

Birth control and women's health ephemera

Ms Coll 89



Katherine Isham

2022

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 89

TITLE: Birth control and women's health ephemera

DATES: circa 1930-2010

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The collection contains material circa 1930-2010 related to birth control and women's health. Materials include pamphlets produced by manufacturers and vendors of contraceptive products circa 1930-1967; a 1948 fertility calculator; and materials related to safe sex campaigns, abortion rights activism, abstinence-only sex education, and the morning after pill (mifepristone) circa 1989-2010.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0089>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0089>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Deborah Coltham, 2022

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Birth control and women's health ephemera. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Carr, Norman M.D., <i>Birth control as prescribed by physicians</i> . Chicago: Lanteen Laboratories	circa 1930-1939
	Folding pamphlet advertising Lanteen birth control (diaphragm and contraceptive jelly) as reliable and scientifically accepted. With a discussion of unreliable methods, the economic impact of unplanned pregnancies, and lists "Medical Bureaus of Information on Birth Control" in Chicago, Detroit, and Milwaukee. Chromolithograph with illustrations, measures 170 x 80 mm folded, 170 x 310 mm unfolded. 3 copies.	
b. 1, f. 2	Carr, Norman, M.D., <i>Reliable birth control preparations</i> . Chicago: Lanteen Laboratories, Inc.	circa 1930-1939
	Folding pamphlet advertising Lateen birth control products including contraceptive jelly, diaphragm, douche, and condoms. Includes a discussion of the economic necessity of reliable methods of birth control and lists Medical Bureaus of Information in Chicago and Detroit. Chromolithograph with illustrations, measures 172 x 80 mm folded, and 172 x 240 mm unfolded.	
b. 1, f. 3	Mann, Dr. Oster, <i>Birth control (husband and wife's handbook)</i> . London: The Hygienic Stores, Ltd.	1932
	"Being a comprehensive handbook on the management of health and the wholesale treatment of birth control, pregnancy, labour, etc. Knowledge of which is of vital importance to every married man or woman. A complete guide for the married and those intending to marry." Includes illustrations and advertising for products sold by the Marble Arch Pharmacy, manufacturing chemists 24 Edgeware Road, London, W.2., one of The Hygenic Stores Ltd. 66 pages, stapled, in original wrapper.	
b. 1, f. 4	Phelps, Annie, <i>Children by desire</i> . London: Phelps Contraceptives, Ltd.	circa 1935
	Believed to be a later issue of a popular work which went through various issues. A frank booklet written by a woman for women, emphasizing education and consent. "Considerate husbands therefore will prepare their wives for the act...Under these conditions ONLY should the sex act take place...this in itself is conducive to the health of both husband and wife." Includes discussions of different birth control methods and debunks several commonly held myths. 8vo, 44 pages, including three photographs, maps, and illustrations; final leaf a detachable order form; stapled in original printed wrapper.	
b. 1, f. 5	Reynolds, Thomas H., <i>Birth control: Its use and abuse</i> . London: The Hygenic Stores, Ltd.	1937
	Revised edition of an advertising booklet on birth control including section on the origin of life; pregnancy and labor; when to marry; sex; impotence; diseases; and a discussion of contraceptive methods including condoms, pessaries, spermicidal tablets, and sponges. 8vo, 32 pages, with advertisements on front and rear inside covers, stapled, in original printed blue wrappers.	
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Physician's Catalog</i> . New York: Holland Rantos Company, Inc.	circa 1940-1949
	Catalog of products sold by the Holland-Rantos Company including diaphragms, diaphragm fitting rings and equipment, contraceptive jelly and related products, lubricant, douche products, surgical gowns and hospital drapes, condoms, and latex gloves. Includes product descriptions and pricing. 8vo, 16 pages, color printed, stapled in original wrappers.	

