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Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library  
Newsletter

Bryn Mawr College Publications, Special  
Collections, Digitized Books

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2004

## Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter 8 (2004)

Bryn Mawr College Library

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# Mirabile Dictu

## *The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter*

*Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, 101 North Merion Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899*



*Detail from a map of the Middle East, from volume 3 of Jan Jansson's "Atlas Novus, Sive, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum", published in Amsterdam in 1645.*

*Bryn Mawr's excellent collection of early modern maps, atlases and travel accounts will be featured in the spring exhibition on the European mapping of Asia, Africa and the Americas. The exhibition will open in late January 2005.*

## From the Director

**B**ryn Mawr College has joined together with some of the country's leading academic institutions to address a serious issue in the humanities and in libraries and information services departments. Up to three-quarters of the nation's newly-minted Ph.D.s in the humanities do not get the opportunity for full-time teaching in their fields while at the same time, people in academia have been worried about the dwindling number of library schools which maintain a curriculum designed for careers in the academy. So, together with Johns Hopkins, Princeton, Yale, Virginia, Illinois, Lehigh, Southern Cal and several other universities, Bryn Mawr is one of the founding partners in a program to provide a pathway for deserving scholars into the world of libraries and information. Sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Resources, which is the country's leading think-tank in these matters, Bryn Mawr hosted a two-week long seminar in mid-August, 2004 that will establish the basis for a new kind of scholarly information professional. It educated these scholars about the challenges and opportunities created by recent forms of scholarly research and the information resources that support them, both traditional and digital.

The program offered postdoctoral fellowships to individuals who have recently earned their Ph.D.s in disciplines in the humanities who believe there are opportunities to develop meaningful linkages among disciplinary scholarship, libraries, archives, and evolving digi-



*Christa Williford*

tal tools. The seminar inspired participants to think broadly about the changes underway in research methodologies, the creation of new scholarly resources, the demands these changes place on critical academic institutions such as libraries and archives, and the crucial role that scholars pursuing innovative career paths in libraries can play in shaping the future of scholarly resources management and use. The year-long fellowship at an academic research library will provide hands-on experience relating to the opportunities and challenges facing scholarship at research libraries in a rapidly changing academic landscape.

The seminar came at the beginning of a year-long fellowship for each of the eleven members of the first class of fellows, who will spend the year at one of the host institutions. Bryn Mawr's first intern is Christa Williford, who graduated recently from Indiana University-Bloomington with a doctorate in Theatre History, Literature, and Criticism. She comes to us from the University of Warwick, where she honed her digital skills. She is now an intern in our Special Collections department where she works with humanities faculty to integrate technology into their teaching. Christa is conversant with the digital technology that allows one to model buildings for classroom purposes. (She has done work on recreating historic theatres, including one in Philadelphia.) And she will help us to think about and plan for the digitizing of our large collection of slides.

We are looking forward to working with Christa this year, to learn from her and to help her prepare for a career in libraries and information services departments. She was chosen through a very selective process – even in this, the first year of this fellowship, there was great interest in the program.

Elliott Shore  
Chief Information Officer and The Constance A. Jones Director of Libraries and Professor of History

# New Women's History Collections

Eric Pumroy

## Pennsylvania NOW

Pennsylvania NOW, the state affiliate of the National Organization for Women, donated its records to the Bryn Mawr library last year. The Pennsylvania NOW records document the activities of the local branch of the most influential organization to come out of the modern feminist movement. Pennsylvania NOW was organized in 1971 as the first state-wide NOW organization, with the purpose of serving as a steering committee for the numerous local chapters. In its early years it was led by Eleanor Smeal, who later gained prominence as the president of the national organization. The records track the extensive political work of NOW in Pennsylvania, including its campaign on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment, its ongoing support for reproductive rights, and its efforts to end discriminatory insurance rates.

## Women's suffrage campaign materials

Last year the library acquired two important additions to its already substantial collection of pamphlets, broadsides and other printed materials from the woman's suffrage movement. The first was an archive of political pieces distributed by the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia during the 1910s. The suffrage movement in the South was much weaker than it was in the North, so finding a significant cache of Southern leaflets and pamphlets is a rare occurrence. Of course, most of the concerns of women in Virginia were the same as those of women in the North, and the largest part of the collection consists of pamphlets originally written for the national organization, the North American Woman Suffrage Association, and re-issued by the Virginia group. Included in this group were pamphlets written by two Mawrters, Susan Fitzgerald BMC 1893 and Katharine Houghton Hepburn BMC 1899. But the collection also contains a number of leaflets that directly

respond to Southern concerns, particularly the fear that granting women the right to vote would lead to greater political power for blacks. The collection was acquired from E. Wharton & Company, Oakton, Virginia.

Later in the year we acquired a scrapbook kept by Gertrude Brown, President of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association in the mid-1910s, containing the original setting copies for twelve pro-suffrage ads that appeared in New York newspapers in the fall of 1917. The state of New York held a referendum that November on whether women should be granted the right to vote. A similar effort in 1913 had been defeated, but in 1917 the political campaign took place as American soldiers were being sent to Europe to fight in World War I. As these ads show, the suffrage leaders tied their cause closely to the American war effort, arguing that support for women's rights was critical for American victory. The referendum passed, and proved to be an important victory in building momentum for the passage of the 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The scrapbook was acquired from Priscilla Juvelis, Cambridge, Massachusetts.



