

Bryn Mawr College

Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College

Mirabile Dictu: Newsletter of the Bryn Mawr
College Libraries

Bryn Mawr College Publications, Special
Collections, Digitized Books

2019

Mirabile Dictu: Newsletter of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries 22 (2019)

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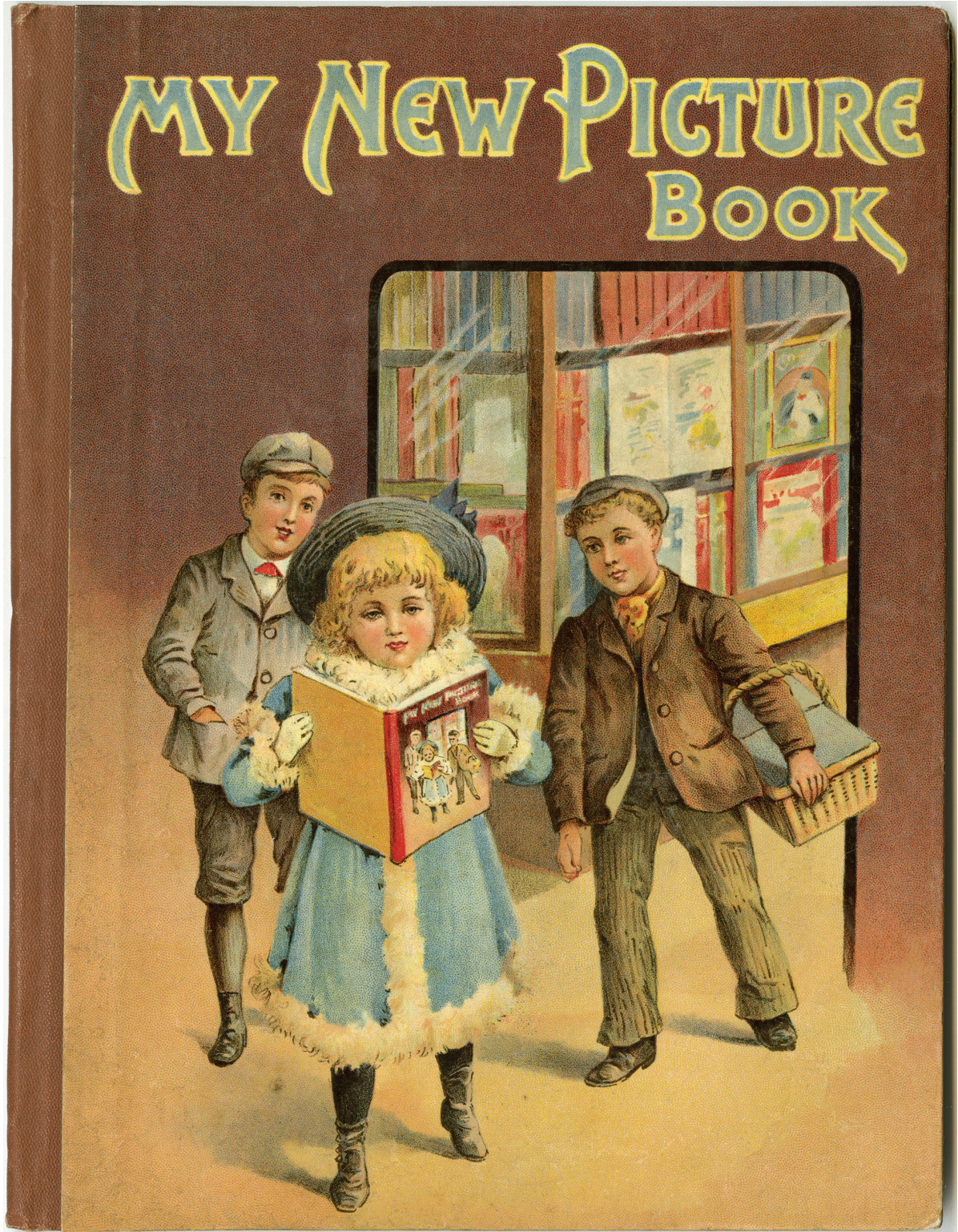
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Mirabile Dictu

Newsletter of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries



My New Picture Book. London: Religious Tract Society, 1894, from the Ellery Yale Wood Collection

Fall, 2019

Issue 22

Calendar

Mid-Century Jewish Mawrtys

October 7 – December 20, 2019

Canaday Library Lobby

Monday, October 7, 2019, 4:30 pm

Opening talk and reception for *Mid-Century Jewish Mawrtys*
Special Collections Seminar Room

“All-Over Design”: Lockwood de Forest Between Ahmedabad and Bryn Mawr

October 24, 2019 – March 1, 2020

Class of 1912 Rare Book Room, Canaday Library

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 4:30pm

Carpenter Library B21

“Lockwood de Forest at Bryn Mawr College: Exoticism and Eclecticism.” Lecture by Roberta Mayer, Professor Emerita of Art History at Bucks County Community College, and author of *Lockwood de Forest: Furnishing the Gilded Age with a Passion for India* (2008)

