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What Is Cataloging?
At the Schlesinger Library, one of our priorities is to mind the gap—to quote the London tube announcers—between the long-hidden history of women and the more visible history of men, and also between materials that our archive holds and subjects that remain under-represented. Although ours is the nation’s leading special collections library documenting the history of women and gender in America, it contains a preponderance of materials about white middle- and upper-class women, many of them engaged with liberal causes. The history of politically conservative women and grassroots conservative organizations is not sufficiently documented at the Schlesinger, and we have been working hard to correct this disparity—among many others—to ensure that students, researchers, and scholars have the materials they need to write nuanced histories of our time.

Imagine, for example, if the writers featured on page 5 had not had access to the Schlesinger’s archives. Would they have been able to discover the important story of the struggle for coeducation in America, the life of a black woman writer in the post–civil rights era, and the portrait of a conservative intellectual as television talk show host? My colleagues and I think about the primary sources historians in the future will need in order to tell complex, multisided stories, and it fuels our desire to increase the breadth and depth of our collections.

Our commitment to building a more inclusive archive is also evident in our hiring of a new colleague, Kenvi Phillips, the library’s inaugural curator for race and ethnicity. Kenvi’s arrival completes a superb curatorial team at the Schlesinger, where she joins Kathy Jacob, the Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts, and Marylène Altieri, curator of books and printed materials. Like Kathy and Marylène, Kenvi will help the directors (Marilyn Dunn and me) plan and implement future directions in our collections building. All three of these senior staff leaders will do the core curatorial work of responding to queries from donors and dealers, assessing the significance and feasibility of potential acquisitions, and helping those who are in the process of transferring materials to the library sort and winnow their books and papers with an eye toward future research value.

But Kenvi’s work will be somewhat different from Kathy’s and Marylène’s. Focused on documenting the intersections of gender, race, class, and ethnicity in American history, she will work with all types of materials, including manuscript and print documents. Her efforts will also center substantially on outreach through personal visits, public programming, and exhibitions.

An accomplished historian, Kenvi holds a master’s in public history and a doctorate in US history from Howard University. Before coming to the Schlesinger, she worked at the Mary McLeod Bethune House in Washington and the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Most recently, she was assistant curator for manuscripts and librarian for prints and photographs at Howard’s highly regarded Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

In the course of her career, Kenvi has honed both her skills and her extraordinary intellectual generosity. She has taught and written, planned programs for audiences ranging from schoolchildren to senior citizens, mounted exhibitions, and even staged monthly recitals where middle-school students performed in historic one-room schoolhouses. I can’t wait to see the kinds of fresh thinking and new relationships that Kenvi will bring to the Schlesinger and to the Radcliffe and Harvard campuses.

—Jane Kamensky
Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director
Professor, Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
“It’s been a long year,” Ross Douthat ’02 sighed gustily. He was lamenting the irony of being a Catholic conservative who lately found himself criticizing the pope and the Republican nominee he’d expected to defend. “A long year for all of us, I think, in American politics. The world at large. But we’re here now.”

Here was at the Knafel Center at the Radcliffe Institute, where on an unseasonably warm and cordial afternoon, the self-described “token conservative” at the New York Times and “cultural go-between” presided over the panel “Righting the Record: Conservatism and the Archives.” As Jane Kamensky, professor of history and Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library, explained in her introductory remarks, a gap exists in the archives: “Politically conservative women and grassroots conservative organizations focused on the household have been doubly hidden by gender and ideology.” She cited the death of activist Phyllis Schlafly, AM ’45, as a signal reminder that “Even the longest-lived activists eventually pass into history. We’re at a generational turning point for the heated family-values contest of the post–World War II era. They’ll either make their way into institutions or suffer the fate of most of the records of most of humanity over most of history, which is to be lost.”

