

Women's Studies Archive

Female Forerunners

Worldwide

◇ Collection Descriptions ◇



Amistad Research Center:

- **Papers of Mary McLeod Bethune, 1923-1942**
Mary McLeod Bethune rose from poverty to become one of the nation's most distinguished African American leaders and the most prominent black woman of her time. Her life encompassed three different careers: as an educator, she was the central figure in the creation of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida; as founder and president of the National Council of Negro Women, she was a leading force in developing the black women's organization movement; and in the political realm, she was one of the few blacks to hold influential positions in the federal bureaucracy during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration.
- **Fredi Washington Papers, 1925-1979**
Fredi Washington was a pioneering African American film actress and civil rights activist involved in the Harlem Renaissance.

Library of Congress:

- **Women's Joint Congressional Committee**
Correspondence, minutes, reports, information forms, membership lists, financial records, printed matter, and other papers relating to the Committee's work in monitoring and promoting legislation in the areas of education, social welfare, and women's rights. Subjects include civil rights, social security, women's and children's bureaus, maternity and infancy, a department of education, school lunch programs, anti-lynching legislation, and home rule for the District of Columbia. Member organizations represented include the National Consumers' League, National Education Association of the United States, and National Council of Jewish Women.
- **Papers of Louise Chandler Moulton**
Chiefly letters received by Moulton from prominent literary figures in England, Europe, and the United States. Includes some holograph poems. Also includes correspondence of English poet Westland Marston and his son, Philip Bourke Marston.

London Metropolitan Archives:

- **HM Prison Holloway Records from the London Metropolitan Archives**
Holloway Prison was built by the Corporation of London as the City House of Correction for men and women. First opened in 1852, it was taken over by the government in 1877, and became female only in 1903. Several well-known suffragettes, including the Pankhursts, were imprisoned at Holloway, as well as Fascist and Nazi-sympathiser Dian Mitford, and rebels associated with the



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Easter Rebellion. Murderers Edith Thompson, Amelia Sach and Annie Walters were executed at the prison. Records relating to Holloway Prison include administrative, medical and staff records, and documents relating to prisoners' employment. The collection also includes photographs of the prison and staff.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library:

- **National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses Records, 1908-1951**

The National Association of Coloured Graduate Nurses (NACGN) was organised in 1908 by a group of fifty-two graduate nurses. Martha Franklin in Connecticut, a graduate of the school of nursing of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia, spearheaded the development of the organization. The goals of the new organization were to achieve higher professional standards, to break down discriminatory practices facing black nurses, and to develop leadership.

- **Katz/Prince Collection, 1967-1973**

Lucy Terry Prince, black pioneer, was born in Africa in 1730 and died in 1821 at the age of 91. Aged five, she was brought to Newport, Rhode Island and sold into slavery. For the next twenty-five years she worked as a domestic servant. In 1756, Lucy Terry married Abijah Prince, a black soldier and former slave. Although the couple had met in 1746, it took ten years for Prince to earn the money to buy Lucy's freedom. Throughout her life, Lucy Terry Prince distinguished herself as a woman of intelligence and determination. In 1746, at the age of sixteen, she wrote a poetic ballad commemorating the Indian attack on a Deerfield haying party and is consequently considered the earliest black American poet whose work still exists.

The Katz/Prince Collection of manuscript drafts and research materials on Lucy Terry Prince was assembled by writers Bernard and Jonathan Katz as supporting documentation for a book entitled *Black Women: A Fictionalized Biography of Lucy Terry Prince* (Pantheon, 1973). The collection includes a great deal of background information on eighteenth-century New England history. The collection also provides insight into the research methods of authors Bernard and Jonathan Katz, including documents like manuscript drafts and correspondence.

- **Earl Conrad/Harriet Tubman Collection**

The Earl Conrad/Harriet Tubman Collection represents the results of several years of research by historian-journalist Earl Conrad into the life and activities of Harriet Tubman. Known as the Moses of her people because she led over three hundred slaves to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad, Tubman was also a nurse, spy, and a scout. The collection includes correspondence between Conrad and potential sources of relevant information, research notes from published works, statements and interviews with members of Harriet's family and others who knew her, and the various typescripts and drafts preceding Conrad's finished publications.



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- **Gwendolyn Bennett Papers, 1916-1981**

Gwendolyn Bennett, African American poet, essayist, short-story writer, teacher and artist was an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance. This collection of papers documents the personal and professional life of Gwendolyn Bennett, from her adolescence in the mid-1910s to the late 1940s.