Bauhaus at Bryn Mawr: Marcel Breuer’s Furniture for Rhoads

October 24, 2019 – December 20, 2020

Eva Jane Romaine Coombe ’52 Special Collections Suite Gallery, Second Floor, Canaday Library

The Illuminated Night

November 15, 2019 – December 20, 2019

Eva Jane Romaine Coombe ’52 Special Collections Suite Hallway, Second Floor, Canaday Library

The exhibition appears as part of the Graduate Group Symposium, *Irresistible Night, Ageless Dark: The Nocturnal in Image, Text, and Material Culture* (Nov. 15-16, 2019).

Spring Schedule

The Ellery Yale Wood Collection of Books for Young Readers

March 19 – October 2, 2020

Class of 1912 Rare Book Room, Canaday Library

Friday Finds

Friday Finds are a series of informal lunchtime chats about historical and cultural objects held in Bryn Mawr’s Special Collections, or about ongoing exhibitions. Most events are Fridays at noon in the Rare Book Room on the first floor of Canaday Library, and last about an hour. The Friday Finds schedule is in development throughout school year. Please visit the website for the most up-to-date information: <https://www.brynmawr.edu/lits/exhibitions-and-events>.

For more information, reminders, and photos of events, follow us on social media:



<https://www.facebook.com/Bryn-Mawr-College-Special-Collections-20527439722>



@curatorbmc

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Reproduction Egyptian nålbinding socks from ReconTEXTILEize

From the Director

Welcome to our 2019 edition of *Mirabile Dictu!* It is wonderful to relate that we are eagerly anticipating several major exhibitions this year: one featuring the Deanery and its decorative arts, another focused on the furniture Marcel Breuer designed in the 1930s for Rhoads. A third exhibition celebrates the Ellery Yale Wood '52 Children's Book Collection and its use in courses and student research as we complete the cataloging of that world-class collection. We continue to bring new treasures into Bryn Mawr's phenomenal teaching collection and institutional archives, including recent acquisitions of more than 250 nineteenth-century conduct books, additions to our holdings of President Harris Wofford's papers, and the papers of award-winning novelist Ellis Avery '93.

Students have continued to do outstanding work transforming their primary source research into curated physical exhibitions and digital scholarship projects focused on the unique collections and histories of the College. Last year's "Textiles in Context" 360° created multi-faceted exhibitions and programming around Byzantine textiles, highlighting chemical analysis of the dyes and fiber materials, historical and cultural context for the textiles, and opportunities for community members to learn weaving, nābinding, and associated arts (<https://digitalscholarship.brynmawr.edu/scalar/recontextilize/index>).

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Digital Scholarship Fellows working with CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow Jessica Linker in Library & Information Technology Services created compelling 3D models of two of the earliest science laboratories at Bryn Mawr. Through these spatial reconstructions, visitors to the environments can explore historical information about the pioneering women who taught and learned in the early Dalton biology and chemistry labs, the equipment they used, and their contributions to their fields (<https://digitalscholarship.brynmawr.edu/howis/>). Caitlin Haskett '20 has recorded oral histories with eight Jewish alumnae who were at the College in the late 1930s through the late 1950s. Caitlin will present a related exhibition at Canaday this month.

The Board of the Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries has had an active year under the leadership of Board President Dale Kinney, confirming Board guidelines, staying abreast of developments in the world of academic libraries and especially developments in programs and facilities at Bryn Mawr,

and developing a new brochure to inform our broader community of Friends and potential Friends of the rich collections and happenings that are brought to life by students, faculty, and staff of the College.

We've been focused on the ways that our library facilities can be designed and configured to enable 21st-century learning and scholarship at Bryn Mawr. We are working this year with our colleagues in Facilities Services on a space study that will enable us to further articulate this vision and to develop data-informed program goals for a future renovation of our main library, the Mariam Coffin Canaday Library. As part of the Park Science project, we created group study and seminar spaces in Collier Science Library, and the second phase of renovations next year will include updates to the reading room and a new Digital Collaboration Classroom supported by a grant from the George I. Alden Trust.

We hope you'll join the Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries this year (<http://www.brynmawr.edu/lits/friends-library>). Throughout the year, we'll offer online stories you can explore to learn about the array of student projects, collection acquisitions, and courses making use of the unique primary sources at the College. We hope to see many of you in person at the upcoming campus programs, including exhibitions, Friday Finds, and lectures. Your membership and support help to make all of these activities possible for the College, and we're thankful that you continue to be a part of the Bryn Mawr community of learners and cultural heritage enthusiasts!

