

The Archive of Women in Theological Scholarship
The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary

Finding Aid for

Lesley Armstrong Northup Papers, 1980-1995



Finding Aid prepared by:
Susan Cathcart Ketchin March 2006

Summary Information

Creator: Lesley A. Northup, 1947
Title: Lesley Armstrong Northup Papers
Inclusive dates: 1980-1995
Bulk dates: 1987-1989
Abstract: Episcopal priest, Professor, Associate Dean, and writer. Press and individual responses to Northup's choice to become a single parent by artificial insemination; newspaper articles; editorials; letters to the editor; personal correspondence; Episcopal women clergy survey; writings.
Size: 0.5 linear feet, 1 box
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Lesley A. Northup donated her papers to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in March 2001.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
[Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access restrictions: The collection is unrestricted.
- Preferred Citation: Item, folder title, series # box #, folder #, Lesley A. Northup Papers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

Biography

Lesley A. Northup was born on December 2, 1947 in the Bronx, New York. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Speech) from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1970. Northup received her M.Div in 1980 from the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA. She went on to study for the M.A. in Religious Studies/Liturgics (1983) and a Ph.D. in Historical Theology (1991) from The Catholic University of America. Honors include the Florida International University Outstanding Service Award (2004) and Teaching Award (2001, 2002) and the Outstanding Honors Fellow, 2003.

Northup was ordained an Episcopal priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City by the Rt. Rev. Paul Moore in 1981. The first Episcopal woman priest to serve as a chaplain in the Navy Reserve, Northup served for ten years in that capacity from c. 1976, while she was writing, publishing, and teaching. Her daughter, Evan Armstrong Northup, was born August 8, 1986.

Northup began her teaching career in 1984 at Howard University's Divinity School, Washington, D.C., as a lecturer in Liturgical History. She has taught religion, religion and broadcasting, women's studies, English and professional writing at Howard University (1984), the Virginia Theological Seminary (1987), and the University of Maryland (1988-1993).

In 1993, she joined the faculty at Florida International University in the Department of Religious Studies as Associate Professor of Religion and Culture and became Associate Dean of the Honors College at F.I.U. in 1994.

Northup is the author of several books including *Ritualizing Women: Patterns and Practices* (1997), *Women and Religious Ritual* (1993), and *The 1892 Book of Common Prayer* (1993). Numerous articles, book reviews, and essays have appeared in both mass market and professional journals.

Northup has a special interest in religion in American culture, myth and ritual studies, church and state, women and religion, and new religious movements.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Papers of Lesley A. Northup consist of the working papers, correspondence, publications, and other related materials of Lesley Northup, a writer, teacher, and Episcopal priest, and Associate Professor of Religion and Culture and Associate Dean of the Honors College, Florida International University. The materials in this collection span much of her earlier professional career, although the bulk of the material is from the mid-to-late 1980s.

The bulk of the collection consists of manuscripts, notes, and correspondence related to Northup's motherhood. The papers also include personal and professional correspondence, published articles, notes and manuscripts of works-in-progress, and clippings from magazines and newspapers.

The collection is divided into three series:

.Please note: One box contains all series

- Series 1: Responses to Northup's Motherhood, 1987-1995 (0.2 lin.ft.)
Series 1 contains personal and professional correspondence, editorials, letters to the editor, requests for appearances. The material is arranged by type (eg., journal articles, radio commentary transcript, correspondence from Literary Agent to Author), and then chronologically.
- Series 2: Research Survey for Forms of Address for Episcopal Women Clergy, 1992 (0.2 lin.ft.)
Series 2 contains numerous responses to the survey form from women clergy from many different parts of the country and in addition a blank survey form, and one completed but unsigned. The material is arranged alphabetically by last name.
- Series 3: Writings (0.1 lin. ft.)
Series 3 contains published articles and essays, and material in manuscript form, e.g. a book outline, a book chapter, essays, and a treatment for a screenplay. The series is arranged by subject in two categories: firstly re Northup's motherhood, and secondly on other subjects, including being a military chaplain, inclusive language in liturgy, a woman in baseball. Within the subject arrangement, the order is chronological with undated materials in the back.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Northup's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her career.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Contents List

Please note: One box contains all series

Series 1: Responses to Northup's Motherhood, 1987 - 1995

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	<i>The Churchman</i> article
1	1	2	<i>Gayspring: Newsletter of Integrity</i> : article; editorial
1	1	3	<i>The Living Church</i> : article; correspondence
1	1	4	<i>The National Review</i> editorial
1	1	5	<i>Star</i> article
1	1	6	<i>The Washington Post</i> : article; letters to the editor
1	1	7	<i>The Witness Magazine</i> : article; correspondence; citation/award to Editor of <i>The Witness</i>
1	1	8	<i>Woman Magazine</i> article
1	1	9	Correspondence, B - M
1	1	10	Correspondence: The Right Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of New York, Feb 1988-Feb 1989
1	1	11	Correspondence, N - W Unsigned correspondence
1	1	12	The Les Kinsolving Show, transcript of radio commentary
1	1	13	Correspondence, Literary agent to LN, Jan 1987 - May 1988
1	1	14	Media appearances, correspondence, Dec 1987 - May 1994; Listing of invitations to appear in the media
1	1	15	Correspondence re speaking engagement at American University, 10 Feb 1988
1	1	16	Separate selection of articles, correspondence, editorials.

Series 2: Research Survey for Forms of Address for Episcopal Women Clergy, 1992

2	1	1	Survey responses, Achiff-Croom; blank form
2	1	2	Survey responses, Dalaba-Lowry
2	1	3	Survey responses, Mackie-Wulsin; Unsigned survey response

Series 3: Writings, [198?]

3	1	1	Book reviews, published articles; Transcript of Radio/TV piece re "Monir," an artist [1987]
3	1	2	Proposed chapter outline for book; Book chapter 4 [manuscript, undated]