

WOMEN at the CENTER

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library

Issue 13, Spring 2008

The Bingham Center Turns 20

The Sallie Bingham Center was established in 1988 with a single staff member. Now in its 20th year of operation, the Center has grown to a staff of three professional archivists, a graduate intern, and a steady flow of volunteers.

During our first two decades, we have acquired, processed, cataloged, and connected researchers to thousands of linear feet of materials; staged half a dozen dramatic readings based on our diverse collections;



Sallie Bingham will do a reading at the anniversary celebration

organized three symposia; and offered countless other public programs here at Duke and around the country. Because we owe our success to the many friends and supporters of the Center, we are currently planning a special public event, to be held this fall, to celebrate our full and formative first 20 years.

In late October we will host a gathering in Perkins Library on Duke's West Campus to observe this milestone in our history.

(Continued on page 3)

My Life in Zines

Our eight years of collecting zines produced by women and girls has taught us and our researchers a great deal about zines in an academic sense, particularly the significant role that they played in the emergence of riot grrrl culture and third wave feminism in the 1990s.

On March 26th, the Bingham Center invited an audience to consider zines from a different perspective, as "My Life in Zines" presented stories from zine writers, collectors, and researchers about the influence that zines have had in their lives.

The program was inspired by a conversation with one of our newest zine donors, Jaime Danehey. Jaime recently came to visit the staff of the Bingham Center to share her zine collection,

including nineteen issues of "The Daily The," which she and her sister started as a family newsletter in the early 1990s and still produce today. She grew up in a small town outside Omaha, Nebraska, and used the publication as a connection to the broader zine community, as well as a fun way to communicate with her family.

The trio of panelists included Danehey; Alexis Gumbs, a Duke Ph.D. student in English, who uses the zine collections in teaching undergraduates; and Amy Mariaskin, a Ph.D. student in Clinical Psychology, who donated her zine collection to the Bingham Center in 2006. Danehey and Gumbs were also interviewed about their involvement with zines on *The State of Things*, a program

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

20th Anniversary Celebration	1
My Life in Zines	1
Hands-on Learning in the Classroom	2
New Acquisitions	2-3
Mary Lily Research Grants Awarded	3
Online Exhibits and New Email List	4

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/ingham>

SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY AND CULTURE

New Acquisitions

Jessie Vanderbilt Simons Papers

The life of Jessie Vanderbilt Simons has been documented through letters, scrapbooks, photographs, and other manuscript materials. However, the most fascinating piece of this collection consists of 29 diaries, covering the years 1870-1935. Regular daily entries cover details of Simons's family life, her numerous trips overseas, and her active participation in the Richmond County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Women's Motor Corps. Her lengthy friendship with noted New York photographer Alice Austen is also documented.

Lisa Garmon Papers

Carrboro, NC, activist and writer Lisa Garmon recently passed away, and her papers have been donated to the Bingham Center. This collection includes personal correspondence; files related to the publication of *HA!*, a feminist zine; and her collection of local zines.

Hands-on Learning in the Classroom

Every semester, Bingham Center staff introduce our diverse collections to undergraduate students in a range of disciplines such as art, history, cultural anthropology, and women's studies. Whether students are planning research papers or looking for inspiration from our artists' books or zines, they get hands-on experience working with primary source materials.

Students in Bill Fick's visual arts course, "Art of Zines and Comic Books," spent one class session in the Rare Book Room exploring materials from the Murray Comic Book Collection and our women's zines collections. The following week, we traveled to their classroom to conduct a zine-making workshop. In Caroline Light's women's studies course, "Sex and the Global Citizen," students used pamphlets, zines, and other ephemeral publications by women of color to explore issues of sexuality, citizenship, and power dynamics. Students in a research seminar on women and the military reviewed examples of World War II-era girls' literature, etiquette manuals for Army wives and servicemen, letters



Students create collages during a zine workshop for a class on Zines and Comics Books

between wives and husbands serving abroad, and posters recruiting women for army service.

Our instruction isn't limited to Duke courses: this past year we hosted art students from Meredith College and UNC-Chapel Hill who were studying and creating artists' books.

If you are an instructor at a local school or community group, please contact us to learn more about incorporating our women's history collections into your classroom instruction (cwhc@duke.edu).

My Life in Zines *(continued from page 1)*

broadcast on NPR affiliate WUNC.

Over 30 people attended the zine event, including two former zinesters who came from Greensboro after hearing the radio program. Panelists and audience members told stories of their first encounters as well as current relationships with zines. One attendee spoke about how he translated the design and layout skills he gained from making zines into publishing newsletters for his union. Rachel Hoff shared how she was almost expelled from high school for distributing her zine "Intelligence Lull," but her parents defended her right to free speech.