All the best,
Gina



***“All-Over Design”*: Lockwood de Forest Between Ahmedabad and Bryn Mawr**

by Nina Blomfield, Graduate Student Curator

This fall’s exhibition in the Rare Book Room features the first-ever comprehensive exhibition of furniture and decorative arts designed by Lockwood de Forest in the 19th century for the Deanery at Bryn Mawr College. Organized by graduate student Nina Blomfield, the exhibition investigates the complex relationship between his work in Ahmedabad, India, and the interiors created for this American college.

Lockwood de Forest was an important American designer, painter, and importer working in New York in the late nineteenth century. Though long eclipsed by his better-known business partner, Louis Comfort Tiffany, de Forest made significant contributions to American decorative arts. His deep interest in Indian craft traditions and his establishment of the Ahmedabad Wood Carving Company in 1881 brought Indian art into American homes in new ways. The densely carved furniture and richly ornamented interiors that de Forest designed for affluent clients like Frederic Church, Andrew Carnegie, Mary Garrett, and M. Carey Thomas exemplify the height of artistic cosmopolitanism in the Gilded Age.

Bryn Mawr holds a large collection of de Forest works, including numerous carved and painted chairs, several large sofas, tabourets and tables, stamped brass beds, a rare swing seat hung from figurative chains, and hundreds of delicate pierced brass foils. Original de Forest-designed staircases, paneling, and stenciled ceilings survive in Bryn Mawr’s magnificent Great Hall, where Indian decoration melds with the Collegiate Gothic architecture explicitly modeled after Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Blomfield’s research centers on cultural encounters in American design history. The exhibition tracks the global history of de Forest’s furniture and examines how and why an Indian aesthetic came to occupy the central spaces of an American women’s college. Blomfield exhibits the furniture as a period room vignette which recreates the cohesive “All-Over” aesthetic effect of de Forest’s interior designs. Further displays deconstruct this museological recreation to isolate the furniture’s formal content and to connect it to its historical sources. This project will not only extend the



Pierced Decorative Metalwork from the Deanery, c. 1908

visibility of these important decorative arts materials to scholars in the field, it will also support the development of emerging scholars with a student research symposium and extensive programming.

“All-Over Design”: Lockwood de Forest Between Ahmedabad and Bryn Mawr runs from October 24, 2019 – March 1, 2020. It will be accompanied by weekly programs as part of the Friday Finds series at noon on Fridays.



Rachel Grand and Nina Blomfield in front of a fountain designed by de Forest for the Deanery garden

Bauhaus at Bryn Mawr: Marcel Breuer's Furniture for Rhoads

by Rachel Grand '21, Student Curator

When you think of Bryn Mawr's campus architecture, do you picture the radically modern Bauhaus? If you did not, you should have! Bryn Mawr College commissioned Bauhaus protégé Marcel Breuer to design a suite of modernist furniture for Rhoads Hall when it first opened in 1938. This sleek, cutting-edge furniture provides a dramatic contrast to the Gothic exterior of Rhoads, showing the College's split priorities between preserving its overall campus appearance, and keeping up with modern design. Marcel Breuer's furniture served its purpose for countless students over 60 years. After a certain point, it became too worn for continued use and was removed from the dormitory. Special Collections retains one set.

Bauhaus at Bryn Mawr: Marcel Breuer's Furniture for Rhoads tells the story of this furniture. Previous exhibitions of Breuer's Rhoads furniture were criticized by Bryn Mawr students. An undergrad writing for the *College News*, complained that the 1981 MoMA exhibition that included the Rhoads furniture, "had forgotten the books, papers, clothes and people that are the core of any dorm room's furnishings." This exhibition takes a wider view; the visitor will find not only a selection of the Rhoads furniture, but also College publications and photographs from the College Archives that highlight the sociological aspects of Breuer's design. One of

Student Curators

Nina Blomfield is a Ph.D. candidate in History of Art. Her B.A. is from Victoria University of Wellington. Her MA thesis focused on the use of Japanese decorative arts in middle-class American homes. Nina has held graduate internships in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in Bryn Mawr's Special Collections. Her research interests include nineteenth-century architecture and design, the material culture of the home, and global cultures of consumption in the decorative arts.

Rachel Grand ('21) is double majoring in History of Art and Fine Arts and minoring in Museum Studies. She has always enjoyed making art and since coming to Bryn Mawr has discovered her passion for learning about art and museums. She assisted in the research for *All-Over Design*, as well as curating the exhibition on Marcel Breuer's furniture for Rhoads.



Student at desk designed by Marcel Breuer in Rhoads Hall Dorm Room. Rockdene Photography, ca. 1946

the chairs still has paint on it, because Bryn Mawr students love the arts and getting messy!

