

news from the Schlesinger Library



Clockwise, from top left: Shirley Hollister, 1974 NOW conference; officers Faith Seidenberg and Karen DeCrow toast a 1970 NOW legal victory; attorney Marguerite Rawalt, 1959; NOW officers and members, 1968, left to right, back row: Cindy Hill, Marguerite Rawalt, Sue Sellers, Sylvia Radyx, Wilma Scott Heide, Marian Metelits; left to right front row: Kathryn Clarenbach, Betty Freidan

The Roots of Second-Wave Feminism

In the post–World War II era, women throughout the United States—young and old, in cities and rural areas, across racial and ethnic groups—were frustrated by sex discrimination in education, employment, credit, health, religion, the arts, and other areas of daily life. Channeling their frustrations, women began working together in the 1960s to create organizations like the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Women’s Equity Action League (WEAL). They challenged injustice on many fronts, and their efforts eventually resulted in legislation and judicial decisions that expanded opportunities for millions.

At the Schlesinger Library, for the past 22 months, archivists Cheryl Beredo, Johanna Carll, and the project’s leader, Katherine Kraft, together with audio-visual cataloger Joanne Donovan, worked to bring order to more than 800 feet of unorganized records, papers, photographs, audio-tapes, films, and artifacts that make up some of the library’s most important collections documenting the post–World War II women’s movement. Funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported the processing of 23 collections with the potential to transform our understanding of this powerful movement’s

wide-ranging influence over all aspects of American life. These collections, of significant interest to researchers in a variety of disciplines, are now carefully arranged, described, and housed, with detailed finding aids that are searchable on the World Wide Web as part of Harvard’s Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS, <http://oasis.harvard.edu>).

Included in this massive undertaking are the records of NOW, WEAL, and the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective (BWHBC); the papers of artist Judy Chicago and activists Catherine East and Marguerite Rawalt; and of NOW leaders Shirley Bernard, Kathy Bonk, Mary Jean Collins, Lynne Darcy, Elizabeth Farians, Muriel Fox, Georgia Fuller, Wilma Scott Heide, Joan Hull, Fran Kolb, Lucy Komisar, Judith Lightfoot, Eve Norman, Mordeca Jane Pollack, Anne Pride, Faith Seidenberg, and Elizabeth Coxe Spalding.

The impact of the women’s movement soon spread outside American borders, through publications, personal contacts, international conferences, and correspondence, as shown most clearly in the records of the BWHBC. The difficulties of adapting their pioneering women’s health

Letter from the Director

Renovations to the library building are almost complete! The new reading room on the second floor is breathtaking—its two-story height dramatic, open, and airy; its windows so large that sky and Yard outline the room's serene atmosphere, designed for serious and secure research. Soon, paintings long owned by the library will be hung between the windows, as will a new acquisition, a beautiful portrait of Julia Ward Howe in old age. Known as the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," Howe was also a poet, essayist, lecturer, and reformer who worked to end slavery and helped initiate the women's movement in many states.

On the entry level, the foyer and new exhibit area lead toward the meeting room (equipped with state-of-the-art projection capabilities), named the Radcliffe College Room in honor of the generous gift of the Class of 1954. An additional, smaller seminar room is also on the ground floor near the exhibit area. At the other end of the ground floor is the administrative wing, including my capacious new office, looking out toward Radcliffe Yard, and the parallel office of the deputy director/librarian.

A new face will be in that parallel office because Megan Sniffin-Marino moved on in September to become University archivist at Harvard. Her new position is a wonderful affirmation of her professional talents, though also a great loss for the Schlesinger. Her presence here for two and a half years brought tremendous improvements in the library's operation. She reorganized our departmental structure, clarified budget priorities, made funding flows more legible, and adjusted the staff to meet the library's needs. The benefits of her service will persist long past her departure.

The search for Megan's successor is well under way, and we hope to fill the position by the end of 2004. Meanwhile, to ease the transition, Curator of Manuscripts Kathryn Allamong Jacob has generously taken over as acting deputy director. And because Megan is close by at the University Archives, she will return to consult with us from time to time, to assure continuity in information as the Schlesinger staff and materials move into the renovated building.

I hope you will take the time to visit the library when we reopen this winter.

