

news
from the

Schlesinger Library

SPRING 2003

Catching the Second Wave

*Kathryn Allamong Jacob,
Curator of Manuscripts*

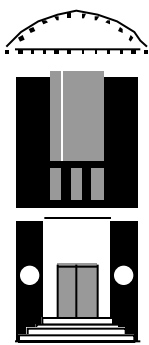
On September 3, 2002, three archivists opened the first of many, many cartons—more than 800—of unprocessed papers and records that represent some of the library’s most important 20th century collections. This task marked the beginning of a 22-month, half-million dollar project partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), officially called “The Second Wave: Documenting the Women’s Movement in the United States.”

As we stated in our grant proposal, the women’s movement that began in the 1960s—the Second Wave of activism for women’s rights—reached into every home, school, and business, every form of entertainment and sport, every corner of the nation. By 1975, there were 600 chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW). One of the liveliest chapters of the Women’s Equity Action League (WEAL) was in Iowa. Few would disagree that the changes wrought by the women’s movement left an indelible mark on women and men, girls and boys throughout America.

Any movement that changes so many lives across geography, class, and race deserves careful documentation. We are convinced that the documents in those cartons have the potential to fit important pieces into the complicated puzzle of the women’s movement. Using the criteria of research value and accessibility (the least well organized were the most likely candidates), eight collections were selected as part of the Second Wave project: Judy Chicago, Catherine East, Wilma Scott Heide, Marguerite Rawalt, the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective, NOW, NOW/Papers of Officers, and WEAL. Many more outstanding Second Wave collections could have been included. Five more collections had to be cut from the project because of NEH budget constraints, but these eight, added to the Second Wave collections that are already processed and accessible, will form a solid foundation of documentation on which to build.



■ Photographs from early NOW files



Radcliffe

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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. It is written and edited by members of the Institute staff and designed by Jean Hammond.

The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Harvard University
10 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone: 617-495-8647
Fax: 617-496-8340
e-mail: slref@radcliffe.edu
Web: <http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles>

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BARBARA HABER RETIRES AS CURATOR OF PRINTED BOOKS

Anne-Marie R. Seltzer

When Barbara Haber retired last December as the curator of printed books, she left behind a remarkable legacy of thousands of books documenting women's history and the women's movement. To show their appreciation, over 300 colleagues, library patrons, scholars, friends, and area chefs gathered in Agassiz House on January 27, 2003, for a panel discussion and reception titled "Good Taste in Books: A Celebration of the Career of Barbara Haber."

"I cannot begin to tell you what I owe Barbara Haber," said panelist Anita Diamant, who completed her biblical novel, *The Red Tent*, as a visiting scholar at the library in 1994–95. "She changed lives here, and she changed the way we understand the world. Her legacy is alive, lively, and permanent."

That legacy includes cookbooks and books on the social history of food. Haber turned the library's initial collection of 1,000 cookbooks into the foremost culinary collection in the United States. She also collected broadsides, ephemera, newsletters, pamphlets, reference books, and self-help and how-to guides relating to women.

"This was a radically different notion of what History (with a capital H) used to be, but it precisely reflected the ideas of the new wave of women's historians who set out to work at this time," said panelist Joyce Antler '79, a professor at Brandeis University. "As the library grew into new areas, it continued to be the first resort for researchers looking for specific material or a generalized overview of resources in women's history." ■



TONY RINALDO

■ Barbara Haber, center, takes a break from the festivities with friends Mary Fillmore, left, and Mary Lou Sheilds '57, right.

David Papers Acquired in Haber's Honor

In honor of Barbara Haber's wonderfully productive career, the library is acquiring the papers of eminent British food writer Elizabeth David. With this acquisition, the library will make available in one location the papers of three women deemed the leading triumvirate of English-speaking food writers: Julia Child, M.F.K. Fisher, and David. The collection contains correspondence with over 500 individuals, many of them American (including Julia Child and James Beard), early travel journals, diaries, handwritten recipe files, and business records of the Elizabeth David Shops. Together, these materials document David's long career, from her first published work, *A Book of Mediterranean Food* (1950), to her posthumously published anthology, *Is There a Nutmeg in the House?* (2000).