Marcel Breuer was not the first famous furniture designer hired by the College. Lockwood de Forest arrived on campus around 40 years earlier. Although his work is very different from Breuer's, their joint presence on campus reveals the common thread of a history of high design at Bryn Mawr. Compare the two designers in *Bauhaus at Bryn Mawr* and the simultaneous exhibition "*All-Over Design*": *Lockwood de Forest between Ahmedabad and Bryn Mawr* in the Rare Book Room.

Bauhaus at Bryn Mawr will open October 24, 2019, in the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe '52 Suite on the second floor of Canaday. This exhibition is a product of the praxis course offered by the Museum Studies program, Museum Fieldwork Seminar. The undergraduate curator, Rachel Grand, worked closely with Nina Blomfield on this exhibition, with guidance from Curator Carrie Robbins.

Mid-Century Jewish Mawrtyrs

As part of a Pensby Center Summer Research Fellowship, Caitlin Haskett '20 conducted interviews with eight Jewish alumnae who were on campus 1938-1958. Joan Scheuer '42, Nona Abrams '45, Ivy Relkin '50, Joan Wohl '50, Chloe Garrell '54, Betsy Levin '56, Miriam Diamond '57, and Susan Band Horwitz '58 recorded oral histories for the College Archives. After organizing an event with Hillel and the College Archives to explore materials on the experiences of Jewish students at Bryn Mawr, Caitlin realized how little is recorded about individuals in the Archives. She was inspired to collect some of this information, focusing on alumnae from the 1940s and 1950s, an important historical era, contemporary with the Holocaust and a time when American Jewry was undergoing many changes, such as suburbanization.

The oral histories record both the positive impact of Bryn Mawr on the students and also social stratification on campus and a variety of negative experiences. Stories of Jewish students assigned to the same halls to be around “people you will get along with,” along with reports of smaller “scholarship rooms” assigned to those receiving financial aid, highlight subtle anti-Semitism and explicit classism at the College. However, the alumnae also reflected on their enjoyable experiences at the College and the advantages of the rigorous education that prepared many of them for successful careers in law, education, economics, social services, pharmacology, and as leaders of non-profits. They discussed their religious activities, their friends, families, dating, housing on campus, and their struggles and successes fitting in. Full audio recordings and transcripts of the oral histories will be available in Special Collections later this fall.



Caitlin Haskett

An exhibit highlighting excerpts from the interviews will be on display in Canaday Library this fall, opening October 7. An online exhibit, featuring quotations from the interviews can be found at <https://digitalscholarship.brynmawr.edu/scalar/mid-century-jewish-mawrtyrs-/index>.

Madame Curie's Forgotten Visit to Bryn Mawr

by Rebecca Kelly-Bowditch '20, Friends of the Libraries Summer Intern

We were surprised recently to learn that Marie Curie had visited Bryn Mawr in the spring of 1921. If Curie had come to Bryn Mawr, why didn't anyone know about it? I was able to find a substantial amount of correspondence in the M. Carey Thomas papers planning for Curie's visit:



Thomas with Curie's daughter, Irene

Curie's ongoing research and refusal to patent the radium production process meant that by 1921, her supply of radium was dwindling; a single gram cost over \$100,000. An American magazine editor and socialite, Mrs. William Brown Meloney, learned of Curie's struggles and proposed to raise the funds needed through a public appeal to American women for small donations to her laboratory. Meloney formed the Marie Curie Radium Fund, led by two Committees: one of well-known scientists (all men) and one of wealthy, philanthropic women. She convinced the reclusive Curie to come to America to support the fundraising effort, traveling the country for seven weeks in May and June. Her trip was to culminate in the presentation of a gram of radium by President Harding.

The two-time Nobel-winning French scientist exemplified to M. Carey Thomas the ideal of the educated woman. To Thomas, Curie's visit was a chance to both inspire American college women and to bolster her ongoing battle for women's rights. While the Radium Fund was based in New York, local branches were formed in other cities. Thomas was chosen to organize the Philadelphia Committee. In addition to requesting donations from wealthy Philadelphians, Thomas asked every Bryn Mawr student to donate \$1. Thomas took charge of planning Curie's itinerary for Philadelphia, including a large garden party to be held at the Deanery on campus.

Unfortunately for Thomas, plans quickly began to fall apart once Curie arrived in America...

Read the rest of the story on the Special Collections blog (<http://specialcollections.brynmawr.edu/2019/09/09/madame-curies-forgotten-visit-to-bryn-mawr/>)

Ellery Yale Wood's Collection of Books for Young Readers on Display

Three years after the Ellery Yale Wood collection of books for young readers arrived at the College, we are still uncovering treasures. Of course, exactly what that treasure is depends on the reader. One student in a history of the book course was entranced by the rebuses of the 1814 *Hieroglyphick Bible*. Another came back after class to photograph and blog about the paper doll whose seven costumes illustrate the riches-to-rags-to-riches story in the 1810 *History of Little Fanny, Exemplified in a Series of Figures*. A student employee who had studied the complex international history of chintz, a cotton fabric imported from India to Europe in vast quantities beginning in the seventeenth century, was astonished to find that, in *The Dream Chintz* (London, 1851), the focus was on English manufacture – and a prize-winning design for a new product line of chintz that was created by fairies.

