Well before Title IX mandated gender equity in sports programs, generations of women and girls relied on the Young Women’s Christian Association of the U.S.A. (YWCA) for fitness education and sports facilities. The YWCA is perhaps less known to the general public for its numerous social reform programs, ranging over the years from classes for urban immigrants and workers to a more recent emphasis on the prevention of domestic violence. The YWCA has survived for over 150 years by creating new programs in response to the changing needs of its constituents. In so doing it has established a pioneering tradition of attention to issues of racial, gender, and class inequality. The YWCA staff’s healthy sense of the organization’s historical significance is reflected in how carefully it preserved its documentary record. Last winter the National Board donated 454 cartons, the bulk of its archives, along with personal papers of U.S. and overseas staff, to the SSC. This makes it by far our largest collection.

Smith alumnae have played a key role in the SSC’s long relationship with the YWCA. As early as 1948, Harriet Bliss Ford (Smith 1899), a former member of the YWCA National Board, joined Margaret Storrs Grierson (Smith ’22), Director of the fledgling women’s history collection at Smith, in a successful attempt to persuade YWCA staff to make a small donation of publications they had collected about women’s movements abroad. Elizabeth Norris (Smith ’36), longtime librarian for the National Board, was instrumental in securing Ruth Woodsmall’s papers for the SSC. Woodsmall’s voluminous personal record of, among other things, her tenure as General Secretary of the World’s YWCA (1935-47) has since been used by dozens of scholars. Later, Norris, Eleanor Coit (Smith ’16), and Grierson engaged in “fancy footwork” to assure that a portion of the records the YWCA began to microfilm in 1964 were preserved in the SSC rather than destroyed as had been the original intent. Norris was again a key player in gaining funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the formal establishment of the National Board’s own archives in 1977, thus making the YWCA’s resources visible and accessible to scholars. In recent years, the YWCA has experienced the reduced funding and staffing levels that have affected most non-profit organizations. Because of our long relationship, the SSC was an obvious candidate when the YWCA decided it could no longer maintain its own archive.

The renewal of the SSC/YWCA partnership and the resulting donation is an exciting development for historians and other scholars. From the 1970s on, in an era of growing interest in women’s history, scholars have turned to the records because of the wealth of issues addressed by YWCA programs. Books and dissertations based at least in part on the YWCA Records have examined such topics as race relations in the South, the YWCA’s overseas work, and women’s contributions to urban development at the turn of the twentieth century. Historian Nancy M. Robertson spent over fifteen years using the records, beginning with her dissertation, “Deeper Even than Race”: White Women and the Politics of Christian Sisterhood in the Young Women’s Christian Association, 1906-1946.” She believes that once the records are fully processed and accessible, it will be a “tremendous boon” to scholars.

Continued on page 3
Greetings from the Head of the Sophia Smith Collection

One evening last August a baker’s dozen SSC staff and student assistants squeezed into the tiny Susan B. Anthony Room of Joe’s Café, a funky Northampton neighborhood eatery. We were there to bid farewell over pizza and pitchers to Gloria Steinem (Smith ’56), who had spent the previous two weeks in our midst conducting research in her papers and strategizing with us about how best to document the untold stories from the Second Wave of the women’s movement.

The summer student work crew had grown accustomed to seeing Gloria strolling across campus behind her constant canine companion, Mojo, and most had made her acquaintance in the course of making her photocopies. It only took a few of our guest’s questions about their experience of a Smith education to put the group at ease. By the time we had downed our last slice and pint, Noella Natalino (Smith ’02) was telling our guest that a reference to her college years in one of Steinem’s books had influenced her to apply to Smith. Then Britta Olsen (Smith ’04) recounted how her father had become so disen- chanted by his years in the army that immediately upon being discharged he subscribed to Ms. and, influenced by his reading, took a leave to become the primary caregiver to his baby daughter.

