Mary Anne Smith Papers
1964-1985
MSS 401
7.5 linear feet

Special Collections and University Archives
Jean and Alexander Heard Library
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee
Biographical Sketch

Social activist Mary Anne Smith was born in 1945, the oldest of three children. In 1961 she attended an interracial, interdenominational church camp which laid the foundation for her future in activism. The formative experiences of that summer marked the beginning of Mary Anne’s interest in civil rights. From 1964-1967 Mary Anne attended Vanderbilt University where she studied classics and her interest in activism grew.

In the years following college, Mary Anne continued to read literature on race and the Vietnam War. Her goal was not political, however, but religious. She planned to teach Latin and then attend Divinity School. When Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, she felt that people she knew in the church reacted in a way with which she disagreed. At this point, she decided that her future would be in political activism.

1968-1972 were very intense years of study and social involvement for Mary Anne. She studied heavily the overarching power structure involved in racism, sexism, classism, and capitalism. During this period she became particularly interested in Marxism and socialist societies. Along with seven other women, Mary Anne became part of a group call the Women’s Anti-Imperial Collective. This small group would meet to exchange feminist and anti-imperialist ideas as well as try to raise consciousness surrounding these ideas in the larger community. During this time she was also involved with anti-war protests as well as the worker’s rights movement.

Mary Anne was particularly interested in changing the direction of the United States through Marxism. Her hope was to find a place in which socialism was working in order to find an example for this country. She became involved in the U.S. – China Friendship Association and was interested in bolstering the relationship between these two countries. As coordinator of the Nashville chapter of the group, Mary Anne spoke at gathering, planned fundraisers, and dispersed literature in the community. In 1976 she had the opportunity to travel to China with some of the group members in a leadership role. As leader, she was able to meet with all of the Chinese leaders with whom they came in contact. She had a particular interest in life for women in China, and based on her experience felt that women there had many of the same struggles and ideas as women in the U.S. The goal of the trip for the Association was to build relationships between their organization and organizations in China and, for Mary Anne, to learn ways the U.S. could look to China as an example.

After the trip Mary Anne returned to Nashville. She and her first husband separated, and she worked at various places in the city. In 1978, she decided to move to Atlanta and there continued her involvement in social activism.

Scope and Content Note

Comprised of 17 boxes (7.5 lin. feet) and includes subjects on China, nuclear war and weapons, women’s rights, worker’s rights, socialism, and diaries and correspondence.

The China records contain information about the U.S. – China People’s Friendship Association. This section also contains records from the group’s trip to China, led by Smith, in 1976. The documents in this section range in dates from 1975-1977.

Another series contains information about nuclear war and weapons and ranges in date from 1982 to 1987. These materials are largely magazine and newspaper articles which discuss the danger of nuclear war and weapons as well as peaceable alternatives.
The collection also contains three series’ containing Mary Anne’s materials regarding women’s rights, worker’s rights, and other liberation movements. The majority of the pieces included in these series are magazines, articles, personal notes, flyers and correspondence. These three series represent 1968 to 1972, the years in which Mary Ann learned about and was involved in a numbers of groups and movements.

The last series contains Mary Anne’s personal notebooks, letters, calendars, and various miscellaneous items. Of particular interest to the researcher may be her extensive collection of buttons, her Mao-style hats, and three audio cassettes which contain an interview with Mary Anne from 2001.

**Provenance Statement**

This collection was donated by Mary Anne Smith to Vanderbilt Special Collections in 2001.

**Container List**

**Box 1 - China**

Folder
1) *A Brief History of the United States* by Shih Chan – 1976
3) Newspaper articles on China; US – China Diplomatic Relations; Cultural Resources for Normalization Programs; US – China People Friendship Association. Southern Newsletter.
5) U.S. China Diplomatic Relations Reference Materials Normalization – 1977
6) Issues and Position Papers; U.S. China People’s Friendship Association
8) U.S.-- China People’s Friendship Association National Newsletter (5 issues) – 1977
9) U.S. – China People’s Friendship Association of Nashville, materials
10) U.S. – China People’s Friendship Association 3\textsuperscript{rd} Annual Convention, Philadelphia – 1976
11) U.S. – China People’s Friendship Association 4\textsuperscript{th} Annual Convention, Atlanta – 1977
12) U.S. – China People’s Friendship Association Convention, Chicago; New China Magazine Proposal – 1975
13) U.S. – China Report, Chinese New Year Celebration flyer – 1975