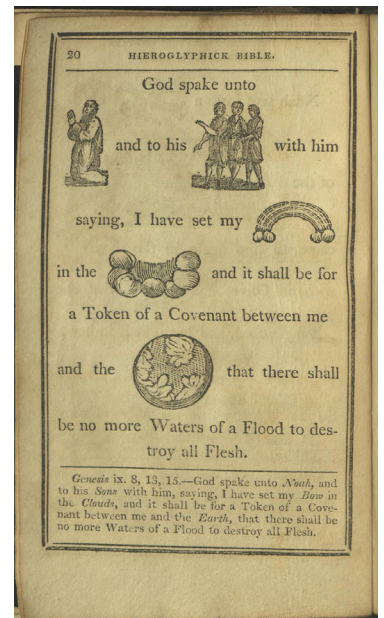
Meanwhile, a researcher called for our oldest ABC books and readers. An English class on the coming of age novel in the 19th century innovatively used not the books they were reading, but those the characters read; they examined *Blossoms of Morality* (London, 1796) as an example of the improving literature Mary Bennet, Elizabeth's sententious younger sister, reads in *Pride and Prejudice*. A student writing a thesis on the 1904 ghost story, *In The Closed Room*, called for multiple editions of author Frances Hodgson Burnett's major works.

We are learning about the collection from our readers, but also through the ongoing cataloging of the massive bequest, which will eventually total between 11,000 and 12,000 books. Through the steady work of our catalogers, about two thirds of that number can now be discovered by searching in Tripod, the Libraries' catalog, making the books available to our students and faculty, and to outside researchers.

An exhibition celebrating the collection will open in March, 2020. Marianne Hansen, Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, is working with interns and student employees to choose books that illustrate the collector's vision. Wood started with the idea of bringing together the books a nineteenth-century girl would have enjoyed from the time she started reading until she graduated to grown-up books. The result was an extravagant hoard that begins with illustrated

ABCs, nursery rhymes, and early readers with words of one syllable. Then come brightly colored picture books, nonsense poems, stories about dolls, and an abundance of fairy tales. The older child was provided with moral counsel, nonfiction books enlivened by illustrations and framing narratives, and – an innovation of the late eighteenth century – magazines and gift compendiums of stories for juvenile readers. Finally, instruction books for homemaking and handcrafts join novels as fare for young adults.

Wood's enthusiasm tempted her outside her original time period and her collection extends to the twenty-first century, with particular strengths in the picture books and fantasy novels of the 1930s through the 1990s. Our spring exhibition will include a sampling of these later books as well, illustrating the new genres which emerged in the last century. We hope you will join us to explore this major collection through the exhibition, lectures, and other public events sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries.



Hieroglyphick Bible. The story of the Deluge



Paper doll and costumes from The History of Little Fanny

Classes and Student Curators

Last year was marked by several very successful collaborations between Special Collections and academic programs.

The student-organized exhibition *Temperamental! Prints from the Collection of Bryn Mawr College* showcased loans and recent acquisitions, in addition to selections from the permanent collection, in the fall of 2018. Students enjoyed studying and selecting from works on loan to the College from collector Mitchell Cohn; six prints from his collection were included in the final exhibition. Cohn attended the exhibition opening and spoke with the student curators about his collecting practice and about their interpretations of his prints, which reframed them intellectually in ways different from his usual interests. Recent gifts from former College President Pat McPherson, as well as the most recent gift of Jacqueline Koldin Levine '46 and Howard H. Levine were also included.



Student curator-led tour for Temperamental!

The “Textiles in Context” 360° course cluster culminated in the student-organized exhibition, *ReconTEXTILiZe: Byzantine Textiles from Late Antiquity to the Present* (April 18 – June 2, 2019). The cluster included a Chemistry course that led students through the scientific analysis of fibers and dyes (taught by Collections Manager Marianne Weldon), a History of Art course that explored the uses and meanings of textiles in early Byzantine culture (Professor Alicia Walker), and a Museum Studies course that applied what students had learned in these other courses to create *ReconTEXTILiZe* with the textiles on loan to the College by Jefferson University (Curator of Art and Artifacts Carrie Robbins).

Public programming for the exhibition was unusually rich. Eight students offered tours of the exhibition, tailoring some tours to specific audiences: for those interested in the chemical analysis of the textiles (led by



Exhibition visitors enjoy the reproduction Egyptian nålbinding socks created by student curator Alex Stern.

