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Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library
Newsletter

Bryn Mawr College Publications, Special
Collections, Digitized Books

2005

Mirabile Dictu: The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter 9 (2005)

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



Gould, John, 1804-1881

Supplement to the first edition of "A monograph of the Ramphastidae: or family of toucans"

London: Published by the author, 1855

Gift of Ethelinda Schaefer Castle, BMC '08

From the Director

On April 21st Mary Elizabeth Scott MA 1986 was presented with The Phyllis Goodhart Gordon Award for her meritorious service to the College as Chair of the Board of the Friends of the Library from 2001 to 2005. During her four wonderful years on the Board, we have all learned from her, by her example, by her strength, by her warmth; Mary has taught us, helped us and supported us. We are richer for her presence among the Friends of the Library.

After earning her degree from Bryn Mawr, Mary taught in the Physics Department. The same evening that Mary received her award, Adrienne Rich treated Bryn Mawr College to a poetry reading in Thomas Great Hall. Here we have an excerpt from a poem by Adrienne Rich, *Planetarium*, which begins to capture some of the qualities of the physicist and the humanist that Mary so richly embodies. We are extremely pleased that Mary will continue to work with the Friends as a member of the Board.

**I have been standing all of my life in the
direct path of a battery of signals
the most accurately transmitted most
untranslatable language in the universe
I am a galactic cloud so deep so invol-
uted that a light wave could take 15
years to travel through me And has
taken I am an instrument in the shape
of a woman trying to translate pulsations
into images for the relief of the body
and the reconstruction of the mind**

*Excerpt from PLANETARIUM (1968)
Adrienne Rich*



This issue of *Mirabile Dictu* highlights the work of the Friends of the Library. We are delighted that Teresa Wallace AB 1979 is our new Chair of the Friends of the Library. I hope you will take a look at the schedule of events on page 3 and join us for one of our events and take the opportunity to meet Teresa and welcome her to her new role.

Last year we introduced you to some rare volumes that were in need of preservation, and I am happy to report that all of the books featured have been sponsored and are in various stages of being conserved at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. On page 6 Eric Pumroy, Director of Collections, has written an article about the books that were sponsored as well as a few new titles that need attention.

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

Castle Foundation Grant

The Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation has awarded the library a \$25,000 grant to catalogue books from the extraordinary collection bequeathed to the college by Ethelinda Schaefer Castle '08. Mrs. Castle was a remarkable collector, with interests that ranged from medieval illuminated manuscripts to Joseph Conrad and Robinson Jeffers, but the heart of the collection is in the illustrated works on plants, flowers and birds. Among the stellar books in the collection are John Gerard's encyclopedic *The Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes* (London, 1597); the first systematic work on the plants of Russia, Peter Simon Pallas's *Flora Rossica* (St. Petersburg, 1784); many of the works of England's most influential ornithologist, John Gould, including his works on toucans, hummingbirds, and the birds of Australia and Great Britain; and a copy of Elezar Albin's *Natural History of Singing Birds* (Edinburgh, 1776) acquired by the poet Robert Burns when he was eighteen.

Because there are so many important and beautiful illustrated natural history books in the Castle Collection, it didn't seem adequate just to create more detailed descriptions of the books. In a second phase of the project, we are creating high-quality digital images of representative images from the illustrated books. The images will be available to the public later this fall through the Tri-College Libraries' digital collection site (<http://triptych.brynmawr.edu/collections/index.html>) and will be linked to the book cataloging records in the online catalogue, Tripod. The work of digitizing the images is being done by the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia through its Albert M. Greenfield Digital Imaging Center for Collections, a state-of-the-art facility with extensive experience working with oversized botanical and ornithological books.

Highlights from the Castle Collection will be on exhibition in the Rare Book Room during spring semester of 2006, and we are

planning a number of programs in collaboration with the Academy of Natural Sciences to accompany the show.

The principal people working on the project have been our rare book cataloguer, Kim Pelkey, and a student assistant, Jennifer Barr, the Friends of the Library Undergraduate Intern for Summer 2004.

Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Library Events Fall 2005

Tuesday, September 20th

7:30 pm, Thomas 110

Lecture: "A Century of Empowering Women through Sports: from the Apple to Title IX"
Jenepher P. Shillingford, Director Emeritus of Physical Education, Bryn Mawr College

8:30 pm, Class of 1912 Rare Book Room, Canaday Library

Exhibition Opening & Reception: *Building Muscles While Building Minds: Athletics and the Early Years of Women's Education*

**Friday, October 28th, 1 - 6 pm & Saturday, October 29th, 12 noon - 5 pm
Canaday Library Foyer**

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Tuesday, November 15th

4:30 pm, Carpenter Library 21

Lecture: "Keeping Our Heads Above Water: No Buoys Allowed" Anne Dalke, Senior Lecturer in English and Coordinator of the Feminist and Gender Studies Program, Bryn Mawr College

Thinking Like a Historian

Marianne Hansen, Special Collections Librarian

In 1872 the British took over control of the town of Elmina, in modern-day Ghana. The Asante, who had previously used Elmina as a trading port, and who had received payment from the Dutch for its use, marched against the British. After months of hard fighting, the British took the Asante capital, Kumasi. In 1874 the Asante signed a treaty which weakened their position in the region and which was pivotal in the eventual collapse of the kingdom. An estimated 3000 people were killed, about 2000 of them Asante.

If you are a young woman studying history at an American liberal arts college in 2005, it seems pretty remote, doesn't it? And if most of your information about the conflict comes through articles written by military enthusiasts, and read on a computer screen, it takes a real stretch of the imagination to make the conflict seem real.

But suppose you could listen to someone who was there – the boy who would become the king of Asante in the declining years of the kingdom, a British army officer

involved in the campaign, a missionary held prisoner by the Asante during the course of the war, a newspaper correspondent traveling with the army. Or better, if you could hear from several of them – listen to the various accounts, compare what people on both sides of the conflict said about it; see if you could figure out for yourself how each narrator's account was shaped by their background and their concerns. Then the remote events might become more real. And, as you listened and considered, you would begin to think and work as historians do. That was the assignment taken on by 18 students this spring in History 101, *The Historical Imagination*, using books and reports written by first-hand observers of the war.

Except for the future king's account, all the books the students read are the originals, published at the time of the conflict or soon after. They include *Akim-Foo: The History of a Failure*, by Major W.F. Butler (1875), Joseph Thomas's *A Full and Authentic Diary of the Ashanti Expedition* (1875), and *Further Papers Relating to the Ashantee Invasion: Presented to Both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, March 1874*. The books are 125 years old now and they are housed in Special Collections, so all the students' research was done in the reading room. Most of the students read several hundred pages; they examined maps of the campaign, and pored over the pictures and the news accounts in the *Illustrated London News* for the years 1873 and 1874. Because the work was so time-consuming, there were often several students in the reading room together, and they talked to one another about the various accounts, discussed the facts, and conferred over the analysis.

For most of the students, it was the first time they have been invited to make sense of historical facts themselves, using primary sources rather than other people's analyses and speculation. Professor Kalala Ngalamulume says that they had to sort out the "truth"

Kalala Ngalamulume



about what happened from the fragments of the story, dealing with how different the same story looks from different perspectives. In their papers they had to explain how the differing accounts reflect the interests, backgrounds, and ideologies of the participants. He says that an important part of the assignment, and a task which challenges historians in general, was to decide “what to make of the silences – not what is there, but what is not there.”

How did they succeed? Often when

working in an academic library you do not see the results of the efforts of your readers. But in this case, we do know more: Professor Ngalamulume tells us that most of the students really came to grips with the materials and worked with a growing understanding of the historian’s craft. Several of them became interested in African history and plan to take more classes to explore it. And two of them are coming back in the fall to work in Special Collections, where the good books are.

Friends of the Library Undergraduate Internship

For the last three years, the Friends of the Library has funded an internship in Special Collections for an advanced undergraduate. This year’s intern was Emily Houghton, a rising senior from Nyack, New York majoring in English and minoring in History of Art. She spent the summer on two projects: working with the papers of British poet Ralph Hodgson, and assisting with the exhibition on the early history of physical education at Bryn Mawr. Emily’s description of her work follows:

“I have been organizing Hodgson’s vast collection of correspondence, writings,



photos and diaries into a manageable system and creating an online guide to make the material accessible for those interested in the papers both here at Bryn Mawr and elsewhere. Hodgson is best known for his lyrical poetry written during the first quarter of the 20th century. He was a friend and contemporary of a number of British modernist poets of the time: T.S. Eliot, W.H. Davies and Walter de la Mare, among others. In the 1920’s and 30’s he taught as a professor in Japan and then retired in his seventies to Ohio where he lived the remainder of his life in relative seclusion and anonymity. The collection should be of interest to a wide range of scholars, from those interested in modernist or lyrical poetry to those concerned with British and Japanese cultural history.