**Box 2 - China**

Folder
1) Admit China to the Olympics Campaign – 1976-1977
2) Outreach to Working Class Minorities in China – U.S. People’s Friendship Association
4) Information related to 1976 Southern Regional Activist Tour (July 15th - August 7th, 1976)
5) Materials on earthquake – 1976
6) U.S – China People’s Friendship Association Southern Regional Conference at TSU – May 26-28 1978 (1)
7) U.S – China People’s Friendship Association Southern Regional Conference at TSU – May 26-28 1978 (2)
8) China’s Foreign Policy – An Outline compiled by C. Clark Kissinger, Chicago – August 1976

Box 3 – China

Folder
1) Political Report to the 11th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (Aug. 18th, 1977) and other materials on China – 1977
8) Diary/Notebook; Tour Information Brochures; U.S. – China People’s Friendship Assn.
10) China – Photocopy of letter (Peking Hotel, China) Mary Anne to her mother – 1976

Box 4 – Nuclear War and Weapons

Folder
1) Freeze Sum-up – 1985
2) Freeze materials – Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign – 1983-85
4) Notecards on Nuclear Weapons and War Talk given by Mary Anne Smith (undated)
5) Notes on nuclear weapons and war
6) Pamphlets on nuclear war, weapons
7) South End Press – The Alternative
8) Beyond War – information packet
9) Nuclear Freeze/Jobs with Peace Campaign – 1985
10) Voice Literary Supplement No.15– March 1983
12) *The Nation* – April 14, 1984; April 21, 1984; May 5, 1984; May 12, 1984
13) *Political Solutions – a Publication of IDA/DSA Nashville*, # 1, 4, 7, 9 – 1986-87
14) Articles from *Psychology Today* – 1981-82
15) Magazine articles on Radiation; EST; Cultural Civil War; Living Health and Street Free; 
   Teamster Madness; It’s Time for Management Concessions
16) *Utne Reader* – The Best of the Alternative Press (1982); Have a Natural Christmas (1985)
17) *The Monitor – a Publication of the Center for Democratic Renewal* (December 1986, 
   May 1987)
18) Articles on nuclear war/weapons – 1981-1985
19) Notebook of Materials on Nuclear War, training sessions, talks, resources, etc.

**Box 5 – Women’s Rights**

**Folder**

1) (from Nuclear War section) Citizen’s Network Speaker/Trainer Kit (Includes Briefing 
   papers – Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility and 
   personal notes)
2) Magazines – *Southern Exposure*, May June 1984; *Southern Feminist*, Spring 
   1987; *Hurricane Alize – A Feminist Review*, no date; *Newsweek* – *Geraldine Ferraro*, 
   Oct. 1985
3) *Women’s City Country Chronicle*, Issues 1, 6, 8, 9 – 1981-1983
5) *Women’s Free Express*; Statistics on women, rape article, flyer from Women’s Cultural 
   Festival – 1972-73
6) Women’s Liberation Through Socialist Revolution; Socialist-Feminist Conference 
   Materials
7) *East West Journal* – August/November 1974
8) Women’s Rights – pamphlets, newsletters – mid 1970s
9) *Gender Gap* – June 1984
10) Notes on Socialist Feminist Theory
11) Women in New China; Women Behind Bars; Feminist Cultural Network – 1975
12) Socialist/Feminist Songbook; Industrial Workers of the World Songs; Articles “Women 
   Together and Me Alone”, an others, San Francisco Women’s Center Newsletter and other 
   Newsletters – 1975

**Box 6 – Worker’s Issues**

**Folder**

1) *Point of Production – Official Voice of the Black Worker’s Congress* – May 1972
2) *The Communist*, Chicago, Detroit, 8 Issues – 1975
3) *The Communist – Worker’s Congress*, Chicago, IL, 6 issues – 1975-76
4) Worker’s Issues—Avco Nashville Bridge, Newsletter *Pushin On*
5) Worker’s Issues – Notebook, Notes
   Worker’s Congress – “No Real Change Through Elections!” Midwest Academy –
   “Training in Direct Action Organizing”
7) SCEF Materials (Southern Conference Educational Fund)
8) SCEF Materials
9) United League Materials
15) Anti-Draft work – 1980
16) Index to Notes, China Tour—July 15- August 7, 1976

Box 7 – Worker’s Issues and Socialism

Folder
1) CCA Today (Container Corporation of America) Monthly Reports – 1981
2) Restaurants, Cotton Garment and Allied Industries – Union Organizing and Benefits
3) “Dialectical and Historical Materialism” by Joseph Stalin
4) “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific”
5) “For a Revolutionary Position on the Negro Question”
7) Washington Watch (1976); The People United (1876); Black and White Unite and Fight Prison News (1976)
9) A Selection from the Red Papers; War and Revolution; The Chicano Struggle and the Struggle for Socialism (1975); 200 Years is Long Enough (June 1976)
10) Metro Soundings (April 1974); “Native American Resistance”; “The Basket Makers of Middle Tennessee”; “Economics”
11) Red Papers 8 – “China Advances on the Socialist Road” Revolutionary Workers Headquarters
12) 4 Issues of Workers Viewpoint – May 1975
13) Liberation (March 1972); The Red Papers; Red Earth; Workers Viewpoint April-May 1976

