne Firor Scott and the Library, featuring, in addition to Anne herself, Nancy Cott, Drew Faust, and a panel of other outstanding historians of women.

Finally, let me just say how much I am looking forward to the end of a lengthy interregnum and to the beginning of a new era at the Library under the leadership of Nancy Cott.

Jane Knowles, Acting Director



Jeannette Bailey Cheek, director of the Library from 1969 to 1973, died in early September. Among the permanent reminders of those four productive years are: the Friends of the Schlesinger Library, still such an important source of support; the arrival of the first records of the National Organization for Women, whose deposit here she negotiated; and the start of oral history interviewing. Surveying the just-beginning feminist movement, in her 1970 report Cheek captured the essence of the question with which we continue to grapple: "To document history in a revolutionary period with the future historian's needs in mind demands a combination of steadiness, prescience and a wild surmise."

STAFF NEWS:

In addition to the exciting front-page news about Nancy Cott, there is other staff news as well. After an extensive search, Deborah Kelley-Milburn, who brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm from both the Houghton and Widener libraries, joined the staff in July as the new head of public services. Kathy Herrlich, who capably helped in many areas of public services, has moved on to the main library at Northeastern University.

Lisa Hurlbutt, staff assistant to the director, left in August for law school at Boston College. Taking her place is Elizabeth Kaltofen, most recently a laboratory administrator in Harvard's chemistry department. Erica Smith, who worked for the technical services staff while a senior at Cambridge Rindge and Latin, will be a freshman at Boston College after a semester in Paris. Emily Miller-Francisco has moved out west to Oregon. Her work in technical services was taken over by Heather Hamilton, who joined the staff in September.

Jacalyn Blume is taking a year's leave of absence in Florence, Italy, where she is working with collections at Harvard's Villa I Tatti. In her absence, Paula Kaczor is acting head of the Mellon photo digitization project, and Emily Novak, recently at WGBH, is filling Paula's former position as assistant on the project. New library technical assistant, Judy Collins, is also working on the photo project investigating copyright ownership.

Notes on Recent Arrivals

Recent months have brought a variety of new manuscript collections to the Library, including the papers of judges, nurses, and biologists. Just three among many, the following collections—of a satirist, an activist, and a very good cook—speak to the diversity of these latest acquisitions.



Felicia Lamport (1916–1999) was a well-known political satirist and writer of light verse, whose work was featured widely in newspapers and magazines such as the *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and the *New Yorker*, and who was the author of *Mink on Weekdays* (1950), *Cultural Slag* (1966), and *Political Plumlines*

(1984), among others. Well known in Cambridge and beyond for her wit and beloved by students in her writing classes at Harvard and at the Harvard Extension School, her papers include play scripts, articles, verse and other writings, correspondence, and teaching material. Ms. Lamport was equally at home parodying T.S. Eliot in "The Love Song of R. Milhous Nixon, 1973" ("Let us go then, in my plane/For a weekend of repose in Key Biscayne") as she was with John Keats in her "Ode to a Grecian Urn."

For over 30 years a vigorous and insightful journalist and social critic, writer Barbara Ehrenreich has donated a substantial collection, consisting of correspondence, reviews, speeches, drafts, notebooks, course outlines, and conference proceedings. Hailed most recently for her provocative analysis of life on the poverty line, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (2001), Ehrenreich has taken on any number of issues during her career, including the American medical system, the legacy of the sexual



revolution, and the anti-feminist backlash of the 1980s, in books such as *The American Health Empire: Power, Profits, and Politics* and *Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness*. She has been active in the Democratic Socialists of America, the National Women's Health Network, the National Abortion Rights Action League, and the Progressive Media Project, all reflected in her papers.

The library's manuscript culinary holdings have been augmented by the arrival of the papers of Stella Standard (1897–1986), a gift of the estate of her husband, Paul. The collection includes diaries, photographs and other family papers, as well as recipes and professional correspondence. One of the first recipes in the well-worn manuscript cookbook written in her bold hand is for peach and cantaloupe jam. The author of *Whole Grain Cookery: A Gourmet Guide to Glowing Health* (commissioned by Pearl Buck and published in 1951), Standard was the author of ten cookbooks published between 1946 and 1970. Her approach to food was "eclectic and very American" and her *Our Daily Bread: 366 Recipes for Wonderful Breads* (1970) was "especially well received at the time it was published," according to Barbara Haber, curator of printed books. ■

- Lamport's "Ode" comments on the suspicious circumstances leading to the purchase of the Euphronios krater by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1972
- Activist, advocate, critic Barbara Ehrenreich
- The cover of Stella Standard's *Cook Book*, published in 1965

**SCHLESINGER LIBRARY AWARDS AND
GRANTS, 2001-2002**

Affiliates

Virginia Drachman, Tufts University: *Enterprising Women: The Business Women of America, 1750-2000*

Research Support Grants

Ronald E. Butchart, University of Georgia: *Teachers among the Freedpeople, 1861-1875*

Rachelle E. Friedman, Fieldston School (Bronx, NY): *A Culinary History of Early America*

Cynthia Ellen Harrison, George Washington University: *Feminism Corralled: The United States Polity and the Implementation of the Feminist Agenda, 1968-2000*

Wendy Kline, University of Cincinnati: *Politicizing the Female Body: Sexuality and Disability in the Women's Health Movement*

Marjorie Julian Spruill, University of Southern Mississippi: *Cultures in Conflict: Feminists, Antifeminists, and the 1970s Fight for Women's Future*