“In addition, I have been assisting Barbara Grubb in preparing for the fall exhibition on the history of physical education for women at the turn of the 20th century. This has entailed numerous and wide-ranging searches for material of interest to the show, including looking through the college’s archival collection of student newspapers and journals, extended searches through microfilm of M. Carey Thomas’ letters, and interlibrary loans of books and materials on women’s history. These various sources will then be compiled for the fall show which promises to be a success.”

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

Emily Houghton ‘06

HELP US SAVE THESE BOOKS!

Eric Pumroy, Director of Library Collections and Seymour Adelman Head of Special Collections

Bryn Mawr's library contains an extraordinary number of treasures that one rarely finds in the libraries of liberal arts colleges. The College has one of the country's largest collections of fifteenth-century printed books, and extensive holdings on the history of women, European exploration and colonization, illustrated books, and many other topics. Unfortunately, the ravages of time have had their effect. Many of our most important books are at risk every time they are handled for classes or research projects because of broken bindings and loose or torn pages.

To address this problem, the Friends of the Library last year launched its "Book Preservation Fund" to raise money for the restoration of critical books. Four generous donors sponsored books last year, which allowed the library to send the books to the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia for restoration. The number of books needing repairs is great, so we encourage others to follow these donors' example. We have highlighted below four books in need of repair, but if you have particular interests, please do not hesitate to contact us about the program (*see the sidebar on page 7 for contact information*).

The new books needing sponsors were identified during the production of last year's exhibitions "The Invention of Antiquity" and "Mapping New Worlds." Bryn Mawr has a remarkable collection of contemporary books

that recount how Europeans discovered both their classical past and the civilizations in the rest of the world during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Caspar van Baerle, *Rerum per Octennium in Brasilia*. Amsterdam: I. Blaeu, 1647. Gift of Louise Bulkley Dillingham, '16.

When the Dutch West India Company removed its governor of Brazil, Maurice de Nassau, Nassau retaliated by underwriting the production of this magnificent illustrated book on the history of his administration. Nassau commissioned the Dutch scholar Caspar de Baerle (1584-1648) to write the narrative, and the printer and engraver Johannes Blaeu to produce the maps and illustrations. Many



of the images were based on paintings done by Frans Post, one of a group of artists and scientists recruited by Nassau to work in Brazil in expectation that their efforts would attract wider European interest in the colony. This is an exceptionally important book both for its beautiful views of Brazil and for its critical documentation of life in Brazil in the seventeenth century.

The book is in its original vellum binding, but the vellum has separated from the spine and the front and back boards are only loosely attached. In addition, one of the plates has come away from the binding and sits unattached in the volume, and many of the plates are wrinkled



Rerum per Octennium in Brasilia

in the book's gutter. Restoration work will reattach and strengthen the binding, and clean and straighten the plates.

Girolamo Mercuriale, *De Arte Gymnastica*. Venice: apud Ivntas, 1573. Gift of M. Dana Emmons.

De Arte Gymnastica was the first, and highly influential, book on physical culture and its importance for good health. The book was the collaborative project of a prominent physician, Girolamo Mercuriale (1530-1606), who supplied the text, and an artist, Pirro Ligorio (ca. 1510-1583), who executed the numerous woodcuts. It presents an account of the physical exercises that were practiced in the ancient world, and is a prime example of the creative use Renaissance humanists



De arte gymnastica

Thank you to our first-year sponsors for their generous contributions!

Katherine Singley Dannenberg, '73: **Olfert Dapper. *Asia, of Naukeurige Beschryving van het Rijk des Grooten Mogols : en een Groot Gedeelte van Indien*.** Amsterdam, Jacob van Meurs, 1672.

Margery Peterson Lee, '51: ***The Booke of Common Prayer: with the Psalter or Psalmes of David of that Translation which is appointed to be used in Churches*.** London: Robert Barker, 1607.

Maxine Lewis, '57: ***Thoukydides*.** Venetitis: In domo Aldi, 1502.

Elliott Shore, '84: ***The Iliad of Homer, translated by Mr. Pope*.** London: printed by W. Bowyer for Bernard Lintott, 1715-1720.