*From Gertrude Brown's advertising scrapbook*

# Building the M. Carey Thomas Library

Lorett Treese

In the June, 1907 issue of the alumnae magazine, an article on Bryn Mawr buildings stated, "A library, the gift of the friends, graduates, and students of the college, begun in April 1903, was completed in February, 1907." Like many major undertakings, the library was accomplished in phases, but documentary evidence in the Bryn Mawr College Archives indicates that the years 2004 and 2005 mark the centennial anniversary of the bulk of its construction.

According to early course catalogs, around the time the college opened, its library of 2,200 volumes occupied two rooms of Taylor Hall. By the turn of the century, the college owned over 33,000 volumes and a separate building was clearly required to house them.

In a 1903 letter, M. Carey Thomas, president of Bryn Mawr College, claimed credit for both the floor plan and the exterior design of the new library. She said she brought along her sketches and photographs of European buildings when she consulted architect Walter Cope.

At a meeting of the alumnae association in March of 1902, Cope explained his ambition to introduce America to a new type of college architecture that he called "Elizabethan Gothic." Cope had already designed three Bryn Mawr dorms and buildings for several other major universities. The student publication, *The Fortnightly Philistine*, reported that Cope expressed his desire that "The new Library be more than a mere storehouse for books." He was apparently aiming for an architectural watershed, stating that "classic models have been put aside and the more sympathetic 'human' models have been followed in the plans of the Bryn Mawr Library." When the library was completed, the college used the term Jacobean Gothic to describe it; the style has since become known as Collegiate (or College) Gothic.

The influence of several English academic buildings is reflected in Thomas. Its general form recalls the King's College chapel

in Cambridge. The entrance porch is a copy of the porch of Oriel College in Oxford. The main stairway is a copy of the staircase at Clare College in Cambridge. According to the president's report of 1906, "The tracery of [the] windows is copied from the windows of the dining hall of Wadham College, the President of the College having obtained the permission of the Warden of Wadham to send a photographer from London to take large photographs of them." The reading room's oak paneling was inspired by the interior architecture of the Wadham dining hall and paid for by a \$2,000 donation from college alumnae.

John D. Rockefeller had promised Bryn Mawr \$250,000 for a new dorm if the college could raise a matching sum for a library. The relatively new alumnae association began soliciting subscriptions and by June 1902, the required sum had been collected.

According to Thomas's correspondence with the architectural firm Cope and Stewardson, during the remainder of 1903 work on the library was mainly confined to working drawings and excavations. By February of 1905, an editorial in the student publication, *The Lantern*, reported that "each week develops more rare proportion in that structure which, in easy acceptance, we already call 'the Library'." In her scrapbook, Helen Griffith of the class of 1905 mounted a photograph of students passing by the library in the fall of 1904 or early winter of 1905. It shows that at least one turret had been constructed and the walls of the reading room had nearly reached their final height.

By early 1906, M. Carey Thomas turned her attention to its interior architecture and she became a real challenge for Cope and Stewardson. In a letter dated May, 1906 they castigated her for having "designed and put in place certain interior work not in conformity with our plans for it."

Since the death of Walter Cope in 1902, Thomas had questioned the artistic abilities of the firm. In 1905 she hired Lockwood De Forest



*An early color image of the new library appeared on this postcard which was mailed in April of 1908. Postcard in Bryn Mawr College photo collection.*

*Walter Cope's sketch of the cloister planned for the library was a great boon for fundraising. This color reproduction was the frontispiece for the student publication, *The Lantern*, published in 1902.*



as an additional architect and decorator. Among his contributions were the six teak doors at the head of the main staircase, dedicated to the memory of Mary Helen Ritchie, secretary of the college, by the undergraduate association in 1905. DeForest also designed the large bronze clock which set the time for all the other clocks in the college, funded by a gift from the class of 1899.

During the summer of 1905, about 50,000 books were moved from Taylor Hall to the new library, which opened when the students returned in the fall. They were shelved in a three-story stack tucked beneath the imposing reading room which extended the entire length of what was called the main building. The reading room was furnished with desks for 136 students "screened to the height of two feet, as in the British Museum reading-room, to secure privacy to each reader," according to the article published in the alumnae magazine in June of 1907. The same article noted that students were not permitted to take fountain pens or bottles of ink into the building, nor could they bring cloaks, rubbers, or umbrellas into the main reading room.

The library had a south wing containing seminar rooms and professors' offices, but construction of its parallel north wing did not commence until May 1906 when the college's trustees appropriated part of a legacy from Joseph E. Gillingham. The north wing was finished in February, 1907, but lack of additional funding caused plans for a fourth wing filled with lecture rooms to be indefinitely shelved. A simple stone wall was constructed at the rear of the library, and it remained standing until



1939 when the original Art and Archaeology library and offices were added.