A productive two weeks with the woman whose name is synonymous with U.S. feminism was not our only grounds for celebration. This was only the first of several visits Steinem plans in the next couple of years as she researches a book reflecting upon her thirty-plus years of feminist organizing across the nation and around the world. The project began last winter, when the Ms. Foundation for Education and Communication contacted me to ask if the SSC would like to collaborate on a proposal it was making to the Ford Foundation. Gloria, Pat Carbine, our collecting coordinator Joyce Follet, and I put our heads together and found remarkable synergy between the goals of the two institutions. With the deadline upon us, Joyce and I dropped everything, and three weeks later submitted our part of the proposal. Within a month we learned that Ford would award us $259,000 for a two-year project to collect papers and oral histories of key feminists of color, lesbian activists, and working-class and grass-roots organizers whose hard work for women’s equality is likely to remain absent from the historical record unless archives like the SSC make an aggressive effort to document it. I’m sure readers will agree that this is a very exciting development, not only for the SSC but for women’s history as well.

The year 2002 was a banner year for generous support from Smith alumnae. Longtime friend of the YWCA and women’s history Francis Garber Pepper (Smith ’62) took her support of the Sophia Smith Collection to a new level with a gift of $500,000. This is by far the largest gift the SSC has ever received and it will have a tremendous impact on our ability to pursue our mission. Thank you, Francie!

— Sherrill Redmon
YMCA, continued

researchers who have been “frustrated these past few years by the limited access...because of the changing and uncertain status of the national YWCA.” Dorothea Browder, a University of Wisconsin graduate student, currently at work on her dissertation, is exploring “how YWCA industrial club participants used the clubs to forge a nation-wide movement of working women across differences of race and religion, ethnicity and nationality background, region, occupation, and unionized status.” She points out that working women rarely leave written documents, but “the YWCA industrial club conference records are full of their words, from fiction and poetry to reportage to meeting minutes to autobiographical pieces.”

While the SSC’s regular hours and staffing will allow scholars much-increased access to the records, a good deal remains to be done to make them truly usable. The sheer size of the collection and the complex processing it requires, as well as the heavy use its multiplicity of topics will inspire is a rather daunting prospect to the SSC’s already busy staff. Some portions are in delicate shape and will require serious preservation measures. The SSC has already begun to seek grant monies to help us fully meet the commitment we have made to helping preserve YWCA history.

A recent YWCA annual report points out that the organization’s “dual commitments to the personal growth of women and the creation of a just society have involved hundreds of thousands of women and spanned more than a century.” The YWCA confronted early industrialists about working conditions, participated in the fight for suffrage, engaged in war relief work, sent over 800 workers overseas to address the conditions of women in other countries, participated in the civil rights movement, and in 1970 adopted its “One Imperative — to thrust our collective power towards the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary.” Through the incredible array of activism around these issues and many more, the YWCA has produced an unparalleled documentary resource for scholars. The SSC is proud to accept the responsibility of preserving and making this incredible resource accessible to future generations.

— Amy Hague

Newly Processed Collections

The processing staff has had a busy and productive year, having completed final processing of some 95 linear feet of personal papers and organization records. Highlights include the following:

• The Consumers’ League of Kentucky, was organized in Louisville in 1901 to improve wages and working conditions for women and children through its members’ buying power. The collection documents the League’s efforts to remedy substandard working and living conditions, including monitoring the state’s enforcement of labor laws, addressing laborers’ health and education, influencing public opinion, and introducing and supporting reform legislation. The records of the

League of Women Shoppers, founded in 1935, reveal that organization’s commitment to similar goals: investigating working conditions in the stores its members patronized and the factories that produced the goods they consumed, and pressing for better wages and working conditions. The records of the International Council of Women, an ongoing organization founded in 1888, document efforts to organize globally for woman suffrage and later, to promote human rights, sexual equality, peace, and women’s involvement in the international sphere.

• The Peabody Family Papers contain letters of the three Peabody sisters, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-94), Mary Tyler Peabody Mann (1806-87), and Sophia Amelia Peabody Hawthorne (1809-71), which reveal the inner workings of this influential family, including its members’ involvement in the Transcendentalist movement and their views on many nine-

Continued on page 4
Newly Processed Collections, continued
ten century political and social issues. The collection also includes letters home from their friend Rebecca Chase Kinsman (b. 1810) while en route to China in 1843. The Sturgis-Tappan Family Papers consist of correspondence, which provides excellent documentation of family dynamics over three generations, as well as poems and drawings by Caroline Sturgis Tappan. Notable names among the family’s correspondents include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Sophia and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Lydia Maria Child. The family’s summer home “Tangle-wood” was donated to the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1936.

