

## Research Conducted by Dr Barnita Bagchi at the Sybil Campbell Library, Winchester University, 2008

The Centre for the History of Women's Education (CHWE), Winchester University, was kind enough to affiliate me as a Visiting Researcher during my visit to the United Kingdom in June-July 2008. My visit extended the fruitful academic exchange undertaken between CHWE and its members and myself from 2007, on multiple occasions, including the Hamburg symposium co-organised by CHWE members on 'Empire Overseas and Empire Abroad: Social Change in the History of Education,' July 2007, and the Women's History Network Annual Conference 'Collecting Women's Lives' organised by CHWE at Winchester University in September 2007.

I benefited from the opportunity of consulting the Sybil Campbell Collection at the University of Winchester library, looking in particular at records relating to the Indian Federation of University

Women in India. This research was conducted for two of my ongoing projects, a book-length, female agency-centred history of women in 20th century India, and a monograph on modern Indian women's narrativization and agency in educational work. I consulted material (principally reports, pamphlets, and pamphlet-length histories of the associations), pertaining to the Federation of University Women in India. (The Federation, founded in 1920 and affiliated to the International Federation of University Women in 1921, brought together the Association of British University Women in India, founded in 1913, and the Bombay Presidency Women Graduates Union, founded in 1915 by Cornelia Sorabji.)

My work on women's social capital and women's associationalism in South Asia in the first half of the 20th century was substantially enriched by this research. From these reports I was able to glean fascinating pictures of women's associational sociality and socialising (including the theatrical and other performative aspects of such events), campaigning and canvassing (sometimes abortive) around issues such as women's franchise, and the interfaces between local, national, and international women's associations.

### Barnita Bagchi

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

The Sybil Campbell Collection welcomes deposits, including bequests. 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 Library published prior to 1958, are welcome in the following categories:

- 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 information
- 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://sybilcampbelllibrary.org.uk/catalogue/>  
University of Winchester Library Catalogue:  
<http://talisprism.winchester.ac.uk/TalisPrism/>



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

BFWG Sybil Campbell Collection  
University Library  
University of Winchester Winchester  
SO22 4NR

E: [libenquiries@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:libenquiries@winchester.ac.uk)  
T: 01962 827306  
[www.winchester.ac.uk](http://www.winchester.ac.uk)  
<http://sybilcampbelllibrary.org.uk>

BFWG Sybil Campbell  
Library Trust Fund  
4 Mandeville Courtyard  
142 Battersea Park Road  
London SW11 4NB

Charity No. 273043

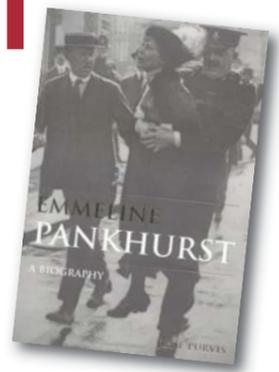


# The Sybil Campbell Collection at the University of Winchester

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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## Sybil Campbell Lecture



*Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928), Leader of the Suffragette Movement in Edwardian Britain*

JUNE PURVIS, Professor of Women's and Gender History, University of Portsmouth, UK. Email [june.purvis@btinternet.com](mailto:june.purvis@btinternet.com)

On 18 November 2008, I gave the Sybil Campbell Lecture, at the University Women's Club, and spoke about the some of the issues involved in writing my book *Emmeline Pankhurst: A Biography*, published by Routledge in 2002. It was the first full length biography of her for nearly seventy years and involved over ten years of research in locating, reading and interpreting primary sources.

The dominant narrative about the suffragette movement in Edwardian Britain is Sylvia Pankhurst's *The Suffragette Movement: an Intimate Account of Persons and Ideals*, first published in 1931 and reprinted by Virago in a cheap paperback edition in 1977. Widely cited and accepted as authoritative on the Pankhurst family, I found it a deeply troubling text, especially in regard to the way Sylvia represents her mother, Emmeline, the founder in 1903 of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the most notorious of the women's suffrage groups campaigning for the parliamentary vote for their sex. During the course of the suffragette movement, the socialist feminist Sylvia disagreed with the more women centred views of her mother and her hated eldest sister, Christabel, openly acknowledged as their mother's favourite child. In 1914, she was expelled from the WSPU by Emmeline and Christabel for allying her mixed sex organisation, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, to the labour movement, a move that was contrary to WSPU policy. Emmeline and Christabel had always insisted that the WSPU should be a women-only organisation,