The four parts of the library surrounded one of its most attractive and beloved features: the cloister with its stone fountain donated by the class of 1901. The cloister was sufficiently finished by May Day of 1906 for the May Day plays to be enacted there. M. Carey Thomas credited Cope's drawing of this architectural feature for much of the success of her fundraising efforts, stating, "The cloister seemed to fire the imagination of everybody we begged from." The alumnae magazine described it as "the cool, quiet, gray and green world of a scholar's dream."

The ashes of M. Carey Thomas now lie beneath the cloister of the library which was the crown jewel of her building program for the college, and which now bears her name. In 1991 the library was designated a national historic landmark, having been recommended for that honor by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, whose mission was to identify sites that would give wider recognition to women's history.

# HELP US SAVE THESE BOOKS!

Eric Pumroy

**B**ryn Mawr has one of the great liberal arts college libraries in the country, with more than a million volumes and nationally significant collections on the history of women, classical antiquity, the early development of printing, and many other fields. Unfortunately, time and handling have taken their toll on many of these books, resulting in broken bindings and damaged pages that put their long-term survival at risk.

The Library has embarked on a program of preserving and restoring its most important at-risk books to ensure that they will survive for the next generations of Bryn Mawr's students and faculty. Four of the books are described below, along with notes on their physical condition and needed repairs. Additional books can be found at our Preservation website <http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/speccoll/restore.shtml>. The descriptions are thanks to the good work of Alice Goff '04, the 2003 Friends of the Library Undergraduate Summer Intern.

## How you can help!

Please consider underwriting the restoration of these books by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of the Library Book Preservation Fund.

For a gift of \$100, you can become a Co-Sponsor of one of the books, and have your name listed with the book on the Preservation website.

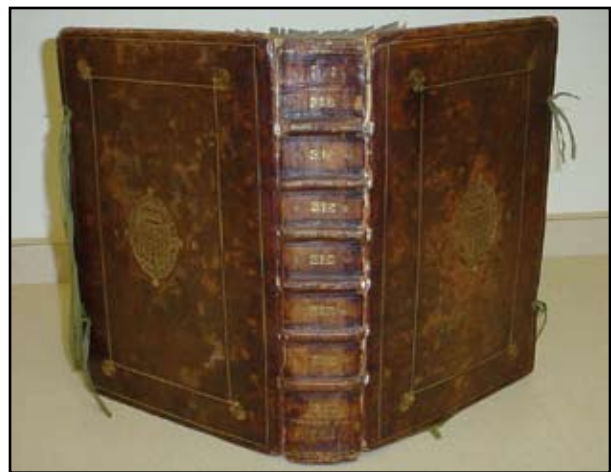
For a gift of \$1000, you can become a Book Sponsor, and be listed both on the Preservation website and in the permanent book record in Tripod, Bryn Mawr's online library catalog.

For additional information about the program or the books, please contact Eric Pumroy, Director of Library Collections and Seymour Adelman Head of Special Collections, 610-526-5272, [epumroy@brynmawr.edu](mailto:epumroy@brynmawr.edu).

*The Booke of Common Prayer: with the Psalter or Psalmes of David of that Translation which is appointed to be used in Churches.*  
Imprinted at London: By Robert Barker, 1607.

This edition of *The Booke of Common Prayer* has been bound together with Barker's 1607 editions of the Bible and the Book of Psalms. Barker held a royal monopoly on the printing of English Bibles from 1600 until the abolition of monopolies in 1623. The Bible is a late edition of the Geneva Bible, first issued in 1560, and was one of the last editions before the appearance of the King James Bible, also printed by Barker, in 1611. This is a particularly important copy of these core Christian texts, as it was a gift from William Cecil, Baron of Burghley and advisor to Elizabeth I, to John King, the Bishop of London.

The book is in a beautiful contemporary leather binding with gold tooling on the spine, marked with the gold seal of King James I on both front and back covers. The hinges are badly cracked, leaving the front and back boards precariously attached. Restoration work will re-attach the boards, repair damage to the leather, and build an archival-quality box to protect the binding from future damage.  
Cost: \$1000



*Asia, the first part*, John Ogilby.  
London, Printed by the author, 1673.

This book is one of a series of travel books published by John Ogilby in the mid-seventeenth century, in collaboration with the Dutch publisher Jacob van Meurs. The text in this book was largely a translation of Olfert Dapper's *Asia*, published by van Meurs a year earlier, and it includes all of the magnificent Dutch prints of Persia and South Asia that illustrated that work. In addition to *Asia*, Ogilby and van Meurs published illustrated travel accounts of China, Japan, Africa, and the Americas in both Dutch and English editions. These are critical works for the study of European interactions with the non-European world.

*Asia* is a striking book, with large black and white plates depicting life in Persia. The book is in a contemporary leather binding that is badly worn and with boards that are ready to separate. Restoration work will repair the damaged leather, strengthen and tighten the hinges that attach the front and back boards to the spine, and reattach loose pages. Cost: \$1000



*Thoukydides Venetiis : In domo Aldi. Mense Maio.*, 1502.

