

Bryn Mawr College
Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr
College

Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library
Newsletter

Bryn Mawr College Publications, Special
Collections, Digitized Books


1997

Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter 1 (1997)

Bryn Mawr College Library

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.brynmawr.edu/mirabile>

 Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Custom Citation

Mirabile Dictu: the Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter 1 (1997)

This paper is posted at Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College. <http://repository.brynmawr.edu/mirabile/1>

For more information, please contact repository@brynmawr.edu.

Mirabile Dictu

The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter

Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, 101 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899



*Die house in which
John Keats died.
Piazza di Spagna.
March 22. 1914.*

*Watercolor by C. Lovat Fraser from a sketch book, 1914, featured in the coming
exhibition "From Stonehenge to Bryn Mawr: Exploring Architecture"*

"From Stonehenge to Bryn Mawr: Exploring Architecture"

by Mary Leahy and James Tanis

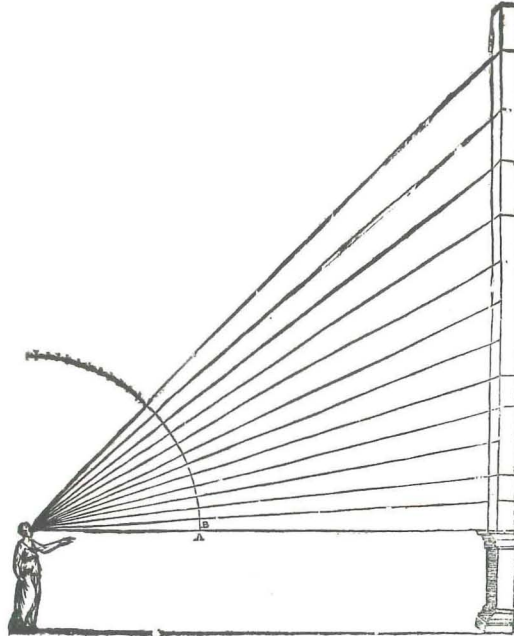
The opening of Rhys Carpenter Library, the future home of the Archaeology, Growth and Structure of Cities, and History of Art Collections, inspired us to review our holdings of architectural materials and plan a celebratory exhibition in conjunction with the fall opening of the new library. The work of campus architects, from Taylor Hall to Carpenter Library, will be highlighted: Addison Hutton, Cope and Stewardson, Mellor and Meigs, Louis Kahn, I.W. Colburn, Philip Chu, Edward Larrabee Barnes, and Henry Myerberg.

The College

Archives, a rich wellspring of blueprints, original drawings, photographs, and prints of college buildings, provided enough research and exhibition materials to do several shows. These holdings combined with other rare books, prints, drawings, and manuscripts have given us splendid material from which to build the exhibition.

The Barbara Miller Lane correspondence housed in the Archives consists of letters written to her by a number of German architects from the Bauhaus movement, from whom she sought pertinent information on politics and architecture in Germany between the World Wars. Her book *Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945* was published by Harvard University Press in 1968. Of special importance are the "Notes on Mrs. Lane's Manuscript" enclosed with Walter Gropius's letter of 19 July 1966.

The exhibition begins on Salisbury Plain where Stonehenge, among the most ancient of structures, has roused recorded speculation since an early mention in the ninth century. In 1655 an earlier account by architect Inigo Jones (1573-1652) was published, in which he had tried to show that the stones had formed part of a Roman temple.



From *Tutte l'Opere d'Architettura et Prospetiva*,
by Sebastiano Serlio, 1619.

Jones's work, and an attack on his proposal by Dr. William Charleton, physician to Charles II, will be among the Stonehenge volumes on display.

The background development of modern architecture will bring together works of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries. Beginning with the first printed book on architecture, Leon Battista Alberti's 1485 *De re aedificatoria*, the exhibition will include the first illustrated pocket edition of Vitruvius, the only surviving classical text on architecture. An early facsimile of the first edition of Palladio's seminal work (1570) will join those

of other sixteenth-century architects: Serlio, Scamozzi, Vignola, and Vredeman de Vries.

A down-to-earth section will focus on Anglo-American domestic architecture, an area of study well represented in the collection. Among many other works, the exhibition will include mid-eighteenth-century English work by "practical architect" William Halfpenny and mid-nineteenth-century American manuals by Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux, concluding with Gustav Stickley's *Craftsman Homes* and Frank Lloyd Wright's *Drawings for a Living Architecture*. In 1953, Wright wrote: "Poetry of form is as necessary to great architecture as foliage is to the tree, blossoms to the plant or flesh to the body."

A timely first for us, the architecture exhibition promises to touch on some of the approved and controversial buildings of this and other times. We hope you will be able to visit the show when you are at the College. It opens September 26, 1997 and will continue through Sunday, May 31, 1998. The Class of 1912 Rare Book Room is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Please call ahead for hours during college holidays and Reunion Weekend.