b. 1, f. 7	<p>"The Forecaster" fertility calculator</p> <p>Calendar slide rule for determining "the days of the month when pregnancy is possible and impossible", known as the "rhythm method" of birth control. With original postmarked mailing envelope. 300 x 65 mm.</p>	1948
b. 1, f. 8	<p><i>A woman's intimate manual of the "inside" facts of her life.</i> Zonite Antiseptic Company</p>	1952
b. 1, f. 9	<p>Martin, Dr. J. B., <i>Choosing a birth control method.</i> St. Louis: The Emko Company</p> <p>Advertising pamphlet for Emko Vaginal Foam with description of other methods including condoms, diaphragms, jellies, intr-uterine devices (IUDs), rhythm, and withdrawal. 8vo, 8 pages, with illustrations, stapled in original wrapper.</p>	circa 1960-1969
b. 1, f. 10	<p><i>A feminine hygiene guide to douching.</i> Wheaton, Illinois: Roycemore, Inc.</p> <p>Small booklet advertizing Demure Liquid Douche, describes cleanliness, explains what douching is and where and how to douche. 48 pages, stapled, with illustrations.</p>	1967
b. 1, f. 11	<p>Two mailed envelopes with anti-abortion stamps and sticker</p> <p>Two mailed envelopes with "Protect the unborn" faux postage stamps, one also with "Face it abortion kills" sticker next to mailing address.</p>	1989, 1995
b. 1, f. 12	<p>"The incredible shrinking woman's right to choose" postcard, illustration by Matt Wuerker</p> <p>Political satire cartoon in the format of an action movie poster showing U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist in front of building with barbed wire labeled "Womb-unit Protective Custody Center," a woman in the searchlights of helicopters labeled "Womb Squad," and reaching for a coffee cup with seal of the United States containing an eagle holding a wire hanger. Printed by Preziosi Postcards. "And she thought it was her body! Opening in state legislatures nationwide! A Reagan/Rehnquist production starring the Gang of Five, Boy George Bush and a cast of millions of unwanted children."</p>	1990
b. 1, f. 13	<p>"Did you remember to use condoms?" postcard, American Postcard Company</p> <p>Front of card has image of priest asking a boy at a confessional "did you remember to use condoms?" "Safe sex" and image of an apple printed on reverse.</p>	circa 1990-2010
b. 1, f. 14	<p>"For men only" postcard, American Civil Liberties Union</p> <p>Mailer to solicit support for legislation "that will protect the right to choose abortion" sent to U.S. Representative Paul Kanjorski by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). "Women must never be forced to return to the back alleys for their medical care." Satirical cartoon showing "for men only" sign tacked to front of case containing the Constitution of the United States.</p>	1992
b. 1, f. 15	<p>"Abortion is a personal decision best left in the hands of a woman and her God" postcard, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice</p> <p>Title, image of male and female clergy, and group name on the front. Printed on back of card: "The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice has the unique mission of ensuring reproductive choice through the moral power of religious communities. In all programs, we seek to give clear voice to the reproductive issues of people of color, low-income groups and individuals, youth, and others with little access to reproductive health services."</p>	circa 1994- 2010

b. 1, f. 16	<p>"Imagine, embrace, empower, defy" postcard, Planned Parenthood Global Partners</p> <p>Photograph of four women holding signs reading "imagine, embrace, empower, defy" on front. Printed on back of card: "Imagine yourself without the right or access to basic reproductive healthcare - no Pap tests, no mamograms, no birth control. Embrace the millions of women in developing countries around the world who want these same services but do not have them, Empower those who want to plan a better life for themselves, their families and the world. Defy the voice inside you that says you can't make a difference. And we'll show you how powerful your voice can be." Go Card postcard advertising.</p>	circa 1996-2006
b. 1, f. 17	<p>Responsible Choices Action Network enrollment card, Planned Parenthood</p> <p>"The Responsible Choices Action Network allows you to send a free fax to members of Congress by simply responding to the email action alerts that you receive from Planned Parenthood. You will also receive regular updates on issues affecting reproductive health."</p>	circa 1996-2006
b. 1, f. 18	<p>"No woman is required to build the world by destroying herself" postcard, Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights</p> <p>Mailer to solicit sponsorship for the Freedom of Choice Act sent to U.S. Representative Paul Kanjorski.</p>	1998
b. 1, f. 19	<p>"Be productive not reproductive" postcard, Candie's Foundation</p> <p>Gitter and Anapol free postcard distributed by Max Racks company. "If you have unprotected sex, you have an 85% chance of getting pregnant within one year." Featuring photograph of singer Willa Ford. Part of Candie's Foundation campaign using young celebrities to promote abstinence-only sex education.</p>	circa 2001
b. 1, f. 20	<p>"Accidents happen" emergency contraception postcard, Planned Parenthood</p> <p>"I'll close my eyes. I'll wait and see. I'll pretend it didn't happen. Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy up to 72 hours after sex."</p>	circa 2010
b. 1, f. 21	<p>"In the history of abortion in America, this is not a pill, it's a milestone" postcard, National Abortion Federation</p> <p>Small image of mifepristone tablet, title, and group logo on front of card. Printed on back of card: "The early option pill is now approved by the FDA. It may look like a tiny pill, but in fact it's a huge breakthrough for women: Mifepristone, the first safe, effective pill for ending pregnancy is now available in the U.S. Taken in the first 49 days of pregnancy, the Early Option Pill works to block the effects of a hormone needed to sustain pregnancy..." Includes 1-800 number and website. Go Card postcard advertising.</p>	circa 2010
b. 1, f. 22	<p>"Ohhhh...ohhhh...uh oh!" postcard, Planned Parenthood Chicago Area</p> <p>Front of postcard has image of bedsheets with title, list of locations, organization name, and "Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy up to three days after sex. For more information call Planned Parenthood..." Printed on back of card "For quick facts over the phone, call Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area's information and referral hotline..." Go Card postcard advertising.</p>	circa 2010

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Abortion
Advertising -- Health products -- United States
Birth control
Contraception
Political cartoons