

Mirabile Dictu

The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter



*Katharine Hepburn as Rosaline, in As You Like It,
produced by the Theatre Guild at the Cort Theatre in New York, 1950.
Unknown photographer.*

Fall 2006

Issue 10

Mirabile Dictu
The Bryn Mawr College Library Newsletter

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

*The courtesan
Thais from Terence's
"Eunuchi", Comoediae.
Strassburg: Johann
Gruninger, 1 Nov. 1496*



Table of Contents

Friends of the Library Fall 2006 calendar	1
Letter from the Director	2
NEWS	
Graduate & Undergraduate Research Interns	4
Enormous Changes at the Last Minute!	6
Accessible eReserves in the Bryn Mawr Library	7
<i>Bound and Determined: Identifying American Bookbindings</i>	8
Summer Multimedia Development Institute	9
Celebrating Kate	14
ARTICLES	
Archaeology at Bryn Mawr	10
From Cooperation to Collaboration: Seventy-five Years of Tri-College Library History	12

*Elizabeth Chudleigh, Dutchess of Kingston,
threatening her recalcitrant banker, from The
Chronicles of Crime: or, The New Newgate
Calendar, London: Reeves and Turner, 1886.*



Mirabile Dictu is the newsletter of the Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Library, Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, 101 North Merion Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010, published once a year.

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

Mirabile Dictu past and present are also available electronically at:
<http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/pubx.shtml>

Friends of the Bryn Mawr College Library

2006/2007 Schedule of Events

**Tuesday, September 19,
4:30 pm**

Carpenter Library 21

Lecture: Guido Ruggiero, University of Miami
"Women, Crime, Fear and Pleasure: The Case of the Renaissance Courtesan or Who's Afraid of Giuliana Napolitana?"

**6:30 pm, Class of 1912 Rare Book Room,
Canaday Library**

Exhibition Opening & Reception: *Pointing Fingers: Women, Sin, Crime, and Guilt*

**Thursday, October 26,
4:00 pm**

Tour: Philadelphia Rare Book and Manuscripts. The Friends of the Library will go behind the scenes at one of the country's leading rare book dealers to see how this world really works. Space will be limited, so make your reservations early!

**Tuesday, November 7, 4:30 pm
Carpenter Library 21.**

Lecture: Best-selling mystery writer Laura Lippman. The Friends of the Library will host a dinner for Ms. Lippman following her talk. Watch for your invitation!

**Tuesday, January 30, 4:30 pm
Carpenter Library 21**

Lecture: Daniel Traister, University of Pennsylvania. "You Can't Tell a Book By Its Cover; or, Bindings? -- Why Bindings?"

**6:30 pm, Class of 1912 Rare Book Room,
Canaday Library**

Exhibition Opening & Reception: *Bound and Determined: Identifying American Bookbindings*

more spring events will be announced soon!

The Library's first speaker this fall will be **Guido Ruggiero**, of the University of Miami. Professor Ruggiero has published books and articles on the history of gender, sex, crime, and magic, focusing on Renaissance Italy. His books include *The Boundaries of Eros: Sex Crime and Sexuality in Renaissance Venice* (1985), and *Binding Passions: Tales of Magic, Marriage and Power from the End of the Renaissance* (1993). His new book, *Machiavelli in Love*, will be published this winter.

Professor Ruggiero will speak September 19 on "Women, Crime, Fear and Pleasure: The Case of the Renaissance Courtesan or Who's Afraid of Giuliana Napolitana?" His talk will be followed by a reception and the opening of the Fall exhibition, *Pointing Fingers: Women, Sin, Crime, and Guilt*.

As part of the fall exhibition, on November 7 the library will welcome mystery author **Laura Lippman**. Lippman worked for twelve years at the Baltimore Evening Sun, and the heroine of her Tess Monaghan series is, like her, a former journalist in Charm City. Lippman's latest book is *No Good Deeds*, released in July of 2006. Her earlier books have won every major prize in American crime fiction, including the Edgar, Nero Wolfe, Anthony, Shamus, and Agatha.

Her novel, *In a Strange City* was a New York Times Notable Book. She will talk about creating her characters and plots, and discuss working as a reporter and as a novelist.



From the Director

Looking back and looking forward – the twin joys of working in libraries with impressive print and abundant information technology resources. The world of the library is one that preserves the past for the research of the future, and information technology works today to rethink the record of the past and reinterpret it for the future. And it all happens in the present. And what libraries, especially this one, are famous for is collaboration: between and among our colleagues at Swarthmore and Haverford, with our faculty, students, staff and Friends, and with other local and national cultural institutions. The collaboration with the **Friends of the Library** help to make that present so much more possible and we thank you for your continued support to underpin the change that continuous renewal entails, both in preserving the past and moving us forward. Let's first look back to the spring and ahead to the new academic year.

