

## Special Women's Collections in United States Libraries

THE FOLLOWING LIST of special collections of materials by and about women and their activities was made possible by the kind and ready cooperation of many librarians. Particular acknowledgement of gratitude goes to the staff of the Women's Archives at Radcliffe College. Their helpful assistance in making the resources of that splendid library available materially furthered this project. When possible, the libraries concerned were visited and the content of individual collections observed at first hand.

The aim of the list is to give location and description of separate collections only. No attempt is made to present information concerning the many strong holdings on women which are an integral part of numerous libraries, except in a few cases where a specially collected group of books on women has been incorporated directly into the general collection as a matter of library policy. All listings, with these exceptions, are for specific materials separated from the larger holdings of a library, or for those which constitute a special library in their own right. Collections both large and small have been included. Although many significant letters, manuscripts, and papers were located, it has seemed best to limit this list to collections containing published volumes. Alumnae collections found throughout the country in women's colleges have also been omitted.

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When the collections are viewed as a whole and the source materials they offer are considered, a number of observations may be made: (1) The several collections specifically on feminism and leaders of the feminist movement, together with books on feminism in some of the large collections on the history of women, present comprehensive and adequate coverage on that subject. (2) A few collections, assembled in the 1890's and early 1900's, though not now active, have real historical significance. (3) Several excellent collections of books, files of papers, letters, journals, etc., offer scholars extensive and invaluable source material on the history of women, their contribution, collective or individual, to the social, political, and intellectual problems of their times. The two outstanding libraries of this nature are the Women's Archives at Radcliffe College and the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College. (4) Although some notable separate collections on individual women exist, they are not as numerous as would be expected, and materials on individual authors of note have been neglected. True, much valuable material by and about individual women may be found in the large collections on the history of women, in numerous college alumnae sections, and in holdings of countless general libraries. If, however, the publications by and about the individual authors not represented elsewhere were assembled, they would take on significance by presenting and preserving in one group the achievements of the author. Such groups of books, also, would become most valuable when developed to

include personal letters and papers. (5) Comparatively few books by and about women have been assembled on a regional basis. (6) Other than in religion and medicine, no collections on women in the professions were located. (7) Bibliographical data are available for only a few collections. When such lists do exist, however, they are excellent.

#### INDIVIDUAL

**JANE ADDAMS.** Jane Addams Collection. Swarthmore College Peace Collection, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

This collection, a memorial to Miss Addams, includes all her published writings, extensive correspondence, and a large collection of her personal peace records. The largest collection of Jane Addams papers in existence.

**ANNE OF BRITTANY.** The Anne of Brittany Collection. Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

This collection contains about fifteen hundred books and manuscripts, including numerous biographies, references to Anne in histories of her time, and related materials. First editions, fine bindings, as well as modern trade editions are included. Material ranges from stories of romance to thoughtful analysis of Anne of Brittany, the politician and stateswoman. Several "museum books" on the practice of medicine during this period are included, along with examples of fine binding and printing of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century France. Material is still being collected. A descriptive folder of the collection was issued in 1951.

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY.** The Susan B. Anthony Collection. Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, California.

This is a varied collection of approximately seventy-five volumes, part of the material previously collected by the Susan B. Anthony Committee. It includes any book which mentions Miss Anthony or the suf-

frage movement during the period when she was active. Letters, manuscripts, pamphlets, and related materials collected by the Susan B. Anthony Committee have been released to the Henry E. Huntington Library.

**MARIE BASHKIRSCHEFF.** Wilson College Library, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Books by and about the author, letters, pictures, and copies of her *Journal* in all languages to which it has been translated. About seventy-five items.

**HALLIE QUINN BROWN.** Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio.

Memorial collection of the books, letters and papers of Hallie Q. Brown, Negro author and elocutionist of the early twentieth century.

**ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.** Browning Collection. Scripps College Library, Claremont, California.

This collection of books, papers, and manuscripts by and about the Brownings and Browning source materials was started in 1944 with a gift of its library by the Pacific Coast Browning Foundation. Of the five hundred books in the collection, some one hundred and twenty-five are by or about Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Photographs, clippings covering the Brownings, association items, etc. are included. At present concentration is being placed on acquiring manuscripts of original letters to the Brownings, manuscripts of their original works, and association items. Continuous exhibits of material from the collection are featured in the room which houses the collection. "Browning Day" is celebrated annually.