A companion zine created for this event features contributions and zine excerpts from 17 zine writers and collectors



from across the country, including an excerpt from Sarah Dyer's "Brief History of My Life in Zines" (the source of our title) and a story from Ayun Halliday of "The East Village Inky." If you would like a copy of "My Life in Zines," send your mailing address to cwhc@duke.edu.

Listen to The State of Things Interview
<http://wunc.org/tsot/archive>

2008-2009 Mary Lily Research Grants Announced

The Bingham Center is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Mary Lily Research Grants. These grants allow scholars to travel to Durham to conduct research using the Bingham Center's collection.

Agatha Beins, Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, for dissertation research on the role of feminist newsletters and newspapers in unifying and galvanizing the feminist movement of the 1970s.

Lindsey Churchill, History, Florida State University, for dissertation research on the intersections, as well as the points of contention, between U.S. radicals and Latin American revolutionaries in the 1960s-80s.

Breanne Fahs, Women's Studies, Arizona State University, for research on early radical feminism and underground feminist publishing for a book documenting the life of radical feminist Valerie Solanas.

Jennifer Gilley, University Libraries, Pennsylvania State University, for research for a book chronicling both the history of U.S. feminist presses and the publication history of "feminist best-sellers," including Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics*, Robin Morgan's anthology *Sisterhood is Powerful*, and Alix Kates Shulman's

Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen.

Margaret Henderson, Arts Ipswich Program, University of Queensland, Australia, for research for a book on Kathy Acker's work in relation to feminist and postmodern theories of literature, culture, and capitalism.

Emily Hoeflinger, English, Texas A&M University, for dissertation research on the existence of a third wave terminology in zines and the impact of these texts upon other literary genres, particularly chick lit and women's experimental writing of the 1960s-90s.

Ronald D. Lankford, independent scholar, for research on a book-length study of feminist issues in the music of women singer-songwriters in rock during the 1990s.

Jessica Lee, History, University of Washington, for dissertation research on the intricate relationship between the development of radical feminism and women's involvement in higher education.

Olga Trokhimenko, Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, for research for a book on the cultural meanings of women's laughter and smiling in medieval German tradition.

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/ingham/grants>

20th Anniversary (continued from page 1)

The event, which will be free and open to the public, will begin with an invocation by Reverend Jeanette Stokes, director of the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South. The program will feature two talks separated by a reception. One of the speakers will be award-winning poet, scholar, and activist Minnie Bruce Pratt, whose papers we have recently acquired.

In keeping with our tradition of pre-

senting a program of dramatic readings in even-numbered years, the event will also include readings of materials in our collections. Our time together will provide opportunities for reminiscing, reflecting, and chatting with old friends. We invite you to join us in commemorating our first two decades of preserving and promoting five centuries of women's history.

Date and schedule to be announced on our website later this Spring!

New Acquisitions

Artists' Books by Women

The Veil by Julie Chen

Jewelry Box by Laurie Corral

Marriage Matters by Cheri Gaulke and Sue Maberry

I Can Make You Love Me by Kathryn Immonen

Shame by Susan Leeb

Soap Story by Angela Lorenz

A Good Wife Wouldn't and Penelope's Apron by Lise Melhorn-Boe

Promise Not to Tell by Bisa Washington

Bettye Lane Photographs

Prolific photojournalist Bettye Lane has made 800 well-indexed photographic prints available to the Bingham Center to enhance our collections documenting many facets of the U.S. women's movement. Her pictures were often featured in *Ms.* and other magazines and have been included in 70 books and 64 films.

DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Sallie Bingham Center for
Women's History and Culture

Rare Book, Manuscript, and
Special Collections Library

Box 90185
Duke University
Durham, NC 27708-0185

Laura Micham, Director

Kelly Wooten, Research Services and
Collection Development Librarian

Jodi Berkowitz, Technical Services Archivist

Phone: 919-660-5967

Fax: 919-660-5934

Email: cwhc@duke.edu

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/>

Neither Model Nor Muse Exhibits Now Online



Lace pattern from Sarah E. Goodwin's
commonplace book

Highlights from exhibits created for the “Neither Model Nor Muse” symposium on women and artistic expression, “**The Feminist Art Movement, 1960s-1980s**” and “**Stretching the Canvas: Women Explore the Arts**,” may now be viewed in an online exhibit featured on the Libraries’ new digital collections page. “Stretching the Canvas” will remain on display in Perkins Library’s Old Perk Gallery on the 2nd floor through the end of May 2008.

library.duke.edu/exhibits/modelnormuse

Stay in the Know with Email Updates from the Bingham Center

Our newsletter comes out only twice a year, but we want you to keep up with all our happenings. To subscribe to the Bingham Center's email list and be the first to hear about events and news, you can visit the list's home page at <https://lists.duke.edu/sympa/info/binghamcenter>, or send an email message to sympa@duke.edu with the subject “SUBSCRIBE BINGHAM-CENTER.” If you have any problems subscribing yourself to the list, please email BINGHAM-CENTER-request@duke.edu.