It was another remarkable year for the Friends – two of our lectures and exhibits filled the auditorium in the **Rhys Carpenter Library** to overflowing. In April, it was

Philadelphia Valeria Finucci of Duke University, one of the leading scholars of women writers of the Renaissance, speaking on “*The Epic Romance in the Hands of Women Writers: The Case of Moderata Fonte*,” and Philadelphia artist, Carol Moore in “*Dialogue with Women Poets of the Italian Renaissance*.” The overflowing audience had already begun to enjoy Moore’s *Lost & Found: Rediscovering Women Poets of the Italian Renaissance*, which introduced the work of seven important 16th-century female poets through handkerchiefs imprinted with the poets’ sonnets and scattered throughout the campus.

In February “*Luxuriant Nature smiling round*”: *Illustrated Botanical and Ornithological Books from the Ethelinda Schaefer Castle Collection*, opened with a record-setting number of guests drawn to the to lecture by Robert McCracken Peck, senior fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. His lecture, “*John Gould and His World*,” focused on the most important British producer of illustrated bird books in the 19th century. Peck’s engaging manner, his remarkable range of knowledge, coupled with stunning illustrated works, made the evening a memorable one and the exhibit glistened into the spring with books that are emblematic of the many treasures of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries.

These two programs sparkled because of collaborations: the first with the Italian Department at the College, the second with the Academy of Natural Sciences, with which we worked in digitizing the dazzling plates in those gorgeous illustrated books. We are all looking forward to another wonderful year of neat exhibitions, great speakers, and cool collaborations.

A new collaboration inside the College, bringing together students, staff and faculty with the Education Program and Information Services, along with support and encouragement from the



A student finds a handkerchief distributed as part of the exhibition/installation, “Lost and Found”. Photograph by Paola Nogueras

Board of Trustees of the College, began its work in the spring and should continue to gain strength this fall. We are calling it the Teaching and Learning Initiative, “committed to thinking about innovative ways to support the development of excellence in teaching at Bryn Mawr College and to support a wide variety of learning experiences for all members of the college community in keeping with the call for academic innovation issued in the President’s Plan for the New Century.” We are hoping that this work will make full use of the library of the 21st century in and outside of the classroom and include all of our community in the basic educational mission of the College.

We are delighted that the Chair of the Friends, **Teresa Wallace**, and the chairs and members of the Program, Membership and Card Committees have provided us such good leadership in the past year. Teresa and the Friends Board have decided to embark on a small fund-raising effort this year to “Shine a Light on the Library.” (see Teresa’s separate letter) This comes on the heels of a lovely new renovation of the main floor of the library, also funded by the Friends of the Library. After a quarter-century of use, and in conjunction with the new entrance to the **Mariam Coffin Canaday Library** (see the article by Mark Colvson on page 6) we will be re-configuring the main floor to adjust our main library to the new possibilities inherent in the conjunction of print and electronic reference. We hope you will like the changes we are inaugurating, on the main floor of the Library, in the way that Information Services is more deeply engaged in teaching and learning at the College. We trust that these changes preserve the best of the past with the strengths of the newest tools we have for pedagogy and research while working in collaboration with our many partners.

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



Friends Board member Maxine Lewis examines Redoute’s Roses during the reception for the exhibition.



Graduate student Rima Girnius, who assisted in curating the exhibition “Luxuriant Nature smiling round.” Illustrated Botanical and Ornithological Books from the Ethelinda Schaefer Castle Collection, talks at the opening with Friends Board member Alexa Aldridge and Bruce McKittrick.

Rediscovering Canaday Library

Mark Colvson & Jean Lacovara

Last summer, several major changes were made to the entrance and lobby of the Mariam Coffin Canaday Library. After thirty-seven years of heavy wear, the Library's front entrance stairs needed reconstruction. Inside the building, Public Services Librarians were thinking about how to bring the Circulation and Reference Desks more closely together. The Summer of 2006 seemed the perfect time to take advantage of a great opportunity.

The college's Facilities Department decided to use the quieter summer months of July and August to demolish the well-worn outside staircase and replace it with a lighter, smaller, concrete stairway. Additionally, there would be a second staircase down to the level of the library's café (The Lusty Cup), with a small garden and seating area. Since the front entrance could not be used during demolition and construction, the Library's Circulation Desk moved into the Lusty Cup for the summer and the Public Services Librarians began plans to combine the Circulation and Reference Desk on the main floor.

The result will be a dramatically different new way to enter the library. The newly constructed stairs will provide a beautiful view of the garden as you enter the library. Once inside, the new single service desk will be plainly visible and staffed with librarians and students working together to deliver content and services. You will also find more comfortable seating to accommodate wireless laptop users and more computers to use for research, writing and collaboration with colleagues and classmates.