**WILLA CATHER.** Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Library, Red Cloud, Nebraska.

This organization, started in 1955, aims to develop a permanent art, literary, and historical collection relating to the life, times, and work of Miss Cather. It now contains books, photostat copies of early magazine stories, letters, photographs, and many clippings about her life and work. It will also contain background literature she herself read.

**EMILY DICKINSON.** Jones Library, Amherst, Massachusetts.

This collection presents a practically complete chronological record of the published works of Emily Dickinson. Starting with the first published poems, printed anonymously in an anthology, it contains all editions and all printings of all editions of Miss Dickinson's poems, all anthologies in which her poems have appeared, all foreign editions and translations. Braille editions are also included. A complete series of editions and printings of her letters have been similarly assembled. The collection includes biographies of Emily Dickinson as well as books which contain critical material, chapters, or poems about her. Also, all plays and novels in which she appears as a character are collected. As an accompaniment to this, there is an extensive file on newspapers and periodicals in which her poems first appeared, as well as articles of criticism, etc.

A group of about thirty graduate theses on Emily Dickinson is included, also a file of sheet music when her poems have been used as songs. The collection is now being expanded by adding the books whose titles Miss Dickinson mentions in her writings. The collection is fully cataloged and indexed. It forms an interesting addition of the Emily Dickinson manuscript material at Amherst College and Harvard.

**ALICE MORSE EARLE.** Alice Morse Earle Collection. Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York.

Collection of seventeen first editions of Mrs. Earle's works.

**LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY.** Louise Imogen Guiney Collection. Dinand Library, Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts.

About sixty volumes by and about Miss Guiney, poet and essayist, including all but one of her books (a small privately printed edition), books edited and translated by her, scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, twenty-five manuscripts, and some six hundred and eighty letters written by Miss Guiney. Housed in a memorial room.

**SARAH ORNE JEWETT.** Sarah Orne Jewett Collection. Colby College, Waterville, Maine.

It is planned to make this collection of books by and about Miss Jewett as exhaustive as possible. It contains about eight hundred books, seventy magazine articles, various clippings, and four original manuscripts. Variant editions of Miss Jewett's books are included.

**JOAN OF ARC.** The Joan of Arc Collection. Monsignor Joseph M. Gleason Library, San Francisco College for Women, San Francisco, California.

Approximately one hundred books, and a few pamphlets and clippings, about Joan of Arc collected during Monsignor Gleason's lifetime. Started about 1892. Material occasionally added.

**ALICE MEYNELL.** Alice Meynell Collection. Boston University Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

Started in 1946, this collection contains all first editions of Mrs. Meynell's publication, a section of volumes containing notable and significant criticisms of the work, a complete collection of books to which she contributed prefaces or introductions, and a complete set of her translations from Latin, French, Italian. Mrs. Meynell's uncollected contributions, prose and poetry, are nearly complete. Material about Alice Meynell is also being collected. The books number to date about two hundred fifty. There are a few letters and manuscripts in the collection. This library contains the only oil portrait of Alice Meynell, done by the late Earl of Lytton.

**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.** Florence Nightingale Collection. Department of Nursing, Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, New York.

Writings of Florence Nightingale, her notes on nursing, addresses to her nurses, biographies, memorial tributes, pictures, etc., and over three hundred of her letters (1838-1856). Catalog of the collection published in 1956.

**GENEVIEVE TAGGARD-EMILY DICKINSON.**  
Genevieve Taggard-Emily Dickinson Collection. Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York.

This collection numbering about ninety books and thirty pamphlets was started in 1955. It contains chiefly the background material used by Miss Taggard when she wrote *The Life and Mind of Emily Dickinson* in 1930. Also included are drafts of two of her books, never completed. To this material from the Taggard estate have been added volumes of criticism and various editions of these two authors. The collection is kept up to date with current books of this nature.

**IDA M. TARBELL.** Ida M. Tarbell Collection. Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania.

About eight thousand items consisting of Miss Tarbell's business and personal letters, letters written to her, many of them from prominent people, manuscripts, pamphlets, etc. Miss Tarbell's personal library is also included.

The Allegheny Library also owns The Ida M. Tarbell Lincoln Collection. Items particularly pertaining to Miss Tarbell include her working library on Lincoln, letters written to and by her about Lincoln, and first editions of her books on Lincoln.

**FRANCES E. WILLARD.** The Frances E. Willard Memorial Library for Alcoholic Research, National W.C.T.U. Headquarters, 1740 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.