Torie Burke '19), those fascinated by the macabre aspects of the textiles' burial context (led by Rachel Grand, '21), and even for speakers of Mandarin (led by Zijia Zhuang '21). Friday Finds events included scholarly presentations on Byzantine textiles in Bryn Mawr's collection, a fiber identification workshop (Marianne Weldon), and a popular nålbinding workshop on the technique used for making socks in Byzantine Egypt (Alex Stern, HC '20). These exhibitions and programs were sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries.

Special Collections staff also met with about seventy classes for single sessions during the last academic year, offering opportunities to experience first-hand the material culture of far away and long ago places and times. Topics ranged from field methods in archaeology and premodern Japanese literature, through medieval bodies and crystal



Professor Thelma Thomas, Institute of Fine Arts, NYC, led a curatorial careers discussion at Friday Finds, and then toured ReconTEXTILiZe.

BiblioPhilly Ends - Exhibitions Follow

chemistry, to Greco-Roman Egypt, public history, and Marie Antoinette.

This fall a 360° course cluster centered on children's books will use the Ellery Yale Wood Collection extensively. Three courses offer differing perspectives on books written for young readers: as creative practitioners, as cultural historians and literary critics, and as future policymakers shaping educational and social programs. In "Creative Writing for Children" students will examine historic and contemporary books analytically as writers, and produce their own contributions to the genre. "The Fantastic in Children's Literature" will critically investigate fairy tales, ghost stories, fantasy novels, and paranormal adventure, in a progression from the early nineteenth century to contemporary YA literature. "Sociology of Childhood" will explore childhood as a socially constructed category; socialization by family, school, and peers; and problems of childhood. The students will use books from our collection to discuss or illustrate major ideas from each course segment. We look forward to collaborating with faculty and students, and to learning more about our new collection as students use it in unexpected and creative ways.

The multi-year Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis project (affectionately known as "BiblioPhilly") has come to a successful end with a comprehensive web-based

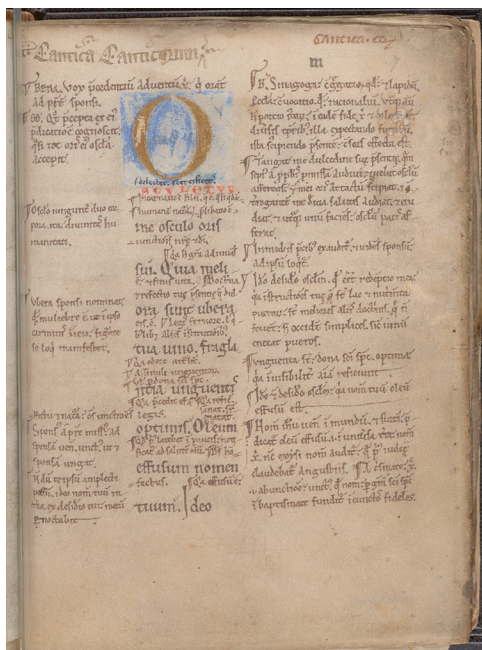
repository of the Philadelphia area's medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. The new website has full descriptions of the manuscripts and high-resolution, downloadable images of every page. The site includes approximately 475 manuscripts, of which Bryn Mawr College contributed 52. You can find our books at <http://bibliophilly.library.upenn.edu/> - choose Bryn Mawr College under Institution.

In 2020 two exhibitions will celebrate BiblioPhilly and the College will loan to both. The University of Pennsylvania's *Making the Renaissance Manuscript: Discoveries from Philadelphia Libraries* opens February 10, 2020, in the Goldstein Family Gallery, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. The exhibition will include two fifteenth-century Italian humanist miscellanies, given to the Libraries by

Phyllis Goodhart Gordan: our MS 40 and MS 41, both of which contain texts by Poggio Bracciolini, as well as other scholars. Also on view at Penn will be the early eleventh-century manuscript of Gregory the Great's *Ten Homilies on Ezekiel* (MS 11). This book contains, as well, a sermon by Radbod II, Bishop of Noyon and Tournai; Radbod's signature is in the book and it was probably his own copy.

Reflections: Modern Mirrors of Medieval Life will open at the Parkway Central Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on March 16, 2020. There, among many other books from the fifteen partner libraries in the project, visitors will be able to see our MS 18, six English manuscripts from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, which were first gathered and bound together as one volume by the middle of the fourteenth century. The texts include a scholarly copy of the *Canticum Canticorum* (or *Song of Songs*), with densely layered commentary around the text itself.

Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis was organized by the Free Library of Philadelphia, Lehigh University, and the Penn Libraries, and was funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



Opening page of the *Song of Songs*, with commentary around and within the text



Student curator-led tour in Park Science Building for ReconTEXTILEize, focusing on chemical aspects of the textiles

New Colleagues

Allison Mills became the College Archivist in July, coming from the University of British Columbia. She holds an MLIS and MAS from UBC. She is part of both the Special Collections and Digital Scholarship, Critical Making, and Digital Collections Management teams. Allison is Iliiw (Cree) and her academic research has largely focused on how indigenous peoples are represented by, and push back against, colonial archives. She is interested in the ways in which archives and record keeping can be used to help empower individuals, communities, and organizations.