Box 8 – Other Liberation Movements

Folder
1) Book Catalogs; Third World Cinema Catalog – 1975-76
2) San Francisco Survival Manual 74-75; 1975 Peoples’ Party National Convention Call; On the Line, June 1975
3) Various Newsletters – Committee for Prisoner Support; The Leveller (April 1969); Jobs for Veterans’ Report (May 1975); Station Notes (April 1975) KPFA-FM94; Draft information

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4) *Nashville Breakdown* – 1970 (5 copies)
6) Newspaper *On the Line—Worker Unity Organization* St. Louis – 1975
7) Information from CWLU (Chicago Women’s Liberation Union)
8) *Motive* Vol. XXIX, Nos. 6 & 7 (published by United Methodist Church) – March/April 1969
9) *Plexus,* A Bay Area Women’s Newspaper – November/December 1974
10) *The Esalon Catalog* – April-June 1975
11) Women’s Newsletters and Newspapers – 1974-75
14) Newspaper clippings – Women’s Liberation Movement
15) Women’s Liberation Movement
16) Newspaper clippings – Women’s Liberation Movement
17) Women’s Movement Letters; “Half of America” – Female Liberation of Nashville – October 1969
18) Women’s Liberation Movement various papers
19) Notebook and SCEF (Southern Conference Educational Fund) Papers
20) Newspaper Articles – Radical Politics

**Box 9 – Publications**

Folder
2) *The Women’s Free Express; Urban Renewal; Public Hearing Welfare Rights*
3) *Schools* – magazine – Spring 1971
4) Pamphlets and Newsletters – Women’s and Children’s Issues
5) Committee of Justice in Mississippi – Papers and Notebook
6) Vanderbilt Hustler – April 23,30 1965
7) *Fight Back News*
8) Organizing materials
9) *Appalachian People’s History Book*
10) *People’s Appalachia Spring – 1971; Mountain Life and Work- March 1971; The Hillbillies: A Book for Children; The Adventures of Super Jay*
11) *The Pied Piper* by William Glennon
12) *Motive* volume 32, numbers 1 and 2– 1972
13) *Notes from the 3rd Year: Women’s Liberation* – 1972
14) MS—June 1973, July 1974

**Box 10 – Publications**

Folder
1) Newspapers – *Common Sense, Leviathan, Shelter* – 1975
2) Newspapers – *Southern Legal Action Movement; Newsletter of the Union for Radical Political Economics* – October 1972

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3) Liberation – Feb. 1972
4) Newsletter – Tennessee Valley Socialist – May-July 1974
5) Newspapers – Women’s and Revolution (September/October 1971); Womankind (February 1973); Union Week (March–April 1975)
6) Women’s Liberation Revolution (3 articles) published by Socialist Workshop
9) Ramparts – April, September, May 1974
13) “A Talk on Sexual Politics” given by Gwen Patton – March 9, 1971 at the Control, Conflict, Change Seminar

Box 11 – Women’s and Worker’s Movements

Folders
1) Anti-Imperialist Information; Toronto Conference Information
2) Women’s Movement Newsletters and other publications
3) Newsletters – Indochina Peace Campaign Report; Phi Delta Kappa – April 1972; Open Letter to Jake’s Foundry Company
4) Women’s Issues – “On the Liberation of Women in Albania”; Nashville Women’s Center – July 12, 1973; others, including childcare materials
5) Women’s movement – CLUW contacts (Coalition of Labor Union Women)
6) N.O.W.—Nashville Chapter—Feb. 1972; Nashville Women’s Center
7) California Women’s Movement Newsletter (April 1975)
8) Women’s Liberation—Various Papers
9) Free Palestine—March 1971; The Real Dirt – June 1972; Cops are Hired to Enforce the Laws (People’s Press)
10) Legal First Air; Survival School System; People’s Food Co-op
11) Tourist Boycott; People Inc., The Insurgent Sociologist
12) A Historical Discography of Black American Music
13) “The Wageless Slave and the Proletarian”
14) People’s Health—September 1975; Transmission—Voice of the Health Workers—September 1975; and other workers’ papers

Box 12 – Worker’s Rights

Folders
1) Bakery, Confectionary, and Tobacco Workers’ International Union—Reports and News
2) Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)—news and notes
3) CLUW news and notes
4) Notebook—CLUW, Education Committee, Labor
5) CLUW notebook
6) CLUW, National Association of Working Women, Women for Economic Justice—Papers, news and reports
7) CLUW notes, bulletins, reports
8) OSHA, Union, Labor, Economic pamphlets