Collection of letters, biographies, original editions of Miss Willard's works, much of her private library, scrapbooks, etc. "Material in fragile condition."

#### COLLECTIVE

**FEMINIST MOVEMENT.** Woman's Rights Collection. Women's Archives, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The purpose of this extensive and valuable collection, opened in 1943, is two-fold: "First, to arouse greater appreciation

and use of present opportunities for women by spreading knowledge of the efforts and sacrifices required to secure them; second, to supply factual information on special subjects for students of history, government, education and economics." The material, housed in a beautiful fire-proof room in Longfellow Hall, consists of books, magazine articles, files of periodicals, reports of women's organizations, letters, speeches, biographical data, pictures, and press clippings. The nucleus of the collection came from the files of Maud Wood Park. Its donors now number scores who have been interested in and have made contributions to the woman movement. A *Guide to the Woman's Rights Collection* was published by Radcliffe College in 1943.

**Frances Bayard Hilles Library,** National Women's Party, 144 Constitution Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C.

This collection of several thousand books on the history of the development of the woman movement contains material on woman suffrage, the equal rights movement, biographies, a large number of manuscripts, letters, bound clippings, leaflets, bulletins, periodicals, autographed photographs, etc. The nucleus of the collection came from the private library of Alva Belmont, her journal relating to suffrage and equal rights being the most valuable item.

**GEORGIA AUTHORS.** Georgia Women Authors Collection. Georgia State College for Women, Milledgeville, Georgia.

Women born in Georgia, who claim it as their native state, and women who have lived there for at least five years and have done their writing in Georgia, are included in the collection. Approximately two hundred books, two hundred forty letters, two hundred manuscripts, and several hundred clippings, pamphlets, etc., represent the work of more than three hundred authors. Started in 1947, material is still being added.

**HISTORY OF WOMEN.** The Ida Rust Macpherson Collection. Scripps College, Claremont, California.

A special collection of books by and about women, started in 1936 with the gift of

money and books by Mrs. James Grant Macpherson. Consists of four main fields of concentration: emancipation and reform, before Plato to the present; pioneer women of the west; humanist tradition (women in literature, religion, social reform, science, education, art, etc.); domestic history (etiquette, manners, etc.). It contains some fifteen hundred books, about six hundred costume plates, and some valuable manuscripts and letters. An interesting feature is a file of tape-recorded interviews with outstanding women in Southern California. Description of this collection and lists of holdings have been published by Scripps College Library.

**American Woman's Collection. Connecticut College Library, New London, Connecticut.**

A collection of about five hundred books, numerous letters, papers, manuscripts, etc. on all aspects of woman's contributions to American life and her activities therein. Although in no way limited, special emphasis is given to books by and about Connecticut women, and much valuable material on this subject may be found here.

**Biblioteca Femina. Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois.**

The nucleus of this collection was two thousand books assembled for the International Book Exhibit as part of the program of the Congress of Women, held in Chicago, July 1933, and deposited at Northwestern that year. To these books was later added, by transfer from the Chicago Public Library, a large group originally assembled by the International Council of Women for the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893. The aim of the collection was to make it a compendium showing the progress of women in all countries and in all fields of endeavor. A wide variety of subjects is covered, ranging from the feminist movement to religion and philosophy, from science to art. Thirty-eight countries are represented. Many of the books in foreign languages are rarely found in American libraries. The chief significance of this collection today is historical, as it has been impossible and impractical to keep it up to date. A checklist of the contents

of the collection has been compiled by Northwestern.

**Gerritsen Collection of "La Femme et la Feminisme." University of Kansas Library, Lawrence, Kansas.**

About two thousand items in this collection on the social and political history of women were formerly part of the library of Mr. Carel V. Gerritsen, of Amsterdam. It was acquired by the John Crerar Library in 1904 and valuable additions were made over a period of fifty years. In 1954 the entire collection, now numbering some four thousand books, pamphlets, and periodicals, was purchased by the Kansas University Library for the use of students on its campus. The collection includes materials on all phases of women's activities, past and present, particularly material related to their social, economic, and political struggles. It contains many rare and early editions, as well as runs of unusual women's magazines and reports of national and international women's organizations. One of the most extensive collections of the kind in this country.

**Alma Lutz Collection (private). 22 River Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.**

"Collection of about one thousand books on women and their contribution to civilization, and of several hundred letters. Included are books dealing with women's role in American history, and their educational, political and economic advancement."

