

news  
from the

# Schlesinger Library

SPRING 2002

## *The Andrea Dworkin Papers*

The Library is pleased to announce the acquisition of the papers of author and social critic Andrea Dworkin, one of the most controversial and thought-provoking feminists of her generation. "If we were to have an Old Testament prophet for feminists, it would be Andrea," said Gloria Steinem, "But even that is not a good comparison, because she offers not just a voice of anger and justice, but also compassion and redemption."

Internationally renowned for her crusade to break the silence surrounding violence against women and for her critique of pornography as a civil rights violation against women, Dworkin published her first book, *Women Hating*, in 1974, when she was just 21 years old. Her 1981 book, *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, argued that "male power is the *raison d'être* of pornography; the degradation of the female is the means of achieving this power."

She is the author of over a dozen works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, including *Right Wing Women* (1983); *Intercourse* (1987); *Scapgoat: The Jews, Israel, and Women's Liberation* (2000); and her most recent book, *Heartbreak: The Political Memoir of a Feminist Militant*, published in 2002.

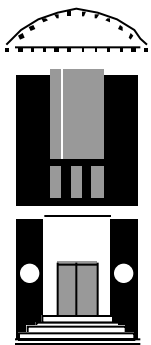
The Andrea Dworkin papers consist of 56 linear feet of material, dating from her childhood through 2000. They include personal and professional correspondence, photographs, drafts of writings, speeches and interviews, reviews, clippings, teaching materials, audio and videotapes, and transcripts and other material covering all



JOHN CAVANAGH

aspects of her career and activism. Especially well documented are the antipornography movement of the 1980s and attempts to implement anti-pornography civil rights ordinances in jurisdictions across the country.

In celebration of the arrival of the collection and the publication of *Heartbreak*, Dworkin spoke in March at Radcliffe on the current state of feminism to an audience that overflowed with both undergraduates and women involved in the Second Wave since its beginnings. Speaking movingly of the importance of repositories for women's papers, Dworkin began, "It's the truth about women that we get lost. Our work gets lost, our lives get lost.... There's nothing that has more to do with survival than a library." Once processed, this collection at this Library, which is dedicated to making certain that women do not get lost, will be of great interest to researchers looking at the profound impact Dworkin has made and continues to make on the experience of American women in the 20th and 21st centuries. ■



Radcliffe

## *From Hardtack to Home Fries*

**F**rom *Hardtack to Home Fries*, the handsome new book by Barbara Haber, the Library's curator of books, brings together her perspectives on women's history and the history of food. Using cookbooks as well as diaries, memoirs and other traditional historical sources, she describes the unique bond that has always existed between women and food and uses that connection to revisit some of the most important moments in our country's past. Food and those who prepare it provide a valuable focus for looking at

such pivotal events as the Irish exodus to America after the Great Hunger, the opening of the American West, the Great Depression and World War II, and the civil rights movement and its aftermath.

Among the memorable American women we meet in Haber's book are Asenath Nicholson, a New England vegetarian, abolitionist and self-appointed missionary to Ireland who fed the starving poor with rice and cornmeal dishes; Henrietta Nesbitt, who made dining at the FDR White House an ordeal for a dozen years; American civilian women and military nurses who were trapped in the Philippines after Pearl Harbor and learned the difficult art of POW cooking; and African-American women who became successful cooks and restaurateurs by preserving the food of their forebears and transforming it into creative new cuisines. ■



PETER URFAN

*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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### **"WOMEN AND WAR" ONLINE**

You couldn't make it to Cambridge this fall to see the moving and powerful "Women and War" exhibit mounted by photograph curator Marie-Hélène Gold? Here is a second chance in an exciting new medium. The Library is delighted to invite you to visit its first online exhibit, "Women and War." This maiden venture into the world of electronic exhibits allows us to take selected images and text from our collections, interpret them, and make them available

world-wide. The exhibit documents the involvement of women in the many facets and faces of war, from the Civil War through the Vietnam era. Launched by Joanne Donovan and Glynn Edwards of the Manuscript Department, the online exhibit features a selection of striking digitized photographs, pamphlets, and book covers, as well as excerpts from letters and diaries, arranged by topic: women in the armed forces, in war production work, nurses, aid workers, victims, and peace activists. We hope you will visit the exhibit at

<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/newsevt/exhibits/war/index.htm>.