be independent of men's political parties, recruit women of all social classes, and campaign actively for the vote with the slogan, 'Deeds, not words'. During the First World War, the pacifist Sylvia strongly opposed her mother's patriotic support for her country and then in the 1920s, when Sylvia moved further and further to the left, becoming a founding member of the British Communist Party, the breach between them had widened further. By the time of Emmeline's death in July 1928, Sylvia was still estranged from her mother – and Christabel who had converted to Second Adventism. So when Sylvia sat down to write her influential text *The Suffragette Movement* she did not portray her mother (or Christabel) in a favourable light.

In *The Suffragette Movement* the socialist feminist Sylvia represents her mother as – a traitor to the socialist cause; a leader who deliberately encouraged wealthy Conservative women to join the WSPU; a leader who failed to mobilise the working classes and address their economic, social and political needs; a misguided autocrat; a weak woman easily swayed by Christabel who, with her mother, led the WSPU; a failed mother who was so preoccupied with the women's cause that she neglected her less favoured children – the youngest daughter Adela, a son Harry, and Sylvia herself. Moreover, Sylvia presents the WSPU as being focussed on a single issue, votes for women, rather than campaigning for wider social reforms. And, above all, she claims that her arrangement to get the anti-suffrage Prime Minister Asquith, to receive her East End

## 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 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

The Trustees reserve the right not to award the prize in any given year.

delegation in June 1914 was the key to winning the vote.

Most historians have accepted this negative portrayal of Emmeline Pankhurst, without question, and it is hard to dislodge. Yet this is what I try to do in my Emmeline Pankhurst where I represent 'Mrs. Pankhurst' as she was commonly known as a powerful and much loved leader of a women's movement, a charismatic figure and a gifted orator. Even those who disagreed with her militant tactics often admired her vision, determination and courage. Her feminism was born out of a sense of the burning injustices of the wrongs done to her sex in a male-dominated society, and embraced all women, stressing gender rather than class inequalities. She had the vision to realise that it was women themselves who had to be roused to demand their own political rights – and this she did successfully as thousands of women from a wide variety of backgrounds (including working-class women) were drawn into the campaign.

Emmeline Pankhurst wanted the vote not only to end women's political inequality but to bring about a wide programme of social change that would end the exploitation of the working classes and the sexual and economic exploitation of children. She was autocratic – and openly said so as she defended the undemocratic structure of the WSPU. But she believed that since 60 years of committee work and peaceful campaigning for the women's vote had brought no success, different methods were needed, especially the more militant methods that had been adopted by men who were enfranchised. A single parent during the years of the suffragette campaign, she struggled financially to support her dependent children – and to be a political leader, the lot of many women involved in public life.

So my research raises for me many questions about the way biography is written, especially when daughters write about mothers. And in this particular case, the picture is complicated because Sylvia wrote two other books where

her mother is presented in a more favourable light – *The Suffragette* (1911) and *The Life of Emmeline Pankhurst* (1935). This raises the important point that all of us, at differing times in our lives, might write different versions of events. Even Barack Obama, the newly elected first black president of the USA, says in the preface to the second edition of his autobiography, *Dreams From my Father* (2007), that he might have written his account differently if he had known that his mother would die from cancer just a few months after the first publication in 2004. What I try to do in my biography of Emmeline Pankhurst is to re-position her as a great figure of the twentieth century, a role that has been largely denied her by most historians – although not by the general public. Perhaps it is fitting to end by remembering a comment passed by the gifted Rebecca West in 1933, namely that Sylvia Pankhurst's *The Suffragette Movement* was an expression of the 'burning resentment that the child of a brilliant mother may feel at having to share her brilliance with the world.'

## Nancy Raymond Edwards, (Née Briggs), M.A., F.S.A. (1929-2009)

**A tribute to Nancy Edwards, SCL Trustee, who died in a road traffic accident 23rd January 2009**

We have always known Nancy to be a very special person, scholarly, highly intelligent and totally dedicated to the Library and the Federation. Her mind was razor sharp. She was always very precise in her work and always



thoroughly checked her sources. There was eagerness and energy in the way she tackled any query and a generosity in sharing her knowledge. She will be a great loss to the Library and sadly missed.