**Galatea Collection. Boston Public Library, Boston, Massachusetts.**

Approximately five thousand volumes relating to the history of women. The original collection of some one thousand volumes, collected over a period of fifty years, was presented to the library by Thomas Wentworth Higginson in 1896. It includes books in a variety of languages, many of them "rare and curious," and of wide subject range—individual and collective biography, health and hygiene, education, occupations, women in literature, etc. A catalog of the collection was published in 1898. Books are being currently added, as funds permit.

**Women's Archives. Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.**

The purpose and function of this collection is to increase understanding of the social and historical contributions made by women to American life, past and present, and to indicate what may be their responsibility for the future. Some five thousand published volumes and very extensive files of papers, letters, manuscripts, photographs, autographs, etc., provide the student and scholar with a rich assortment of materials on all fields which touch women's interests. "Inconspicuous as well as famous persons are included, individuals and groups alike are represented." Valuable papers and letters of individuals and organizations are constantly being added. The collection, housed in an attractive room in Longfellow Hall, is thoroughly cataloged, and the staff has compiled an excellent and useful union catalog of women's manuscripts located elsewhere than at Radcliffe. A brochure giving information about the collection, its development and recent acquisitions, is issued annually.

**Sophia Smith Collection. Smith College, Southampton, Massachusetts.**

This rich and rapidly growing collection of over five hundred thousand items consists of books, manuscripts, diaries, pamphlets, and other materials relating to the social and intellectual history of women, together with complete files of papers, correspondence, etc., of many prominent individuals. The strongest and largest international collection on women in existence, it presents rare and valuable source material on every activity of women "through the ages of recorded time and around the world." Contemporary items from foreign countries are constantly being added. Except for publications of exceptional value, the collection is not physically separated from the other holdings of the general library of Smith College, as its stated purpose is "to bring to light the contributions of women to the society of men and women . . . as part of the record of mankind." A special analytical subject catalog serves as a complete guide to the various holdings in this selective field. Through extensive exhibits, publicity, etc.,

the staff do much to induce use of the collection by college students. It is also open to scholars engaged in research in this and related fields. Plans are underway for the publication of a series of monographs on the collection.

**Collection on Women. Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts.**

This group of about three hundred volumes consists primarily of books on the education and development of women. Material on etiquette, fashions, the suffrage movement, are included. Books date back to the turn of the century and current volumes on the subject are being added as funds permit.

**Miriam Y. Holden Collection (private).  
57 East 78th Street, New York, New York.**

"A collection of more than two thousand books dealing with women's achievements and their contribution to social history, their lives, ideas, interests and activities, political, legal and economic through the ages." Books are available to research workers.

**Schwemmer-Lloyd Collection. New York Public Library, New York, New York.**

About three thousands items collected by Madame Rosika Schwemmer and Mrs. Lola Maverick Lloyd. It includes materials on woman's work and activities, the change in her position, her efforts to achieve security, and the feminist movement in foreign countries, as well as fields of social activity which affected women. Special areas of personal interest to the two women who collected the books are also included—world peace, housing, medicine, etc. Extensive files of correspondence of Madame Schwemmer and Mrs. Lloyd are in the collection. Acquired through gifts in 1940, the collection is in the process of being cataloged.

**The Woman's Collection. Woman's College Library, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina.**

This library has been gathering special printed materials in all areas pertaining to women since 1937. Most of the items are

classified with the regular library holdings and made available as a subject group through the library catalog and annotated bibliographies which are issued yearly and cumulated at five year intervals. Books published before 1900 (about eight hundred volumes) are set aside as a special collection for historical purposes to be used for research and exhibition. Printed bibliographies of the collection have been issued since 1938.

**Charles Chauncey Mellor Collection.  
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh,  
Pennsylvania.**

This collection was established through a bequest in 1909 from Mr. Charles Chauncey Mellor. The bequest stated that the collection should contain books which relate to woman, "considered physically, intellectually, and historically; to what has been her position from the most primitive times to the present; to her work and influence in the evolution and development of the race, and of its industries, arts, and history; to what she is now doing on the same lines, and what she could and would do if allowed by men, and a portion of her own sex; to equality, especially to her right of suffrage." The collection contains about seventeen hundred volumes. It includes material on women from primitive times to the present, with an emphasis on the history of women in the United States. Books in foreign languages are also included. It is not separated from the other holdings of the Carnegie Library, a memorial bookplate being the only designation. Income from the bequest perpetuates the collection.