—Nancy F. Cott
Carl and Lily Pforzheimer
Foundation Director



New Curator of Books: Marylène Altieri

It gives her a sense of déjà vu: 30 years ago, as a Harvard graduate student in history, Marylène Altieri lived in Radcliffe's Cronkhite Graduate Center in a room overlooking Brattle Street. Today, as the new curator of books for the Schlesinger Library, she's back in her old digs, meeting with staff members

who are temporarily housed in Cronkhite while the library is being renovated.

Altieri describes her position as "the dream job of all dream jobs." As a special collections librarian at nearby Gutman Library in the Graduate School of Education at Harvard for the past 10 years, she was well acquainted with the Schlesinger. "At Gutman, there's a great deal of material that documents women in education, and the two libraries share many of the same scholars," she says.

This is also a propitious time to join the staff of the Schlesinger. "There are so

many opportunities for being creative and for making a substantial contribution," Altieri says. Because the curator of books position has been vacant since Barbara Haber retired in 2002, Altieri says her first challenge is simply to catch up by acquiring books that the library needs. Simultaneously, though, she's re-examining the *kind* of books the library buys. The Schlesinger's book collection has never circulated, but its stacks have been open and browsable. When the library reopens, however, the stacks will for the first time be closed to patrons, as are the stacks at many research libraries. "A browsable collection attracts a different population," Altieri says. "So we need to revisit aspects of the collection and ask whether we need to acquire certain types of books."

Like her predecessor, Altieri has a strong interest in culinary history. "I'm very excited about working with Barbara Wheaton, the honorary curator of the culinary collection, from whom I've already learned an enormous amount. She and the other people on the staff who've been here a long time have an overview of the library's collecting and scholarship that's tremendously helpful to me," Altieri says.

Nancy F. Cott, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the library, is delighted to have Altieri on staff. "With her background in history and her more than 20 years of experience in Harvard libraries, Marylène is a perfect fit for us."

During those 20-plus years, Altieri has worked at three Harvard libraries, starting out at Tozzer Library in the Peabody Museum, then working for nine years at the Fine Arts Library in the Fogg Art Museum. Both of these libraries are units of the Harvard College Library. Altieri then worked at the MIT Libraries for two years before coming back to Harvard to take the job at Gutman Library. During her years at the Fine Arts Library, she earned her master's degree in library and information science at Simmons College.

Now, Altieri works in her temporary office at Agassiz House and makes frequent forays over to the Cronkhite Graduate Center, where she began her Harvard career in 1974. Instead of studying history in her dorm room, though, she's meeting with colleagues from the Schlesinger Library. "I'm excited to be working with this premiere collection at such an interesting time in its history and in the history of the Institute," she says.

—Pat Harrison
Publications Manager



TONY FINALDO

Julia Child, 1912–2004, Lives On at Schlesinger Library

Julia Child, master of French cooking, legendary television star, preeminent teacher of culinary arts, and Cambridge resident, who died on August 13, 2004, filled a special place in the annals of the Schlesinger Library. Her insistent focus helped shape the library as the foremost center for the serious study of food history and culture in America and as a resource for the practicing chef.

“Julia was a magical person—genuine, funny, exuberant, but also serious about good ingredients and fine cooking,” said Barbara Haber, culinary expert and former curator of books at the Schlesinger. Barbara Wheaton, honorary curator of the culinary collection, described Child as “one of those generous souls who wants to invite everyone to the festival to share the delight.”

Child’s 1968 bequest of her papers and cookbooks was a vital lever for the library’s acquisition of other collections. Her support came at a crucial time, when the Schlesinger was beginning to build its renowned collection of cookbooks. She advised the library on the courtship of collectors Narcissa and Samuel Chamberlain, writing to director Pat King in 1974, “delighted you have nailed down the Chamberlains,” and proceeded to invite “*le tout Cambridge*” to a celebratory lunch. With a bare mention of the library in a *McCall’s* article, Child brought “several good additions to the culinary



PAUL CHILD
Julia Child on the set, 1963

collection,” wrote Pat King. Three cooking demonstrations in March 1979 on behalf of the library generated visibility for the collections and support for the library’s endowment.

In 1988, friends and fans dedicated an area in the newly renovated library to culinary research and named it the Julia Child Research Area. By 1990, Child had not only transferred her personal collection of cookbooks but also guided the great collection of rare cookbooks belonging to the American Institute of Wine and Food (of which she was a founding member) to the Schlesinger. Her gift of an endowed fund in 1995 ensured the continued leadership of the library in the culinary field.

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handbook, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, to different languages and cultures, as well as their successes, are well-documented. Letters from women around the world attest to the book’s life-changing impact and provide moving testimony to the efficacy of this small group.