“We won’t make this a conversation about Donald Trump,” promised Douthat. But two days before the final presidential debate, and three weeks before Election Day, the conversation—shadowed by the candidate’s yet-undetermined legacy—felt more than merely academic. The event was an attempt to exemplify the kind of civil discussion that could take place among people with different ideologies; it was also described by participants as a trust-building exercise between the conservative guests and the liberal-leaning Harvard community. But at its core, the dialogue itself, over how to maintain a fuller history of the right, reflected a current political angst: who defines conservatism—the elites or the grassroots, the fringe or the center?

—Sophia Nguyen
Associate Editor, Harvard Magazine

For Harvard Magazine’s full report on this event, visit http://harvardmagazine.com/2016/10/radcliffe-and-the-right.
The library’s mission to document the lives of women in America has been taken seriously from the start. Seven decades in, our manuscript collections cut across time, geography, class, race and ethnicity, and political and social issues. Still, we know that some groups—such as left-leaning white middle- and upper-class women—are better represented than others. As you can read elsewhere in this issue, we’re working hard on several fronts to enhance the diversity of our collections so that students, researchers, and scholars will have the documentary records they need to write complete and balanced histories of our times.

The “Righting the Record” panel in October stressed the importance of adding more voices of politically and socially conservative women to our collections. Following are descriptions of three such collections already here that those new acquisitions will join: the papers of Anna Chen Chennault, Eunice Simm Howe, and Mildred Jefferson.

**Anna Chen Chennault**

Anna Chen Chennault was born in Beijing in 1923. As the first woman correspondent at the China Central News Agency, she covered the US 14th Air Force. She met and married General Claire Chennault, former commander of the famed WWII Flying Tigers and ardently anticommunist, a sentiment she shared. After the general’s death, in 1958, Chennault settled in Washington, DC, where she became a successful businesswoman, a popular hostess, and an active supporter of the Republican Party. In 1960, she campaigned for Richard Nixon and organized Asian American voters across the country. Although accounts differ, she played some part in an “October surprise” in 1968—the collapse of peace talks between North and South Vietnam, a major factor in Nixon’s election that year.

**Eunice Simm Howe**

A lawyer, government official, consumer-affairs advocate, and Republican Party activist, Eunice Simm Howe received her law degree from Boston University in 1941 and in 1942 was appointed an assistant attorney general of Massachusetts, the youngest person to hold that office in the state’s history. She served on a long list of state commissions and councils, and in 1970 she was appointed by Richard Nixon to the President’s Consumer Advisory Council. Howe’s collection reflects her professional career, her work for the Republican Party, and her advocacy for women’s rights, including her efforts at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities to enable women to be listed in telephone books under their own names.

**Mildred Jefferson**

Born in rural Texas in 1926, Mildred Jefferson became in 1951 the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School—one of many “firsts” in her medical career. Her involvement in the right-to-life movement began in the early 1970s, and she went on to be one of its most sought-after speakers. A founder of Massachusetts Citizens for Life and the National Right to Life Committee, she served on the boards of more than 30 groups opposing abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and embryonic stem cell research. Jefferson was also active in the Republican Party and campaigned for antiabortion candidates at the local, state, and national levels. She unsuccessfully ran twice as a Republican for the US Senate and once for a House seat.

—Kathryn Allamong Jacob

Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library
Update on the Baird Collection
This collection, the largest ever acquired by the Schlesinger Library, arrived in June 2015 and is now being processed. Because the collection documents both sides of the battle over contraception and abortion, we asked the processors of printed and manuscript materials to tell us about its conservative materials.

Jennifer Gotwals, the lead archivist who’s processing printed materials in the Papers of Bill Baird

Bill Baird attended numerous pro-life conferences, where he collected fliers, brochures, pamphlets, and other materials created by pro-life organizations for distribution to pro-life activists and the public. Baird also added himself to the mailing lists of many of these organizations. Over the summer of 2016, library staff members, assisted by students from the Simmons School of Library and Information Sciences and the Harvard Divinity School, sorted 40 cartons of material into groupings based on the organizations that created it. We also consulted with several historians of the pro-life movement to determine best practices for cataloging and describing some of this hard-to-find archival material.