Phyllis Goodhart Gordan '35 Bequest

by Leo M. Dolenski

The recent bequest of Phyllis Goodhart Gordan '35 has brought to the library a remarkable collection of Renaissance manuscripts, incunables, and research materials, complementing earlier gifts during the 1950s from her father Howard L. Goodhart.

The young Phyllis Goodhart, while a student at Bryn Mawr majoring in Latin, developed an interest in the work of a major fifteenth-century Italian humanist Poggio Bracciolini, best known for his passionate search throughout Europe for lost classical texts. It is largely through his efforts that we have today a number of the works of Cicero, Quintillian, Manilius, Lucretius, and others. For many decades after her graduation, after marrying and while raising four children, Mrs. Gordan pursued her scholarly studies of Poggio, studies which culminated in 1974 with the publication of *Two Renaissance Book Hunters: The Letters of Poggius Bracciolini to Nicolaus de Niccolis* (New York and London, 1974).

Her bequest to the Library includes nine Renaissance manuscripts containing texts by Poggio and his close friend, the humanist Leonardo Bruni. The titles of some of these manuscripts, written in the then-new and beautiful humanistic script, reveal something of the scholarly and historical interests of these Italian humanists: *De nobilitate*, *De miseria conditionis humanae*, *Epistolae familiares*, and *De bello italico*. Of particular importance to scholars is a text by Gaspar of Verona, a teacher of rhetoric in Rome, *De temporibus Pauli II Libri V*, which celebrates the achievements of Pope Paul II in a series of five books. The Vatican Library holds Books I, II, and IV. For centuries not all of Gaspar's books were available, since Books III and V had disappeared. Although Book III remains lost, Book V surfaced in the early 1800s and was eventually acquired by Howard Goodhart who gave it to his daughter. Now, as the Bryn Mawr copy, it remains the sole known text of this work.

Complementing this manuscript collection are nineteen incunables, which, added to the

superb Goodhart collection already in the Library, make the Library's holdings of these books even more important. Authors of these recent additions include Leonardo Bruni, *De duobus amantibus*, Rome ca. 1472; his *Epistolarum familiarum Libri VIII*, Venice 1493; Francesco Filelfo, *Epistolae*, Venice ca. 1473; his *Satyrae*, Milan 1476; Pius II, *De captione urbis Constantinopolitanae*, Rome 1474; his *Epistolae*, Louvain 1483; Bartolomeo Platina, *Vitae pontificum*, Venice 1469; Lorenzo Valla, *Antidoton in Poggium*, Siena 1490; and others.

During her many decades of study on Poggio, Mrs. Gordan acquired an extensive collection of research reference materials in the form of dictionaries, biographies, monographs, and journals—much of it now out of print and difficult to consult. That part of this collection not already at the Bryn Mawr Library, such as the massive twenty-five volumes of Ludovico Muratori's *Rerum italicarum scriptores*, an eighteenth-century edition of Italian writings from the sixth to the sixteenth centuries, has now been added to our collection. In the course of her readings Mrs. Gordan took extensive notes which were then typed and carefully arranged into many volumes of black-covered notebooks. These notes, biographical and bibliographical in nature, on several hundred Renaissance figures, have already proven their usefulness to scholars.

Lastly her collection also includes some 60 reels of microfilm containing selections from nearly 500 Renaissance manuscripts and church records relating to the works of a wide group of humanist scholars and church leaders. Since both Poggio and Leonardo Bruni were in the service of the Papal court, their works are well represented in this group.

This collection, representing as it does Mrs. Gordan's work as a scholar, has brought to the Library an extraordinary resource for the study of the Renaissance and will enable others to continue her life's work. The College's "Poggio Project" will seek to make Mrs. Gordan's work readily available.



Netherlandish Book Fund to honor James Tanis

by Mary Leahy

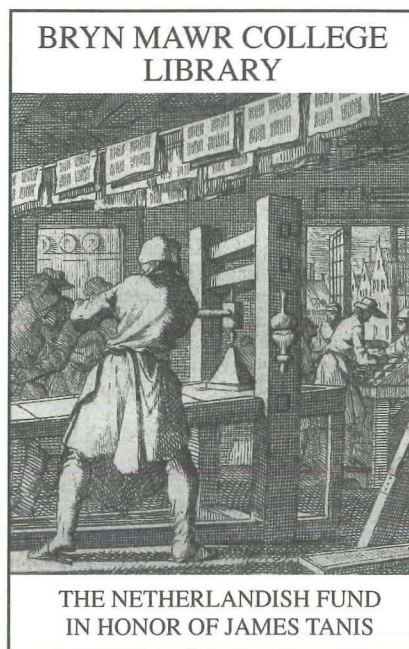
The Board of the Friends of the Library began a movement in September to create a Bryn Mawr College Library Book Fund in honor of James Tanis. Within a few weeks an endowed fund was formally established as a fitting tribute to the Director of Libraries who will be retiring after twenty-seven years of distinguished service to Bryn Mawr.

