

KAREN V. KUKIL

Young Library (219E)
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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS EXPERIENCE

**Smith College, Mortimer Rare Book Collection & Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History Archives
Associate Curator of Special Collections, 1990–present**

Develop, catalog, and preserve rare book and manuscript collections; interpret collections to undergraduates through courses and class presentations; direct special studies; provide reference services and access to patrons who visit or write; maintain good relations with alumnae, donors, faculty, and other departments on campus; solicit, evaluate, and acknowledge gifts; transfer materials when appropriate; prepare budgets, monitor funds, and select new acquisitions; supervise and train staff; oversee and write exhibitions; organize special programs and conferences; serve on library committees; and represent collections at professional meetings. Board member of the Archives Concentration and Book Studies Concentration programs. Subject expertise: history of printing and illustrative methods, particularly lithography; history of science; women's history, including the work of Gloria Steinem; and modern authors, including the work of Mary Shelley, Virginia Woolf, Lola Ridge, Sylvia Plath, and Willa Cather.

**Yale University, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Archivist, 1987–1988**

Processed manuscripts; wrote finding aids for collections, including the Jean Toomer, Mina Loy, and Henry McBride Papers; assisted curators and scholars with research, supervised student assistants, and managed preservation photocopying. Subject expertise: American authors.

**Yale University, Lewis Walpole Library
Assistant Librarian, 1976–1986**

Assisted scholars with research, cataloged rare books and manuscripts, processed W. S. Lewis's archives and eighteenth-century manuscript collections, selected new purchases, mounted exhibitions, compiled bibliographies and inventories, supervised student assistants, and managed endowed funds, business operations, and security system. Curated exhibition of archaeological artifacts excavated on property and conducted tours. Subject expertise: Horace Walpole and British eighteenth-century studies.

EDUCATION

M.L.S., *summa cum laude*, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut, 1982.
B.A., English, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, 1975.

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Book Chapters

- “Beyond *Letters Home*: Sylvia Plath's Unabridged Correspondence” *Sylvia Plath in Context*. Ed. Tracy Brain (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

- *The Letters of Sylvia Plath*. Ed. Peter K. Steinberg and Karen V. Kukil, 2 vols. (London: Faber and Faber, 2017-18.) *The Letters of Sylvia Plath*, 2 vols. (New York: HarperCollins, 2017-18).
- “Teaching the Material Archive at Smith College” *The Boundaries of the Literary Archive: Reclamation and Representation*. Ed. Carrie Smith and Lisa Stead (London: Ashgate, 2013).
- “No Other Appetite”: *Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and the Blood Jet of Poetry*. By Stephen C. Enniss and Karen V. Kukil (New York: Grolier Club, 2005). Division One winner of the 2007 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab *American Book Prices Current* Exhibition Award, sponsored by the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.
- *Woolf in the Real World: Selected Papers from the Thirteenth International Conference on Virginia Woolf*. Ed. Karen V. Kukil (Clemson, S.C.: Clemson University Digital Press, 2005).
- *The Journals of Sylvia Plath, 1950-1962*. Ed. Karen V. Kukil. (London: Faber and Faber, 2000). Paper edition, 2001. Translated into many languages, including Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- *The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath*. Ed. Karen V. Kukil. (New York: Anchor Books, 2000).

Articles & Reviews

- “The Genesis of *Mary Ventura and the Ninth Kingdom*” *Hudson Review* 72 (spring 2019): 29-37.
- “Reviving the Journals of Sylvia Plath” *British Library Discovering Literature: 20th Century* (www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/reviving-the-journals-of-sylvia-plath). 2016.
- “Sylvia and Marty” *Alumnae Spotlight Stories* (October 1, 2012).
- “Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group: A Pen and Press of Their Own” *Schema*
- Review for Oxford University Press of *Eye Rhymes: Sylvia Plath’s Art of the Visual*, August 2006.
- “A Collection of Our Own,” *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* 90 (fall 2003):28–32.
- “True to Her Words.” *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* 87 (spring 2001): 22–27.
- “Paper Hearts: The Correspondence of Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey,” *Charleston Magazine* 23 (spring 2001): 23–30.
- “The Bloomsbury Collections at Smith College,” *Virginia Woolf Miscellany* 56 (fall 2000): 4–5.
- “The Frances Hooper Collection of Virginia Woolf Manuscripts and Books,” *Humanities Collections* 1:1 (1996).
- “Using Primary Sources in Textual Scholarship: Sylvia Plath’s *Ariel* Poems,” *News from the Libraries*, spring 1998.
- “Monetary Appraisal,” *NEA Newsletter* 15:3 (1988), 5–6.
- “Additions and Corrections to Hazen’s *A Catalogue of Horace Walpole’s Library*,” *PBSA* 78:4 (1984), 473–88.