- Public relations specialist Frances Bemis (1898-1974) was known as the “Mrs. Barnum of Merchandise” because of her “spectacular publicity ideas.” Her papers, which provide insight into mid-twentieth century celebrity and consumer culture, detail a career over decades during which professional women were often a marginal part of the work-world.

- The papers of writer Phyllis Duganne (1899-1976) contain typescripts of her short stories, novels, and plays. She was a member of the “Bobbed Hair Brigade” in Greenwich Village, which created *Judy, a magazine*, in 1919. Her stories were published in such leading women’s magazines as *Ladies Home Journal, Redbook, and Colliers*.

- The papers of suffragist, pacifist, and international relations worker Josephine Schain (1886-1972) document her leadership in a range of international women’s peace organizations. The collection includes extensive correspondence among Schain and other women involved in the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, the Pan-Pacific Women’s Association, and the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

- Letters, notes, photographs and memorabilia bear witness to the life of Florence Rena Sabin (1871-1953), whose research on the lymphatic system and the origins of blood cells led to her appointment as the first woman faculty member and the first woman full professor at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. In 1925, she was the first woman elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

—Burd Schlessinger
The garrison family is primarily remembered for its involvement in social reform movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The family’s papers document their political activities along with the more informal things that families do. Poetry-writing is not something the Garrisons are known for, yet the papers contain a treasure trove of ditties, some penciled on scraps of paper and others neatly typed. There are verses to celebrate birthdays and St. Valentine’s day; memorial verses; poetry for business and alumni gatherings; as well as poetic commentary on issues of the day. Although not the only ones, William Lloyd Garrison II (1838–1909) and William Lloyd Garrison III (1874–1964) were the primary scribblers.


— Susan Boone

To My Valentine

I.
I may be shorter than you are
But love such things never heedeth.
And my heart is full to bustin’
With love for you sweet Edith.

II.
So come to my arms fairest maiden.
And be glad that I’m not any punier.
For my name will make up for all else
’Tis
William Lloyd Garrison, Jr.
Feb. 14, 1900

The Noodle in the Sink

I’ve tried to pick up many things
But none of them, I think,
Was quite so hard as picking up
A noodle in the sink,
A single little noodle,
A slippery, slimy noodle,
A squidgy, squirmy noodle in the sink.

I’ve tried to pick up German and
I’ve tried to pick up Greek,
I’ve tried to pick up flappers when
I used to be a sheik.
Since I’ve been getting wobbly and
In need of some repairs,
I’ve tried to pick my feet up when
I shuffled up the stairs.

I’ve tried to pick up many things
But none of them I think
Was quite so hard as picking up
A noodle in the sink,
A single little noodle,
A slippery, slimy noodle,
A squidgy, squirmy noodle in the sink.

Author unknown, undated

Farewell to Cape Cod
by William Lloyd Garrison III, undated

I’m fed up with south winds,
I’m fed up with fog,
I’m fed up with picking the ticks off my dog,
I’m fed up with sea food, adored by my wife,
I’m fed up with lobster for once in my life.
I’m fed up with sand roads and sand in my shoes,
I’m fed up with clambakes and beach barbeques.
I’m fed up with glare and with girls clad in slacks,
And bathers without any shirts on their backs.
I’m fed up with bare skin of lady or man,
I’m fed up with white skins, I’m fed up with tan,
And limousines fitted with newspaper screens,
The present day models of bathing machines.
I’m fed up with life on Cape Cod by the sea,
I’m fed up with bugs that are fed up with me;
I long for my desk and a bath in a tub,
I want to go home to my house in the Hub.