Gifts to honor Barbara Haber may be sent to the Barbara Haber Fund, established to support culinary and other collections. Checks should be made payable to the Radcliffe Institute and mailed to Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 10 Garden Street,





Angela Davis Delivers Rothschild Lecture

E. J. Graff

At the Kennedy School's Arco Forum, hundreds of people were still filing into the four tiers of balconies, perching on the stairs, and crowding along the walls when Schlesinger Library Director Nancy F. Cott began introducing Angela Davis on March 7. The author and social activist, currently a professor of the history of consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz, had come to Harvard to deliver the Maurine and Robert Rothschild Annual Lecture, cosponsored by the Schlesinger Library, the Harvard University Committee on Human Rights Studies, and the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute. The Rothschild lecture was established by library supporters Maurine Pupkin Rothschild '40 and her husband in 1989.

Davis first burst into public attention in 1970, when she was charged with helping incarcerated African Americans escape California's Soledad prison and was herself imprisoned for 16 months. Since then, she has held fast to the belief she presented in her lecture: the idea that prisons are a key source of—and not the solution to—American social ills.

In her talk, titled "Abolitionism and Human Rights Agendas in the United States," she called for the wholesale abolition of prisons. "During my career as an antiprison activist," she said, "I have seen the population of U.S. prisons increase with such rapidity that today in many black, Latino, and native American communities people have a far greater chance of going to prison than of getting a decent education. Are we willing to relegate ever more people from oppressed and poor communities to an isolated existence marked by disease and techniques of seclusion that produce severe mental instability?"

Davis's tremendous dignity, poise, and sense of humor held her audience as she reviewed the dramatic expansion of a "prison-industrial system" over the past 20 years, leaving no one any safer—when the real problem was global capital's flight to ever-cheaper labor markets, which deprived communities of both income and social services. "Systematic violations of human rights are bound to find a haven in prison as long as we do not challenge the existence of the institution itself," she concluded. "This is the work of twenty-first century abolitionism."

E. J. Graff, formerly an affiliated scholar at the library, is the author of *What is Marriage For? The Strange Social History of Our Most Intimate Institution* (Beacon Press, 1999).

Dear Friends of the Library:

This has been an especially busy spring at the Schlesinger Library. The air crackles with everyday discoveries—students finding sources for their papers and senior theses, researchers coming upon unanticipated documents in the archives, and manuscript processors unearthing the contents of recently acquired collections. Meanwhile, plans for the future are taking shape.

To help guide the library on a range of issues, we have established a new Schlesinger Library Council. Its members—who have expertise in corporate, nonprofit, and educational enterprises, as well as a commitment to the well-being of the Schlesinger—will be an important source of advice and support. We will seek another kind of wisdom from a second group, an academic visiting committee. This group will bring professional historians, archivists, curators, and librarians to review the Schlesinger's operations, offering impartial peer review to help us see ourselves and our challenges clearly.

We are looking forward to celebrating the Schlesinger's 60th anniversary this year with an all-day conference on October 3, 2003. "Gender, Race, and Rights in African American Women's History" will explore how the study of U.S. women's history has been shaped by the conjunction of gender and race questions. Fifteen distinguished historians from major universities will speak, highlighting black women's endeavors in areas ranging from slave politics to modern war. A preconference meeting on October 2 will feature speakers from special collections libraries and archives, addressing the challenge of collecting materials about underdocumented communities. This should be an exceptionally interesting celebration—do plan to be in Cambridge for it.

In other news, plans have begun for a major renovation of the library that will improve our heating and ventilating and security systems to protect our rare materials. With architects from Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, we intend to create new public spaces on the ground floor, restore the former Radcliffe College Library's double-height reading room above, and locate staff offices and work rooms more efficiently on the top two floors. During construction, most of the collections will remain accessible, but the library building will be closed from late December 2003 through August 2004, with our offices temporarily relocated. Look for a more detailed update in the next newsletter, as well as on our Web site.