Demonstrating the power of the individual, the small collective, and large organi-

zations, these collections may promote a new appreciation for the American political system. Without the freedom to gather information from government and private sources, to disseminate ideas, meet privately, lobby elected and appointed officials, and demonstrate publicly, women wouldn’t have gained the opportunities that they take for granted today. The activists’ overwhelming personal commitment to bettering women’s lives and their struggles to overcome social and political obstacles may prove to be as inspirational as they are educational.

—Katherine Kraft
Archivist



NOW March for Equality

Finding the Story of the National Organization for Women

In the early 1970s, the Schlesinger Library recognized the importance of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and asked its leaders to consider designating the library the repository of the organization’s records. NOW, founded in 1966, agreed, and soon documents began trickling into the library. The trickle became a stream that ebbed and flowed until, by 2000, more than 300 cartons of NOW records filled the library’s shelves. Arriving at different times from various NOW offices, each with its own filing system, the records were disorganized and extremely difficult to use. One of the first researchers to tackle the NOW records was Rebecca Davison.

In 1992, Davison stumbled onto NOW’s unprocessed records when she was doing research at the library and came across the papers of Ann London Scott, an English professor turned feminist activist. “I was riveted and essentially blew a whole day meandering through her boxes,” Davison said in a telephone interview from Vermont, where she lives. “Scott was NOW’s head of employment compliance, and her mission was to make the government enforce Title VII. Her letters were filled with the anticipation and excitement women were feeling in those early years. But when I looked for a history of the organization, there wasn’t any. Obviously, a history had to be written about this pivotal group of women and what they had done.”

Davison, who has almost finished her history of NOW—just one more chapter to go—is thrilled that the Schlesinger has finished processing NOW’s records to date, even if the massive project comes to an end just as she’s finishing her book. (See cover story, “The Roots of Second-Wave Feminism.”) Because her project has taken so long, Davison plans to go back over her manuscript to check facts and make revisions. With the collection’s 306-page finding aid, she’ll have a much easier time of it now.

“What I did was try to fit a jigsaw puzzle together without having all the pieces,” Davison said. “Now all the pieces are there and organized, so I can go back and see if I’ve missed anything.”

—Pat Harrison
Publications Manager

Library Strengthens Culinary Collection

The oldest materials at the Schlesinger Library—dating to the 16th and 17th centuries—are books in the library’s culinary collection, many of them published in England, France, and Germany. Recently, the library acquired three books that are landmarks in German culinary history. The oldest, published in 1679, was written by Anna Wecker, who is believed to be the first woman in Europe to publish a cookbook.

Wecker’s book—titled *Neu, kostlich und nutzliches koch-buch, in welchem kurzlich begriffen, wie allerhand kunstliche speisen, which translates to *The new, delicious, and useful cookbook, in which is described, concisely, how to make all kinds of artful dishes*—was first published in 1596. But the library’s later edition is especially valuable for the appendix it includes, called *Die Parisische Kuchenmeister (The Parisian Master Cook)*, which illustrates the influence of French cooking on German gastronomy.*

Anna Wecker’s “delicious and useful cookbook” also reflects the worldly, sophisticated nature of the circle in which she lived. She was the daughter, then the wife of professors of medicine, and her own daughter married an academic physician.

The library’s second recent acquisition in German culinary history was also written by an academic-medical wife. Marie Sophie Schellhammer’s *Brandenburgische Koch-Buch, Oder: Die wohl-unterwiesene Kochin (The Brandenbrug Cookbook or The Well-Instructed [female] Cook)* was published in Berlin in 1723. This is a splendid two-volume work, with each volume displaying a large engraved frontispiece illustrating a kitchen and a store-room, respectively.

Carl Friedrich von Rumohr’s *Geist der Kochkunst (The Spirit of the Art of Cookery)* is the library’s third recent addition to its international culinary collection. Published in 1822, this book was written by an eccentric German nobleman who traveled widely and was a pioneering writer on art and the history of art, and on the craft of cooking and the art of eating. He surveys earlier culinary literature, advises cooks, and expresses strongly held opinions about eating and drinking.

—Barbara Ketcham Wheaton AM ’54
Honorary Curator of the Culinary Collection

Recently, the library acquired three books that are landmarks in German culinary history.