Aldus Manutius (1450-1515) pioneered the printing of inexpensive, scholarly editions of classical texts, and developed a Greek typescript that became the standard for printing ancient Greek texts. This Aldine edition was the first printing of Thucydides in Greek, and it appeared as a large, quarto-sized volume with hand-colored historiated initials, unlike the normal small, plain classical texts for which Aldus was famous.

The volume is in an eighteenth-century leather binding with a gold-tooled spine. The front cover of the book is detached, and the

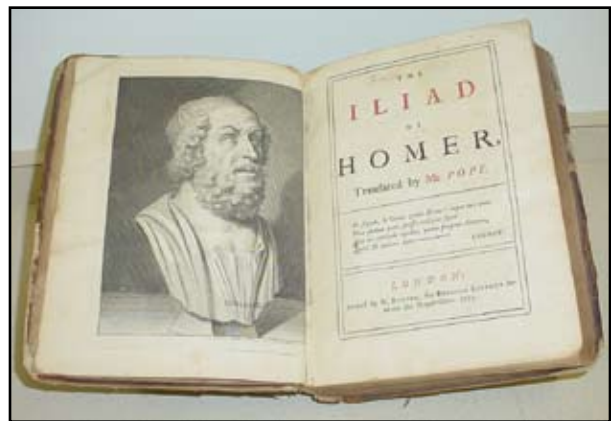
spine is peeling. Restoration work will re-attach the front board and repair the leather. Cost: \$1000



*The Iliad of Homer* / translated by Mr. Pope. London: Printed by W. Bowyer, for Bernard Lintott, 1715-1720. 3 volumes.

Alexander Pope's classic translation of Homer's *Iliad* was printed in six installments over the period 1715-1720, and was a landmark work in eighteenth-century English literature. Pope's work also represents an important advancement in the position of the writer in society, since his arrangement with the publisher, Bernard Lintott, allowed him to become one of the first authors to live entirely off of the profits from his books.

In Bryn Mawr's set, the six books of the *Iliad* were bound in three volumes with plain, contemporary leather bindings. The bindings all show significant wear, with many scuff marks, rounded corners, and hinges that are badly cracked. Restoration work will repair the damaged leather, strengthen and tighten the hinges that attach the front and back boards to the spine, and reattach loose pages. Cost: \$1500





## **“I Am DEFINITELY Still a Collector.”**

Marianne Hansen

This spring, for the 25th time, a not-so-solemn ritual took place in Canaday Library: students revealed themselves as book collectors to a panel of judges. They came with selections from their shelves and showed the panel (librarians, students, and a bonafide book collector) some of the books they love. The collections are sometimes scholarly, occasionally serious, and always fun. This year's crop collected books on linguistics, ballet, French pastry and unexplained phenomena. The contest has a modest cash prize, but mostly conveys bragging rights.

The Library's great friend and donor, Seymour Adelman, believed that students are often collectors without realizing it. He established the competition to encourage students to think about their accumulations of books as collections, and as an invitation to join him in the confraternity of book collectors. The prize was first awarded in 1980. Since Adelman's death, the Friends of the Library have provided prize funds for the contest.

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the prize, I wrote the former winners and asked about their past and present collections. Some of them are adding to old collections, and some have moved on to different fields, but one thing hasn't changed – they're still as passionate as ever about their books. In long, funny, e-mail messages, they let me know:

“The bug for book collecting has never left me, as my friends can tell when they visit my apartment.”

“But I do believe there is a book gene, and it's an addiction, and there's no cure.”

“I still have the same collection, and continue to add to it through used book stores, junk shops, antiquarian book shops, tag sales... I like the ‘thrill of the hunt.’”

“I apologize for rambling on for so long, but books are a huge part of my life, and I'm a rambler by nature.”

*Lawral Wornek '04 won first prize this year for her collection of ballet books.*



Some of the collectors have stayed true to their first love. Catherine Hoffman Kaser (who won in 1993) continues to add to her collection of L. M. Montgomery's books. She reports of her “pilgrimage” to Prince Edward Island, “On my more recent trip, I thought about and identified more with the author making her way as a writer than with her youthful heroines.” Alice Krinsky Formiga (Lewis Carroll, 1986) has published in the journal of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America on the relationship between *Hamlet* and the first stanza of *Jabberwocky*. Ada Palmer (intellectual impact of the Great War, 2000) is a grad student at Harvard studying intellectual history, and now includes American, British, and Japanese comic books which treat the distopian themes that interested her in British novelists.

Others have broadened their interests - or buy in various subjects. Catherine DuBeau, who won in the first year the prize was offered, writes, “I still have a focus on women and their lives, but also have side interests in older gardening books, and whatever else grabs my fancy.” Heather Harwood (Classics, 1988) teaches classics, and has access to the collection at her job, so she now concentrates on

poetry and yoga. Jane Park (Asian-American Literature, 1996) says she collected while she was exploring her identity in college: "This is all to say that my exposure to Asian American culture and identity led to my collecting literature as I learned. Now, the books I buy are cookbooks and travel guides." Carrie La Seur (1993) has added volumes on Simone de Beauvoir, twentieth-century French literature, feminist theology, rowing, environmental law, and sustainable agriculture to her books on the American West.