Allison Mills, Alice McGrath, and Natalie Shilstut

Alice McGrath is the College's new Digital Scholarship Specialist. She supports digital research and pedagogy projects – including digital exhibitions of Special Collections materials – and directs the Digital Scholarship Summer Fellows program. She earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania, specializing in eighteenth-century British literature, gender and sexuality studies, and digital book history. Before coming to Bryn Mawr, Alice worked at Penn Libraries, where she helped develop the Accessibility Mapping Project and served as research coordinator for the Early Novels Database.

Natalie Shilstut has joined LITS as the Digital Collections and Metadata Librarian. She holds a BFA from the University of Pennsylvania, a MSLS from Clarion University, and a Digital Archives Specialist certificate from the Society of American Archivists. Natalie was previously the Digital Collections Archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society. This fall, she will be leading the Tri-College project to migrate digital collections to the Islandora open-source software framework. She currently serves as co-chair of the Islandora Collaboration Group and the Mid-Atlantic Islandora Network.

Aranzazu Hopkins-Barriga

Aranzazu Hopkins-Barriga, Director of the Archaeological Museum of Huallamarca in Lima, Peru, will be a visiting scholar for the fall semester. Professor Hopkins-Barriga is a historian of ancient art and a conservator specializing in Peruvian textiles. She was awarded a BMC Mellon Museum Studies Fellowship as part of our Mellon “Promoting the Value of the Humanities” grant to contribute her unique expertise to the study of our rich, but under-researched, Peruvian collections.

Hopkins-Barriga will teach a History of Art course on Peruvian textiles as historical documents which provide a basis for understanding the construction of iconography in ancient cultures. The course will also focus on theoretical foundations and formal methodology for the conservation of Peruvian textiles.

Hopkins-Barriga will use our Peruvian textiles collection to show how formal analysis and comparison uncover complex information about social memories, cosmology, astronomy, religion, myths, and history. These collections also reveal our inability to place cultural objects in neat categories as traditional or non-traditional objects; abstraction and styles generated from Spanish, European, and Oriental traditions are all part of modern Peruvian art.

Hopkins-Barriga has worked at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City and directed the conservation laboratory at the Cartographic Heritage Library “Manuel Orozco y Berra.” She taught at the Conservation, Restoration, and Museology College in Mexico City, the National Academy of Art in Lima, and the National University of San Marcos. She is currently a professor at the Pontifical Catholic University. She has written on the preservation of Peruvian material culture and created guidelines for preserving museum collections. She is the author of *Tradition and Innovation in Textile Design Blankets/Quilts: The Case of Maranganí Textiles* (2012). We look forward to working with and learning from her!



Aranzazu Hopkins-Barriga

Additions to the Collections *Ellis Avery Collection*

Bertha Waters Papers

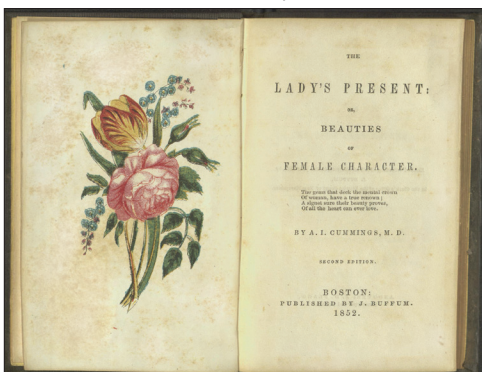
Bertha Waters (MSSW 1979) passed away in 2018 after a long career as a community activist in Philadelphia. She was the Equity Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the 1980s and 1990s. In addition to her own writings, the collection includes newsletters, brochures, posters, and other publications documenting political activism in Philadelphia's African-American community.



Bertha Waters. Photo courtesy of Jack Waters

Conduct Books

The College has received a collection of more than 250 nineteenth-century books intended for female readers, a gift of Dr. Phillip Rosoff of the Duke University Medical Center. Most of the books are either works instructing young women on proper behavior, such as Miss Leslie's *The Behaviour Book: A Manual for Ladies* (Philadelphia, 1853), or gift books intended for women readers, such as Virginia de Forrest's *The Young Lady's Cabinet of Gems* (Boston, 1855). The collection builds on Bryn Mawr's existing strong collections of the conduct and gift books that were such an important part of women's lives in England and America in the first half of the 19th century.



A book from Dr. Rosoff's gift

Following the death of award-winning author Ellis Avery '93 early this year, her wife, Sharon Marcus, professor of English literature at Columbia University, donated her voluminous papers and journals to the College. Thanks to extensive work over the summer by recent graduate Alice Berry '19 and Isabelle Weiner '20, those papers are now organized and ready to use.