We welcome your feedback as we launch this exciting new undertaking. ■



## Dear Friends of the Library:

It is a great pleasure to announce that Megan Sniffin-Marinoff will become the new (and first) Deputy Director of the Schlesinger Library beginning in July 2002. Megan will give direction and leadership to the Library and report to Faculty Director Nancy Cott, who also serves as professor of history in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Megan is well known to the library community in Boston and far beyond. The archivist of Simmons College and professor in the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences, she developed its archives concentration into one of the best in the nation. In that capacity, she has left her mark by training students who, as interns, peopled our libraries and now are our valued colleagues. She comes to us from MIT, where she was Head of the Institute Archives and Special Collections, with a solid reputation as a creative thinker, excellent manager, and skilled communicator. Megan is a force in the archival profession. As president of the New England Archivists, she transformed NEA into one of the strongest of the regional archival organizations. She serves on the Council of the Society of American Archivists, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives Advisory Committee, the City of Boston Archives Advisory Committee, and the International Council on Archives. With her experience at Simmons and MIT, she knows how to navigate the labyrinthine world of the academic library. Her talk to Library staff showed her grasp of the challenges and opportunities facing the special collections library today: the need to balance traditional library services with the demands of new technologies; how to serve a broad community of friends, students, and researchers; the importance of providing resources for scholarship (both intellectual and financial); and how to make wise decisions about electronic resources and access.

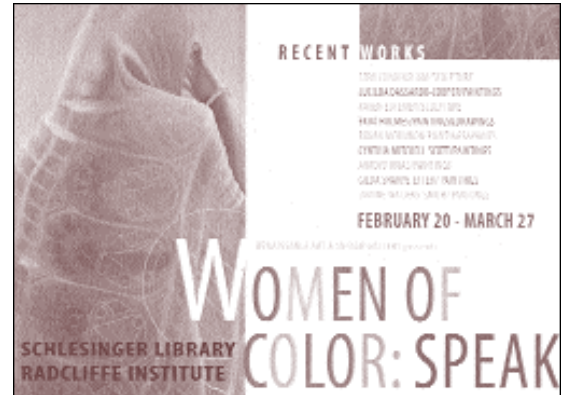
To cap it all, you will find her warm, engaging, and intelligent. So in the words of another nation's national anthem we welcome Megan "Happy and Glorious, Long to Reign Over Us....!"

Jane Knowles, Acting Director

### ★★★★ NEWS FLASH ★★★★★

Just as this issue was about to go to press, the Library received wonderful news that we couldn't wait to share. BOTH of our grant applications submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities last summer have been successful! In an extremely competitive grant cycle, the NEH awarded \$169,000 to Notable American Women, under the editorship of Susan Ware, to fund the remaining two years of that project and \$232,300 to The Second Wave: Documenting the Post-World War II Women's Movement in the United States, a two-year project to process 800 feet of the Library's most important modern collections.

## WOMEN OF COLOR: SPEAK



During February and March, the Library's fourth-floor gallery was alive with stunning recent work by women artists of color. Organized by the Renaissance Art and Design Gallery, the exhibit featured paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Fern Cunningham, Lucilda Dassardo, Karen Eutemey, Ekua Holmes, Roxan McKinnon, Cynthia Mitchell Scott, Arroyo Rivas, Gilda Sharpe-Ettech, and Dianne Walters-Smith.

### STAFF NEWS:

Ellen Shea, who brings depth of knowledge about all aspects of the Library, became head of public services in December, when Deborah Kelley-Milburn decided to return to her previous half-time position in Widener Library. Sarah Hutcheon, formerly library assistant, was promoted to reference librarian in December. Staff assistant Amanda Fischer will be leaving soon to begin graduate work at the University of Chicago.

A room at the newly renovated Harvard Divinity School Library has been named for oral history coordinator Ruth Hill and her husband, Brother Blue, in honor of their contributions to the art of storytelling. Ruth and Blue also recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the live storytelling series that they founded.

The Library is extremely grateful to its wonderful volunteers. These dedicated women, whose expertise enriches every department, are: Isabelle Bland Dry, Anne Hartmere, Bert Hartry, Barbara Kravitz, Andrea Rosenthal, Letitia Upton, Kimberly Warsett, and honorary curator Barbara Ketchum Wheaton.

