

There is in this world no such force as the force of a person determined to rise. The human soul cannot be permanently chained.

--W.E.B. Du Bois

Special Collections & University Archives

W.E.B. Du Bois Library

UMass Amherst

154 Hicks Way

Amherst, MA 01003

(413) 545-2780

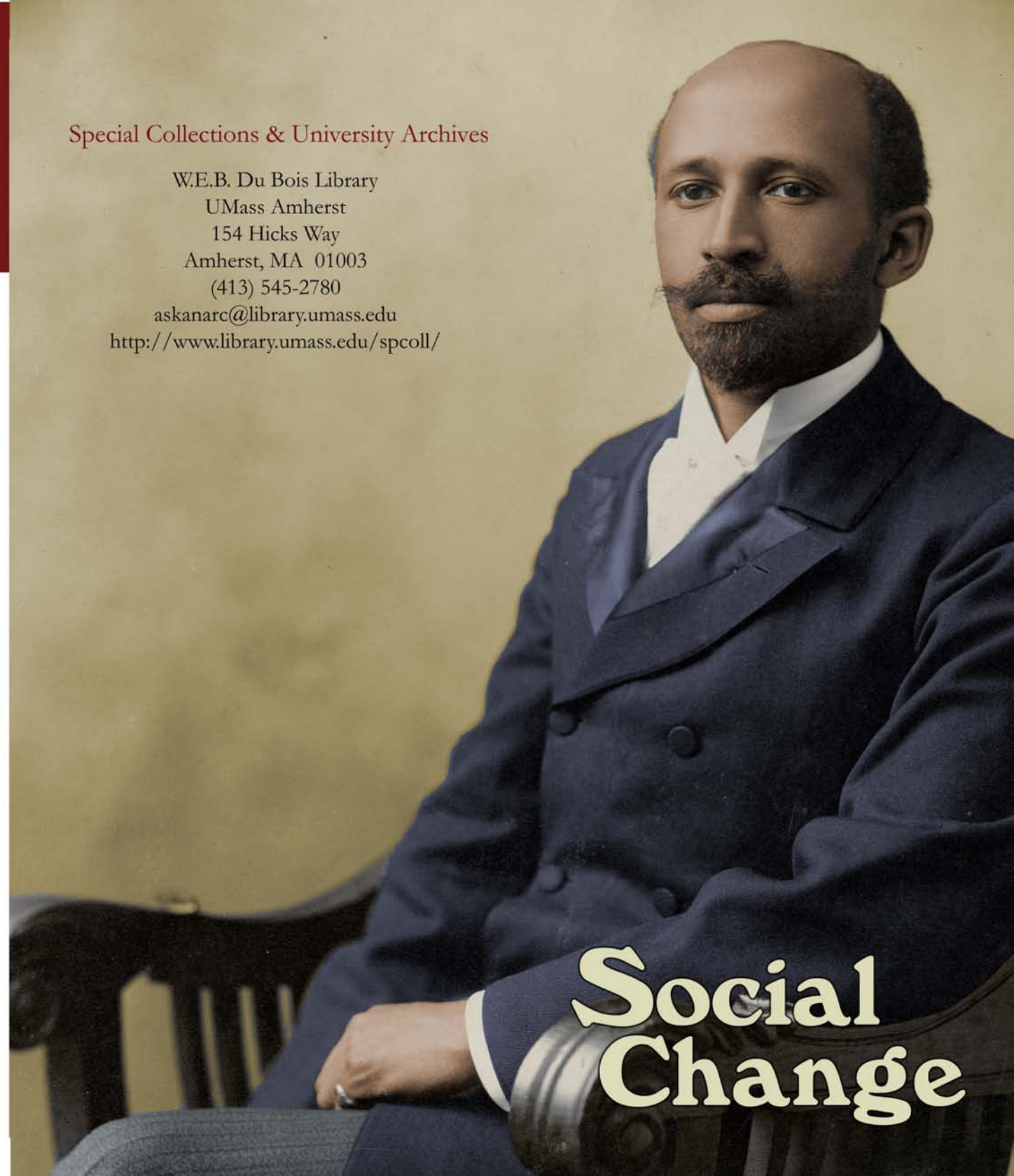
askanarc@library.umass.edu

<http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/>

Building a better future

- Peace
- Social justice
- Racial equality
- Environmentalism
- Labor activism
- Intentional communities
- Gay rights
- Prison reform
- Sustainable living
- Disability rights
- Spiritual growth
- Organic farming
- Political activism
- Antinuclear movement
- Human rights
- Cooperatives
- Civil rights

UMassAmherst



Social Change

Building upon the activist legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois, the Department of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) collects primary materials relating to individuals and groups who create positive change in American society through political, economic, spiritual, or cultural means. By preserving the records of their activities, we hope to ensure that future generations can continue to engage with the ideas that have motivated so many to action.

Although the scope of this project is wide, SCUA focuses particularly upon the movements for peace, social and racial justice, labor activism, environmentalism, intentional communities, and gay rights. Rather than examine these movements in isolation, we attempt to document the complex intellectual and organizational ties among them, collecting the whole lives and careers of individuals in an effort to provide a rich context for studying the growth of their thought,

and documenting the networks of their associates to broaden that context. Our goal is to develop a rich understanding of the diverse experiences that Americans have had with social change and the varied perspectives and approaches they have adopted in pursuing it.

The Department's holdings reflect this commitment to preserving the written record of social change and making it available to scholars, students, activists, and other members of the public. Dating from the mid-19th century to the present, the collections consist of hundreds of linear feet of manuscripts, and many thousands of books, magazines, photographic images, posters, sound recordings, and associated memorabilia.

SCUA houses a number of significant collections in social change, including the personal papers of W.E.B. Du Bois, Horace Mann Bond, the abolitionist Hudson family, Carl Oglesby, Randy Kehler, Mary Wentworth, and Bob Winston. Among the organizations represented are the Peace Development Fund, Peacemakers, the American Friends Service Committee -- Western Massachusetts, the Brotherhood of the Spirit commune, the Gray Panthers of the Pioneer Valley, and the Valley, Greenfield, and Traprock Peace Centers. SCUA also preserves the records of several trade unions and labor organizations.

How you can help

SCUA welcomes your assistance in preserving the history of social change through donations of personal papers, organizational records, photographs, memorabilia, and other items of potential research value.

Among materials of special interest are:

- Letters, diaries, essays, memoirs, talks, fictional and non-fictional accounts
- Records of businesses, social service agencies, and charitable, voluntary, and civic groups
- Records of labor unions, community groups, and fraternal and benevolent societies
- Books, periodicals, flyers, newspapers, posters, and pamphlets
- Videos, films, sound recordings
- Scrapbooks, sketchbooks, and photo albums

Whom to contact

Inquiries regarding our project in social change, our collections, or donations may be addressed to the following:

Rob Cox

rscoc@library.umass.edu
(413) 545-6842

Danielle Kovacs

dkovacs@library.umass.edu
(413) 545-2784

Sandy Lillydahl

slillydahl@library.umass.edu
(413) 545-2397