- **Eusebia Cosme Papers, 1927-1973**

Eusebia Cosme (or Eusebia Cosme Almanza) was an Afro-Cuban poetry reciter, actress, interpreter of Afro-Antillian verse, concert performer and radio show host. Cosme was considered the most successful Cuban diseuse of Afro-Antillian verse. The Eusebia Cosme Papers, 1927-1973, deal mainly with Ms. Cosme's career as a diseuse and actress and include: correspondence, personal papers, contracts, poems (including some written about Cosme), essays, programmes, newspaper and magazine clippings, scripts, posters, and photographs.

Royal College of Nursing:

- **Historical Nursing Journals**

The historical nursing journals contain a wide range of information about hospitals, wards, staff, patients, illness and diseases, medicine and treatments, hospital equipment and events. As well as articles, letters and obituaries, the journals contain many photographs relating to all aspects of nursing and a wide variety of advertisements. The advertisements provide a rich source for the history of patent medicines, childcare products, uniforms and social and medical history.

Senate House Library, University of London:

- **Ida Holden Papers**

Ida Holden retired from her job at Mirror Group Newspapers in 1959. Her papers include details of the alleged thought transference from Cecil King and Lord Northcliffe thereafter.

- **Edinburgh Seances**

Emmeline Vyner, who lived in Edinburgh in the 1930s, had a firm belief in life after death but her accounts could be critical and humorous. Her papers comprise manuscript and typed records of spiritualist meetings, voice circles, and card readings.

- **Caroline Augusta Foley Rhys-Davids Papers**

Caroline Rhys-Davids (1857-1942) became involved with spirit communications and telepathy, and published on this subject after the death of her only son, Arthur, during the First World War. Her papers comprise diaries and notebooks containing automatic writing and notes on the afterlife, as well her academic research on Buddhist mythology, along with drafts for her work, 'What is your Will?', published in 1937.



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- **Diaries about Spiritualism and Other Topics**

Anne Rushout, who died in 1849, was the daughter of John, 1st Baron Northwick of Northwick Park, Worcestershire. Her diaries, 1828-1849, illustrate her interest in spiritualism. Many of the diary volumes also cover domestic and international travel. Not all volumes have confirmed authorship. Volumes 11-14 may be by her brother, John Rushout (1770-1859) 2nd Baron Northwick.

Smithsonian Institution:

- **Caroline Jones Collection**

Caroline R. Jones (1942-2001), an African American advertising executive, worked for a number of prominent New York ad agencies and founded her own firm in 1986. She is best known for her work in assisting clients in marketing to minority consumers. The collection contains creative presentations, business correspondence, internal memoranda, market research, focus group interviews, production documents, print advertisements, and other documentation for numerous clients at J. Walter Thompson, Kabon Consultants, Zebra Associates, Kenyon & Eckhardt, the Black Creative Group, BBDO, Mingo-Jones Advertising, and Caroline Jones Advertising. Also included are more personal documents including articles and speeches by Jones (many on the subject of targeted marketing to minority consumers), photographs, awards, and a small number of personal papers from her childhood.

State Library New South Wales:

- **Hidden Treasures of the Mitchell Library: Sydney Periodicals, 1886-2016**

A selection of women's magazines from the Mitchell Library's large and unique collection of magazines published in Sydney since 1895. These publications provided a commentary on the many activities of domestic, social, cultural, and political life experienced by women.

- **Australian and New Zealand Women's Organisations, 1835-2002**

Items have been selected from across the holdings of the State Library of New South Wales concerning women's organisation across Australia and New Zealand. The collection documents the promotion of female emigration to the Australian colonies; business and professional women's clubs; women's missionary work; religious councils; the Young Women's Christian Association; societies for women's and children's health; political groups and women's rights organisations.



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The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom):

- **Suffragettes, 1886-1935**

This collection contains various records sourced from across The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom) detailing government monitoring of militant supporters of the women's suffrage movement. The collection includes arrest records; calendars of prisoners; cabinet letters, Home Office papers and parliamentary papers regarding the movement; suffragettes' personal statements of their experiences such as force feeding; transcripts of speeches and much more.

- **HM Prison Holloway Records from The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom)**

The largest women's prison in western Europe until 2016, Holloway has housed several notable inmates including suffragettes, fascists, and revolutionaries. Suffragettes imprisoned there include Emmeline Pankhurst, Christabel Pankhurst and Emily Davison. The collection includes records from the Home Office, Treasury Board and Prison Commission papers on the running of the prison, as well as Licences for the inmates detailing their crimes and sentences, providing great insight into the female experience of the justice system. These records can also shine a light on the lives of working-class women, who in the nineteenth and early twentieth century are often only recorded via government institutions. Holloway Prison is also unique because it often trialed new reform methods instigated by female philanthropic organisations.

Yale Divinity School:

- **Yale Divinity School Periodicals**

The Day Missions Collection is the strongest collection of its kind anywhere in the world including official publications of several mission agencies. The periodicals housed in this collection specifically concern women's missionary work in the US, Scotland, Germany, India, Norway, England, Canada, and China.



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