Dissertation Support Grants

Leilah Danielson, University of Texas at Austin: *From Pacifism to Nonviolence: American Pacifists, Political Culture, and the State, 1919-1965*

Elysa Engelman, Boston University: *Loyal to Lydia: Race, Gender, Class and the Changing Pinkham Consumer*

Rachel Mattson, New York University: *The Seductions of Dissonance: Ragini Devi and the Idea of India in the US, 1896-1965*

Margaret Puskar-Pasewicz, Indiana University, Bloomington: *"For the Good of the Whole": Vegetarianism, Gender, and Reform in Nineteenth-Century America*

Judith Rosenbaum, Brown University: *Whose Bodies? Whose Selves? Women's Bodies and Women's Activism in 20th Century America*

Carol K. Pforzheimer Student Fellowships

Rabia Belt, Adams House: *Fat Is Not Just A Feminist Issue Anymore: The Interplay of Feminist Writing on Eating Disorders and the Media*

Laura Cobb, Winthrop House: *Anti-Suffrage Reformers: A Closer Look at Progressive-Era Feminism*

Benjamin W. Fernandez, Mather House: *Twisted Movement: Deviance and Prostitutes' Rights*

Adina Gerver, Pforzheimer House: *Radcliffe in the 1920s: An Experiment in Self-Government*

Danielle Li, Quincy House: *The Rise of the Woman's Novel: Gender Segmentation in the Book Market*

Amber Musser, Cabot House: *Anchoring the Myth of the Female Orgasm*

Nancy Amanda Reed, Cabot House: *Placed on a Pedestal, but Held Steady by the Platform: The Influence of the Platform on the Creation of the Modern Miss America Ideal*

Jesse Rokicki, Cabot House: *Science and the Home: Changing Boundaries in Progressive Era Public Health and Domestic Life*

Shaylyn A. Romney, Eliot House: *The Social Settlement Movement as a Model of Community Organizing*

Lisa Faith Stern, Leverett House: *A Zaftig Legacy: The Jewish Girls' Body Project, 1940-1960*



Marjorie Julian Spruill, professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi and a recipient of one of the Library's research support grants, writes of her experience here this summer:

It was a great pleasure to work this summer at the Schlesinger Library, where the collections are vast



and the staff not only extremely knowledgeable but dedicated to assisting all researchers. I made tremendous progress on my current research project concerning the cultural conflict between feminists and antifeminists in

the 1970s and the emergence of competing views concerning the role of government in the lives of American women. I am focusing on the 1977 state and national International Women's Year conferences, where the existence of these competing ideologies and the bitterness of the conflict between them came into sharp focus, surprising the nation. Most helpful were the papers of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, including reports on state conferences; the papers of Shelah Leader, a key member of the National Commission's staff; papers of other feminist leaders and oral histories with participants in the conferences; publications of the Eagle Forum and others leading the opposition to the IWY conferences; and the extensive subject files. And the Library's holdings include much more, still untapped by me, including a massive collection of papers from NOW! I need to come back and look forward to it. I am very grateful for the research grant that made my weeks at the Library possible and to the staff for making it such a wonderful place to work.



Radcliffe's History: Read All About It



■ *The "Four Captains" of the Radcliffe basketball team in 1898-99*

The Radcliffe Archives collects the official records of the College and now the Institute and the Radcliffe-related papers of Radcliffe alumnae. With its reading room on the Library's second floor and its records and papers in the vaults in the basement, the Archives and the Library share space and, much to the benefit of researchers, their staff share a knowledge of each other's holdings.

Thanks to a recently completed project, many of the Radcliffe Archives's most important documents

are now available via an exciting new online resource. The Harvard/Radcliffe Online Historical Reference Shelf (HROHRS or Horrors for short) provides fully searchable access to frequently consulted sources on the history of Harvard and Radcliffe. For anyone with internet

access who is interested in Radcliffe and Harvard history specifically or with questions involving higher education generally, this new resource is a "must." It includes Harvard and Radcliffe annual reports (Harvard, 1826–1995; Radcliffe, 1879–1988); narrative histories such as *The Harvard Book* and *A Century to Celebrate: Radcliffe College, 1879–1979*; and facts, figures, and founding documents for the two institutions. Radcliffe's first dormitory? Its first full-time president? You'll find the answers on HROHRS (Bertram Hall, 1901; Ada Comstock).

The Reference Shelf is easily accessed from the Archives page of the Library's website (<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles>). A joint project of the Harvard University Archives and Radcliffe Archives, HROHRS is supported by the Harvard University Library Digital Initiative. Right now, this remarkable resource allows you to search important documents describing Radcliffe's unique history as a college for women. A century from now, researchers will be able to access the documents that chronicle Radcliffe's new life as an institute for advanced study. ■



IN THE GALLERIES

The exhibit "Women and War," on display through February, draws exclusively on photographs from the Library's holdings. From the thousands of pictures in manuscript and photograph collections, photograph coordinator Marie-Hélène Gold has chosen those that best illustrate the involvement of women in the two World Wars. No women declared these wars, very few fought on the front lines, but countless women helped win them by working on the home front and in the theaters of battle manufacturing medical supplies, riveting ships, and serving as nurses, war correspondents, switchboard operators, aviation mechanics, and parachute riggers. Other images show a different aspect of women and war: the trauma, the violence, and the injury that war inflicts on everyone, especially women and their children. ■

■ *An assembly worker at a Douglas Aircraft Company factory in California, c. 1943*