



The Sybil Campbell Collection

at the University of Winchester

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ISSUE 19 | AUGUST 2011

The Library was founded at Crosby Hall in 1928 by the British Federation of University Women, now the British Federation of Women Graduates

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Sybil Campbell Library Annual Lecture 2011

The 2011 lecture will again take place at the University Women's Club on Thursday 27th October at 6.30. The speaker will be Gillian Darley on the topic of 'Octavia Hill and Opportunities for Women'.

Gillian Darley is a London-based writer and broadcaster on architecture and landscape. Her subjects are the buildings, places and people that intrigue her, whether from the past or the present. Her first book *Villages of Vision*, which led her to Octavia Hill and Victorian reforming women, was revised and reissued in 2007. Her biographies of John Soane (1999) and John Evelyn (2006) were both shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. She was the architectural correspondent of the Observer and is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books* and the *TLS*. Since 2008 she has been on the Council of the National Trust, representing the SPAB, of which she is a Trustee.

Octavia Hill was born into a family of reforming radicals. Following in their footsteps, she embarked on a lifelong campaign to help improve the living conditions of the London poor and became one of the most influential and admired women of the Victorian era. She was one of the three founders of the National Trust. Gillian Darley's book on Octavia Hill was first published in 1990 to great acclaim and has been issued in a paperback edition.

Lecture including a glass of wine and sandwich £20 (students £10). Please contact Dr Stephanie Spencer, Faculty of Education, Health and Social Care, University of Winchester, SO22 4NR to book a place or for further information.

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Sybil Campbell Annual Seminar May 25th 2011

The annual seminar in 2011 was held in the Sybil Campbell Library Training Room at the University of Winchester. Under the watchful eye of Sybil Campbell's portrait the seminar divided into two parts.

The first paper was entitled *Personalities, Provenance and Pertinence*. Margaret Roake introduced the talk by noting 'This paper recalls some of the many personalities who have worked on the collection, illustrated by a pictorial display *The History of the Federation* which Nancy Edwards prepared for the BFWG centenary at Manchester in 2007. The paper then focuses particularly on Alys Russell's and Ivy Davison's influence on the early provenance of the collection. Also, using some of the volumes, I suggest the pertinence of several elements of the collection for today's students at Winchester who may be choosing their dissertations or research projects'.

The paper generated a great deal of discussion and the books highlighted

in the talk were available for more detailed examination. We were very grateful to Margaret Roake for bringing along the display prepared in 2007 as it gave those new to the Collection a fascinating insight into the early days of the Federation.

The roll call of famous and influential women who have been involved in the Collection is impressive and underlines the importance of maintaining the Collection as a valuable resource. As we so often say, research is as important on the collection as in the collection.

The second half of the evening took the form of a talk by Stephanie Spencer and Mandy Smith on the Winchester Research Apprentice Project (WRAP). This project funded by the university enables undergraduate students in their second or final year to work with established academics on their research for one or two weeks following the end of the second semester.

In summer 2010 Mandy worked with

Joyce Goodman and Stephanie Spencer on some of the archives of the Collection as well as identifying possible future dissertation topics using the books in the collection. Over the course of the two weeks Mandy worked through the letters written to the library committee during the early years and created a database detailing the content of the letters as well as the authors and recipients. She also began a search of the Federation minutes focusing on the early days of the Library at Crosby Hall. The role of the Library at Crosby Hall as a centre of sociability as well as learning became very apparent as we read through the accounts of trips and visits by overseas members of the International Federation. An article discussing the WRAP project in more detail will be published in *The History of Education Researcher* in 2012.

The seminar concluded a day organised by the Winchester branch of the Federation who were joined for the seminar by staff and students from the University and the Centre for the History of Women's Education.

Sybil Campbell Library Annual Lectures 2010 and 2011

The annual lecture in 2010 was given by Sandy Lerner on *Pen and Parsimony: Carriages in the novels of Jane Austen* at the University Women's Club on 28th October 2010. The library of the Club provided an appropriate setting for a lively and extensively illustrated talk on the subtle messages portrayed in Austen's description of the various modes of transport used by her characters.

Sue Ouvry's account of the lecture on the Sybil Campbell library website notes how Dr Lerner explained 'General Tilney

in *Northanger Abbey*, a man of wealth, by sending Catherine Morland home alone in a Post Chaise, a dangerous way of travelling not suited to a young girl from a good family and the equivalent these days of a Greyhound Bus, demonstrated his total lack of care of a young person in his charge. Captain Wentworth, demonstrated his love and regard for his wife by providing her with a Landalette (a lady's carriage for independent use) despite the huge expense which he could barely afford'. For the full account of the lecture see sybilcampbellcollection.org.uk. We were very grateful to Dr Lerner for

giving up her time during one of her visits to the UK to oversee the work being undertaken at Chawton Library – a daunting restoration project that she initiated in 1993 as a result of her passion for Austen's novels. A more detailed account of this extensive philanthropic project can be found on the Chawton House website: www.chawton.org.