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 \$50, 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 the on the Preservation website and in the permanent book record in Tripod, Bryn Mawr's online library catalogue.

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

(continued from page 7)

made of the legacy of the classical world. The remarkable quality of Ligorio's woodcuts makes this an extraordinarily beautiful book, as well as an historically important one.

The book is bound in a contemporary soft vellum binding that has cracked along the spine and at the hinges. The restoration work will repair the damaged vellum and strengthen and tighten the hinges that attach the front and back boards to the spine.

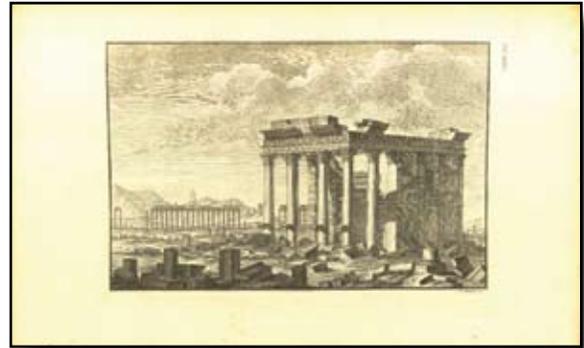
Robert Wood, *The Ruins of Palmyra, Otherwise Tedmor, in the Desert.* London : 1753. Gift of Anna Lloyd Reilly, Marion Reilly, '01, and Garrett Lloyd Reilly.

Between 1750 and 1751, Robert Wood and two companions traveled through modern-day Turkey, Lebanon, and Syria, documenting the ancient ruins that they encountered. Upon returning to England, Wood published this lavish account of the *Ruins of Palmyra*, including a striking fold-out panorama of the entire site. The book's success helped to spark the English love for all things Greek, and its author became famous as "Palmyra Wood." This large, double-foley sized book contains some of the finest architectural engravings of the eighteenth century.

The book is in a contemporary eighteenth century leather binding. The front board is detached, the back board is loose, and the leather on the spine disintegrating. In addition, a number of the plates are badly foxed, including the massive 3-sheet foldout image of the entire site of Palmyra. The restoration work will repair the binding and clean the most important of the foxed plates.

[Plautius, Caspar], *Nova Typis Transacta Navigatio*, Linz: 1621. Gift of Louise Bulkley Dillingham '16.

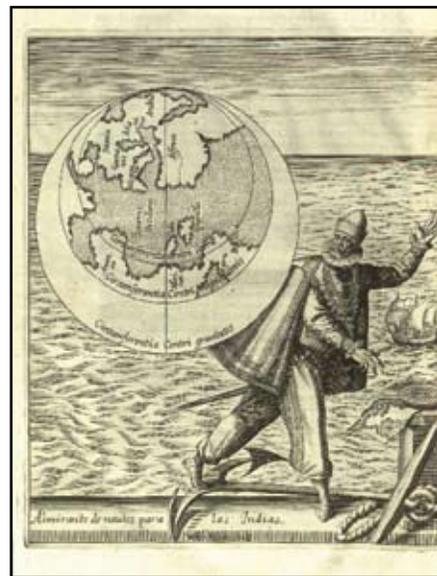
Nova Typis is one of the most idiosyncratic books published on the discovery of America. The presumed author, Caspar Plautius, was the abbot of the Benedictine monastery Seitenstetten in Austria, and was also the person to whom the book was dedicated by the fictitious author, Honorio Philopono. Most of the book describes the exploits of the Benedictine priest Bernard Buil



The Ruins of Palmyra, Otherwise Tedmor, in the Desert.

of Montserrat, who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage and led a team of papal-appointed missionaries to the peoples of the Americas. Not content with recounting Buil's adventures, Plautius begins the book with a lengthy and fantastic account of the voyage of the Atlantic voyages of St. Brendan, the 5th century Irish monk. The text is accompanied by a set of extraordinary prints depicting the voyages of both Buil and St. Brendan, and Buil's interactions with the native peoples.

The volume is in an eighteenth-century leather binding with gold-tooling on the spine and covers. 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.



Nova Typis Transacta Navigatio

Building Muscles While Building Minds: Athletics and the Early Years of Women's Education

Barbara Grubb, Visual Collections Specialist

From its earliest days, Bryn Mawr College offered its students "all the advantages of a college education which are so freely offered to young men." But because skeptics questioned whether women were both mentally and physically capable of this challenge, advocates of women's education felt compelled to demonstrate that the college experience did not destroy the students' health, but might even improve it, particularly if their education included some form of regular exercise.