Currently, a total of 823 organizations are represented, some by one item, some by many folders of material. These groups include organizations from 42 states and the District of Columbia. National Right to Life material exists along with that from smaller groups such as Pharmacists for Life, Texas Collegians for Life, Pro-Life Cartoon Service, and many pregnancy crisis centers and maternity homes. Much material is not dated; for items that are, the dates range from 1970 to 2012.

We anticipate that scholars will use the imagery, slogans, and rhetoric at work in this material to better understand the political activism (both grassroots and nationally coordinated) around opposition to abortion in the United States since the 1970s. The wide variety of formats that groups used to promote and share their message (bumper stickers, greeting cards, posters, direct mail, comic books) will give students and scholars an idea of the deep religious faith, creativity, and conviction of pro-life activists.

Mark Vassar, the lead archivist who’s processing manuscript materials in the Papers of Bill Baird

Among the speeches, clippings, correspondence, and other manuscript material in the Papers of Bill Baird are a number of materials from pro-life conservatives. Baird often received letters from pro-life activists—some threatening in nature, others using much gentler language. Unlike the threatening letters, which are generally unsigned, the gentler letters are often signed, include the author’s address, and express in one case “love and concern for [Baird] and our unborn children.”

Another example is a program card advertising a talk by Joseph Scheidler, founder of the Pro-Life Action League, who penned a note on the card reading, “Bill—Join our side! We love you.” Baird also maintained a correspondence with Father Frank Pavone, the national director of Priests for Life. They regularly held “peace meetings,” and the two created a joint statement advocating nonviolence in both pro-life and pro-choice demonstrations. Their friendly relationship continues to this day.
Writing from the Library

Scholars continue to flock to the Schlesinger to conduct research for their projects. Here, we highlight three recently published books that relied in part on the library’s holdings—from personal papers to our institutional archives.

Heather Hendershot
*Open to Debate: How William F. Buckley Put Liberal America on the Firing Line* (Broadside, 2016)
While writing the chapter on women’s liberation in her portrait of the conservative television host and famous contrarian William F. Buckley, Heather Hendershot—then the 2014–2015 Maury Green Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute—watched videos of Betty Friedan on *Firing Line* and read through the papers of Harriet Pilpel. According to *Kirkus Reviews*, the time spent in the archives paid off: “The author’s research is formidable: interviews, major reliance on *National Review* (the magazine Buckley founded in 1955), and a comprehensive familiarity with the guests and topics on the show, a familiarity clearly acquired by many hours at the video monitor and many hours of reading transcripts.” Hendershot is a professor of film and media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Nancy Weiss Malkiel
*“Keep the Damned Women Out”: The Struggle for Coeducation* (Princeton University Press, 2016)
Nancy Weiss Malkiel AM ’66, PhD ’70 is a scholar of 20th-century American history and a professor of history, emerita, at Princeton University, where she was also the first woman and longest-serving dean of the college. She relied on the extensive Radcliffe College Archives for her study of coeducation at elite institutions of higher learning from 1969 to 1974. In addition to Harvard-Radcliffe, Malkiel looked at such US institutions as Dartmouth, Princeton, Vassar, and Yale and at colleges at Cambridge and Oxford, in the United Kingdom. After calling Malkiel’s effort “well crafted and incredibly comprehensive,” Susan Ware—former senior advisor to the Schlesinger Library, a member of the Schlesinger Library Council, and the author of *Game, Set, Match: Billie Jean King and the Revolution in Women’s Sports* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011)—said, “There is no question in my mind that this book will immediately become the go-to source for understanding why coeducation happened when it did, and how the story unfolded on elite campuses.”

Angela A. Ards
While she was the 2010–2011 William Bentinck-Smith Fellow at Radcliffe, Angela Ards studied the June Jordan Papers—which, in addition to correspondence and other writings, include videos and photographs—in her quest to address political and moral questions of the post–civil rights era through the experiences of black women. Julia Watson, a professor emerita at the Ohio State University, characterized the book as a study “at the intersection of autobiography studies, feminism, black literary history, and cultural and political theory” and called it “ambitious, timely, engaging, and provocative.” Ards is an assistant professor of English at Southern Methodist University’s Dedman College of Humanities & Sciences.