**Women's Collection. Texas State College  
for Women, Denton, Texas.**

Originally started with no geographical or chronological limits, this collection is now loosely limited to women in the United States who have had a significant part in the development of American civilization—in education, the arts, politics, social welfare, etc. Started in 1932, it contains approximately twenty-five hundred books. About two hundred women are represented.

**NEGRO WOMEN. The Afro-American**

**Woman's Collection. Bennett College  
Library, Greensboro, North Carolina.**

This collection includes materials by and about Negro women, chiefly American, of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. All areas of the achievement are included and about two hundred authors represented. It contains approximately three hundred twenty-five books, four hundred mounted clippings, and a few letters. Started in 1946, it is being kept up to date as new publications appear.

**VIRGINIA AUTHORS. Collections of Writings by Virginia Women. Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia.**

This collection of books by women born in Virginia, or so closely associated with the state that they have become identified with it, aims to assemble everything published by a Virginia woman. Imprints date from 1825 to the present, and the collection is constantly being expanded. It presents a cross-section of the thinking, the social and political activities of these women, and furnishes examples of the varied subjects in which each has been interested. "Literary worth" as such, has been disregarded. The collection numbers about thirteen hundred volumes, representing the work of approximately five hundred women. A few manuscripts are included.

**WOMEN AND THE CHURCH. Alma Lutz  
Collection on the Church and Women.  
Zion Research Library, 120 Seaver  
Street, Brookline 46, Massachusetts.**

This Protestant, non-sectarian library for the study of the Bible and the history of the Christian Church is developing a special collection of books on the role of women in the church and the history and growth of their work therein. It contains memoirs of women in the ministry, early sermons delivered to "female" schools and church groups, etc., as well as material on activities of the present day. There are about one hundred books and pamphlets to date.

**WOMEN IN MEDICINE. Elizabeth Bass Collection on Women in Medicine. Ru-**

dolph Matas Medical Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Collection of material about women in the field of medicine, the history of their growth in the profession and material about individual women physicians. It contains some five hundred books and one thousand folders containing letters, biographical clippings, portraits, etc., relating to individual women physicians. An index is also available for all news items about women in medicine which have appeared in journals published by and for women physicians.

Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

This collection consists of approximately five hundred books, two hundred manuscripts and one hundred fifty letters pertaining to the history of women physicians. It is not housed separately but shelved with other materials in this medical college library. As soon as possible, a large collection of books, reprints, clippings, etc., assembled by Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen during her lifetime, will be added.

## Buildings and Equipment Institute

Plans for four new college and research libraries will be presented and discussed at the Saturday, June 20, meetings of the Buildings and Equipment Institute to be held June 18-20 at the McKeldin Library of the University of Maryland. The libraries discussed will be those of the United States Air Force Academy, Colo.; Saint Vincent College and Archabbey, Latrobe, Penna.; Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland; and Trinity College, Washington, D.C. Registrants at the Institute will, of course, have opportunities to see the new library of the University of Maryland in operation.

Edwin T. Coman, Jr., librarian of the University of California at Riverside, will preside at the Saturday meetings of college and university librarians. Lt. Col. George V. Fagan, director of the Air Force Academy Library, will present the plans for the new building there. Donald C. Davidson, librarian of Santa Barbara College of the University of California, will criticize them. The Saint Vincent plans will be presented by the Rev. Finton R. Shoniker, librarian, and criticized by James D. Mack, librarian of Lehigh University. Mary F. Pinches, librarian of Case Institute, will present the plans for the library there. They will be criticized by H. Dean Stallings, librarian of the North Dakota Agricultural College. Sister Helen, librarian at Trinity College, will present the plans for Trinity. Their critic will be Dorothy W. Reeder, librarian of Maryland State Teachers College, Towson.

The general programs of the Institute are designed to be helpful to all librarians working toward new buildings. At its first meeting (Thursday evening, June 18) the Institute members will hear a talk by Dean Paul Schweiber, School of Architecture of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, on "Problems of Contemporary Planning." A Friday afternoon panel on "Equipment Evaluation and Specification Writing" should prove of special interest and usefulness. Representatives of business firms will discuss such pertinent topics as "Equipment Lay-Out Plans and Library Interiors," "Resilient Floorings for Library Buildings," "Library Lighting," and "Heating and Ventilating."

There will be wide opportunity for full and general exchange of information on library plans. The Institute will show an extensive selection of actual plans, drawings, and views of recently completed buildings and those now being constructed. A detailed program appears in the May issue of the *ALA Bulletin*.