

Ruth Bleier papers

Ms. Coll. 616

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Last updated on July 29, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 12

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Bleier, Ruth, 1923-
Title	Ruth Bleier papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 616
Date [bulk]	1950-1987
Date [inclusive]	1945-1987
Extent	1.2 linear feet (3 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	Ruth Bleier (1923–1988) was a neurophysiologist and also one of the first feminist scholars to explore how gender biases have shaped biology. This collection, including personal and professional letters; newspaper clippings; newsletters; professional writings; and reference materials, documents Bleier's academic and activist activities.

Cite as:

Ruth Bleier papers, 1945-1987 (bulk: 1950-1987), Ms. Coll. 616, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Ruth Bleier (1923–1988) was a neurophysiologist and also one of the first feminist scholars to explore how gender biases have shaped biology. Bleier was born in New Kensington, Pennsylvania in 1923. She received her B.A. in 1945 from Goucher College, and subsequently received her M.D. from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1949. She interned at the Sinai Hospital in Baltimore and then practiced general medicine in inner-city Baltimore for ten years. She married Leon Eisenberg, and together they raised 2 children and ran a medical clinic for the impoverished population of Baltimore. Bleier advocated for civil rights with the Maryland Committee for Peace in the early 1950s; this work led to a subpoena from the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAAC). She was placed on the HUAAC blacklist which resulted in losing her legal ability to practice medicine. She then went to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1957 to study neuroanatomy, completing her post-doctoral fellowship in 1961. Bleier gave up her medical practice in order to teach psychiatry and physiology. She then joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison department of Neurophysiology in 1967; at the same time Bleier was also working with Weisman Center of Mental Retardation and the Wisconsin Regional Primate Center.

By the 1970s, Bleier was devoted to the application of feminist analyses and viewpoint to the practices and theories of science. She also began to focus on improving women's access and station in higher education. Her books regarding biology and feminism, *Science and Gender: A Critique of Biology and Its Theories on Women* (1984) and *Feminist Approaches to Science* (1986), have become prominent readings for women's studies to explore the biological differences of sexes and the origins of gender differences.

Bleier was a founding member of the Association of Faculty Women at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and also helped establish the Woman's Studies Program in 1975, serving as chair from 1982 to 1986.

Biographical information from National Library of Medicine.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Ruth Bleier, including personal and professional letters; newspaper clippings; newsletters; professional writings; and reference materials, document Bleier's academic and activist activities. The materials are arranged in 6 series: Personal Correspondence, 1953-1988; Professional Correspondence, 1972-1986; Academic Writings, 1979-1986; Peace Activism, 1950-1955 (divided into subseries for FBI File, 1974-1979; House Un-American Activities Committee Investigation, 1951-1984; Maryland Committee for Peace, 1950-1951; Maryland Peace Council, 1952-1955; and Other Organizations, 1951); Women's Rights Activism, 1971-1987 (divided into subseries for Association of Faculty Women/University Community Women, 1974-1979; Association of Women in Science, 1972-1975; Joan Roberts Tenure Denial Case, 1972-1974; and Feminism in Science, Medicine, and Academia Issues and

Background, 1971-1987); and Biographical Materials, 1945-1988.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2015 May 12

Finding aid prepared by Clémence Scouten.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Acquired by Walter J. Lear from Kathy Eisenberg (Bleier's daughter), 2005. Gift of Walter J. Lear, 2006.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Association for Women in Science.
- Maryland Committee for Peace.
- University of Wisconsin--Madison.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Publications (document genre)
- Writings (document genre)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Lear, Walter J., (Walter Jay), 1923-2010

SUBJECT(S)

- Anti-communist movements--United States--History
- Feminism and education
- Science--Social aspects
- Sex discrimination against women--History
- Women in science

General note

Forms part of: U. S. Health Activism History Collection

Collection Inventory

I. PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1953-1988.

	Box	Folder
<i>The Baltimore Sun</i> , 1960-1965.	1	1
Bart, Pauline, 1973.	1	2
Beck, Evelyn Torton, 1982-1987.	1	3
Berman, Jeanie, undated.	1	4
Bleier, Sadie, 1975-1987.	1	5
Brownstein, Marilyn L., 1986.	1	6
Caplan, Paula J., 1987.	1	7
Carlin, Elizabeth (?), 1986.	1	8
Cowden, Cindy, 1984.	1	9
d'Acci, Julie, undated.	1	10
Derovevn, Diane (?), undated.	1	11
Dufner, Mary E., 1985.	1	12
Eisenstein, Zillah R., 1986.	1	13
Eisenstein, Zillah R., recommendations and application materials,	1	14-15

1981-1986.