—the end—

Garrison children and friends on ‘New Pier,’ Wianno (Osterville, Mass.), early 1880s.
Photographer unknown.
As part of our Family Papers Project funded by the Bodman Family Foundation, we have mounted an online exhibit entitled “Across the Generations: Exploring U.S. History through Family Papers.” Beyond the history of one particular family, larger historical trends and events can be traced by examining the records a family leaves behind. Family papers can be used as a window onto evolving social conditions, on-going economic change, new political trends, and cultural shifts over time. The exhibit features sixty-three documents and photographs selected from the papers of four families. Typed transcriptions and introductory material are displayed with the digitized documents to provide context. These selected documents can be used for curriculum support or research, but we hope that they will also enrich the viewer’s understanding of history by offering glimpses of a handful of moments in American history through the eyes of individuals who experienced them. The families whose papers are represented — the Bodmans, Dunhams, Garrisons, and Hales — are white, middle- and upper-class people, mainly from New England. Much of their experience, however, was typical of many middle-class Americans in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Perhaps the most archetypal of American stories, the Bodman family’s roots can be traced to the early days of white settlement in New England in the seventeenth century. By the nineteenth century, the scarcity of good land and the uncertainties of farming in New England led some Bodmans to join the westward migration to New York, Ohio, and Illinois. Investments in Illinois land led to family involvement in banking and grain merchandising that was to last well into the twentieth century. The Dunham family history is equally compelling. During the nineteenth century, several generations of Dunham men specialized in the growing field of professional medicine, often on the cutting edge of medical trends such as homeopathy and pathology while the Dunham women engaged in philanthropy. Perhaps best known within the Garrison family is its patriarch, William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879), the radical abolitionist and social reformer. But his children and grandchildren carried on as advocates of multiple social reform causes, especially in the battle for women’s rights. Finally, the Boston-based Hale family included significant figures in politics and publishing, especially during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Later generations included noted clergymen, social reformers, writers, and artists. Thus, within these four families there is much variety in terms of work and life experiences.

As we considered how best to represent the richness of these outstanding collections with but a few items, the staff decided to focus on four broad themes: Family Life, Social Awareness and Reform, Arts and Leisure, and Work. “Family Life” contains documents that reflect courtship patterns in the nineteenth century, childrearing practices, and nineteenth-century gender roles. “Social Awareness and Reform” includes items related to the abolition of slavery and changing perceptions of race, women’s suffrage, and philanthropy. Materials in “Arts and Leisure” reflect increased opportunities for professional women artists in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries as well as items representing the increased recognition of the importance of children’s play during the Victorian era. Finally, under “Work” there are materials which provide evidence of how some families took advantage of the opportunities offered by an expanding economy. Other selections demonstrate how women continued to face barriers within the workplace even as the industrial revolution surged forward.

Like so many of our projects, this was a team effort with contributions from Susan Boone, Maida Goodwin, Amy Hague, Margaret Jessup, Kathleen Banks Nutter, and Anya Woronzoff-Dashkoff. The design of the “Across the Generations” Web site was a collaboration between the SSC staff and Windvoice Web Works. The generous support of the Bodman Family Foundation, which also funded the processing of several collections of our family papers, made possible what we hope will be an informative and educational exhibit. You can see the new exhibit by visiting the SSC Web site (http://libraries.smith.edu/libs/ssc) and clicking on Exhibits.

—Kathleen Banks Nutter
Heartfelt thanks to these special friends of the SSC who made generous monetary contributions since our last issue.

Marylin Bender Altschul (Smith ’44)
Caroline Dwight Bain (Smith ’44)
Janet McCoy Barrett (Smith ’45)
Adele Brawer Baydin (Smith ’51)
Sonia Boshko in memory of Anne Burlak Timpson
Ernestine Gilbreth Carey (Smith ’29)
The Ford Foundation
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Smith College Provost/Dean of Faculty
Marian Morton White (Smith ’47)
Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

2002-2003 Grierson Fellowships
Dorothea Browder, University of Wisconsin-Madison
“Working Women in the YWCA Industrial Clubs”
Susan Ferentinos, Indiana University
“An Unpredictable Age: Sex, Consumption, and the Emergence of the American Teenager, 1910–1950”
Caroline Walker, University of Bristol, UK
“The Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress in the American Birth Control League, in Comparative Perspective, 1921–1938”

2002-2003 Bain Fellowship
Yuka Tsuchiya, University of Minnesota
“Trans-Pacific Influences of Mary Beard and Margaret Sanger: Impact on Japanese Women from the 1920s to the 1940s”

2002-2003 Travel Grants
Amy Amoon, University of Chicago
Julie Berebitsky, University of the South
Tanfer Emin, State University of New York-Stony Brook
Alice Fahs, University of California-Irvine
Ela Greenberg, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Cynthia Harrison, George Washington University
G. Mark Hendrickson, University of California-Santa Barbara
Rebecca Kluchin, Carnegie Mellon University
Kristin Mapel-Bloomberg, Hamline University
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Please add the following names to the SSC mailing list:
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I’m enclosing a contribution to support the work of the SSC.