—Ivelisse Estrada
Writer/Editor

For a fuller list of books researched at the Schlesinger, visit bit.ly/writingfromthelibrary.
MEET THE BLACKWELLS

August morning, light rain. I sat at a table in the Pforzheimer Reading Room and grinned. A whole week ahead to time travel.

I had spent years wandering in other libraries, listening to voices preserved in crumbling letters as the white keys of my laptop turned gray with archival dust. I wrote a book that told a forgotten story. Now I was in search of a new story to tell. I had come to spend a week with the Blackwells.

If you were the kid who always headed for the junior biography section of the library (I was not), you may have met the most famous Blackwell. In 1849, she received a medical degree, earning herself a permanent home on the shelf of iconic American heroines—Elizabeth Blackwell: first woman doctor. But Elizabeth was the third sibling of nine, part of an eccentric, opinionated, cranky, inspired, prolific clan whose correspondents included some of the most prominent intellectuals of the 19th century.

There was Anna, a writer and translator who dreamed of utopia; the aforementioned Elizabeth, something of a termagant, implacable in her ambitions; Emily, a pioneering doctor herself, ever in Elizabeth’s long shadow. Five sisters who eschewed marriage, while two of their brothers chose mates—Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown, whose crusades for suffrage and abolition eclipsed their husbands’ careers. The Blackwells were a world unto themselves. They depended on each other, but they also drove one another crazy and could never share the same space for long—which meant they never stopped writing to one another.

In 2013, the Schlesinger embarked on an ambitious project to digitize the Blackwell Family Papers: 120,000 letters, photos, journals, sketches, articles, and ephemera spanning four generations. In the summer of 2015, the Blackwell Family Digital Suite went live.

I had been investigating the intersection of some favorite themes: transgressive 19th-century women, science, New York. Having grown up at a storied Manhattan girls’ school, mentored by bluestockings and happiest in calculus and biology, I had started college as a premed. Life intervened—I went to Japan instead of medical school—but now I had an itch to reclaim those first passions. A hundred and sixty years ago, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and Dr. Emily Blackwell had opened a women’s hospital less than five miles from my apartment. Clearly, I needed to know them better.

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Thanks to the Herculean efforts of the Schlesinger, I began at my dining table, clicking through high-res images, learning to recognize the Blackwells by their handwriting. I could work straight from the online finding aids: scan a list of folders, pick a juicy one, and open it, just like that. When I needed a break from letters, I browsed the “Document Type” categories, which stretched the definition of “document” beyond recognition. “Knitting bag”: Elizabeth’s, black satin, cut from an old dress worn to a family wedding. “Contraceptives”: condoms, papery and translucent, with ribbon ties and a tentative annotation, “made from animal intestines?”

Digital research makes it possible for me to be both a writer and a full-time parent; I am grateful for it every day. But search engines can be the enemy of serendipity: they show you only what you’re already looking for. The beauty of the Blackwell papers is in the architecture of the site, which incorporates keywords and tags to facilitate wandering. It’s like having an archivist on your shoulder making helpful suggestions.

I’m a Luddite at heart, though, and after a few months of clicking, it was time for a pilgrimage, especially because the Schlesinger had just opened a new exhibition, Women of the Blackwell Family: Resilience and Change. I needed to get my other senses involved, stand in the presence of the artifacts themselves, and most important, talk to the people who were the keepers of all this history and who were so willing to share it.

It was my first visit, but it felt like a homecoming: a house of women, past and present. In addition to the librarians themselves, there were the breadcrumb trails of other scholars, their dissertations pointing toward sources I hadn’t considered. Best of all was a peek into the library’s vault. There’s something magical about the word vault: a leap; a soaring sacred space; an underground hoard with walls of impenetrable stone. I left the soupy humidity of midsummer at the threshold and entered a chilly, humming room full of impeccably organized treasure: ancient cookbooks, modern manifestos, thousands and thousands of letters. So many voices, waiting for the right storyteller to come along and listen. No wonder the room was humming.