On a personal note, I will be director-in-absentia during much of the next academic year. I have accepted the French-American Foundation Chair in American Civilization at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where I will be in residence from November 2003 through May 2004. With the aid of e-mail, I'll be overseeing the library from afar, entrusting more of the burden than usual to Deputy Director/Librarian Megan Sniffin-Marinoff and returning several times as required.

Nancy F. Cott
Director

SCHLESINGER LIBRARY 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

On October 3, 2003, the library will host an all-day conference marking its 60th anniversary. "Gender, Race, and Rights in African American Women's History" will focus on the ways that gender and race have shaped the study of U.S. women's history.

A preconference event for archivists and librarians will be offered on October 2 in conjunction with the conference.

For more information, please visit
www.radcliffe.edu/conferences/schles60
or call 617-495-8600.

LIBRARY BUILDING TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATIONS

From late December 2003 through August 2004, the library building will undergo a major renovation, but most of the collections will be accessible at a site nearby. Look for an update on these plans in the next newsletter, the *Radcliffe Quarterly*, and on the library's Web site, at www.radcliffe.edu.

Schlesinger is “Incredible” Resource for Undergraduates

Pat Harrison

When Harvard undergraduates Dustin A. Lewis '05 and Vaughn Tan '05 describe their experience using the Schlesinger Library this past year, both of them use the same word. “The library is incredible,” says Lewis, who studied the records of the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective, whose members wrote *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. “It was primary research the way I’ve never done it before,” says Tan, who used the library’s M. F. K. Fisher papers. “I found it an incredibly fulfilling experience.”



TONY RINALDO

■ Dustin A. Lewis '04-'05

Lewis found himself at the Schlesinger by chance. During the first semester of their junior year, honors students in the history department are randomly assigned to a seminar in one of the Harvard libraries. In the fall of 2002, two seminars were held in Widener, one in the Harvard archives, and, for the first time, one in the Schlesinger, where Lewis was assigned.

Lewis knew he wanted to investigate a topic that related to gender, and conversations with Schlesinger librarians led him to the papers of the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective. “This collection fit perfectly with what I was interested in,” he says. “It had a sort of gender/feminism bent to it and also had broad political and social implications for the 1960s and 1970s.” Lewis explored the dilemma the collective faced when the women had to decide whether to stay with a small publisher or have the book published by Simon & Schuster.

Tan, who hails from Singapore, is passionate about food. “If you come from Singapore, you tend to like food a lot. There are just so many possible things to eat there,” he says. He took a course in Japanese history last fall, in which he explored interactions between Japan and the United States. For his paper, he wanted to do something with food. Then he discovered that Japanese aesthetics have had a great influence on American cooking, which

led him to the Schlesinger. “I came in and talked to Barbara Haber, and she was incredibly helpful, so I just went on from there,” he says.

There’s that word again—applied to the library and its staff, though both of these students put the emphasis on people. “The library staff is by far its greatest asset,” says Lewis. “They’re the most helpful resource I’ve ever come across at Harvard, which is saying something. This was the most positive research experience I’ve ever had. It made me want to possibly pursue a career in research.” ■



TONY RINALDO

■ Vaughn Tan '05

STAFF NEWS :

This spring, Kathryn Allamong Jacob was awarded a 2003 Douglas W. Bryant Fellowship to pursue her research on Sam Ward, “King of the Lobby.” Available each year since 1974 to promote scholarly research by Harvard librarians, the fellowship is intended to provide incentive and assistance to those seeking to develop or complete projects of academic importance.

Yellow Moon Press of Somerville recently published *Abbbb! A Tribute to Brother Blue and Ruth Edmonds Hill* (2003). The book is a celebration of the lives of Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill, a.k.a. Brother Blue, the official storyteller for the cities of Boston and Cambridge, and his wife, Ruth Edmonds Hill, oral history coordinator at the library.