What happened to the Reference Desk?

No, we haven't outsourced Reference Services. The distinction between Research Support and traditional "Circulation" of library materials grows more blurred as more Library services are delivered electronically.

How does all this help Library Patrons?

Previously, it was common for a patron to bring a question to a desk that could be better answered by staff at the other. The single desk brings closer together teams of student and professional staff that keeps the library working for our patrons.

More changes to come!

You'll notice that by the large windows several tall shelves have been removed. We added more computers, group work tables, and comfortable seating. Whether you want to spread out your research materials while working at a computer; work collaboratively with friends using library laptops; or relax with a general interest magazine or book, Canaday's 1st floor will work for you.

Where did all the books go?

About 30% of the Reference collection has moved into the regular stacks and is available for borrowing. The remaining 70% are encyclopedia sets, journal indexes, language dictionaries, and other standard reference tools.

If a book isn't where you expected it to be, please ask at the new desk. Please also feel free to drop **Mark Colvson**, Head of Canaday Library Public Services, an email or phone call with your questions, comments, suggestions, or even icily ironic verbal darts. Mark can be reached at mcolvson@brynmawr.edu or 610-526-7465.

Summer Multimedia Development Institute

Laura Blankenship

The Summer Multimedia Development Institute in a unique program that allows faculty and staff to work with students on multimedia projects. Every year, we hire 6-9 students who usually do not have technical skills and train them in multimedia design. These students then work on real projects submitted by faculty and staff where they continue to hone their skills. SMDI is finishing up its fourth year as a full ten-week internship. This year, the six interns worked on twelve projects. This brings our total to almost seventy projects completed through the program. Some of the projects this year include redeveloping the Wyndham site, helping Linda Caruso-Haviland, Director of Dance and Senior

Lecturer in the Arts digitize a portion of her dance video, and creating a site to present the dorm rooms and campus life more thoroughly for prospective students.

In the first week, the students receive boot-camp style training on software programs such as Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop, and iMovie, and they learn the basics of writing HTML. Most of the learning takes place when they begin to work on their projects as they develop the skills most appropriate for their projects. Asia Hoe, who worked on a new campus map for the residential life project, had to learn Macromedia Flash and Adobe Illustrator while Sarah Martin learned the ins and outs of

iMovie while working on a video about the Dalton Hall reconstruction. The program is supported by five staff members: **Laura Blankenship, Christine Boyland, David Consiglio, Janet Scannell, and Michael Zarro.** Each have different areas of expertise and provide support to the students. If you want to see some of the projects and find out what the students learned over the summer, please take a look at SMDI projects past and present at:

<http://www.brynmawr.edu/etc/smdi>

Laura Blankenship is Senior Instructional Technologist in Bryn Mawr College's Information Services Department.

The new website of Wyndham, Bryn Mawr's Alumni House, designed by J. Fei '08
<http://www.brynmawr.edu/wyndham/rooms>



Graduate & Undergraduate Research Interns

Eric Pumroy

Amanda Young is the Friends of the Library Undergraduate Intern this summer. Amanda is a senior History of Art major from Santa Cruz, California, and spent last summer working as an intern in the photo archive department of the Frick Collection in New York. This summer she has been working as an assistant on the “Pointing Fingers: Women, Sin, Crime, and Guilt” exhibition, developing a website for last spring’s exhibition of illustrated natural history

books, and organizing and describing the papers of the Spanish political activist Joaquin Maurin.



Megan Risse

Megan Risse is the Friends of the Library Graduate Intern this summer. Megan is a graduate student in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, and is interested in the work of special collections libraries. This summer she has been cataloguing the library’s post-Renaissance manuscript volumes, and organizing and describing the papers of *New Yorker* editor Katharine Sergeant White.



Amanda Young



Rebecca Dubay

Rebecca Dubay is a Graduate Curatorial Fellow working with the papers of artist and Bryn Mawr graduate Anne Truitt. Rebecca is a graduate student in the History of Art, and also holds degrees from Tufts University and the University of South Florida. The Curatorial Fellows program is supported through the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant to the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art.

The National Endowment for the Humanities Graduate Interns working in the Art and Archaeology Collections this summer are: Lesley Shekitka, Nick Blackwell and Crystal Fritz (not pictured). Lesley is working on The William and Uytendale Scott Memorial Study Collection of works on paper by contemporary artists. She is cataloging, re-housing and photographing the collection and will also do some in-depth research on the artists and interviews with the collector.

Nicholas Blackwell is cataloging, photographing and re-organizing the impressive array of Cypriot materials in order to enhance access for students and scholars. Nicholas has also been to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to research objects originally in the Cesnola collection. Crystal Fritz is cataloging, re-housing and photographing an important collection of sherds from the site of Tel el-Judeidah in the Amuq Valley. Crystal has also analyzed the collection in preparation for journal publication.