Faust, Dorothy, undated.	1	16
Friedman, Susan Stanford, 1987.	1	17
Gelman, Rena, 1975-1976.	1	18
Haraway, Donna Jeanne, 1981.	1	19
Hyde, Janet Shibley, 1987.	1	20
Kaiser, Nancy A., undated.	1	21
Kaplan, Milly, 1977-1985.	1	22
Kefton, Shelley (?), 1975-1976.	1	23
Koven, Joan, undated.	1	24
Krause, Herbert, 1953.	1	25
Kravetz, Diane, 1975-1976.	1	26
Land, Ann, undated.	1	27
Larcler, Daniele, 1975-1976.	1	28
Leavitt, Judith Walzer, undated.	1	29
Lerner, Gerda, 1987.	1	30
Long, Diana E., undated.	1	31
McKay, Julie, 1987.	1	32
Marks, Elaine, 1985-1987.	1	33

Namenwirth, Marion, 1984-1987.	1	34
Osler, Margaret J., 1978-1986.	1	35
Ozello, Yvonne A., 1976-1978.	1	36
Phillippon, Françoise, 1978-1987, undated.	1	37-38
Roberts, M. Polk, 1982.	1	39
Rosser, Sue Vilhaver, 1984.	1	40
Rouse, Catherine (?), undated.	1	41
Segeberg, Marsha A., 1987.	1	42
Spector, Janet, 1967-1987.	1	43
Williams, Washington G., undated.	1	44
Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1981-1987.	1	45

II. PROFESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1972-1986.

	Box	Folder
A-Ha, 1979-1986.	2	46
Hu-M, 1975-1985.	2	47
N-S, 1972-1982.	2	48
University of Amsterdam, 1985-1986.	2	49

III. ACADEMIC WRITINGS, 1979-1986.

	Box	Folder
Articles, papers, and talks, 1979-1986.	2	50

IV. PEACE ACTIVISM, 1950-1984.

A. FBI FILE, 1974-1979.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1974-1979.	2	51
Investigation, contents, undated.	2	52

B. HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION, 1951-1984.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1951-1984.	2	53
Reports, statements and transcripts, 1951.	2	54
News clippings, 1951-1953.	2	55

C. MARYLAND COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, 1950-1951.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1950.	2	56

Correspondence, 1951.	2	57
Correspondence, undated.	2	58
Organizational materials, 1950.	2	59
Organizational materials, 1951.	2	60
Organizational materials, undated.	2	61
Organizational materials, undated.	2	62
News clippings, 1950.	2	63
News clippings, 1950-1951.	2	64

D. MARYLAND PEACE COUNCIL, 1952-1955.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1952.	2	65
Correspondence, 1953.	2	66
Organizational materials, 1952-1953.	3	67
Organizational materials, 1953-1955.	3	68
News clippings, 1952-1955.	3	69

V. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, 1951.

	Box	Folder
American Peace Crusade, Baltimore Council of the American Council on Human Rights, Baltimore County Committee for Peace, Baltimore Veterans for Peace, Emmanuel C. C. Church committee for Peace in Korea, Labor Forum for Peace, Veterans' Wives for Peace, Delegation to Washington on Case of Willie McGee, and World Peace Appeal, 1951.	3	70

VI. WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISM, 1971-1987.

A. ASSOCIATION OF FACULTY WOMEN/UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY WOMEN, 1974-1979.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1974-1977.	3	71
Printed materials, 1977-1979.	3	72
News clippings, 1974-1979.	3	73

B. ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE, 1972-1975.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1972-1974.	3	74
Organizational materials, 1971-1975.	3	75

C. JOAN ROBERTS TENURE DENIAL CASE, 1972-1974.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1972-1974.	3	76
News clippings, 1974.	3	77

D. FEMINISM IN SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND ACADEMIA ISSUES AND BACKGROUND, 1971-1987.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence, 1972-1987.	3	78
Printed material.	3	79
News clippings, 1974-1987.	3	80

VII. BIOGRAPHICAL MATIERALS, 1945-1988.

	Box	Folder
"About the author" blurbs, commencement programs, newspaper clippings, and obituary, 1945-1988.	3	81