The College's first "circular," or advertisement, issued in November 1883, describes how Bryn Mawr would care for the health of its students. "Physical Culture will be regarded as specially important," the Circular advised.

"It is intended that the Gymnasium shall be in charge of a skilled instructress, so that its exercises shall be adapted in time and amount to the personal needs of each student, and that all danger of hurtful excess may be avoided.

"The grounds will offer facilities for out-door exercise, such as lawn-tennis or other games which unite exertion with pleasure. Extended walks, kept dry and fit for use as far as may be, will be provided.

"It is the purpose of the trustees that the health of the students shall be under the supervision of a woman of acknowledged medical skill."

Using images, records and artifacts from the College Archives and the Department of Athletics and Physical Education, the exhibition illustrates how the college carried out its promise for facilities, instructors, and programs dedicated to the students' well-being. The exhibition is curated by Barbara Ward Grubb, Visual Collections Specialist, and Emily Houghton, '06.

The exhibition will open on Tuesday, September 20 and will run through the fall semester. Jenepher P. Shillingford, former Bryn Mawr Director of Athletics and Physical Education, will be the guest speaker (for a complete fall schedule please see page 3).



These images are available as a greeting cards through our southern California alumnae website, <http://www.bmcsc.org/publications>.

Becoming a Scholar-Librarian

Christa Williford, CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow in Scholarly Information and Resources

A life-long book lover, I've always held a reverent attitude towards libraries. While a student, I spent hours gazing at book spines on dimly lit stacks searching for essay ideas, distracting myself with fascinating topics completely unrelated to my assignments. After I embarked on more specialized research I had opportunities to visit well-known, even sacred institutions—Indiana University's Lilly Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, the new British Library in London—where I could flip through the yellowed index cards of an old catalog or inspect a shelf of fat reference volumes while waiting for my slip of paper to reach the invisible hands who would retrieve the rare book or manuscript I had come to see. When I became a teacher, I learned that having access to well-preserved library resources was not just a delightful luxury, but also a crucial necessity for keeping students engaged while teaching them responsible scholarship. And yet I never fully understood just how multi-faceted the stewardship of those resources could be.

Coming to Bryn Mawr College to work in Canaday Library's Special Collections Department as part of the CLIR postdoctoral fellowship program has broadened my outlook on libraries and library careers in ways I could not have anticipated. My initial interest lay in working on specific problems of managing digital information, and less with the larger issues confronting libraries in general, but I quickly came to see the necessity for incorporating the "bigger picture" into any smaller effort. I expected to have a lot to learn about detailed standards, rules, and procedures for how to control and preserve large collections using current technologies for optimal efficiency, but I discovered that librarians spend much more time discussing how to adapt standards to fit circumstances, negotiating procedures to fit budgets and schedules, and in forging collaborative relationships within and among institutions than they do with upholding absolutes.

Still, like other academic subcultures, the academic library world does have its own unique characteristics, and adjusting to these took some time. In order to be effective, I needed to learn to speak the language. (If you can find out whether your OCLC MARC records for your GovDocs are OAI compliant and registered with WorldCAT, or if you're wondering how to integrate your OPAC with your CMS, then you really know what I mean.) At first, meetings and even casual conversations seemed like alphabet soup, but with a bit of patience I found that the process of expanding my vocabulary helped me to understand the philosophies behind many library and technical services, and how formalized, collaborative projects could help institutions sustain such services over time.

While adapting to this new universe, I've been struck by the number of challenges currently facing academic libraries. These challenges affect the entire college community, yet the average faculty member or student has few opportunities to learn about them.

For instance, those of us who can remember the "the old days" of paging through volumes of the *Reader's Guide* now marvel at how quickly we can find, save, search through, and print electronic versions of journal articles from our campus computers. What patrons don't commonly know is that in order to provide this service, libraries have had to make major changes in their acquisitions budgets. In order to provide access to online journals, libraries must pay annual subscription fees, and these can increase at a rate much greater than inflation. In this environment, the small college is put in a particularly difficult position. Smart budgeting and strategic alliances with other institutions will be necessary in order for small libraries to continue to provide a wide range of resources for their patrons.