A close look at some of the classes James has taught and some of the exhibitions he has researched provided us with the idea that the fund should be used for the purchase of Netherlandish books. Through the years James has instructed students on the History of the Netherlands, the Rise of the Dutch Republic, and the Golden Age of the Netherlands. He has served as historical consultant on the "Dutch Tiles" exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. More recently he curated the

"Images of Discord" exhibition and bi-lingual catalog. The latter, a travelling exhibition, was at Rotterdam, Atlas Van Stolk; Leuven, Universiteitsbibliotheek; Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and Bloomington, the University of Indiana Museum. His continuing work in Netherlandish studies resulted in recognition from Her Majesty, Beatrix, Queen of The Netherlands and the conferring of the Order of Orange-Nassau in 1993.

As funds permit, Netherlandish books in many fields - such as history of art, literature, history, and economics - will be acquired. It is hoped that the fund will grow to enable the Library to add both current publications and source material. For those of you who wish to participate, you may do so by sending a

contribution to the Resources Office.



The Library on the Web

by M. Winslow Lundy

Development of the Library's home page on the World Wide Web began in the spring of 1995. A committee of staff members, Berry M. Chamness, M. Winslow Lundy, Judith H. Regueiro, and Dora D. Wong, charged with designing, creating, and maintaining the Library's pages, has continued to work together since then, expanding and refining the information about the College's libraries and finding useful and appropriate links to other web sites around the world. Information about the libraries includes descriptions of the library departments, special collections and services, hours of operation, guides to research and specific types of reference materials, the schedule of exhibitions, and instructions for using Tripod (the Tri-College Library catalog) and Trilogy, which provides networked access for the

Tri-College community to a selection of scholarly databases and indexing resources in a number of academic subjects. An exciting new interface, WebPac, is available as an alternative to the current way of searching Tripod. Searches can be done directly using a Web Browser.

Links to other web sites are organized to assist the user in searching for information contained in the millions of home pages on the Web. Within the structure are links to search engines which index large portions of the Web, to other academic institutions and libraries, to government information, to sites offering general reference information, to Philadelphia area resources, to electronic versions of many newspapers and journals, and to selected sites in the various academic disciplines in the College's curriculum.

When you have a minute, please do take a look at the Library's home page at <http://www.brynmawr.edu/Library>.

Special Collections Showcased in Student Seminars

by Laura Guelle

Primary source materials are being used by undergraduate students in their classrooms and personal research in an unprecedented manner, thanks to a generous grant from Friend of the Library Charles Tanenbaum. The grant has enabled staff to develop a program in consultation with faculty members such that students are shown pertinent materials from our Special Collections in their classes and taught how to use them in their research projects.



Kuba mask made of wood, cloth and fiber.

In one African-American Studies course, which explored the lives of African-American women through their literature, music, art, and spirituality, a librarian met with students to show them tracts by former slaves, videotaped interviews with contemporary authors, audio cassettes of poetry readings, documents from the NAACP, art prints, objects, and handicrafts. Students examined objects from the Neufeld Collection, such as the Kuba mask pictured on the left, to observe the African influences on early African-American art and handicrafts. In a separate session, smaller groups of students were taught basic bibliographic instruction and research methods and shown how to use the online databases in the Reference Department.

Students taking courses in Economics, Growth and Structure of Cities, and History have also already benefited from this program. The most popular types of primary sources requested by faculty in these fields are maps and atlases. Students in an introductory Cities course met individually with librarians to select city maps for a comparative city planning exercise. Local plat atlases of the Philadelphia Metropolitan area, some dating back to the nineteenth century, have figured prominently in both Cities classes and in an Economics course on local city, county, and township economies. Senior History majors were shown historical, economic, and statistical atlases in addition to seeing items from the College Archives and Manuscripts Divisions.

Faculty, staff, and students have all been delighted by the success of this program, which has been funded through the 1998 academic year. We look forward to introducing more of our students to our fascinating Special Collections next year.

Marion Bierwirth Honored

by Mary Leahy

Marion Moise Bierwirth, Class of 1947, was awarded the Phyllis Goodhart Gordan Medal for outstanding service to the Library on Wednesday, April 2. A dinner in her honor was held at Wyndham following the presentation. Marion's husband, Jack, joined her for the daylong celebration.

Marion's vision, encouragement, concern, and support for the Library have deeply involved her with books, manuscripts, and maps in a variety of ways. She has responsibly, quietly, and effectively made possible a number of projects. Many years ago Marion set up an endowed fund for books. The most recent purchase on that fund is the rare second part of Madeleine de Scudery's 1665 treatise on women. Marion, a former Chairman of the Friends of the Library, now joins a distinguished group of Gordan Award winners.

Library Announcements

Elliott Shore, Ph.D., will become Library Director in June when James Tanis retires. Susan Klaus, '67, the new Chairman, Friends of the Library, succeeds Lucy Fisher West.

Our best wishes go with Leo M. Dolenski who is retiring on 31 May after 21 years and 4 months of distinguished service to Bryn Mawr as Manuscripts Librarian.