Nancy was Chairman of the Library Committee 1999-2003, serving at the same time as a Governor of the BFWG Charitable Foundation. She worked throughout the time the Library was at Bloomsbury (to 2006), sorting and shelving the books and pamphlets, leading seminars, planning visits, taking us on Bloomsbury Walks (she was an expert on Georgian architecture).

Nancy continued to help when the Library came to the University of Winchester. She worked on the books and prepared the Library archives, becoming a Library Trustee in August 2008. Always well organised she had listed the books from her own library that she would bequeath to the Sybil Campbell Library. Nancy was BFWG Archivist from 2001 and was working on BFWG archives up to the time she died. She had also worked on the Charitable Foundation archives. Born at Winchester in 1929, she was educated

at Camberley, Surrey, and read history at St. Anne's College, Oxford, before training to be an archivist at the Bodleian Library. She worked at the Essex Record Office from 1953 until her retirement in 1987. In 1978 she married A.C. (Gus) Edwards who died in 1992.

Her many publications, pamphlets and articles (some published under her maiden name) reveal her interest not only in archives but also in Monumental Brasses, history generally and the local history of Essex in particular, domestic and church architecture and archaeology. Above all, she was an architectural historian and was working on a book concerned with the history and architecture of Essex Country Houses.

In the ten years that I worked with Nancy she was tireless in her dedication to the Library, always totally reliable, always good-humoured and unassuming. We have lost a much respected colleague and a true friend.

**Cynthia Richmond, SCL Trustee**  
30th January 2009

## Sybil Campbell Collection Steering Committee

The meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 November 2008 included the following items:

Sybil Campbell Collection Catalogue, Shelf Check, Storage of Books, Sybil Campbell Annual Lecture, Sybil Campbell Seminar at the University of Winchester, Database of BFUW Members, Archive Material; Conservation; Publicity; Bequests and Donations of Books to the Collection; Undergraduate Dissertation Prize.

### Steering Committee members:

- Faculty of Education Dean (chair)
- Two trustees of the Sybil Campbell Library, or nominees
- Faculty of Education Head of Research
- One member of the management team of the Centre for the History of Women's Education
- University of Winchester Librarian
- University of Winchester Communications Officer
- One representative each from the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Social Sciences

## Mailing List

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

Centre for the History of Women's Education, University of Winchester, Winchester SO22 4NR



## The Sybil Campbell Lecture 2009

The Sybil Campbell Lecture 2009 will take place at the University Women's Club on 29 October.



The Lecture will be delivered by Professor Roberta Gilchrist, of the University of Reading. The lecture is entitled: Medieval women and the care of the family: the archaeology of life, death and magic.

Professor Gilchrist is a foremost authority on medieval and social archaeology, with a particular interest in gender. She has published widely on the archaeology of religious communities (nunneries, monasteries, hospitals), on medieval and early modern burial, and on the archaeology of medieval and

later standing buildings. She is undertaking a pilot project on the excavations archive of Glastonbury Abbey (with Dr Cheryl Allum), in partnership with the Trustees of Glastonbury Abbey and funded by the British Academy.

She has been awarded a Major Research Fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust (2007-10), to consider archaeological approaches to gender and age in the project Medieval Lives: Archaeology and the Life Course.

She is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, was President of the Society for Medieval Archaeology (2004-7), and for 12 years was Archaeologist to Norwich Cathedral. She is a member of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of London. She has worked closely with the Museum of London Archaeology Service, as academic advisor on post-excavation projects on several monasteries. From 1997-2006 she was an editor of the journal *World Archaeology*, and is on the editorial board of the journal *Social Archaeology*.

Her publications include: *Requiem: the Medieval Monastic Cemetery in Britain* (with B. Sloane, 2005), which won the British Archaeological Award for Best Scholarly

Publication (2004-6); *Norwich Cathedral Close: the Evolution of the English Cathedral Landscape* (2005), which was selected as an Outstanding Academic Title by Choice USA, *Gender and Archaeology: Contesting the Past* (1999), *Gender and Material Culture: the Archaeology of Religious Women* (1994), and *Contemplation and Action: The Other Monasticism* (1995).

### Booking details

Arrival and refreshment 18.00. Lecture 18.30. Inclusive cost £19, students £10, for the lecture including a glass of wine and sandwiches.

Please apply by 19 October, giving names of guests and enclosing SAE and cheque. Make the cheque payable to "University of Winchester" and write on the back "Attention Dr S. Spencer".

### Post to

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