Newsletters

- Co-editor of Smith College’s *News from the Libraries*, January 2001–2006.

SELECT LECTURES AND INTERVIEWS

- “Editing the Letters of Sylvia Plath” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington, 9-12 January 2020
- “Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath: Insights from their Archives at Smith College” Charleston to Charleston Festival, South Carolina, 7-10 November 2019.
- “Sylvia Plath and *Mary Ventura and the Ninth Kingdom*” Writers in the Schools Program sponsored by the *Hudson Review*, Edward R. Murrow High School (Brooklyn) and the Young Women’s Leadership School (Harlem), 16-17 April 2019.
- “Artists’ Books in the Smith College Special Collections” Northampton Book and Book Arts Fair, 30 November 2018.
- “Triple-Threat Woman: The Letters of Sylvia Plath,” British Library, London, 23 October 2018. <https://www.bl.uk/events/triple-threat-woman-the-letters-of-sylvia-plath>

- Interviewed for BBC documentary *Sylvia Plath—Inside the Bell Jar*, released 11 August 2018.
- “Editing the *Letters of Sylvia Plath*,” Books & Bagels Series, 92nd Street Y, New York, NYC, 8 April 2018.
- “Sylvia Plath’s Journals, Letters, and Poetry,” National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., 7 December 2017.
- “Beyond *Letters Home*: Sylvia Plath’s Unabridged Correspondence,” Plenary lecture at Sylvia Plath: Letters Words and Fragments Conference, Ulster University, Belfast, Ireland, 10-11 November 2017.
- “Teaching with the Sylvia Plath Collection at Smith College,” Sylvia Plath Symposium, Grolier Club, New York, New York, 12 October 2017. <https://vimeo.com/238441689>
- “One Life: Sylvia Plath,” National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., 12 September, 2017.
- “Curating Virginia Woolf at Smith College,” 26th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Leeds Trinity University, Yorkshire, England, 16-19 June 2016.
- “Sylvia Plath and the North Shore,” 2016 Massachusetts Poetry Festival, Salem, Mass., 30 April 2016.
- “Virginia Woolf and Book History” (Respondent) Modern Language Association, Chicago, 10 January 2014. Program arranged by the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing and the International Virginia Woolf Society.
- “*The Bell Jar* at 50” 13th Annual Professor John Howard Birss, Jr. Memorial Lecture, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, 27 February 2013. Delivered at Smith College, 5 September 2013. Interviewed online: <https://www.smith.edu/video/bell-jar-revisited-50th-anniversary-celebration>
- “Sound Poetry: From Sylvia Plath to Anne Rubicam Witten,” 54th Annual Rare Book and Manuscript Preconference of ACRL, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 24 June 2013.
- “On Being Ill,” Cancer Connection, Northampton, Massachusetts, 11 May 2013. Organized by Paris Press.
- “Unveiling the Face of Sylvia Plath” Poetry Center, Smith College, 29 November 2012.
- “Fever 103°” and “Teaching Plath in the Archives,” Sylvia Plath 2012 Symposium, Bloomington, Indiana, 24-27 October 2012.
- “Lynda K. Bundtzen” Williams College, 25 May 2012. Retirement celebration.
- “Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury at Smith College” Modern Language Association, Seattle, 7 January 2012.
- “Virginia Woolf: An Epistolary Iconoclast” 21st Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf, University of Glasgow, Scotland, 12 June 2011.
- “Plath on Poetry,” Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts, 13 April 2011.
- “The hot steamy drench of the day: Sylvia Plath on Poetry” Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC, in conjunction with the induction of Sylvia Plath to Poets’ Corner, 4 November 2010.
- Interviewed by Jill Kaufman for WFCR’s *Local Features*, 13 October 2010
www.publicbroadcasting.net/wfcr/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1712370/WFCR.Local.Features/Daily.life.in.the.letters.of.Sylvia.Plath
- “Ted Hughes and the Sylvia Plath Collection at Smith College,” International Ted Hughes Conference, Pembroke College, Cambridge, England, 14-18 September 2010.
- “Objects Are Documents,” International Biography Conference, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 15 May 2010; revised for Women Writing on Women’s Lives Seminar at CUNY, NYC, 6 December 2010.
- “A Room of Their Own,” Gallery talk with Cornelia Pearsall, Smith College Museum of Art, 12 May 2010.
- “Yaddo at Smith” for panel “Yaddo: Shimmering Light across American Library Exhibitions,” Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Wilmington, Delaware, 1 May 2010.
- Interviewed by Marco Werman for PRI’s *The World*, 16 April 2010.
- “Sylvia Plath’s Poetry,” Columbia College, Chicago, 22 October 2009.
- “Discovering Sylvia Plath and Virginia Woolf in the Archives,” Denver University, 21 June 2008; revised for Smith’s Archives Concentration, 4 February 2010.