I’ll be back soon.

—Janice P. Nimura

When you think of the American women’s suffrage movement, you may imagine young women from the early part of the 20th century marching down Pennsylvania Avenue. But suffragists from an earlier era—the late 19th century—celebrated older women.

Beginning in 1870, when Susan B. Anthony turned 50, and culminating in 1900, when 2,000 people gathered to celebrate her 80th year, suffragists turned the birthdays of their aging leaders into national events that rivaled the annual celebrations of Washington and Lincoln. Suffrage birthdays aimed to prove women’s political capacity as well as their potential in later life.

A woman would never become a senator or president, the early suffragists argued, until Americans learned to respect women for mature wisdom and experience rather than youthful beauty and reproductive potential.

At a time when few women publicly acknowledged their age, suffragists encouraged reporters to chronicle their leaders’ years of achievement, circulated photographs of women with gray hair, and dubbed Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony the “grand old women of America.”

How, then, did the women’s suffrage movement in the United States come to be associated with youth? This is the question that my current research project asks—and thanks to the peerless women’s suffrage collections in the Schlesinger archives, I have begun to find some answers.

I arrived at Radcliffe this past summer eager to pursue more research on late-19th-century birthdays and was delighted to find evidence confirming the importance of these events. My research took a surprising turn when Ellen Shea, head of the library’s research services, suggested that I delve into the papers of woman suffragists who remained active after 1920. What I found amazed me: Women such as Alice Paul, Rose Arnold Powell, and Edna Lamprey Stantial tenaciously campaigned through the 1960s to turn the celebration of Susan B. Anthony’s birthday into a national holiday. Boxes of letters, clippings, and photographs document their efforts to convince state and federal legislators, school boards, and women’s clubs that Americans should pause each February to honor Anthony, along with Washington and Lincoln, as the nation’s “third great emancipator.”

Their efforts failed, largely because clubwomen and male legislators alike refused to sponsor another national holiday—and also because many continued to regard women’s old age as unappealing, something to be hidden with creams and girdles rather than celebrated. Powell in particular tried...
The library made more than 30 grants to students, scholars, and writers who are using its world-class holdings to conduct research on subjects as varied as gender violence, sports equality, and French cuisine. This year’s grant recipients come from Australia, Germany, the UK, and across the United States. “We step in to collect unique materials and also step back to let students and scholars use our collections to make their own important discoveries,” says Jane Kamensky, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library.

For a full list of this year’s recipients, visit bit.ly/2016SchlesGrants.

to get around this antipathy toward old women by promoting images of a younger Susan B. Anthony, erasing her fame as the “grand old woman of America” and instead commissioning stories about her Quaker childhood and youthful activism. Explaining this strategy, Ethel Adamson, of the National Woman’s Party, noted, “We all love [Anthony] at every age, but a little youth does seem more attractive for a change.”

The result was yearly newspaper stories counting ever-higher numbers—Anthony’s “126th birthday”—with pictures freezing her in middle age. This severing of national leadership from old age did not help win Anthony greater recognition. It also robbed women of the insight that gaining national power will most likely require winning respect for women in later life. To this day, American holidays honor the birthdays of men, many voters doubt the political capacity of female candidates, and women in power often conceal their age. It remains to be seen whether Hillary Clinton, considered by some to be the most experienced candidate ever to run for the presidency, will win more respect or derision for her many, many years of national leadership.

—Corrine T. Field

Field is an assistant professor in the women, gender, and sexuality program at the University of Virginia. She received a research support grant from the Schlesinger Library to work on a project titled “Grand Old Women and Modern Girls: Racial Prejudice and Generational Conflict in the US Women’s Rights Movement, 1870–1920.”
Honor Moody’s first visit to the Schlesinger Library occurred in the fourth grade. A classmate’s mother—Joyce Antler, a women’s historian and Bunting alumna who has conducted research at the library—organized the field trip. Moody vividly remembers drawing posters with the other children in honor of Women’s History Month, which they presented to the library, and receiving a behind-the-scenes tour.