# Dear Diary...



■ *Graduation photograph, Elizabeth Jamison Hodges, '31*

**I**nterest in women's "private writings"—the diaries and day books that women keep for themselves alone—is on the rise, and the Library's collections are rich with just this kind of material. The Library's 2,250+ manuscript collections include hundreds of women's diaries spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We have the diaries of sea captains' wives, suffragists, housewives, and Second Wave feminists; of women who examine their souls daily and women who record only what they ate; diaries that document the joy of first-time motherhood and diaries, which will come to us via wills, that document their author's dying.

Recent months have yielded a bumper crop of diaries. You will read elsewhere in this issue about the Cynthia Rich and Honor Moore papers, which include their diaries. In January, we acquired the diaries of Gladys Whitney Neil, born in 1896, from Pittsford, Vermont. From these four small volumes covering 1915, 1921, 1922, and 1923 we learn that Gladys was married to George, that they shared their

home with Gram and Gramp, and that Gladys earned extra money by making candy and singing. Their pages are filled with illness and chores, and, on January 10, 1921, the birth of a daughter: "Emma called George at 6 am. Dr. First came at 6:45.... Grace Whitney Neil came at 9:30 and it seemed as tho I had entered the gates of heaven.... It seems as though George really loved me."

The Radcliffe Archives recently acquired the papers of Edith Culver Hagar, Radcliffe Class of 1922, which include a long run of diaries. Hagar was born in 1901 and died in 2001, and kept a diary for 90 of her 100 years. Her girlhood was full of friends and adventures, such as an illicit canoe trip to smoke cigarettes: "We nearly had conniptions for fear somebody we knew would spin by in an auto." Hagar's diary entries from her Radcliffe years and the letters she wrote home make it possible to compare her "private writing" describing her escapades with the more circumspect accounts of the same events written for parental consumption. The Library also received the papers of another Radcliffe graduate, Elizabeth Jamison Hodges (1908-1999), Class of 1931. Hodges, a librarian, author, and creative writing teacher for 20 years at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, began the diary that she kept for the next 67 years very deliberately on May 14, 1930: "I am 21 years old. We are living at 19 Lowell Street in Cambridge."

Volumes of another diary, this one describing life on the West coast, continue to arrive. You will read more about the Florence Belson Lillibridge (1923-1999) diaries in a future issue, but the saga of how each volume makes its way to our door is a remarkable tale. Here is a teaser: all 30 volumes were written in Gregg shorthand; Don Lillibridge, Florence's husband, identified a dozen women across the country still able to transcribe Gregg shorthand and, at his own expense, farmed out the volumes; his efforts to get them all back has brought him in contact with death, drugs, private detectives, and domestic abuse. ■



■ *Edith Culver, '22 and friends during her Radcliffe days*

## Motorcycles, Pineapples, and Moore: Some Recent Acquisitions

■ *The recently acquired papers of Isabel (Dowden) Johnson Hiss (1908-2000), model, editor, and widow of Alger Hiss, have been processed with funding from her estate.*

The Library recently broke new ground when Moving Violations, a Boston-area women's motorcycle club, donated records documenting the group since its founding in 1985. Also adding to our holdings on local organizations is a new collection of detailed minute books from ladies' reading and benevolent societies beginning in 1826 and based at the Pilgrim Church in Sherborn, Mass. On a national level, questionnaires and other data compiled by Elizabethann O'Sullivan give a snapshot of issues facing rape crisis centers around the country in 1975; internationally, the records of the U.S. Committee for the U.N. Fund for Women trace its efforts to build support for the programs of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Two new collections trace the personal and professional lives of notable feminist writers (both Radcliffe graduates), Honor Moore and Cynthia Rich. Moore, a widely published poet (*Memoirs*, 1988, and *Darling*, 2001), is also the biographer of her grandmother, painter Margaret Sargent (*White Blackbird*, 1996). Her multi-generational collection includes correspondence, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, and drafts of writings. Cynthia Rich was the co-author, with her partner Barbara Macdonald, of *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism* (1983), a ground-breaking examination of ageism from a feminist perspective. The Rich-Macdonald papers detail their work for peace and social justice, and include diaries, correspondence, published and unpublished writings, photographs, and an autobiography by Macdonald with an account by Rich of the years before Macdonald's death from Alzheimer's in 2000.