Prior to the lecture Dr Elizabeth Poskitt presented the BFWG postgraduate awards to candidates in their third and final year of postgraduate study for excellence in their research.

Guidelines for the Sybil Campbell Collection Trustees Prize for the Best Undergraduate Dissertation Making Use of the Sybil Campbell Collection at the University of Winchester

The Trustees of the Sybil Campbell Collection (which is located at the University of Winchester) are offering a prize to the value of £50 for the best University of Winchester undergraduate dissertation drawing centrally on material in the Sybil Campbell Collection.

Dissertations submitted by undergraduate students at the University of Winchester will be considered by a panel of judges consisting of two academic members of staff from the University of Winchester and one trustee of the Sybil Campbell Collection. The panel

will judge the dissertations in terms of

- Use of material in the Sybil Campbell Collection at the University of Winchester
- Location within appropriate secondary literature
- Clear indication of methodological approach
- Strength of argument presented
- Standard of literary presentation

Undergraduates wishing to be considered for the Sybil Campbell Dissertation Prize should hand in an additional copy of their dissertation to the Faculty Office

on the due date for submission of their dissertation. The additional copy should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked "For consideration for the Sybil Campbell Dissertation Prize for the attention of Professor Joyce Goodman". Students should include in the envelope with the dissertation their name and student ID number, a photocopy of their student's ID card and contact details. The winner of the Sybil Campbell Dissertation Prize will be announced on or shortly after the date that degree classifications are conveyed to students.

For further details on the material contained in the Sybil Campbell Collection at the University of Winchester, see the Collection's catalogue, which can be accessed via <http://sybilcampbellcollection.org.uk/scc/> The Trustees reserve the right not to award the prize in any given year

Guidelines for the Deposit of Books in the Sybil Campbell Collection, Including Bequests of Books

The following guidelines are provided to advise those wishing to deposit or bequeath books to the Collection. Deposit of books not already in the Sybil Campbell Collection or the University of Winchester University Library published prior to 1958, are welcome in the categories below.

A bookplate will be inserted to indicate that the book has been deposited in relation to the Sybil Campbell Collection.

- Books written by women (not necessarily about women), including books by members of the British Federation of Women Graduates
 - Books about women, including biographies of women
 - Women's history
 - Accounts and printed reports of women's organisations
 - Women's education (informal and formal)
 - Women, the arts and literature
- Process of deposit for books in the Sybil Campbell Collection

1. Books for deposit should be listed by the donor, or her or his representative
2. All titles/authors should be checked by the donor, or her or his representative, against the online catalogues of the Sybil Campbell Collection and the University of Winchester Library (both of which are accessible to the general public at the web addresses below) to ensure that the list does not contain books already held by the Sybil Campbell Collection or the University Library
3. Once checked against the catalogues, the list of books for deposit or bequest should be submitted by the donor, or her or his representative, to the University Librarian, with a covering letter outlining the deposit or bequest
4. The decision on the books to be retained will be made by the University Librarian who will submit the letter and list of books for deposit

- to the Sybil Campbell Steering Committee for endorsement.
5. The decision on the deposit of the books will be conveyed to the donor, or her or his representative, in writing after the meeting of the Sybil Campbell Steering Group. Executors wishing to deposit collections outwith the process outlined above may do so on the understanding that the University Librarian will decide on the books to be retained.

Sybil Campbell Collection Catalogue:
<http://sybilcampbellcollection.org.uk/scc/>

University of Winchester Library
Catalogue: <http://talisprism.winchester.ac.uk/TalisPrism/>