Secondly, serious researchers are well aware of the difficulties librarians can face with processing massive backlogs of printed material, but the cataloging of digital content can seem even more of an impossible task. Selecting,

describing, and maintaining electronic data is a potentially massive undertaking, and libraries are still trying to negotiate how to approach it. The task is certainly intimidating, but the prospect of finding a cooperative and creative solution is also exciting.

New technology has not only affected access and preservation in the library, but it has also provoked drastic shifts in user expectations. This is especially clear in the academic library. Today's undergraduates, members of the so-called "Net Generation," often assume they will have instant access through the web to whatever they seek. Since electronic content is often separated from its original context, students can struggle with understanding what digital resources really represent or whether they come from legitimate sources. Fortunately, librarians are in an ideal position to help students develop and refine these skills, and also to help them understand that sometimes the easiest and best place to find something useful is still in the stacks.

During library orientation for new students last year, I struck up a conversation with a humanities major who admitted to me (with some embarrassment) that she hadn't once entered Canaday library since her arrival at Bryn Mawr. For many students like her, online resources make it possible to use a broad range of library services without leaving the dorm. This circumstance presents yet another challenge for today's libraries: redefining the library as a physical space. Exciting and innovative building projects are happening in many of our country's academic libraries, and these projects are challenging academic institutions to clarify what functions their libraries will need to serve in the future. As primary resources become more accessible through online databases, and current research and software skills become essential for entry-level employment, librarians and technologists are increasingly functioning as teachers, and libraries and computer labs are themselves becoming extensions of the college classroom.

In fact, watching Bryn Mawr librarians and technologists work with students has broadened my own notions about teaching, as well as shown me that today's students need a diversity of learning experiences both in and outside the classroom. It has been reassuring

to think that by embarking on a new career in librarianship, I won't be leaving my former teacher-self behind. Although I may no longer be a full-time scholar or teacher in the formal sense, today's libraries are clearly places where boundaries are shifting and a more blended working identity, the scholar-librarian, seems to make sense. My love of books, and the mystery and excitement of making discoveries in the stacks may always remain the same, but I've found that incorporating new ways of thinking about libraries into my future career plans can also be exhilarating. Given the many challenges to face, I am confident that there will be interesting work to do for many years to come.



Christa Williford & Jennifer Barr '06

For more information about Christa Williford's work, please visit her Bryn Mawr home page: <http://people.brynmawr.edu/cwillifo/>. Among her past year's projects were a web index of student photographs supporting Professor Jeff Cohen's course on the history of Philadelphia architecture <http://www.brynmawr.edu/cities/williford/c207/photos.shtml>, and an online database of historic advertising, developed in cooperation with the students of Professor Elliott Shore's History of Advertising <http://triptych.brynmawr.edu/>. During the coming year she is preparing a database and collection guide for materials left to the college by Theresa Helburn ('08), producer of New York's Theatre Guild.

Graduate Internships

Four graduate students held curatorial fellowships this summer working with the College's outstanding collections of rare books, manuscripts and artifacts. The Friends of the Library supported one of the students, Jessica Sisk, while the other three were funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant in support of the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art.

The Friends of the Library graduate internship has been in place for a number of years now, but the curatorial fellowships awarded by the Graduate Group are new this year, made possible by the NEH Challenge Grant and the generous individual donors who have supported the program. Dale Kinney, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and Professor of History of Art, regards this curatorial program as an important new direction for the students in the Graduate Group. "Internships give our students hands-on training with artifacts under the guidance of professional curators, a dimension we've never been able to offer before. The internships this summer have been wonderful for the



Jessica Sisk

individuals, and wonderful for the campus as a whole."

The Friends of the Library Graduate Intern, Jessica Sisk, is a graduate student in Classics who spent the summer working with the papers of three Bryn Mawr-connected classicists: poet and translator Richard Lattimore; Bryn Mawr-trained archaeologist Lucy Shoe Meritt; and the poet H.D. Jessica has written finding aids for all three of these collections, and they will be available on the Special Collections web site by early fall.

Two of the graduate interns funded through the NEH program worked with artifacts in the College's Art and Archaeology Collections. Sarah Hafner, a graduate student in Classics, worked with a collection of Greek and Roman coins. Her project involved evaluating their physical condition, doing research on the coins' iconography, and cataloging the coins in the collections database. She will do a presentation of notable coins in the Ella Riegel Museum this fall. Benjamin Anderson, a student in the History of Art, worked with the College's collection of Persian ceramics and manuscripts. His project will result in a website describing the collection and an exhibition this fall in Carpenter Library.