- “Sylvia Plath’s Women and Poetry” 75th Sylvia Plath Anniversary Symposium, Oxford University, 27 October 2007; Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, 3 May 2007.
- “Leslie Stephen’s Photograph Album and *To the Lighthouse*,” Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., 30 December 2005.
- “‘No Other Appetite’: Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and the Blood Jet of Poetry,” with Stephen C. Enniss, Grolier Club, New York City, 20 October 2005.
- Interviewed by A & E for *Sylvia Plath: Biography*, 2004.
- “Objects are Documents: The Bloomsbury Collections at Smith College,” University of Wales, Bangor, 15 June 2001.
- “Sylvia Plath Revealed: The Unabridged Journals,” with J. D. McClatchy, Cynthia Ozick, and others, New York Public Library, 17 April 2001.
- Interviewed by Christopher Lydon for National Public Radio’s *The Connection*, 15 December 2000.
- “The Journals of Sylvia Plath,” Smith College, 1 November 2000.
- “A Tribute to Sylvia Plath,” with Jill Ker Conway, Boston Globe Book Festival, Boston Public Library, 18 October 2000.
- “The Bloomsbury Collections at Smith College,” Yale Center for British Art, 6 June 2000.
- “Poems from a Marriage: Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes,” with Stephen C. Enniss, Friends of the Emory Libraries, Atlanta, Georgia, 27 April 2000.
- “Reviving the Journals of Sylvia Plath,” (Dawon Scott Memorial Lecture), English PEN International Writers’ Day, Café Royal, London, 8 April 2000.
- “Editing the Journals of Sylvia Plath,” Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Science, Williams College, 7 March 2001.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

- Co-organized The Power of Women’s Voices, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, 28-29 September 2007. A symposium celebrating 65 years of collecting women’s history archives at Smith College. Keynote address by Gloria Steinem.
- Co-organized the Thirteenth International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, 5-8 June 2003. Attended by over 350 international scholars. Seven plenary sessions were featured along with nearly 200 conference papers, which addressed the theme of the conference—“Woolf in the Real World.”
- Co-organized the dedication of the Mortimer Rare Book Room, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, 1994.

COURSES TAUGHT AT SMITH COLLEGE

- *Editing Sylvia Plath’s Poetry*, Smith College, January 2017-January 2019.
- *Editing Sylvia Plath’s Correspondence*, Smith College, January 2011-January 2013.
- *Editing Sylvia Plath’s Correspondence with Marcia Brown Stern*, Smith College, 2008.
- *Paper Hearts: The Friendships of Virginia Woolf and Sylvia Plath in Letters*, Smith College, January 2001.
- *Using Primary Sources in Textual Scholarship: Sylvia Plath’s Ariel Poems*, Smith College, January 1998.
- *The Composition of Books*, Smith College, 1990-91 (with Ruth Mortimer).