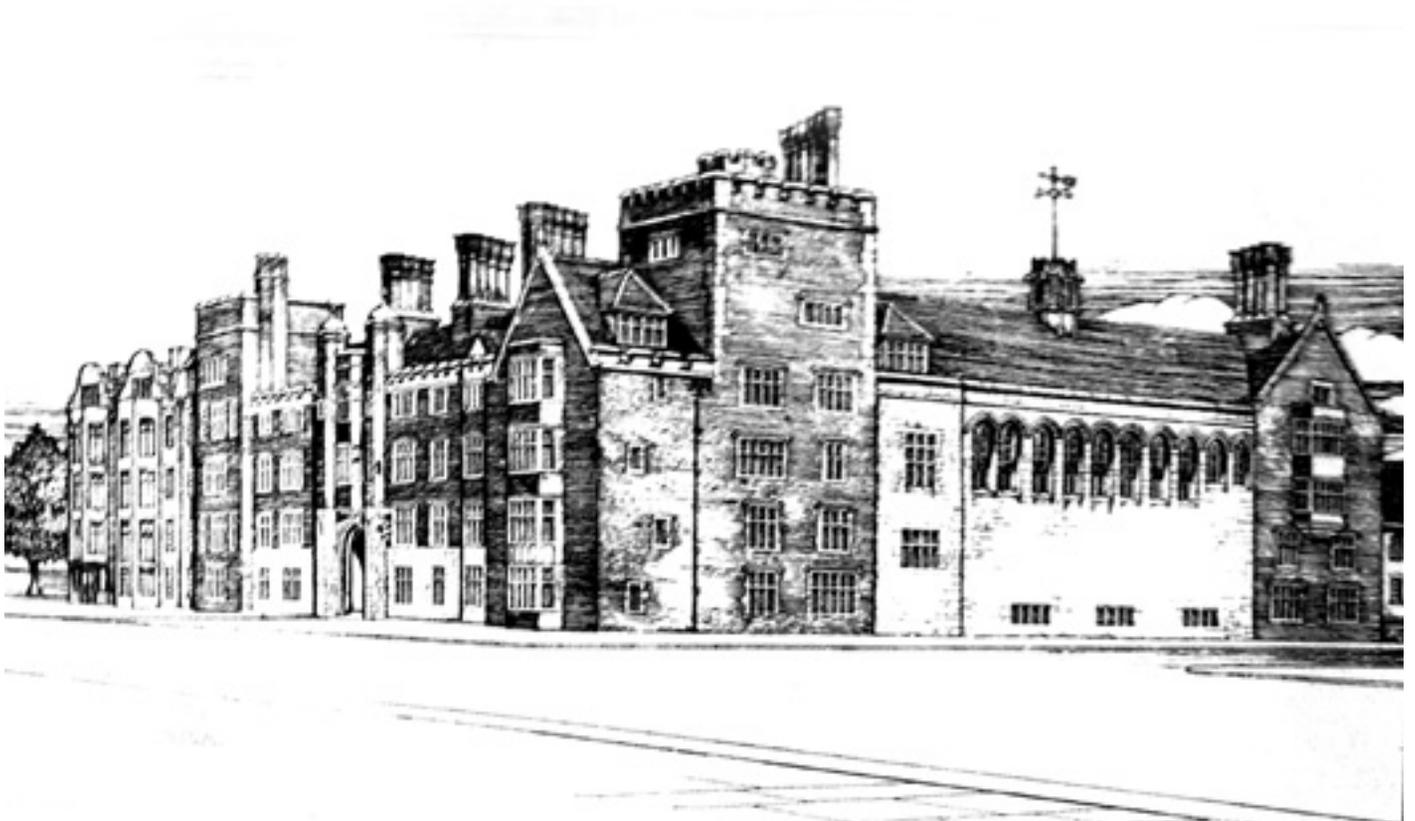
The Sybil Campbell Library and London Life

Paper delivered by Dr Stephanie Spencer at the European Education Research Association Conference, Berlin September 13-16 2011

One of the largest sections of the Sybil Campbell Library is a collection on London itself, especially Chelsea where Crosby Hall was located. The paper drew on Carolyn Steedman's book *Dust* (Manchester University Press, 2002), in analysing the sensory power of a book collection for the historian. Is it more than the sum of its parts. The paper discussed why the trustees and the university are so adamant that the collection holds more meaning if it is held separately rather than integrated onto the general shelves. This paper

reflects on the possibilities inherent in research on a collection such as this, rather than focusing on the content of the books contained in the Library. In response to the conference theme the paper focussed on the London section and discussed the London that would have been presented to the new arrivals to the Hall through the books of the Library. What impression of the Capital did the benefactors wish their newly arrived readers to take away with them? What are the possibilities for the researcher into women's formal and informal education in this Collection?

Who donated them? Whose London do they reflect? Were they intended to educate or entertain academic visitors? The state of the book itself might indicate how much it was read – or even how much of it was read. The books display traces of a nomadic life – from the libraries of literary giants of the mid twentieth century displayed through book plates, to careful cataloguing and re-listing numbers. In theorising the significance of place and space in terms of inanimate objects the paper also discusses the meaning of the movement of the books themselves.



Mailing List

Please let the Centre for the History of Women's Education know of any updates for the mailing list.

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