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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Robertson, Priscilla Smith

Title: Priscilla Robertson Papers

Dates: 1889-2000

Quantity: 13.2 cubic feet (33 boxes)

Abstract: Personal and professional materials related to author, professor, historian and former chairwoman of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union, Priscilla Roberts (VC 1930), including correspondence, photographs, publications, diaries, teaching materials, and research materials.

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Biographical Note

Priscilla Smith Robertson (1910-1989) was an author, professor, historian, and a former chairwoman of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union. Born in Paris in 1910, Robertson was raised primarily in New England and attended Vassar College, graduating with her BA as part of the Class of 1930. Robertson served as editor of *The Humanist* magazine, and taught history at the Old Ballard School, Indiana University, Harvard University, Kentucky Southern College, and the Louisville School of Art in Anchorage.

Robertson's work includes *The Revolutions of 1848: A Social History*, published 1952, and *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th Century Europe*, published in 1982. She did considerable work with the Southern poor in the 1930s, for which she was honored by the Southern Historical Institution in Lexington two weeks prior to her death. Robertson died on November 26, 1989.

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Scope and Content Note

The collection contains personal and professional materials related to author, professor, historian and former chairwoman of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union, Priscilla Roberts (VC 1930), including correspondence, photographs, publications, diaries, teaching materials, and research materials.

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Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).
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Subject Headings

Names:

- Agee, James, 1909-1955
- Broadus, Eliza
- Guild, Aaron
- Kendall family
- Macneale family
- Macneale, Anna
- Macneale, Neil
- Plimpton family
- Plimpton, George
- Robertson, Ella Broadus, 1872-1945
- Smith family
- Smith, Winifred

Organizations:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky

Subjects:

- Civil rights--Kentucky
- Sharecropping--Arkansas
- Women authors
- Women historians
- Women periodical editors

Places:

- Southern States--History--20th century

Document Types:

- Diaries

Titles:

- The Humanist

VCL Categories:

- Education
- Family
- History and Historians

[Top](#)**Encoding Information**

Finding aid encoded by Jason Kovari, 19 Mar 2009. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, July 2025.

[Top](#)**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation**

Priscilla Robertson Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Archives and Special Collections Library staff.

[Top](#)**Series List****[Series I.](#) *Humanist Materials***

Includes mostly editorial correspondence.

[Series II.](#) KCLU (American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky) Materials**[Series III.](#) Personal Correspondence****[Series IV.](#) Diaries, 1890-1922****[Series V.](#) Writings****[Series VI.](#) Teaching Materials**

Series VII. Personal Materials**Series VIII. Miscellaneous Materials****Series IX. Biography****Container List****SERIES I. *Humanist* Materials*****Humanist* Editorial Correspondence**

Box 1	A - F
Box 2	Friedmann - Hook
Boxes 2-4	Huber, 1956-1958
Box 4	I - J
Box 5	Jones - LaBarre
Box 6	Lamont - Lockwood
Box 7	M - Overstreet
Box 8	P - Wilson
Box 12	Smith - Wechsler
Box 13	Wescott - S
Box 14	Sanders - Smith, W. A.

***Humanist* Miscellaneous Materials**

Box 9	<i>Humanist</i> Controversy and aftermath
Boxes 10-12	<i>Humanist</i> : Old office materials
	Includes staff report, policy, and budget.

SERIES II. KCLU (American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky) Materials

Boxes 15-16	KCLU Materials
Box 17	KCLU Materials; Service boards

SERIES III. Personal Correspondence, 1950-2000

Box 17 A-B
 Box 18 Bendit-Brinton
 Box 19 Bruun-G
 Box 20 H-K
 Box 21 Kendall-Lockwood
 Box 22 Luscky-McKay
 Box 23 N-Plimpton
 Box 24 R-Taylor
 Box 25 Tatlock-Webber
 Box 25 Weismann-Wolcott
 Box 33 Postcards to Winifred Smith
 Boxes 32-33 Mother's letters to Winifred, 1889

SERIES IV. Diaries, 1890-1922

Boxes 32-33 H.K.S. — Travel in Europe, 1903
 Boxes 32-33 H.K.S. — Diary, 1910-1911
 Boxes 32-33 A.M.S. diary, 1922
 Boxes 32-33 Winifred Smith diary, 1890
 Boxes 32-33 [Winifred Smith] diary, 1892

SERIES V. Writings

Books

Box 26 *Revolutions of 1848* - Letters
 Box 26 *Revolutions of 1848* - Publishing
 Box 26 *Revolutions of 1848* - Princeton Publishing
 Box 26 *Revolutions of 1848* - Reviews
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Advertising
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Copy Editing
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Drennan, J.
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Italian Library
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Letters
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Literary Agent
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Pre-Publication Letters
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Readers' Report
 Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Rejections

- Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Rettig, C.
- Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Reviews
- Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Sources
- Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Statistics—Append.
- Box 26 *An Experience of Women: Pattern and Change in 19th century Europe* - Temple Publisher
- Box 26 *History of Childhood* - Bulletins
- Box 26 *History of Childhood* - Reviews
- Box 26 *Lewis Farm*
- Box 26 Buen

Articles

- Box 26 C.J. Reviews
- Box 26 Harper's
- Box 26 Harper's Commentary
- Box 26 Harper's Housekeeping
- Box 26 Harper's Letters to Editors
- Box 26 Harper's Publishing
- Box 26 Kentucky Constitution
- Box 26 My Great-Grandmothers Were Happy
- Box 26 Progressive Reviews
- Box 26 Published Articles
- Box 26 Sex
- Box 26 South Today
- Box 26 Student Barricades
- Box 26 Values

Unpublished

- Box 26 A.H.A. Talks
- Box 26 Fiction Stories
- Box 26 Priscilla Robertson Talks
- Box 26 Unpublished (General)

Sharecropper Materials

- Box 26 1938 Student Group-Arkansas
- Box 26 Addresses and Letters
- Box 26 Agee, James
- Box 26 Arkansas Lawrences
- Box 26 Arkansas Sharecropper
- Box 26 Boyle
- Box 26 Butler
- Box 26 Florida Lawrences

Box 26 Louise's Letters
Box 26 Louise's Text
Box 26 Memphis Convention
Box 26 Missouri Highway
Box 26 Mitchell
Box 26 Mitchell's Film
Box 26 Myrtle
Box 26 Priscilla Robertson Work in Arkansas
Box 26 Political Autobiography
Box 26 Printed Sources
Box 26 Publication – Temple
Box 26 S.T.F.U.
Box 26 Socialist and Communist Fight

Miscellaneous

Box 26 Publication Efforts
Box 26 Ideas
Box 26 Victorian Studies – Children
Box 26 Sources for Children's Book
Boxes 29-30 Notes for Children's Book: England, France, Germany, Italy
Boxes 29-30 Notes for the History of Civilization

SERIES VI. Teaching Materials

Indiana University

Box 27 History 103, History 104, History 359
Box 27 Notes for Lectures
Box 27 Herodotus and Greece Notes
Box 27 Student Comments
Box 27 Final Exams

KSC (Kentucky Southern College)

Box 27 Tests
Box 27 Letters to art school students
Box 27 Student records
Box 27 Modern Europe

SERIES VII. Personal Materials

- Box 31 Priscilla Robertson Personal Materials
Includes: photographs, Academy Award, college, public service, passports, childhood expression, travel, dreams, letters.

SERIES VIII. Miscellaneous Materials

- Box 28 Arts, letters, and social science
Box 28 Poetry
Box 28 Society (Un-American activities, population, religion, peace, the South)
Box 28 Art (photography, costumes)
Box 28 Language (handwriting, literature, words)
Box 29 Recreation (puzzles, solitaire...)
Box 29 Education (progressive education, Vassar, international conference, Ballard philosophy)
Box 29 Theater (programs)

SERIES IX. Biography

General

- Boxes 32-
33 Addresses

Smith Family

- Boxes 32-
33 P.S. (Priscilla Smith?) - letters, articles, book reviews, photos
Boxes 32-
33 H.P.S. - photos, heresy trials, letters, writing
Boxes 32-
33 Winifred Smith - photos, teaching, autobiography, letters, writing
Boxes 32-
33 Smith ancestors - photos, printed materials

Macneale Family

- Boxes 32-
33 Anna Macneale
Boxes 32-
33 Genealogy
Boxes 32-
33 Autobiography—Neil Macneale

Kendall Family

- Boxes 32- J.P.K. (J. P. Kendall)
33
- Boxes 32- I.P.K. (I. P. Kendall)
33
- Boxes 32- H.P.K. (H. P. Kendall)
33
- Boxes 32- Kendall ancestors
33
- Boxes 32- E.W.K. (E. W. Kendall)
33

Plimpton Family

- Boxes 32- George A. Plimpton
33
- Boxes 32- E. Plimpton
33
- Boxes 32- Plimpton genealogy
33
- Boxes 32- Aaron Guild
33
- Boxes 32- Plimpton photographs
33

Miscellaneous ancestors

- Boxes 32- Humphrey
33
- Boxes 32- H.K.S.
33
- Boxes 32- E.R.E.
33
- Boxes 32- Ella B. Robertson
33
- Boxes 32- Robertson ancestors
33
- Boxes 32- E.B.R. writing
33
- Boxes 32- Robertson ancestors - photos
33
- Boxes 32- Cary's siblings
33
- Boxes 32- Miss Lottie letters
33

Boxes 32-
33 A.T.R. Jr.

Boxes 32-
33 Easley letters

Boxes 32-
33 Eliza Broadus

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