Make check payable to: SOPHIA SMITH COLLECTION
Detach and return to: Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063

Archives Assistant Amanda Izzo (right) and donor Edith Garrison Griffin loading boxes of Garrison Family Papers for transport to the SSC, December 2001. Photo by Amy Hague
**Snapshots**

The SSC was delighted to receive this year the first shipment of the papers of Marcia Ann Gillespie, writer and editor of *Essence* (1971-80) and *Ms.* (1987-90, 1992-2001) magazines. Other exciting new collections include the records of the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NEL-CWIT), the oldest continuously-run shelter for battered women in New England, and ARISE for Social Justice, a Springfield, Massachusetts, grassroots organization founded by women, which organizes for welfare reform, affordable housing, and the alleviation of poverty.

**Public Events:**

In November 2001, the SSC co-sponsored with the Paris Press, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a birthday tribute to Elizabeth Cady Stanton with a reading of her speech *Solitude of Self.* Six women, including Smith Provost and Dean of the Faculty Susan C. Bourque, Northampton Mayor Mary Clare Higgins, and world-renowned soprano Phyllis Curtain, read sections of the speech and commented on its meaning in their lives. The afternoon concluded with a splendid cake in honor of Stanton’s 186th birthday.

In April 2002, the SSC participated in a day-long event celebrating Smith’s new landscape studies program. Our portion of the program was a tribute to the life and career of New York landscape architect Alice Recknagel Ireys (1911-2000) whose papers are preserved in the SSC. The papers are now being processed thanks to a generous gift from Ireys’ sister, Catherine Recknagel Ropes (Smith ’36).

A live broadcast of a program in C-SPAN’s *American Writers Series* originated from the Smith campus in June of 2002. SSC Director Sherrill Redmon and Smith American studies professor Daniel Horowitz participated with *Notable American Women* editor Susan Ware in a two-hour discussion of the life and works of Betty Friedan (Smith ’42).

In late September, a large crowd packed our reading room to hear Helen Horowitz, Sylvia Dlugasch Bauman Professor of American studies, discuss her latest book *Rereading Sex: Battles Over Sexual Knowledge and Suppression in 19th-Century America.*

The Women’s School of Planning and Architecture held a reunion at Smith in October. An experimental feminist summer program for women with an interest in architecture or planning, the School was inspired by the 1970s women’s movement and held six sessions between 1975 and 1981. Planned by WSPA co-founders Leslie Kanes Weisman and Ellen Perry Berkeley (Smith ’52), the reunion brought together 21 WSPA alumnae to reflect on the School’s prodigious impact upon their lives and careers.

In November, staff member Kate Weigand’s talk “On the Front Lines: Women Fight the Cold War” kicked off a series of events leading up to a national conference entitled “Homeland Insecurities: Civil Liberties, Repression, and Citizenship in the 1950s.”

**Staff news:**

Amanda Izzo left the SSC last March to prepare herself for the rigors of graduate school. Early reports from the American studies department at Yale are positive, though she has maintained her SSC connection by assuming the title of Archives Assistant Emerita.

Three new staff members have joined us since our last issue. Jonny Mason, who divides her work week between the SSC and the Center for the Study of Social and Political Change at Smith is helping Sherrill with a myriad of tasks including book-keeping, event planning, and mailing list maintenance.

Kara McClurken joined the Backlog Reduction Project in July and is processing various high-priority collections. She comes to us from the University of Maryland where she was the graduate assistant in the Conservation Laboratory.

Sarah Keen came to the SSC in September from the University of Michigan where she worked in the Bentley Historical Library and the Labadie Collection. She is assisting Kathleen Nutter in her new duties as Project Archivist processing the congressional papers of US Representative Jane Lakes Harman (Smith ’66).

Kathleen is not the only familiar name with a new job title. Last February Susan Boone became Project Archivist for the Family Papers Project funded by the Bodman Family Foundation.

—Maida Goodwin