Bon Voyage to Penny Schwind, Associate Director for Information Technology, and M. Winslow Lundy, Rare Book Cataloger! Penny and Windy are moving to Boulder, Colorado. Each has served the College with distinction: Penny for 25 years and Windy for 21 years.

Fantasy and Fashion Book

The Bryn Mawr College Library received from the Philadelphia Book Clinic a Certificate of Award in the Small Publisher's category for the book *Fantasy and Fashion*, a collection of essays by Phyllis Feldkamp, H. Kristina Haugland, Jean MacIntyre, Lynne Meadow, Janet Ozzard, and Susan Shifrin.

The certificate reads: "In recognition as one of the books meeting the industry's highest standards of design, printing, and binding as exhibited in the 52nd Philadelphia Book Show for 1997." This engaging volume is available from Library Publications for \$29.95, plus tax where applicable and \$3.00 postage.

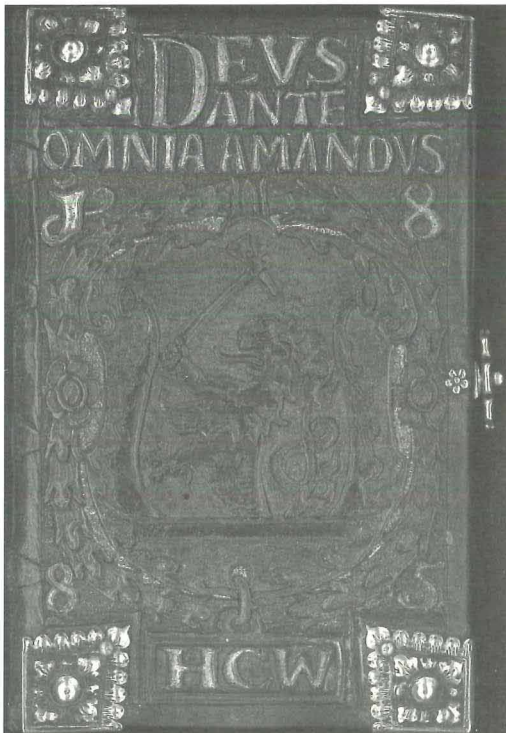
Otto Hupp Cut-Leather Binding

by M. Winslow Lundy

Noteworthy among the books recently cataloged for the Rare Book Collection is an exquisite little volume of a London edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* published circa 1885. The brown calf binding was decorated with the

cuir-ciselé technique of cutting into dampened leather with a pointed tool, leaving the resulting design and lettering in relief. Bound for Helen Caroline Weber in 1885, the front cover is embellished with her initials, the coat-of-arms of her father, a German doctor, and the motto "Deus ante omnia amandus." The edges of the volume are gilt and gauffered, eight brass bosses adorn the corners of the covers and a brass clasp on a leather strap keeps it tightly closed. The binder, Otto Hupp (1859-1949), signed his work on the back cover with his initials and the logo of a bird with outstretched wings. Hupp, a graphic artist who designed books, bindings, bookplates, and endpapers, emphasized heraldic devices in his work. He published many designs employing coats-of-arms in the *Münchener Kalendar*, an almanac-calendar published from 1885 through 1936.

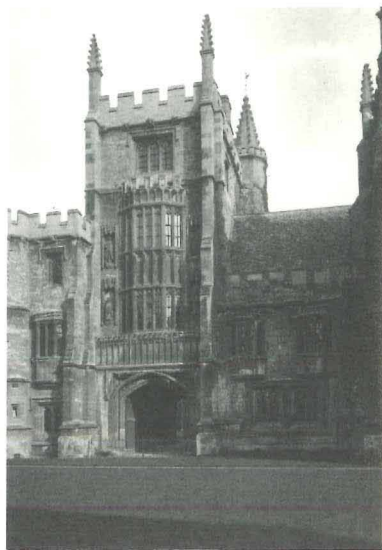
In 1898, Helen Weber married Edwin Waterhouse, one of the founders of the accounting firm Price Waterhouse. She kept her small prayer-book until 1931 when she presented it to a Maj. and Mrs. Lugard. In an accompanying letter, Helen Waterhouse expresses her great affection for the small volume, noting the many years she used it and that she had once dropped it from the top of an omnibus - with only slight damage to the first page! She describes the binder as a "great friend who owned a large leather factory, many years ago," and she notes that the crest on the front cover is that of her father. The volume is the gift to Bryn Mawr of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Maser in honor of Willman Spawn, Honorary Curator of Bookbinding.



College's Collections Going Digital

by Abigail Pile

In October 1996, the Library began work on a pilot project aimed at digitizing 100 vintage documentary photographs from the College's Collections and making them available to the Bryn Mawr community via CD-ROM. The goal of the project is at least two-fold: to increase access to the images and at the same time to enable better preservation of the original photographs.



*Magdalen Tower, Magdalen College,
Oxford*

Funded with a generous grant from the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL), work has progressed rapidly and 600 photographs have already been scanned and stored in image databases.