Linda Leeuwrik, a student in the History of Art, is the third NEH graduate intern. She has spent the summer preparing a guide to the extensive rare book collection on the history of London. A web version of the guide, with illustrations from the books, will be mounted later this summer.

For a more personalized account of the students' experiences this summer, we encourage you to read their commentaries on the Graduate Group's website <http://www.brynmawr.edu/gradgroup/fellows.htm>.

For more information about the NEH challenge or to make a gift in support of this important effort, please contact Ruth Lindeborg, campaign manager, at 610-526-5122 or rlindebo@brynmawr.edu.



Sarah Hafner



Benjamin Anderson



Linda Leeuwrik



Increasing Security for Collections

One of the consequences of the reconstruction of Dalton Hall was the moving of the College's Ethnography Collections to Thomas, where they were united with the rest of the Art and Archaeology collections. As part of the renovation of the collections space, a new, sophisticated alarm system was installed, thanks to the generous donation of Katherine Singley Danneberg '73. The newly arranged spaces are now both secure and functional during a time when art and archaeology objects are being used more in courses and for research projects.



Lauren E. Kohu '05 & Devon Burge '06

News to Historical Record: The *Alumnae Bulletin*

Lorett Treese, College Archivist

And recently, though at a distance of a thousand miles, I have glimpsed life afresh with a new perspective, through the pages of the *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin*, which I have been mulling through at random.

Wrote Dean Lloyd Garrison, the husband of a Bryn Mawr alum, for a speech he delivered at an alumnae dinner that was reprinted in that same magazine in February, 1935. What sort of impression did the publication give him about Bryn Mawr? “I do get a sense...of a college that is straining for the very highest intellectual goal, seeking to lift itself above standards of achievement already remarkably high,” Garrison observed.

Having started as the *Annual Report of the Alumnae Association*, this publication has been following Bryn Mawr alums throughout their lives and various address changes since 1891. Early editions in the college archives are merely reprints of committee reports to which the association added “class reports,” or notes on who was doing what, organized by graduating class. Even some of the earliest issues included news of books and articles published by alumnae, demonstrating the graduates’ continuing academic achievements.

The annual report officially evolved into the *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Quarterly* in April 1907, when volume 1, number 1 of this new and improved publication appeared in print. It contained the customary annual report of the Alumnae Association and class notes, but for the very first time it also had genuine articles. Ida Olgivie of Columbia University described her geological “investigation” of Mount Popocatepetl in Mexico together with two unnamed companions, one of whom was a “Bryn Mawrtyr.”

Also appearing for the first time in volume 1, issue 1: the advertisements of

sponsors. Most of the earliest examples were ads for girls’ prep schools, perhaps soliciting inquiries from Bryn Mawr alums who had by then become parents. The ad for the Balliol School in New York stated, “Gives thorough preparation for Bryn Mawr College.”

The *Quarterly*’s first illustrations appeared in volume 1, number 2 published in June 1907. They were drawings by Vernon Howe Bailey of the college’s recently constructed buildings, including the cloisters of the new library. The same drawings would be used by the college for promotional purposes for many years to come.

The *Quarterly*’s editor contributed the publication’s first editorial in the same issue. With tongue in cheek she reported all the good but conflicting unsolicited advice she had received, concluding with her own mission statement for the publication: “While we make much of the doings at college – grave and gay – we want to keep in touch with one another, too. Who among us would remain in ignorance of our sea-ladies, our mountain climbers, reformers in India, and in the Tennessee Mountains?” By the following year the *Quarterly* was publishing letters to the editor, book reviews, and material on commencement and reunions.

Illustrations remained few and far between until the 1920s. Through most of that decade they were most likely to accompany advertisements, but the May 1928 issue included photos of the very elaborate Big May Day pageant. The first color illustration appeared on the back cover of the December, 1935 issue: an ad for Chesterfield Cigarettes.

By the 1940s the publication was renamed the *Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin*, and in 1944, its editors adopted a cover design that would remain standard for many years: a yellow and white background with a large black and white photo. In the 1940s the editors also settled into a publication schedule of six issues per year. In the summer of 1950 the issues were reduced to four per year. In the 1970s,

editors began publishing issues in which most of the articles conformed to a theme, such as women and money. In the summer of 1977 the *Bulletin* was published with a cover sporting colors other than yellow and white. The first full color covers appeared in the 1990s.