Other winners have changed the emphasis of their collecting. Gretchen Maxeiner (Latin Literature, 1993) writes, "I have gradually developed a very nice collection of field guides covering all the places I've lived or spent time. In particular I have many field guides to butterflies, and I prefer ones with a narrow regional focus; I have guides to cover most parts of Eastern North America and also Europe. My favorite is Lazaros Pamperis' massive guide to Greek butterflies, which I used extensively during the 3 years I lived in Athens."

Genevieve Bell (1987) still collects books about Australia, but she also has a new collection that meets every qualification the judges of the contest discuss every year; it is a coherent group of books, put together by someone who is well-informed and impassioned.

"For reasons I couldn't even really accurately assess, I am totally obsessed with a nineteenth century novel by Helen Hunt Jackson – *Ramona*. It was one of the first inter-racial love-stories to be published in the US, one of the first books to really try and tell a 'story' about the plight of indigenous people in the West, and it was continuously in publication for the first half of the 1900s, it was the subject of several movies (all silent), also the theme of America's largest 'passion play' (in Hemet Springs, California), it was the leitmotif of the California tourist industry... and, well, it is a dreadful novel in many ways, purple prose, Victorian, dramatic, but also wonderful. And I have almost every edition ever published, save an original... so more than 50 copies..."

Charlotte Troyanowski no longer collects Victorian etiquette books (1991), but she is writing a novel in which one of the characters organizes a Civil war re-enactment wedding, and she is drawing on her old collection for 1860s party customs. She has, however, started collecting in a different field:

"I do have a special selection of tacky and odd titles that I amassed in the last eight years. Boston is a great place for a bibliophile to live. There are tons of used bookstores, which I troll regularly. When I was in grad school, and later, when I worked downtown, I would spend my lunch breaks perusing the outdoor sale racks at the Brattle Book Shop. There, I discovered the joys of \$1 used books. I now have shelves devoted to my finds, which include *Blame it on Your Past Lives*, *Moths and How to Rear Them*, *Nine-Day Inner Cleansing and Blood Wash for Renewed Youthfulness and Health*, *Astral Travel*, *File Your Own Divorce*, and *The Magnetic Cure for Common Diseases*. I also discovered *Subliminal Selling Skills*, which I later found out was ghostwritten by a friend... I've also begun a rather extensive collection of books on death, the cadaver trade, and the mortuary business. I really am a well-adjusted person. Really. But sometimes, particularly when suffering writer's block, I just need to immerse myself in unusual nonfiction titles. I need to know that my lack of success isn't my fault (I blame it on my past lives) and that I will be able to overcome my migraines some day, if only I apply the magnetic cure..."

The collections were all begun without a thought of reward beyond the books themselves – did winning the Adelman Prize make a difference? In at least one case the answer is a firm yes. Artemis Hionides (Modern Greece, 1982) now collects dictionaries and cartoon collections, but sees both old and new collections as windows into ethnic character and national identity. She writes about the prize:

*continued on page 10*

"The best memory of my book collecting was winning the Adelman award, because it was the first (and only) time I won something at Bryn Mawr for something I loved doing. There weren't that many opportunities to feel accomplished in non-academic ways at Bryn Mawr, and the fact I was actually selected for this award hasn't ceased to give me pleasure, even 25 years later. I will always remember that renewed awe I felt every time I walked past the showcase with two of my books in them, one opened on a page with a caricature of an older Greek from the village – George Mikes, I think, was the illustrator, and I still love his drawings. An old family friend once told me she felt thrilled to be holding a library book in her hand that had been handled by generations of scholars before her; she said that's what education is all about, passing knowledge down to those coming after you. I feel this is what Seymour Adelman did, in a way, by establishing this award: he did something with

passion, and cared enough to pass it down. He gave me the opportunity to become a fellow-collector and share in that joyful pursuit, and I still remember him for it, 25 years later."

<http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/speccoll/bookprize.shtml>

## Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Library Events Fall 2004

**Monday, September 20th  
4:30 pm, Carpenter Library 21**

Lecture: "Before Antiquity: Marvels of Rome"  
Dale Kinney, Professor of History of Art and  
Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and  
Sciences, Bryn Mawr College

Exhibition Opening: *The Invention of Antiquity*  
6:00 pm, Class of 1912 Rare Book Room,  
Canaday Library

**Saturday, October 30th  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm, Wyndham**

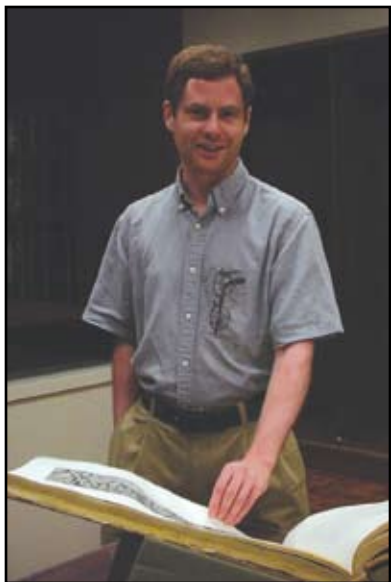
Event: A Day for Book Collecting  
Everything you ever wanted to know about  
book collecting – getting started, finding what  
you want, collecting on a tight budget, car-  
ing for your books. Boston rare-book dealer  
Priscilla Juvelis will speak on women as col-  
lectors, and Freeman's Auction House will be  
on hand to appraise books.