Many of the photographs, which are of

architectural monuments in European cities, were collected by M. Carey Thomas and Mary Garrett during their travels around the turn of the century. They include a series of photographs taken at Oxford and Cambridge and used by Thomas in designing Bryn Mawr's own early buildings. Other cities documented include London, Paris, Rome, and Moscow, as well as Germanic architecture in many cities. Once scanned, the photographs are stored by city along with information such as title, photographer, and photographic process. Users will be able to view a city's entire collection or search for images matching criteria they choose, such as a specific photographer.

Completion of the first CD-ROMs will coincide with the opening of the new Rhys Carpenter Library for Art, Archaeology, and Cities and with the subsequent remodeling of classrooms in Thomas. These classrooms, equipped with computer workstations, will be ideal for the use of the CDs. Professors in departments such as Growth and Structure of Cities or History of Art will be able to borrow them from the Library, view the database on the classroom computer, and simultaneously project the images through an overhead projector for their entire class to see. Individual students and other researchers can find the CDs cataloged on Tripod and then use them in the Library by requesting them at the reference desk.

The digital workstation, which includes a Power Macintosh, flatbed scanner, and CD-recorder, is now a permanent part of Special Collections and the department is already planning further ways to use the equipment.

News from the Bryn Mawr College Archives

by Lorette Treese

Primary Source Media of Woodbridge, Connecticut, has completed microfilming the Bryn Mawr/Haverford *Bi-College News*, *The College News*, and *Bryn Mawr Now* for the years 1980 through 1995. This will add to our collection of Bryn Mawr publications available on microfilm and ensure that information originally printed on newsprint continues to be available long after the fragile newsprint crumbles. Funds for this much needed special project were generously donated by Daniel and Joanna Semel Rose '52.

The College's student publications have been an excellent source of information on college life and the many notable events that have occurred on campus. They are frequently used by on-campus and visiting researchers.

One service copy will be housed in the microfilm room of Canaday Library; a second service copy will be housed together with the original negative microfilms in the College Archives.

Researchers are reminded that thanks to the efforts of Catherine (Cassie) Pabst, formerly Head of Acquisitions, there is a subject index to the College News for the years 1914-1949. Cassie has worked for many years on a volunteer basis to compile a unique and user-friendly index that can save a great deal of "browsing" for the researcher.

Ben Wolf

by Mary S. Leahy

Ben Wolf, author, teacher, poet, Friend of the Library and its staff, died in December 1996. The Library has lost a talented artist and a willing supporter of Library Publications. His art work handsomely graced our greeting cards for years.

Ben always carried a pocket full of pens and pencils "just in case." That "just in case" happened often while Ben was at Bryn Mawr. Once when we were doing a Library Publications *Newsletter*, we wanted a drawing of an Eiffel Tower. A word to Ben about the need was followed by: "Is there anything I can do to help?" There was and he did. About twenty minutes later, he

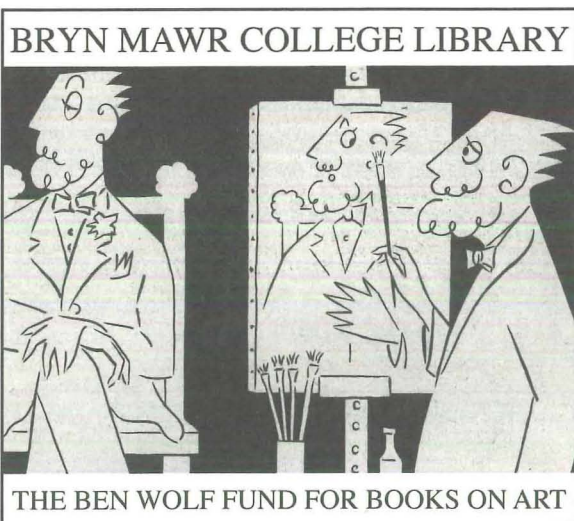
appeared at the door of the office and asked how large we wanted the Eiffel Tower to be. Then with his ever-present smile, he presented us with a series of various size towers impeccably drawn.

Ben never signed a check at Wyndham, he always drew something. "Do you think Nancy Hanlon would like a sailboat today?" Everyone at the table was given the opportunity to request another sail for the boat or to put people on it. One time, Ben drew an exotic bird on a perch. Nancy recognized it immediately and said: "That's Mr. Wolf's check!" It really didn't matter what Ben drew, his distinctive style emerged. Ben was a happy man and his happiness made those of us about him the same way.

Ben drew sailboats, flowers, and coves in Maine and then gave us the right to publish them as cards. His cards were best sellers! Early in the fall he designed two limited edition prints for the Library staff. They were printed on special paper and signed by the artist. Ben placed them in unmarked pristine white envelopes, one for each staff member, and was with us in spirit when the prints were distributed in the Rare Book Room after his death. His beloved wife, Ruth, came to that bittersweet occasion.

Ruth always stayed in the background when Ben was about, but she was there for him. Ruth, an accomplished editor and a generous volunteer for numerous charitable causes, joined Ben in contributing to the cultural life of Philadelphia and later to Waverly Heights.