Now Available: The Barbie Files

The Schlesinger Library's Ruth Handler papers—now processed and ready for use by researchers—document the story of a young couple who realized a remarkable dream by founding the world's most successful toy company, Mattel, Inc. The collection is also the biography of Ruth Handler, who created Barbie, the most famous toy of the 20th century, and triumphed over enormous personal challenges. And it's a business case history that will be studied for decades to come.

In 1999, the library began a special collecting initiative to document the lives and experience of women in business and to chart their entrance into the corporate world. Ruth Handler, who had recently published her autobiography, *Dream Doll*, seemed a perfect subject. Barbara Haber, then curator of books at the library, met Handler in Los Angeles and began discussions about her papers. Following Ruth Handler's death in 2002, her husband, Elliot Handler, implemented his wife's wishes by giving her papers to the Schlesinger. The Handler collection is the library's most significant acquisition of business material in recent years.

Ruth Mosko was the youngest of ten children born to Polish immigrants in Denver, Colorado. She married her childhood sweetheart Elliot Handler and they settled in Los Angeles, where they tried a number of ventures before founding Mattel, Inc., in 1945. Business records and speech files chart their marketing strategies, which reshaped the toy industry, and their ascent in the business world. Fan mail, articles, and clippings document the invention of, and response to, their products, including Hot Wheels and Barbie, invented by Ruth Handler in 1959.

Legal files in the collection relate to the US Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of Mattel and the subsequent trial of Ruth Handler and four colleagues. Records of Nearly Me, the breast prosthesis company that Handler founded in 1976 after her mastectomy, illustrate her solo successful business; and photographs of Elliot Handler's artworks demonstrate his second career as an artist. Professional and personal photographs in the collection include the Handlers, their children Barbie and Ken, and illustrate Mattel factories, workers, products, Barbie anniversaries and collectors, and Nearly Me promotion.

With the exception of family correspondence, all materials in the Ruth Handler collection are open to researchers. Already, the collection has been used for a documentary on inventors and inventions as well as a Harvard senior thesis. It is also featured in *Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business*, the national traveling exhibition organized by the library and the National Heritage Museum.

—Jane Knowles
Radcliffe College Archivist



Ruth Handler with Chatty Cathy



Handler's most successful invention: Barbie

The Handler collection is the library's most significant acquisition of business material in recent years.



Schlesinger Library Research Grants 2004–2005

Carol K. Pforzheimer Student Fellowships—Harvard Undergraduates

Edith Burbank-Schmitt '05

“The Development of the International Birth Control Movement in the 1950s and 1960s”

Brian J. Distelberg '05

“‘Whistle a New Song’: Mass Culture, Sexual Identity, and the Stories of Auntie Mame”

Yan Fang '05

“Interactions between Chinese American and African American Women, 1950 to Today”

Mary Michelle Jirmanus '05

“The Quest for Food Sovereignty: The Role of Women Agricultural Workers in El Salvador”

Jennifer Hijou Lee '05

“The Chinese Women’s Movement: Raising Feminist Consciousness through Women’s Studies Programs”

Chloë Schama '05

“Power and Disrepute: Social Commentary and the Sensation Novel”

Alyssa Shell '05

“Depression and Diabetes in Mexican American Women in Southern New Mexico: A Study on Gender, Race, Morality, and Illness”

Cheryl Elaine Sherrod '04

“A Historical Walking Tour of Black Women at Radcliffe”

Stephanie Skier '05

“The Invention of the Modern Kitchen”

Vaughn Tan '05

“Mechanisms of Cultural Exchange: Japanese Aesthetic Influences in American Professional Cooking”

Rebecca Wexler '05

“Women and the Sociobiology Debates: The Creation of Feminist Science Theory”

Research Support Grants

Davison M. Douglas, PhD

Institute of Bill of Rights Law, William & Mary Law School

“A Spirit Unbound: Pauli Murray and the Twentieth-Century Struggle for Human Rights”

Miriam Forman-Brunell, PhD

University of Missouri, Kansas City

“‘I Was Different!’ Ideals, Identity, and the Imagination of Ruth Handler and the Barbie Doll”

Kirsten E. Gardner, PhD

University of Texas at San Antonio

“Pregnant with Possibility: Diabetes, Technology, and the Management of Chronic Illness”

Sara L. Kimble, PhD

University of Northern Iowa

“Authority and Maternity: The Challenge of Women’s Participation in the French Juvenile Courts, 1912–1946”

James E. McWilliams, PhD

Texas State University at San Marcos

“Food Fit for Swine from the Ground Up: The Rise of Local Economy in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts”