**Monday, November 15th  
4:30 pm, Carpenter Library 21**

Lecture: "Scholarship in Early Modern Europe:  
Contours of a Lost World"  
Anthony T. Grafton, Henry Putnam University  
Professor of History, Princeton University



Susan Macdowell Eakins,  
*The Bibliophile*, (a detail from a por-  
trait of Seymour Adelman), 1932.



*Benjamin  
Anderson*



*Jenny Barr*



*Meredith Stoll*

## Friends of the Library Summer Internships

Thanks to support from the Friends of the Library, the Special Collections Department has established summer internships for Bryn Mawr undergraduate and graduate students.

The internships are full-time jobs that give students the opportunity to work directly with historical collections, create exhibitions or web guides based on their research, and learn about opportunities in special collections for both their future scholarly work and as a potential career path.

*Our interns this summer were:*

Benjamin Anderson, the graduate intern, is a second year graduate student in the History of Art, with a particular interest in art of the classical world. We drew on his academic strengths by appointing him curator of the fall exhibition, *The Invention of Antiquity* (see his article on page 8). Ben is a graduate of Williams College and has an MA from St. John's College.

Jenny Barr, the undergraduate intern, is entering her second year as a McBride Scholar, majoring in East Asian Studies. Jenny returned to college last year after working for several years in bookstores in Michigan and as a technical editor in the Boston area. She is the daughter of BMC graduate Helen Sagmaster Barr, '58. Jenny worked on several projects over the summer, including research for the Spring 2005 exhibition on early modern European maps of Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Also in Special Collections this summer, is Meredith Stoll (BMC 2004), winner of a Mary Patterson McPherson Award for Outstanding Community Service, one of Bryn Mawr's most prestigious prizes. The Award has given Meredith time this summer to describe editions of classical texts recovered during the Renaissance and printed before 1600. Although our collection has many such books, they can be hard to find through the catalog. Meredith's work will lead to a website that describes the books and makes it easy for students and outside scholars to get started using this rich resource.



# The Invention of Antiquity

Benjamin Anderson

In 1337, Petrarch, the Italian poet and scholar, made his first trip to Rome. He spent long days strolling about the city with his friend Giovanni Colonna, a Dominican friar. As Petrarch later recalled in a letter to Colonna, they spent much of their time identifying sites mentioned in Roman myth and history:

“Here was the castle of Evander,  
..., there the She-Wolf nursing her  
twins,... there the site of the circus  
races and the rape of the Sabine women....”

By comparing the landscape of Rome with the texts of her poets and historians, Petrarch had revived a city that had long lain neglected: “Who today are more ignorant of Roman history than are the citizens of Rome?... Nowhere is Rome less known than in Rome.” He gave this forgotten city a name: ancient Rome.

Today we divide Western history into three distinct periods: the ancient, the medieval, and the modern. We know what ancient art looks like, and we know that Homer, Plato, and Vergil were classical authors. However, our notion of the ancient world as a discrete historical unit is a humanist invention. The “ancients” did not think of themselves as ancient. Even after the adoption of the Christian faith, most emperors, scholars, and architects thought of themselves as the direct descendants of their Roman counterparts. They valued classical texts for their contemporary relevance, and used ancient columns to build new churches. Only in the fourteenth century, with the advent of Petrarch and his fellow humanists, did European writers and scholars begin to treat the texts and artifacts of the pre-Christian past as a distinct class of objects: *antiquitates*, or “antiquities.” These objects became witnesses to a lost civilization.

Thus the rise of classical scholarship provoked intensive research into antiquities while simultaneously transforming them from

familiar into foreign objects. The idea of “antiquities” led naturally to an idea of “Antiquity,” and a definitive rift opened between ancients and moderns. Antiquity became another land, not unlike the “New World” of the European explorers, to which one could go through study. Those aspects of ancient life that struck modern temperaments as noble, including its literature, its art, and its ideals of civic virtue, were imitated and revived.

“Invention,” in the language of classical rhetoric, can refer either to the discovery of something hidden or the creation of something new. Both senses of the word are at play when we speak of “the invention of antiquity” in early modern Europe. The recovery and interpretation of long-neglected texts and monuments required great intellectual discipline. At the same time, there was always an element of creative fantasy in classical studies. Antiquity could be less an object of dispassionate inquiry than a vehicle for the expression of personal, religious, and national aspirations.

The exhibition, *The Invention of Antiquity* will present a wide variety of books and prints from the first five centuries of classical studies. Visitors will see a fifteenth-century illustrated edition of Petrarch’s *Triumphs*, poems that reflect the author’s study of the ceremonies of ancient Rome and his desire for a contemporary renewal of Roman political power. In the sixteenth century, the great religious disputes led to intensive study of the historical context of the Christian gospels. Pedro Chacon’s *De Triclinio Romano* was a study of ancient dining practices meant to clarify the circumstances of the Last Supper. A very different sort of antiquity was invented by Johann Joachim Winckelmann, the eighteenth-century Prussian pioneer of art history, who found in ancient art a pre-Christian ideal of physical beauty and political freedom. His *History of Ancient Art* gave impetus to the Romantic movement, and was decisive in turning the attention of classical scholars from Rome to Greece.