We thank Ben for the thoughtful things he did, but most of all for his friendship. A book fund has been established in Ben's name and the specially designed bookplate is pictured here.



The "Bryn Mawrs"

by Loretta Treese

Among the materials maintained in the Bryn Mawr College Archives, there is a nine-volume set of entrance examinations that had once been housed in the president's office. In her book, *What Makes a College*, Cornelia Meigs wrote that M. Carey Thomas had a hand in making up these exams, and that she made them as difficult as possible, fully intending to read every one herself before students were admitted.

Meigs wrote, "As the years passed and it became more in order for the College to integrate its method with the whole field of education, rather than to stand further upon individual experiment, it was taken to be wiser to use the College Board Entrance Examinations. Even though the actual examinations seemed less difficult, the selection was just as meticulous."

Here are some sample questions from the very first Bryn Mawr entrance examinations used to identify the students that would enter the college in the academic year 1885-1886:

History — In what wars were the following battles

continued on page 9

Kudos to the Volunteers in the Library

by Leo M. Dolenski



The Fortnightly Philistine, 1900.

In addition to Cassie Pabst, whose activities on behalf of the Library are mentioned in an Archives article, the Library is very fortunate to have an outstanding cadre of volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise to difficult

and time-consuming tasks which would otherwise remain undone.

After retiring from a career spanning twenty-eight years as a reference librarian and then as Head of Public Services at Bryn Mawr, Gertrude Reed and her husband Charles spent a year in Japan. She and Charlie, who had been a Professor of Psychology at Temple University, returned in 1993 and volunteered their services to Canaday Library. Trudy, after revising two manuals, one for student workers at the Circulation Desk and the other a detailed disaster planning booklet, set about to facilitate the use of the Library's collection of League of Nations' official documents, the most complete set in the Philadelphia area. Together with the very able assistance of Claire Liachowitz '52, retired physician and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Bryn Mawr, Mrs. Reed worked systematically through a collection of 557 reels of microfilm, along with a substantial number of League of Nations' paper

volumes. The two re-labeled and produced preliminary, workable guides to these collections, previously difficult to use because of complicated indexes and finding aids. Trudy Reed has recently presented the results of their work to an upper level history class which makes extensive use of these League of Nations' documents.

Eleanor Beatty '43, formerly a psychologist at Bryn Mawr's Child Study Institute and now retired, has spent many years in the College Archives indexing early student publications, including *The Lantern*, *The Fortnightly Philistine*, and *Tipyn O'Bob*. These publications contain the literary efforts of students both serious and light, notices and reviews of College events, and chronicles of college and student life. Her indexes give the researcher much needed entry into these, for the most part, long forgotten and unused volumes.

Charlie Reed has brought his well-honed research skills and interests to the Library's Manuscript Collection, where he has worked through hundreds of letters, compiling data required for cataloging. This information includes verifying correct forms of names, describing physical characteristics of letters, and generating brief summaries of each letter's contents. Because of his wide-ranging knowledge of both the sciences and the arts, Charlie has made a substantial contribution to the work of cataloging this type of manuscript.

So it is with great satisfaction that the Library looks upon the efforts of these volunteers and what they have achieved. We thank them warmly for giving so generously of their time and skills and we look forward to many more years of their presence among us.

continued from page 8

fought? Bannockburn, Crecy, Bosworth, Naseby, the Boyne, Plassy, Salamanca?

American History — When and where was the present constitution formed? Why was a new constitution thought needful?

Physical Geography — How are volcanoes and earthquakes explained?

Physiology — Give a brief account of the structure and action of the heart.

Chemistry — How do metals differ from non-metals? And how is iron obtained from its ores?

One researcher told the Bryn Mawr College archivist that these entrance examinations came to be known as "The Bryn Mawrs." They quickly earned a national reputation for their demanding nature.

The Unpublished Writings of Joaquin Maurin, 1896-1973

by Leo M. Dolenski

The scope and variety of the Library's manuscript collections were greatly enriched this year by the acquisition of the unpublished writings of the Spanish political and social thinker Joaquin Maurin, given by his son Mario Maurin, Professor of French at Bryn Mawr.