David Strauss, PhD

Kalamazoo College

“Setting the Table for Julia Child: The Rise of Gourmet Dining in America, 1934–1961”

Anne M. Valk, PhD

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

“Florynce Kennedy: Feminism Redefined”

Dissertation Support Grants

Jacqueline Lilley Castledine

Rutgers University

“‘The Fashion Was Politics’: How Left-Feminism Shaped Postwar America”

Andrea Estepa

Rutgers University

“Taking the White Gloves Off: Women Strike for Peace and the Transformation of Women’s Activist Identities in America, 1961–2000”

Katherine Leonard

University of Delaware

“‘What Time Have I to Think of Beans?’ Cooking and Eating Among the American Urban Working Class, 1880–1935”

Alesia E. McFadden

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

“Shirley Graham Du Bois: A Writing Life in Migration”

Rebecca A. Rix

Yale University

“Gender and Reconstitution: The Family and Individual Basis of Democracy Contested, 1880–1932”

Emily B. Zuckerman

Rutgers University

“Beyond Dispute: The Politics of Gender and Class in *EEOC v. Sears*, 1968–1986”

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Child's papers, given to the library since 1976, reveal much of her life and experience. Here we read the letters of her beloved husband, Paul Child, to his brother charting their lives together; view thousands of Paul Child's black-and-white photographs of the WGBH-produced program *The French Chef* and succeeding TV shows; discover the causes Julia Child generously supported through cooking demonstrations; savor the hilarious and grateful letters from fans and her devoted replies; witness the teacher in action and discover the rigor and discipline required to test the recipes for and write 12 cookbooks.



Child in her later years, 1981

"Finishing a new cookery bookery, a hard slug," Child writes. "It's the grand design, the small pieces, and the deadly connectors that are most painful. I've finished the Main course, and am about to launch on VEG., so the end is somewhat in sight." The papers reveal the whole nexus of culinary America and the towering role Child played in that world. Her pen is stilled, but her words and voice live on at the Schlesinger Library.

—Jane Knowles
Radcliffe College Archivist



Child in action, 1964

Staff News

At the August meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), Jacalyn Blume, reference librarian for visual resources, presented a paper, "Copyright and Digital Access for Historic Photographs," based on her experience with the library's effort to digitize its approximately 70,000 photographs. Blume spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 300 archivists. Also at SAA, Nancy F. Cott, the library's director, participated in the panel discussion "Women's History Repositories: 21st Century Directions." Archivist Katherine Kraft spoke to the Women's Collections Roundtable about collections recently processed under the library's National Endowment for the Humanities grant and suggested research topics for scholars in a variety of disciplines. Kathryn Allamong Jacob, curator of manuscripts, was named chair of SAA's Distinguished Service Award committee; and Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, former deputy director of the Schlesinger, was recognized for her three years of distinguished service on SAA's governing council.

National Touring Exhibition

Detroit is the final venue for *Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business*, organized by the Schlesinger Library in partnership with the National Heritage Museum in Lexington, Massachusetts. This exhibition has already welcomed more than 125,000 visitors to its Boston, New York City, Atlanta, Washington, DC, and Los Angeles tour stops. The exhibition is made possible through the support of Ford Motor Company and AT&T.

Remaining tour date

Detroit Historical Museum

Detroit, Michigan

Saturday, October 16, 2004–Sunday, January 5, 2005

www.detroithistorical.org

For more information about the exhibition, visit www.enterprisingwomenexhibit.org

CREDITS

Photos on front cover, top row, from left to right, from NOW Records and Faith Seidenberg Papers; bottom row, both photos from Marguerite Rawalt Papers. Photo top left by Cary Herz; photo top right by Ron Sherman; photo bottom right by Ralph Camping. Photo on p. 3 of NOW march from NOW Records. All photos of Julia Child from Julia Child Papers. Photos on p. 5 from the Ruth Handler Papers.

FALL 2004

News from the Schlesinger Library is published twice a year 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. The newsletter is written and edited by members of the Radcliffe Institute staff and designed by plus design inc.

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Founded in 1907 on the shores of Pequaket Lake in Limington, Maine, Camp Moy-Mo-Da-Yo offered girls opportunities for swimming, sailing, canoeing, archery, tennis, golf, horseback riding, nature study, dance, arts and crafts, and as captured in this photograph from the late 1920s, drama. Records of Camp Moy-Mo-Da-Yo are the recent gift of Ruth Anderson and Elizabeth Glidden.



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