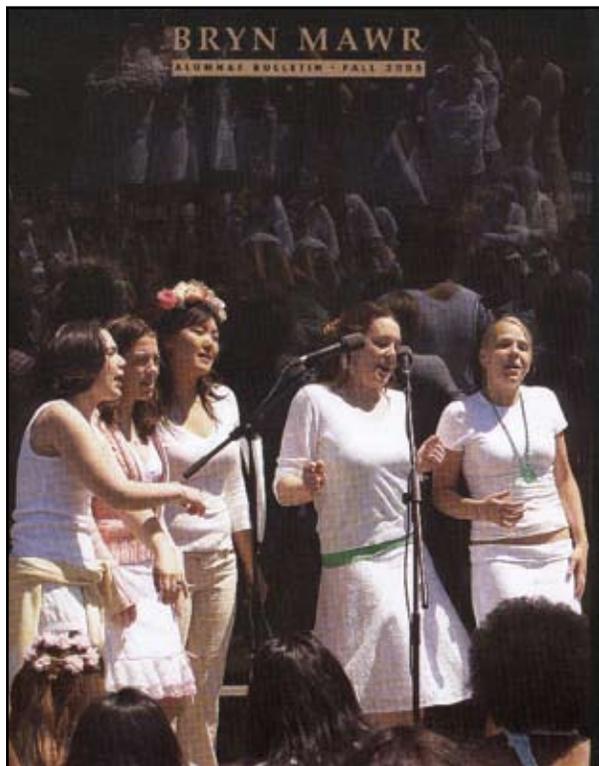
Today the *Bulletin* contains articles informing alums about new academic programs at Bryn Mawr, such as Praxis, the college's experimental learning program. It continues to report on interesting things that alums do, including information on the many books that they continue to write. Lately it promotes another way for alums to remain connected: exciting trips organized by the Alumnae Association.

The pages of the *Alumnae Bulletin* frequently contain information that scholars are very grateful to obtain. For example, the *Alumnae Bulletin* printed the text of the commencement address delivered in 1946 by Dean Acheson, America's Under-Secretary of State. The *Bulletin* also printed the remarks of Eleanor Roosevelt when she accepted the M. Carey Thomas Award. Many biographers

researching the life of Katharine Hepburn have enjoyed the photograph of her beside Harris Wofford taken when she returned to the college in 1973. The *Alumnae Bulletin* has also been helpful to scholars researching the more general topics of Women's History or American Social History.

What's everyone's favorite part of the *Bulletin*? The class notes, of course, which claimed this honor long before Dean Lloyd Garrison wrote his speech and article. Garrison included his observations about what the class notes said about Bryn Mawr women:

They are busy at everything. Here is a woman who has been decorated by the French and Czechoslovak governments... another who is directing plays for the Theatre Guild and for a movie producer.... There are teachers of various sorts... doctors, psychiatrists, archaeologists, actresses, bacteriologists, writers, painters, sculptresses, social workers, government servants, local and national; and women active in every sort of community affair.



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John H. M. Salmon

The late, much loved historian John H. M. Salmon left as a bequest to the library his remarkable collection of rare books for the use of future students and faculty interested in early modern Europe. The collection numbers 284 volumes, mostly on French and British political and constitutional history from the sixteenth through the eighteenth century, mirroring his life-long scholarly interests. Highlights include



early editions of two critical works by French political theorist Jean Bodin: *Les six livres de la republique* (1577) and *De la demonomanie des sorciers* (1581); published descriptions of regions of France, such as Germain Brice's four volume *Nouvelle description de la ville de Paris* (1725); and many memoirs and histories written in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including the great eighteenth century historical compilation *Collection universelle des mémoires particuliers relatifs à l'histoire de France* which runs to 67 volumes. The Salmon bequest is an important addition to the library's strong holdings on early modern England and France, and are a fitting memorial to this extraordinary historian.

John H. M. Salmon was the Marjorie Walter Goodhart Professor Emeritus of History. He taught at Bryn Mawr from 1969 until his retirement in 1991, and was long considered one of the country's leading scholars on early modern Europe. Among his books were *Cardinal de Retz: The Anatomy of a Conspirator* (1969) and *Society in Crisis: France in the Sixteenth Century* (1975). He passed away on February 9th, 2005.