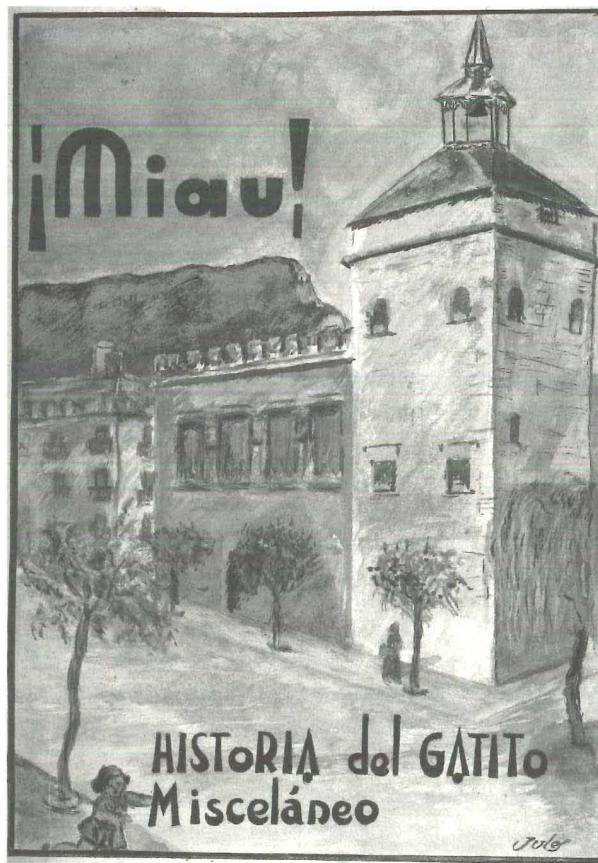
Joaquin Maurin's life unfolded during one of the most turbulent periods of Spain's history, the 1920s and 1930s. Born in Bonansa, Spain, Maurin, like many of his generation, fell under the spell of Marxism, traveled to Moscow where he met Lenin and Trotsky, and became a firm supporter of social and political revolution. After imprisonment under the Spanish dictator Primo de Rivera and a period of exile in Paris, he returned to Barcelona where he founded a workers' and peasants' party, Bloque Obrero y Campesino. Disillusioned with Russian and Spanish Communist parties, he went on in 1935 to unite his organization with another anti-Stalinist party, and co-founded POUM (Partido Obrero Unificacion Marxista) celebrated by George Orwell in his *Homage to Catalonia*. During the ensuing civil war, forced to flee for his life, he was apprehended by the Falangist police and was jailed in a series of prisons ending in Barcelona. Unlike many leaders in the Republican cause, his life was spared due to the intervention of a high-ranking relative in Franco's military. After spending ten years in prison he was released in 1946 and spent the remainder of his life in exile in New York City. There he established the American Literary Agency (ALA) promoting the works of Latin American writers.

During his lifetime, Maurin published a number of books on the history of the Spanish revolution during the '30s, all of which have been republished during the '60s and '70s. In addition to these, the Library's collection is made up of his unpublished writings, mostly historical and autobiographical in nature, and some of which he wrote while in prison. A number of these writings, some short and unfinished, others quite long and complete, cover a wide range of topics: literary, historical, and philosophical. The philosopher Miguel de Unamuno was one of Maurin's keen

interests as his papers include hundreds of pages of notes as well as a relatively complete work on the thinker. Another untitled work on modern history presents an overview and an analysis of the major political movements of the twentieth century. A substantial semi-autobiographical novel *Algol*, heavily corrected, seems to have occupied Maurin for some time.

Included in this collection are two children's stories written by Maurin while in Franco's prison. Both books, one titled *¡Miau! Historia del Gatito Misceláneo* and the other *El Misterio del Museo del Prado*, were written in 1937 and dedicated to his young son Mario, then living in Paris. These children's books are beautifully illustrated with numerous watercolors by a fellow prisoner known only as "Jules."

Though Joaquin Maurin is best remembered as a social and political thinker and activist, his unpublished writings reveal other facets of his life and interests.



Title page of *¡Miau! Historia del Gatito Misceláneo* by Joaquin Maurin.

Professor Emeritus Jane M. Oppenheimer's Legacy featured in Lois and Reginald Collier Library

by Carol W. Campbell

In the spring of 1996, the library collections of Bryn Mawr College were enriched by the bequest of Professor Emeritus Jane M. Oppenheimer (1911-1995), of Bryn Mawr's Class of 1932. At her retirement in 1980, Miss Oppenheimer was the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Biology and History of Science. She had taught at Bryn Mawr more than forty years, was an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and participated in the American-Soviet joint space program.

The display cases in Collier Library feature books and objects d'art which illustrate her internationally renowned work in developmental biology, and her scholarship on Darwin and the Prussian-Estonian founder of the science of comparative embryology, Karl Ernst von Baer (1792-1876). Several of the numerous honorary medals awarded her for distinguished scholarship and teaching, from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Bryn Mawr, the Estonian Academy of Sciences, and international scientific congresses, are included in the display.

Dr. Oppenheimer's thirty-three item art



"La Crapaud" by Pablo Picasso from his Buffon series.

collection received by the College includes prints and drawings from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, particularly French and American examples. Foremost among the prints are two etchings of a frog and an ostrich from Pablo Picasso's Buffon series and an abstract color etching from Jacques Villon's *Illustrateurs du Minoir des Poètes*. Reflective of her wide interests, her collection also includes a Piranesi etching, English color engravings of biological subjects, nineteenth-century color engravings of the Naples area, a Rodin etching of Antonin Proust, a Raoul

Dufy etching of *Le Paradis Terrestre*, a Leonard Baskin etching of *Hans Bol*, a Lyonel Feininger woodcut, *Marine*, and Southwest U.S. watercolor landscapes. Objects include small bronzes, such as *The Alchemist* on display, a European ivory figural group, a Southwest Pueblo jar by Maria, and an Asian jade recumbent horse. Finally several engravings and photographs of scientists, such as the portrait prints of John Hunter, late eighteenth-century founder of pathological anatomy in England, are shown in the display with plates from his collected works published in 1837.

