

New Acquisitions

18th and 19th c. Fiction by British Women



Amy Levy



Eliza Lynn Linton

The collection comprises 130 titles, most of which are not available in digital form. It includes many of the 3- and 4- volume novels typical of the period, spans a broad range of literary genres, and includes works by Mary Braddon, Amy Levy, Eliza Lynn Linton, Mary Shelley, and many others. Many of the volumes, "silver-fork" novels, or novels of fashionable highlife, were central in establishing the triple-decker as an institution in Victorian culture.

Conference Talks Around the Country

This past year, Bingham Center staff members have given talks at a number of conferences across the United States. In May, Laura Micham and Jodi Berkowitz presented on a panel at the second GLBT Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Special Collections conference in New York. During the panel "Less Process/Less Privacy? Implications of Minimal Processing for GLBT Collections," Laura and Jodi gave their perspectives as collector and processor, respectively. Minnie Bruce Pratt, who placed her papers at the Bingham Center, and Heather Murray, a past Mary Lily grant recipient and lecturer at the University of Ottawa, also spoke.

At the Society of American Archivists meeting in San Francisco this August, Kelly Wooten presented a talk on documenting the third wave of feminism. The panel "Documenting a Revolution: Second Wave Feminism and Beyond!" also included Kathryn Jacob, who spoke about acquiring the papers of 20th- and 21st-century feminists at Harvard's Schlesinger Library, and Glenna Matthews, a historian at the University of California at Berkeley, who discussed her own women's history



Kathryn Jacob, Danelle Moon, Glenna Matthews, and Kelly Wooten at the SAA annual meeting

research. Kelly was also elected as co-chair of the Women's Collections Roundtable.

In October, Kelly Wooten attended a Southern Connecticut State University conference on "Girls' Culture & Girls' Studies: Surviving, Reviving, Celebrating Girlhood." She participated in a panel called "Grrrls in the Library: Documenting Third Wave Feminist Activism through Zines" with Jenna Freedman, Barnard College zine librarian, and Kate Eichhorn, assistant professor at The New School of Eugene Lang College.

Primary Documents in the Classroom *(continued from page 1)*

obvious match for the Bingham Center's rich collections documenting the history of feminist theory and activism. We introduced the Bingham Center by taking a slideshow to their classroom. Later the class came to Perkins Library to work with materials first hand.

Professor Eagle writes of this experience, "Engagement with primary sources brings depth and texture to students' inquiry into the history of feminism, animating their critical analysis both of this history and of the secondary source material which documents it. The passions and paradoxes of women's movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries become

real to students in a new way, opening up more nuanced and thoughtful explorations of feminism's pasts as well as its futures."

Beth Holmgren's course on documenting Russian feminism prompted students to incorporate documents from the U.S. women's liberation movement into a documentary produced by the instructor and students.

In addition to these classes, students from Marie Hicks' course "Gender and Sexual Politics in the Modern West," Rachel Seidman's public policy course "Women as Leaders," and Deborah Pope's "Studies in Women's Fiction" also attended instruction sessions.

Staff and Scholar Teas: Cookies and Conversation

Throughout the semester, the Bingham Center invites recipients of Mary Lily Research Grants to share their discoveries with the Duke community at Staff and Scholar Tea events. During these programs, faculty, staff, and students learn how materials from our collections are being used and have the opportunity to ask questions or even offer suggestions for further inquiry.

University of Manchester lecturer David Brown discussed his interest in using the collections to research the overlap of race, class, and gender during the Civil War. As he noted, these are all important dimensions in telling the story of non-slave owning whites in the South.

Jessica Lee, a graduate student at the University of Washington, presented her findings for work on her dissertation on the role of women in higher education in second wave feminist movement. She



David Brown chats with Jodi Berkowitz and Elizabeth Dunn following his talk

used the papers of Alix Kates Shulman, Irene Peslikis, and Sara Evans to further her research.

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

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

The Joy of Asking a Good Question *(continued from page 1)*

Margaret Taylor Smith, author, social activist, and chair emerita of the Kresge Foundation, also knows the joy of asking good questions especially as they pertain to her particular passions, “philanthropy, ethics, volunteerism, and leadership.” A Woman’s College graduate, Smith has had a long career at Duke, receiving numerous awards, holding many positions, such as member of the Founder’s Society and the Executive Group of the 1980s Capital Campaign, chair of the Trinity College of Visitors, and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. In the middle 1990’s Smith led the drive that culminated in the creation of the Margaret Taylor Smith Endowed Directorship of the Women’s Studies Program.

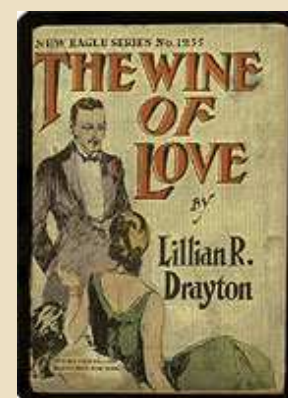
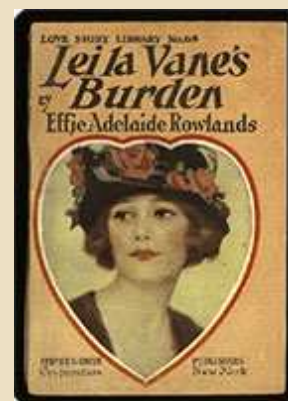
In addition to her work on behalf of Duke, Smith has served on the boards of

two Detroit hospitals, a medical school, Michigan Women’s Foundation, and many other academic, civic, and social justice organizations, some of which she also helped to create. In 1986 Smith co-authored the book, *Mother, I Have Something to Tell You*, a major work on the stages of adaptation mothers go through in adjusting to the untraditional lifestyles their children choose. This work speaks to another of Smith’s passions, “dilemmas, paradoxes, and inconsistencies” because she says that “very little in life is simply black or white. It’s much more complicated than that.” Smith recently donated 21 linear feet of papers documenting her wonderfully complicated life from her college days at Duke to the present.

New Acquisitions

19th c. American Romance Novels

This collection of 73 volumes in original decorated covers includes examples from many series such as New Eagle, Seaside Library, and Sweetheart Library. With titles like *Led Astray*, *What is Life Without Love*, and *Even this Sacrifice*, these melodramatic romances depict innocent young heroines beset by dangers which are far removed from the encounters of adult women characters in contemporary romances.



DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Women's History and Culture

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Highlights from Our 20th Anniversary Celebration



Above, from L to R: Sallie Bingham, Paula Burger, Deborah Jakubs, Janie Morris, Jeanette Stokes, Robert Byrd, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Jean O'Barr

Former Bingham Center librarians, current donors, Duke community members and other supporters gathered on October 23 to celebrate twenty years of documenting women's lives.



Above: Noted authors, feminists, and Bingham Center donors, Minnie Bruce Pratt and Sallie Bingham share stories.



Left: Duke leaders Jean O'Barr, Donna Lisker, and Janie Long chat during the reception.

See more photos from the event: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sbcwhc>