Box 13 – Worker’s Rights

Folders
1) CLUW News, reports, by-laws
2) CLUW News, bulletins, etc.
3) The Daycare Dilemma: Parents, Employers, and Communities Search for Solutions—April 18, 1984
4) The Daycare Dilemma: Parents, Employers, and Communities Search for Solutions—April 18, 1984
5) Info from Amalgamated Transit Union—Union Busting, Golden State Foods, etc.
6) The Health of Women at Work—a bibliography
7) Various pamphlets, booklets—Why Unions?, CLUW Constitution, Sexual Harassment, Legal Status of Women in Tennessee
8) AFL-CIO: The Changing Situation of Workers and Their Unions; National Labor Committee, El Salvador

Box 14 – Worker’s Rights

Folders
1) Occupational Health and Safety Info
2) Atlanta Peace Alliance—Anti-War info
3) Citizens for a Healthy Environment
4) Women’s Issues: Women and Employment in the South—ACLU
5) Women’s Occupational Health Resource Center—information fact sheets, etc.
6) Non-sexist Children’s books: A Bibliography
7) Buttons, pamphlets, newspaper clippings of rallies
8) “Country Women” magazines—issues 15,19,22,23,24
9) Union organization workshop materials—notes, worksheets, announcements
10) CLUW correspondence—financial reports, meetings, other

Box 15 – Worker’s Rights and Other

Folders
1) CLUW Correspondence—newsletters, announcements, etc.
2) CLUW News
3) BC&T News, reports, correspondence
4) BC&T pamphlets, manuals, and meeting log
5) Ms. Magazine on WLM and FBI
6) Southern Exposure – summer 1973
7) Anti-war movement materials
Box 16 – Personal Records

Folders
1) Correspondence to George Downey family from Mary Anne and Gregg Downey – 1969-1971 (4)
2) Photographs: Covey Card from Linda Stele (Chicago Theological Seminary); Mary Anne Smith in anti-nuke demo; Mary Anne Smith CLUE in Nashville
3) Day Planners—1964/65 and 1965/66
5) Calendars – 1975 and 1976
6) Day Planners – 1977 and 1978 (2)
7) Day Planners—1979

Box 17 – Personal Records

Folders
1) Day Planners—1982
2) Day Planners—1983
3) Day Planners—1984 and 1985
4) Address Book and Memo Book

Flat Box – Personal Records

- 1 VHS tape—Star Wars
- 1 Audio-cassette tape – I. 5 year Defense Plan II. The Organizations III. Building Security IV. Sources of Hope
- 3 audio-cassette tapes – Ed Hamlett interviews Mary Anne Smith, Dec. 26, 2001
- 2 Chinese Mao-style hats
- 1 Oversize Mother Jones Calendar 1972
- 1 Oversize 1982 Calendar—Women’s Occupational Health Resource Center
- Buttons and Pins
  - 227
  - 59 cents
  - A Woman’s Place is in Her Union – 2
  - Abortion A Woman’s Right to Choose: March on Washington DC and SF Nov. 20
  - Across America We Will be Heard Labor Day 1983
  - America Wins with Mondale—Communications Workers of America – 2
  - Atlanta Urban League 1991 NUL Conference
  - Bread not Bombs
  - Capitalism fouls things up—Vote Socialist Workers
  - ERA Yes
  - Failure is Impossible
  - Food Prices High? Eat the Rich
  - Free Angela
- Free Angela and All Political Prisoners
- Free Joann Little
- Free the Knoxville 22
- Friendship First Competition Second
- FSLN por la Paz
- Huelga Don’t Buy Grapes UF WOC AFL-CIO
- Jesse Jackson ’88 – 2
- Jobs with Peace
- Listen to Women for a Change
- Lorenzo
- Mao Head
- Mondale Ferraro – 2
- NAACP march Against Racism in South Africa March 18th, 1870, Nashville, TN
- Nashville Boycotts Non-Union Grapes
- Nice Ending
- Proud to be BCT PAC
- SPH
- Stop I-440
- Support the Black Liberation Movement—Wrightsville, GA
- Tierra O Muerte—Emiliano Zapata
- U.S.—China People’s Friendship
- Union Committee- Clothing and Textile Workers
- United Garment Workers of America Since 1891
- United Steelworkers of America—Member
- Victory to the People of Southern Africa! Africa Liberation Day Coalition
- Warning Schools Spread Sexism
- Wastewatcher
- Women Power Pin
- World Peace
- Young for Atlanta