The coming together of feminism and small business enterprise is highlighted in the Pineapple Papers, a collection donated by former college professors Norma J. Wikler and Ruth Dixon-Mueller, who moved to Costa Rica in 1992 to grow organic pineapples, an undertaking that eventually led to bananas, coffee, and doll-making as well. The Library's holdings on women in science are being augmented as this newsletter goes to press by the papers of Jolane Solomon, a Boston College biologist dedicated to promoting and furthering the role of women in science and research. You will learn more about the collection, Solomon, and her generous family in the fall.

While several of these collections are open to researchers, none has yet been processed and portions of some are closed or restricted, so please contact the reference department for further information. ■



MICHIKO MATSUMOTO

■ *Honor Moore*



■ *Cynthia Rich (left) and Barbara Macdonald*



## *Coming soon* TO A VENUE NEAR YOU!

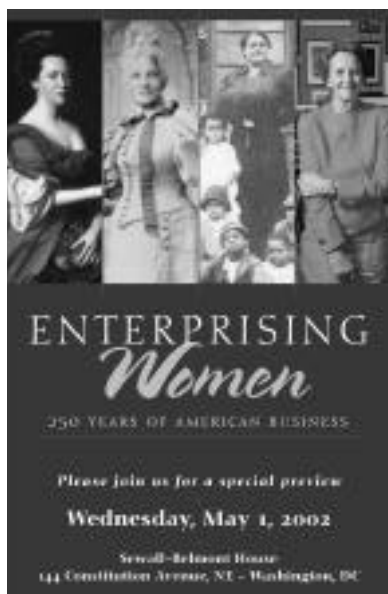
AFTER THREE AND A HALF INTENSE YEARS OF PLANNING, the exhibition, "Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business," organized by the Schlesinger Library and the National Heritage Museum, will premiere at NHM in Lexington, Mass., October 5, 2002.

The exhibition is made possible by Ford Motor Company and AT&T.

Additional support is provided by the Cabot Family Charitable Trust with in-kind support from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Watch for the exhibit at

- the New-York Historical Society (March–May 2003);
- Atlanta History Center (July–September 2003);
- the National Museum of Women in the Arts in collaboration with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C. (October–January 2004);
- The Women's Museum: an Institute for the Future, Dallas (February–May, 2004);
- Los Angeles Public Library (June–September 2004);
- and the Detroit Historical Museum (October–January 2005).



- *Read more* @ [www.enterprisingwomenexhibit.org](http://www.enterprisingwomenexhibit.org)

## *Who and How Many? Trends in Research and Researchers*

Each day we are reminded that the Library and its collections are strong magnets drawing researchers from near and far. What stands out is the diversity of their interests: in just one month, 82 separate manuscript collections were consulted. Undergraduates from Harvard and elsewhere researched the early birth control movement, mother/daughter relationships, and peace movements. One student is writing on journalist Ruth Hale; another on busing in Boston; a third on collegiate sports for women. Graduate students are writing dissertations on women's role in the founding of public libraries and the women's health movement. Scholars are writing biographies of Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Pauli Murray. A local man came in researching a book on steamships!

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective collection has been heavily used in recent months, and interest in birth control, prostitution and sexuality is strong. The Woman's Rights Collection draws numbers of researchers. Our culinary collections are popular with both scholars and local cooks. The Winnie the Welder oral history collection was recently in great demand by a seventh grade class from the Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy focusing on the first women hired as shipbuilders at the Quincy shipyards during World War II.

Yet, despite this whirl of activity, traditional user statistics are down here at the Library and at research libraries everywhere. Fewer researchers are coming into libraries, and telephone and in-person reference questions have also fallen off. Should we panic at these decreasing numbers? No, because we are confident that these statistics do not reflect a decline in interest in libraries. Instead, they reflect a shift in the way research libraries are being used.

Other numbers tell a more complete story. For instance, our e-mail reference questions increased by 50% last year. In just one month, "hits" to the Library's web page totaled 1800. Clearly, many people who once picked up the telephone to ask basic questions are now using e-mail and the web to get the information they need. And, since there is so much information available electronically, when patrons do contact us by phone or e-mail, often they have done their homework. Instead of inquiring about our hours or policies, they are asking complex questions that require increased staff time to answer.

There is no doubt that we face challenges to adjust our services to meet the needs of researchers in this new environment, but we are eager to introduce all sorts of new researchers to the Library's rich collections. We know they are out there, and we are committed to exploring new ways to reach them, even if we can't see them. ■