Megan Sniffin-Marinoff was appointed to the advisory committee on the history of physics at the American Institute of Physics, where she hopes to press for more aggressive collecting of women scientists’ papers.

The administrative staff has been reorganized, with Diane Hamer now operations coordinator, Elizabeth Kaltofen the new financial coordinator, and Maeve Strucker recently hired as staff assistant to the director and deputy director. Laurie Ellis and Jesse Vetter joined the staff as front desk staff assistants. Archivist Susan Von Salis is now associate curator of archives for the Harvard University Art Museums.

Recent Acquisitions

Anne Engelhart, Associate Curator of Manuscripts

Several new collections have arrived that significantly augment the library's holdings on modern American feminism. These include interviews that Leila J. Rupp and Verta Taylor conducted about the National Woman's Party and its efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment for their 1987 book, *Survival in the Doldrums: The American Women's Rights Movement, 1945 to the 1960s*. The interviews feature Catherine East, Mary Eastwood, Pauli Murray, and Ernestine Powell.

The papers of Kathi George, founding editor and publisher of *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, highlight the explosion of feminist analysis and writing that took place in the early 1970s. *Frontiers* published substantive articles that were accessible to nonacademic readers.

The records of *Sojourner*—a women's newspaper that was founded by feminist students and staff at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1975—document related initiatives. By 1984, *Sojourner* had reached a national audience, offering a progressive arena for critical feminist commentary, fiction and poetry, and news and reviews.

Other arrivals include the papers of Lucile Longview, an activist with the National Organization for Women and the Older Women's League, and Joan Harriman, who has given the start of a collection about Catholics for A Free Choice. ■



■ Singer, songwriter, and activist Alix Dobkin has donated a collection that includes t-shirts, buttons, and audiotapes, as well as fan mail and personal and professional correspondence.

■ Also recently arrived are the papers of Christiana Councilman Morgan, lay analyst, research associate, and coauthor with Harvard professor Henry A. Murray of early personality theory and the Thematic Apperception Test. The photograph at left shows Christiana and William Morgan in 1917, at the time of their engagement and shortly before his departure for the European front.



NATIONAL TOURING EXHIBITION

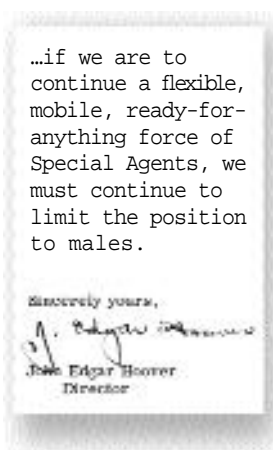
Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business was organized by the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Massachusetts, and made possible by the generous support of Ford Motor Company and AT&T.

- Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia, Friday, July 4–Sunday, September 21
- National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C., Friday, October 24–Sunday, February 29, 2004 (in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History)

SCHLESINGER LIBRARY EXHIBITION

- Joint Exhibition: *Cenotes of the Mind* and *Black and White with Color*, May 26–July 25, 2003
Two exhibitions, by artist Fiona Doetsch RI '03 and printmaker Roberta Delaney, feature microphotographs of brain neurons, and prints and collages, respectively.

Second Wave, continued from page 1



to resurface in November with this extremely important Second Wave collection completely processed.

We are grateful to NEH for making this work possible, thrilled with our progress thus far, and eager to tell you more as the Second Wave project crests. ■

Nine months into the project, results are already impressive. Lead project archivist Katherine Kraft has completed work on the papers of Catherine East, whom Betty Friedan called the “midwife to the birth of the women’s movement.” Cheryl Beredo wrapped up processing for Marguerite Rawalt’s large collection. Although she was well organized, Rawalt used thousands of straight pins (now rusting) as paper clips. Johanna Carll tackled the collections of 17 NOW officers and found several photographs of the meeting convening NOW and a letter from J. Edgar Hoover explaining why women could not be FBI agents. All three archivists plunged into the massive NOW records in February and hope