Years later, while working toward a master’s in library and information science at Simmons College, Moody received a hands-on assignment: go to a local repository and experience the archives as a patron. Thinking back to that long-ago visit, she decided to return to the Schlesinger. “I found the collection of these posters,” she says, “and requested to see them.” There, she saw her own past—in the form of the posters she and her classmates had lovingly drawn—preserved for her future self.

Now Moody is a cataloger of published materials at the Schlesinger Library, a position she has held for 11 years.

Cataloging is the means by which a library asset is described and the record made available to researchers. Back in the day, the record would be kept in a card catalog, which could accommodate only limited information. Today, catalogs are online, and records, no longer limited to a 3” x 5” space, can carry much more information about an item. The more information in the record, the more likely it is that a researcher will find it. (See sidebar.) “If you collect something and it doesn’t get a description, then nobody can find it,” Moody says. “It may as well not even exist.”

Moody came to cataloging after working in manuscript processing, drawn to the cataloging community’s wide-scale use and reuse of metadata—data that describes documents—and development of new technologies for users’ benefit. “Ultimately,” she says, “the everyday challenge is how best to provide access to our material.” She’s active on a Harvard-wide committee that is concerned with enhancing the efficiency of cataloging processes in the face of an ever-increasing volume of published materials—in both print and e-formats. “We need to take advantage of automated systems to make sure that librarians can focus their energies on the intellectual work of description and not a lot of hand-keying of information,” she says.

The intellectual work of describing materials at a special collections library like the Schlesinger—which, within its focus on women and gender in America, collects items as varied as academic monographs, romance novels, comic books, and cookbooks, along with more ephemeral items—can be rigorous. For example, as an early advocate for zines in the library, Moody often must struggle with clashes between cataloging standards and conventions and the identity politics of “zinesters” themselves. “Zines are created by individuals often within communities, so how can we make sure that those communities are involved in metadata creation?” she asks. “How do we make them accessible more broadly and carry the community ethos into their storage and preservation?” To this end, she has become involved in professional organizations—the Zine Union Catalog and the Zine Librarians (un)Conference—devoted to developing standards for the collection of these unique publications and their participatory cultural production.

Moody is intrigued by issues around collecting e-materials, but she plans to stick with describing the physical objects. “When you read an e-publication, your experience is mediated by the device that you use to read it, but when I hand you a 17th-century book, your interface with it is essentially the same as that of all of the people who have read the book before you,” she says. “There’s something to be said for that materiality in the face of change.”
Cataloging is as much about sleuthing as it is about being up-to-date on digital technologies, Library of Congress subject headings, and changing nomenclatures.

By the time a book comes across Honor Moody’s desk for cataloging, it has already been handled by many other people at the library. When the book arrives, a bibliographic record is located—anything from a very good-quality record from one of the cooperative cataloging programs to a stub record created on the fly—and the piece is housed in a special dust jacket or a custom box, which bears the item’s identifying bar code.

Moody locates the item’s record in an online database to ensure the subject headings are accurate. Oftentimes, the description of the item was created in the era of the card catalog—Moody may even need to go to the Schlesinger’s own card catalogs to locate it. She may enhance the description with additional subject headings or include a physical description beyond a transcription of the title page: noting a dust jacket, original binding, special inscriptions, marginalia, or special-numbered printing. Other times, she may be called upon to do original cataloging, which requires a more thorough inspection and the application of appropriate subject headings. Only after the item is thoroughly described in the database does it take the next step in its library journey: to the stacks, where it will be available to researchers.
ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

Important Collections Continue to Grow

Manuscript collections at the library grow all the time. Sometimes they expand with the addition of just a few items, sometimes with several cartons. Sometimes material is added to a collection every year; sometimes decades pass between additions. Addenda bring collections up-to-date, add rich detail, and fill in gaps. Among the collections that grew this year are those of the artists Irene Rice Pereira and Judy Chicago and the North Bennet Street Industrial School, whose graduates include jewelry and furniture makers, bookbinders, and potters.