The illustrations of the antiquarians' books could be as influential as their arguments. The 1681 edition of Onofrio Panvino's *De Ludis Circensibus*, a popular study of the Roman circuses, featured engravings of animal sacrifice and gladiator combat that were frequently copied during the following centuries. *The Antiquities of Athens*, a lavishly illustrated study published in four volumes by James Stuart and Nicholas Revett between 1762 and 1816, provided much of the raw material for the Greek Revival in British and American architecture. The designs of many of Philadelphia's early architectural treasures, including William Strickland's Second Bank of the United States and John Haviland's Atwater Kent Museum, can be traced to engravings in Stuart and Revett.

Bryn Mawr's long tradition of classical scholarship and the strength of its collections render it an ideal site for *The Invention of Antiquity*. In 1893, Mary Garrett gave the college the 16,000-volume library of classical texts assembled by Professor Hermann Sauppe of the University of Göttingen, including Joseph Scaliger's 1600 edition of Manilius's *Astronomicon*. In 1951, Howard L. Goodhart presented Bryn Mawr with his significant collection of manuscripts and early printed books, including many humanist works, like the 1499 edition of Francesco Colonna's fantasy, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. The exhibition will also feature a manuscript of Aristotle collected by Goodhart's daughter, Phyllis Goodhart Gordan BMC 1935. Most recently, Jonathan Bober and David Bober, the sons of Bryn Mawr Professor Phyllis Pray Bober, donated books from their late mother's library, including a handsome 1548 German edition of Vitruvius's *De Architectura*.

The exhibition *The Invention of Antiquity* will open Monday, September 20th in the Class of 1912 Rare Book Room in the Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, and will run through December 17th.



Spon, Jacob, 1647-1685. *Recherches curieuses d'antiquité: contenues en plusieurs dissertations, sur des médailles, bas-reliefs, statuës, mosaïques & inscriptions antiques ...* Lyon: T. Amaulry, 1683.



Tempe, from Ortelius, Abraham, 1527-1598, *Theatrum orbis terrarum*, Antwerp : A. Ortelius, 1592.

# Carrie Chapman Catt Digital Image Collection

Barbara Ward Grubb

The Carrie Chapman Catt Collection of suffrage photographs is one of the highlights of Bryn Mawr College's growing body of visual resources in women's history. Because of its fragile nature, the collection's accessibility to scholars outside of Bryn Mawr has been limited to microfilm copies or reproductions made for exhibitions, including *Dedicated to the Cause: Bryn Mawr Women and the Right to Vote* (<http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/exhibits/suffrage>). However, by the end of the summer of 2004, these photographs will be publicly available on the internet in a searchable digitized database.

Carrie Lane Chapman Catt (1859-1947) was the pre-eminent American suffrage leader in the years just before the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting suffrage to women. She succeeded Susan B. Anthony as President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1900 and is credited with revitalizing N.A.W.S.A. during her second tenure as President (1915-1920). She founded the League of Women Voters in 1920 and remained its honorary president until her death.

During the same period Catt worked actively for the international suffrage and women's rights movement, establishing and presiding over the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (later the International Alliance of Women.) In 1925 she founded the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War. During the 1930s and 1940s Catt was active in working against the Nazis, particularly their persecution of Jews. Although a champion of world peace, Catt was a vocal supporter of the Allied Forces during World War II.

Catt's photographs, as well as other suffrage materials and ephemera, were given to the College by her estate a few months after her death. The six albums, which seem to have been compiled and annotated by her assistant, Alda Wilson, contain approximately 815 photographs and a very limited amount of printed matter, mostly newspaper clippings,

related to the history of international woman's suffrage. The photographs cover the period from *circa* 1840 to *circa* 1940, with the majority dating from the last years of the nineteenth century through the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The Catt Collection photograph database, part of a Tri-College digital image initiative known as "Triptych" (<http://triptych.brynmawr.edu>), contains images of each page in its entirety along with single images and their captions. It is possible to browse the collection in album order. The corresponding data files also are searchable by album number, by people and subject. Corrections and additional information, when available, are given in the "notes" field.

Album 1, "Parades and Pageants," is comprised of photographs of parades, floats, marching units, street meetings, suffrage posters, and suffrage headquarters from throughout the United States. Album 2, "Pioneers and Leaders," is made up of individual and group photographs of women leaders of the American suffrage movement augmented with a small lot of photographs of male reformers. Albums 3 ("States M-W, Omitting New York"), 4 ("States A-L") and 5 ("New York State and N.Y. City") are devoted to the individual state organizations. They afford a pictorial record of local campaigns, including New York parades, and provide a collection of portraits of leaders and workers in the suffrage movement at the state and municipal level. Album 6 focuses on the international suffrage movement. Although most of the photographs are of European subjects, Africa, Asia, South America, and Canada also are represented. Of special note are numerous photographs of international women's suffrage conferences.