SELECT EXHIBITIONS AT SMITH COLLEGE AND AT OTHER VENUES

- *One Life: Sylvia Plath*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., 30 June 2017-20 May 2018. Co-curated with Dorothy Moss.
- *Creative Colleagues*, Neilson Library, February-May 2014.
- *Sylvia Plath and The Bell Jar*, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, 1 February-15 March 2013. Co-curated with Christine Fagan.
- *Willa Cather: A Retrospective*, Neilson Library, June-August 2011. Co-curated with Emily Cook for the 13th International Willa Cather Seminar.
- *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group*, Neilson Library, April-July 2010 & online, in conjunction with *A Room of Their Own: The Bloomsbury Artists in American Collections*, Smith College Museum of Art, April-June 2010.
- *Bertha Capen Reynolds (1885-1978): Social Work Educator and Practitioner*, Neilson Library, July-August 2010.
- *Photographs of Molly Malone Cook*, in conjunction with Mary Oliver poetry reading, Smith College, 29 September 2009.
- *Unconquered by Flames: The Literary Lights of Yaddo*, August-October 2009 & online. Featuring the papers of Lola Ridge, Newton Arvin, Sylvia Plath, and Constance Carrier.
- *The Power of Women's Voices: Selections from the YWCA and Voices of Feminism Oral History Project*, September-December 2007.
- *Frances Fox Piven: Scholar, Welfare Rights Activist, and 2007 Neilson Professor*, April-August 2007.
- *Jane Lakes Harman: A Woman of Intelligence*, 2006 (for the opening of the Jane Harman Congressional Papers in the Sophia Smith Collection) & online.
- "No Other Appetite": *Sylvia Plath Ted Hughes and the Blood Jet of Poetry*, Grolier Club, New York City, 14 September-19 November 2005 (with catalog).
- *Woolf in the World: A Pen and a Press of Her Own*, 2003 (for the Thirteenth International Conference on Virginia Woolf) & online.
- *A Story of Their Own: Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, and Gloria Steinem*, 2002.
- *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: The Journey Not the Arrival*, 2001.
- *Reviving the Journals of Sylvia Plath*, 2000-2001.
- *Frieda Hughes*, 1999.
- *The Life and Afterlife of Sylvia Plath*, 1998.
- *How Should One Read a Book?: Virginia Woolf as Literary Critic*, 1997.
- *Paper Darts: Correspondence of Virginia Woolf and Lytton Strachey*, 1997.
- *Constance Morrow Morgan Collection of Sir Kenelm Digby*, 1996.
- *Charles Rogers (1711-1784)*, 1996.
- *Botanical Drawings from the Glasshouse and Nature*, 1995.
- *Anne Walker: Painted Books*, 1994.
- *In Honor of Ruth Mortimer*, April 1994 (for the dedication ceremony of the Mortimer Rare Book Room).
- *The Flora of New England in Art and Literature*, 1994.
- "Cadences, Real Cadences, Real Cadences, and a Quiet Color!": *Gertrude Stein*, 1993.
- *Rare Books Defined*, 1992.
- *The Birth of the English Novel: Oroonoko to Frankenstein*, 1991.
- *Images of Science, 1485-1966*. 1991.
- *The Smith College Printing Office*, 1991.

OTHER EDUCATION, SKILLS, AND EMPLOYMENT

- Completed MARAC/NEA *Copyright Fundamentals Workshop for Archivists and Librarians*, Boston, Massachusetts, 2015.
- Graduate of the *Modern Archives Institute*, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., 1996.
- *Digital Scanning*, Smithsonian, Washington, D.C., 1996.
- Attended graduate rare book courses on eighteenth-century printing, lithography, early binding, and cataloging at Columbia University and the University of Virginia, 1984-1998.
- Attended Charleston Summer School, England, 1992.
- Worked and studied edition bookbinding with Claudia Cohen, Easthampton, Massachusetts, 1989-1990.
- School librarian, Woodstock High School, Woodstock, Vermont, 1988-1989.
- Attended Strawberry Hill Arts and Heritage Summer School, St. Mary's College, England, 1986.
- Typesetter and graphic artist, Belle Typesetting Company, Avon, Connecticut, 1975-1976.
- Student intern, Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, 1974.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Modern Language Association, 2002-present
- American Library Association, Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, 1981-present
- International Virginia Woolf Society, 1991-present
- Society of American Archivists, 1987-1989; New England Archivists, 1987-1989, 2004-present

OTHER INTERESTS

- Watercolor painter and poet
- Designed two benefit concert books for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 1992-1993
- Member of Massachusetts Audubon Society, 1990-present
- Member of Appalachian Mountain Club, 1993-present
- Coached Trinity College Women's Rugby Club, 1985-1986
- Member of Hartford Wild Rose Women's Rugby Club, 1976-1985