Irene Rice Pereira

In 1979, the Irene Rice Pereira Foundation gave the library 10+ cartons of the artist’s papers. Pereira had died in 1971, in Spain, alone and burdened by a sense that her work was underappreciated. This past spring, the library acquired two more cartons of Pereira’s papers, which fill in details of her story and extend it to the early 1980s, when a new generation of artists, scholars, critics, curators, and feminists in the vanguard of reclaiming women’s history were rediscovering her work.

Born in 1902, Pereira immersed herself in the bohemian world of Greenwich Village in the mid-1920s and embraced the European art avant-garde—Bauhaus, Cubism, and Constructivism. In the 1930s, her paintings began to gain recognition. At first, she signed her work I. Rice Pereira, because, she said, of the discrimination that beset women in the art world. With an exhibit of her work at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1953, she became one of the first women to have a retrospective at a major New York museum.

In the late 1950s, Pereira’s work fell into disfavor, and she began to have difficulties with gallery owners and museum directors. Her letters and notebooks in the recent addenda reveal an increasing paranoia. Pereira wrote that her telephone was being tapped, her mail tampered with, and her art intentionally suppressed. Also detailed in the addenda is confirmation that her work would again be celebrated, but after her death. Pereira’s works now hang at the Hirschhorn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and other major art museums across the country. The library is fortunate to own two of Pereira’s paintings, one on public display.

North Bennet Street Industrial School

From 1968 to 1976, the North Bennet Street Industrial School (NBSIS) donated to the library more than 80 linear feet of records covering 1880 to 1973. These records chart the growth of what began in 1879 as a modest charity serving the needs of recent immigrants in Boston’s North End to include a nursery school and kindergarten, job skill training classes, social clubs, a lending library, and a gymnasium. Named the North Bennet Street Industrial School in 1885, this bustling settlement house helped thousands of immigrants transition to American life. Readers of Anita Diamant’s recent novel The Boston Girl (Scribner, 2015) will easily recognize the NBSIS, the school’s Saturday Evening Girls, and their famous pottery, which are central to this North End story. Vocational classes in watch repair, cabinet and jewelry making, printing, and piano tuning were added for returning veterans after World War I and expanded after WWII.

The addition of 22 feet of NBSIS records in July includes board minutes, catalogs, photographs, and administrative records that fill in gaps and carry the story forward. By the 1970s, immigrant families in the North End were being replaced by middle-income professionals. City, state, and federal programs were in place to serve the poor, and NBSIS had become primarily a center for training in fine crafts. In 1982, the board voted to drop “Industrial” from the school’s name and reorganize as an accredited trade and technical school, but the North Bennet Street School, still in the North End, continues to train skilled craftswomen and men whose beautiful work recalls the school’s past.

Judy Chicago

In July, the feminist artist, educator, and writer Judy Chicago sent the library the first nine volumes of the diaries she began keeping in 1971. More will arrive in batches until they reach the 50-year mark, when Chicago plans to stop writing. These first volumes cover 1971 to 1980—extremely important years in Chicago’s life and work—and they are already open to researchers. Her diaries join Chicago’s large and rich collection of papers, photographs, audio and video tapes, needlework, and mixed media, which began with a core group of papers in 1996 and has grown with addenda to more than 200 linear feet.

When the first diary begins, Chicago had already been politically active for several years and had begun to explore
issues of sexuality in her work and in the women’s art courses and programs she pioneered. Her first book, *Through the Flower: My Struggle as a Woman Artist* (Doubleday, 1975), chronicled her efforts to find her own identity. Chicago was strongly influenced by the historian Gerda Lerner, whose papers are also at the library and who argued that women who continued to be ignorant of their history would always struggle for self-awareness. Chicago decided to embark on the enormous and enormously provocative collaborative work *The Dinner Party*, which took five years (1974–1979) to complete, a process chronicled in the diaries. The next group of Chicago’s diaries will cover the years of her subsequent large collaborative work, *The Birth Project*.