Avery's books included *The Smoke Week* (2002), based on her experiences in New York following 9/11; a historical novel set in Japan, *The Teahouse Fire* (2006) which won the Lambda Literary Award for Debut Fiction and the Stonewall Book Award; *The Last Nude* (2011), a novel set in Paris in the 1920s which also won the Stonewall Book Award; and a memoir, *The Family Tooth* (2016), named by Kirkus one of the Best Indie Books of the year. Avery also published a book of poetry, *Broken Rooms* (2017), consisting of selections from the haiku that she had been writing daily since 1999.

In addition to drafts of her writings and her many haiku, Avery's papers include her extensive journals from her childhood through her years at Bryn Mawr, her professional and personal correspondence, papers relating to her career teaching creative writing, and papers relating to her interest in health and disability. A guide to the collection will be available this fall.



Ellis Avery as a student at Bryn Mawr. Photo courtesy of Sharon Marcus

Islandora Migration

This fall the TriCollege Libraries will embark on an exciting project to migrate their digital collections, currently residing in Triptych (CONTENTdm) and Triceratops (DSpace), to Islandora, an open-source software framework designed to facilitate the management and discovery of digital assets. Islandora adheres to the OAIS (Open Archives Information System) reference model, which is a best-practices framework for long-term digital preservation and access. It is designed to help institutions manage the lifecycle of digital content – providing tools for ingest, description, preservation, and access. It uses Drupal as the front-end content management system, which allows for interaction with the digital assets stored in Fedora, the back-end digital repository. The open-source search engine, Solr, allows for full-text searching of documents and faceting, or filtering, of search terms.

Islandora was originally developed by the University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library in 2006 and has grown to hundreds of implementations around the world, supported by a vibrant collaborative development community.

The migration project is planned as a year-long collaborative effort across the TriCollege Libraries. Triptych and Triceratops will continue to be accessible until the migration to Islandora is complete.

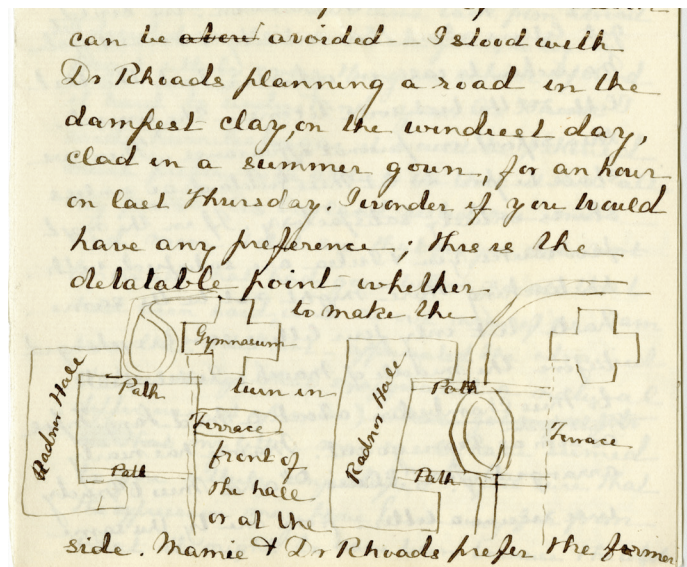
FRIENDS OF THE BRYN MAWR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Mirabile Dictu is published annually by the Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries. The mission of the Friends is to support the work and continuous evolution of the Libraries. The Friends help to provide contemporary facilities for learning and scholarship; underwrite opportunities for students, faculty, and the public to engage with Bryn Mawr's extraordinary collections; support the development and stewardship of those collections; and enable new forms of scholarship, exhibition, publication, and conversation centered on the collections. To join the Friends of the Libraries or to renew your membership, please mail your donation in the enclosed envelope, or visit <https://www.brynmaur.edu/lits/friends-library>.

Editor and Layout: Marianne Hansen

In Her Own Right

In preparation for the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote, many of the cultural institutions in Philadelphia have joined together to create a digital repository on the pre-amendment history of women's activism in the city. The project, *In Her Own Right: Women Asserting Their Civil Rights, 1820-1920*, has received more than \$800,000 in funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Council on Library and Information Resources to support the digitization of large numbers of historical documents in the region and to make them available through the project website: www.inherownright.org.



Letter from Thomas to Garrett, November 15, 1886, sketching competing ideas for laying out a road on campus

As its part of the project, Bryn Mawr has digitized more than 1200 letters exchanged between M. Carey Thomas and her friend, Mary Garrett, from the years 1884-1894. The letters offer an unusually personal view on the projects they were involved with, especially the founding and early years of the College, the establishment of the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, and the successful campaign to raise money for the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in return for the school accepting women students. The letters have been described and many transcribed by the project staff of Cassandra Shiflet, Alice Berry '19, and Miranda Johnson HC '19, and will be available on the project site later this fall.