"My Books and I"

A Friends of the Library Talk

by President Katharine McBride, 5 March 1975

I never planned to speak about the books I have. I have never spoken about them before, and I will never speak about them again. So, this is it.

I first became interested in British imperialism during my senior year at Bryn Mawr, when I took one of those courses that might now be called a "luxury course" - a course not necessary to fulfill any major requirement. This particular course was taught by the History Department's William Roy Smith. The time was 1925, when efforts to unravel

the Empire, at least as far as India was concerned, were becoming stronger. Billie Smith's course was "British Imperialism," but the title of his book, published in 1938, was *Nationalism and Reform in India*.

I don't remember collecting books at first. I was working in and around Philadelphia, doing research on patients with brain injuries. Since I was following patients in that part of town which

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

was punctuated with bookshops, I took time to look in on them occasionally. I didn't mean to be a collector. I just meant to follow up an interest. I did find that I got more and more interested in books on India, Africa, and China - not on the whole of the British Empire.

The bookshops ranged from old Leary's, where for six dollars you could buy a history of India that would have cost three times as much elsewhere, to William H. Allen's, which continues to be one of the most interesting shops. In Boston there is Goodspeed's; and then there are those specialists who call themselves antiquarians, like Paragon, run by a former newspaper man from Vienna, and The East and West Shop, which takes more care than any other.

One bookshop persuaded *The New York Times* to do an article on its customers. When the article was published, it began with David Ben-Gurion and ended with me. The published account attributed to me an average invoice ten times that which, in fact, I usually spent.

A monthly meeting in New York often gave me a half hour at Orientalia. Working left little free time, but I spent many half hours in bookshops. Bookshops did 80 to 90 percent of their work with libraries then, so they were not accustomed to visitors. But for me, part of the fun was just seeing books.

What of the books themselves? To the casual visitor who saw them on my shelves, they might have seemed like a travel collection. Many of the most colorful were travel books, especially of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, before photography did away with engraving and the beautiful color plates. More numerous than travel books were histories, biographies, accounts of administrations, and essays. Then there was the pamphlet literature, fifteen to a hundred page pamphlets or tracts, so important to understanding the times, but so hard on the Library to catalog.

If I were to choose an example in India for possible concentration, it would be Bengal. The

long period of imperialist and anti-imperialist tendencies going back and forth is fascinating. I never have known if I became interested in government because I was working in administration, but I did become fascinated with the intricacy of governmental systems, as they developed over time.

Of India's governors or governors-general, most interesting to me is Warren Hastings, particularly his experimental approach to government, which ended with his impeachment. Especially impressive is his responsibility for some

of the early research on India. The books and pamphlets I have were all bought before the United States became particularly fascinated with impeachment. It's also of interest for us to note that the British spent half as much on the impeachment of Warren Hastings as they did on the war with the American Colonies. I think I

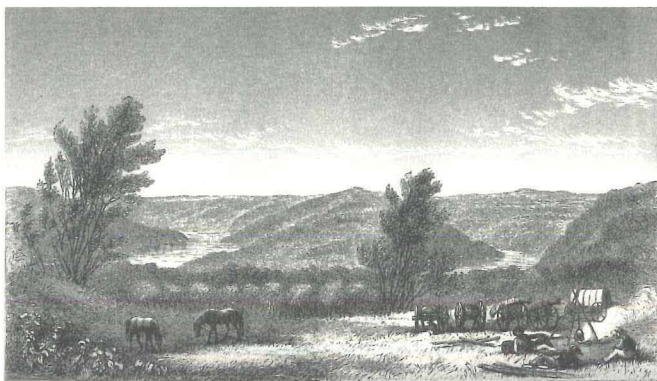
have given the Library all my Warren Hastings materials, but I wouldn't be surprised if I didn't have to go out and buy some more, because I really miss him.

Oddities I acquired included de Lesseps and the Suez Canal, some twenty-six initial volumes which I happened to see at the Fletcher's shop in London, when I was buying a copy of Sir Walter Raleigh's *History of the World* for the College. My interest in the Suez was because my Father was one of the engineers who worked on the Panama Canal. The Library now has this small collection.

I do still have some Fort William material, along with a manuscript letterbook from Fort St. George in Madras. And I've kept as well other various scattered books and journals, on the theory that I'll read them. We'll see.

(Friends' chairman Doreen Spitzer thanked Miss McBride and concluded by saying, "I didn't know a thing about Warren Hastings until today." Miss McBride responded, "Oh, don't miss him!")

Edited and abridged by James Tanis
(15 March 1997)



Half-way Bank, Assiniboine River. From Narrative of the Canadian Red River, gift of Katharine McBride.