—Kathryn Allamong Jacob
Johanna-Maria Fraenkel Curator of Manuscripts at the Schlesinger Library
Ralph M. James MBA ’82 is truly a University citizen. For 25 years, he has worked in senior positions at Harvard Business School, but his commitments reach far beyond HBS to other parts of the University. Not only is he a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council and the Schlesinger Library Council at the Radcliffe Institute—the only person who serves on both—but he also cochairs the Campaign for the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is a member of the Dean’s Council at Harvard Divinity School, and serves on the Harvard Campaign Executive Committee.

James has been involved with Radcliffe since the early days of the Institute, when his friend and colleague Tamara Elliott Rogers ’74, now Harvard’s vice president for alumni affairs and development, was the associate dean for advancement and planning at the Radcliffe Institute. “She is extraordinary,” James says. “I asked her if there was anything I could do to help Radcliffe, and she said the Schlesinger Library is a gem and that somebody with a business background might be able to help them think about the digital future and what libraries are going to become. That was 15 years ago.”

The James family’s support of the Schlesinger began with a gift in honor of Ardis Butler James, Ralph’s mother, whom he describes as “an amateur historian, very gender conscious because she grew up during the Depression at a time when women didn’t have the opportunities they have now.” She and Ralph’s father, Robert James MBA ’48, PhD ’53, an oil company executive and real estate developer, both grew up in Nebraska and collected quilts from around the world. In 1997, they established the International Quilt Study Center & Museum at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where their gift of more than 1,000 quilts forms the centerpiece of the world’s largest publicly held quilt collection.

Ardis James died in 2011, and since then, the family—including Ralph, his sister Catherine Paglia MBA ’76, and their father—have made gifts to the Schlesinger in Ardis’s memory. Today, the James family is supporting the library’s program for diversifying its collections. Ralph James explains that when his family considers supporting an institution, they ask what its highest priority is. “If you have smart people running good institutions,” he says, “you should understand what their priorities are and support them.” He and his family believe that the Radcliffe Institute and its Schlesinger Library have talented leaders, so they listen to them and direct their support accordingly. Plus, diversifying the Schlesinger’s collections is something he strongly believes in. “Scholars can’t understand the past and present if they don’t have a full picture of it, so the library’s collections must help provide that full picture,” he says.

As one might expect, the James family’s philanthropy at Radcliffe has not been limited to the library or to honoring Ardis James. Ralph James honored his father by establishing
the Robert G. James Scholar at Risk Fellowship Fund and created a fund to support Radcliffe’s Academic Ventures program. This past September, James began a new job at the business school in which—not surprisingly—his focus is promoting One Harvard, a University priority guided by a belief that Harvard is at its best when its schools are coordinating for maximum impact and collective efforts. He is passionate about that goal and is confident that the Harvard Campaign, in which the Radcliffe Institute is participating, has unquestionably moved the University closer to One Harvard, with schools in various disciplines increasingly working together to address problems such as poverty, health care, climate change, and education reform.

Ardis James was able to visit the Schlesinger Library only once, but her son stops by frequently and sometimes encounters students who are using the library’s collections to conduct research. “They talk about finding source documents that enlighten them in ways that couldn’t possibly have happened if they hadn’t had access to these materials,” he says. “Like the best programs at the University, the Schlesinger inspires students and helps them realize that they can do amazing things.”

While his preference is to “play a behind-the-scenes role,” James is able to strengthen the library and other programs of the Radcliffe Institute by serving as a visible and vital leader on both the Schlesinger Library Council and the Dean’s Advisory Council.

——Pat Harrison
Publications Manager

A quilt from the Ardis and Robert James collection at the International Quilt Study Center & Museum at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln; object # 1997.007.0840. This quilt, possibly made in Kentucky, is dated 1932.
Starting in April, the Schlesinger Library will be presenting an exhibition in conjunction with Radcliffe’s annual gender conference, “Game Changers: Sports, Gender, and Society.” This photo is from the Jean Schilling scrapbook collection at the Schlesinger Library. Schilling played amateur and semiprofessional women’s softball with the Eagle Market Superettes in Iowa and Illinois in the late 1940s.