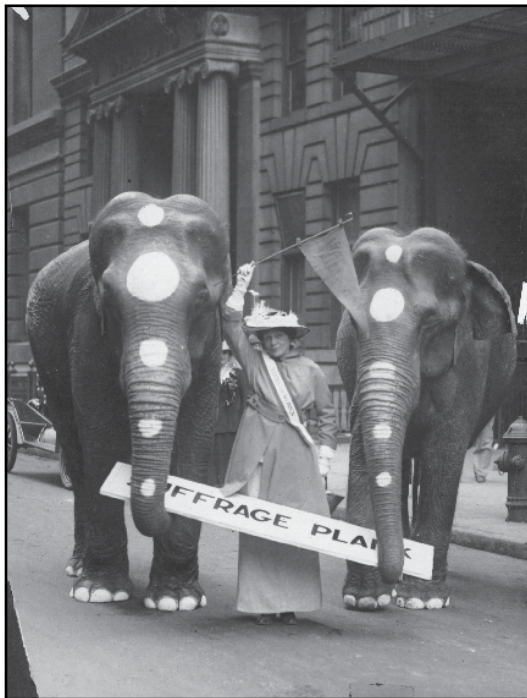
Dr. Mineke Bosch, of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, is one of several scholars who has tested the database. She writes:



“One of the most exciting discoveries I made last year were the Catt Albums in the Canaday Library of Bryn Mawr College. Especially interesting was Album 6, the “International” album, which contains pictures that are unique. For instance, I never saw the two pictures that were made at one of the social events - a boat tour of Rotterdam and Dordrecht - during the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Amsterdam, 1908. One of these I certainly want to have for my biography of Aletta Jacobs.”



*Susan Walker FitzGerald (BMC 1893), shown here at a Boston rally, is one of a number of alumnae whose pictures are included in the Catt albums.*



*The database has several searchable fields, including subject. A query for “Parades” results in a number of images, including this picture of elephants from a Chicago parade.*

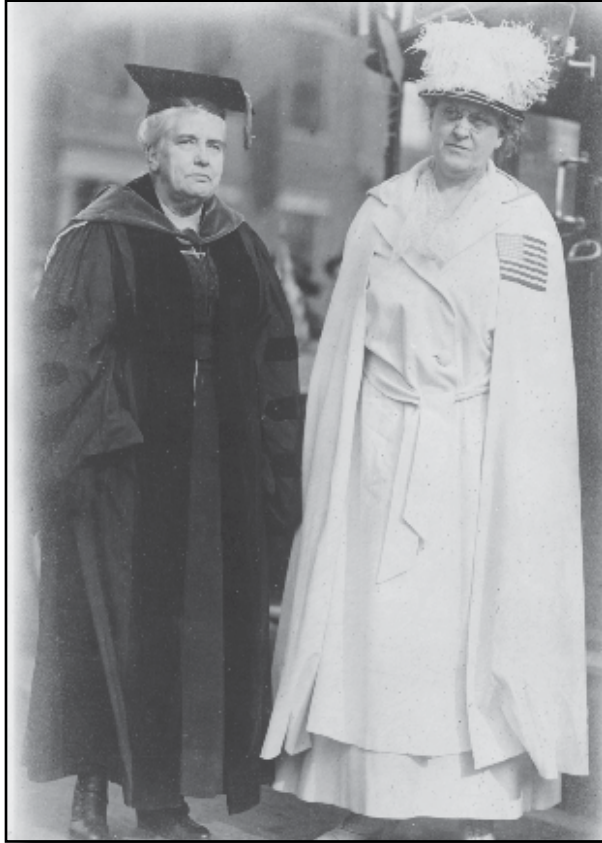


*One of the strengths of the collection is Album 6, which contains images documenting the international suffrage movement.*



## A Little More Catt...

Barbara Ward Grubb



*Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt at a 1915 New York parade.*

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To join the Friends of the Library or renew your membership please visit our Web site at:  
<http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/fol.shtml>

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Although she traveled extensively in the United States and abroad, Catt did not speak at Bryn Mawr College until 1921, when she gave the first set of memorial lectures in honor of fellow suffragist, Anna Howard Shaw. Shaw, friend of both President Thomas and Mary Garrett, was the most frequent of the American suffragist leaders to visit campus. "The suffrage cause and Bryn Mawr... are the two dearest interests I have in the world," Shaw wrote to Thomas in 1911.

Thomas was very explicit as to the type of content she hoped Catt would include in her speeches to the newly enfranchised young voters:

"The following suggestion for lectures is of course entirely subject to your revision. Mrs. [Caroline McCormick] Slade and I had very little time to talk them over and you have probably seen her since but I think that we both felt that a course of lectures addressed to new citizens would be of great interest. It seems to me that the historical development of government was treated more or less well in connection with the fight for suffrage but that the actual conditions of practical politics were necessarily left until women got the vote. In political discussions with even the most intelligent of the Bryn Mawr students I find that they are very ignorant of conditions as they are and rather inclined to take a romantic point of view."