Rebecca Dubay, Lesley Shekitka, Nick Blackwell and Crystal Fritz will each have an on-line catalog and/or a virtual exhibition as a product of their internship.

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.



Lesley Shekitka



Nicholas Blackwell

Accessible eReserves in the Bryn Mawr Library

Michael Zarro

The Bryn Mawr College Library, like many of its peer institutions, faces a new set of challenges in providing electronic services to patrons with visual and learning disabilities. In this age of digital scholarship, electronic reserves have become the preferred method of distributing journal articles, textbook excerpts and related material to students. Faculty find it more convenient than creating course packs and students enjoy the freedom of being able to access their reserves anywhere they can get a web connection; dorm rooms, train stations and Merion Green. While the primary purpose of this technology is to engender freedom of access, it has significant benefits for all.

While the primary purpose... is freedom of access, it has significant benefits for all.

Bryn Mawr has formed a cross-discipline team to address the issues surrounding the use of library eReserves by students with disabilities. **Stephanie Bell**, Coordinator of Access Services has joined with librarians **Mark Colvson** and **Melissa Kramer**, and web developer **Michael Zarro**, to develop methodologies for creating accessible electronic materials. The goal of their efforts is to provide access for students with visual or other disabilities using current or easily attainable resources.

Section 508 of the 1998 Amendment to the Rehabilitation Act is the standard by which accessibility to electronic services is measured. While technically only applying to Federal agencies and their information technology vendors, it is the guideline by which all organizations measure their accessible services. It is currently unclear whether or not colleges and universities who accept funding from the federal government must comply with all of the guidelines, however the moral and ethical responsibilities are clear; we must create and distribute electronic resources in a format that breaks down barriers to learning.

There are two main methods of providing electronic text to persons with visual disabilities. The first, optical character recognition scanning (OCR) is a technology that uses the electronic “eye” of a page scanner to read, interpret, and write the page to a file as if it were typed by human hands. This new page can then be saved in several different formats such as Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Text in these software applications, can be magnified or highlighted to increase the legibility of the documents being read. There are also text-to-speech programs that can “read” the contents of a text file to the patron. These programs are becoming increasingly sophisticated and offer the choice of many different voices, not constraining the patron to a synthesized voice, like the voice of HAL, from the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

The second method used is recording the voices of students, volunteers or professionals reading the material. Access Services currently has a group of students reading texts for the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Purchasing texts in voice format, or requesting items from sources such as Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) have also helped to fulfill the needs of our patrons.

All patrons benefit from services that offer library materials in an accessible format. Those who may not describe themselves as needing assistive technologies may benefit from text magnification; and full text searching is possible in documents that are created using OCR software. All enabling a patron to find exactly where in an article a word, phrase, or concept is used.



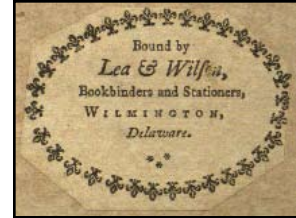
Michael Zarro is Web and Digital Media Developer in Bryn Mawr College’s Information Services Department.

Bound and Determined: Identifying American Bookbindings

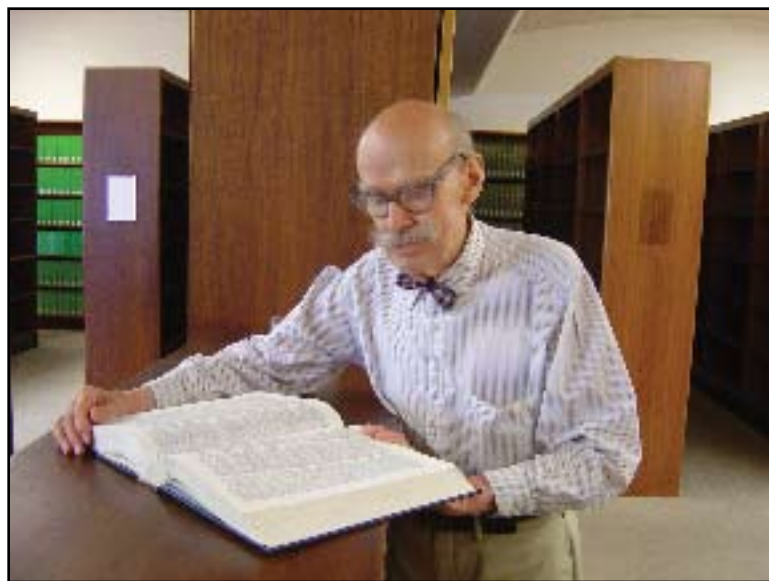
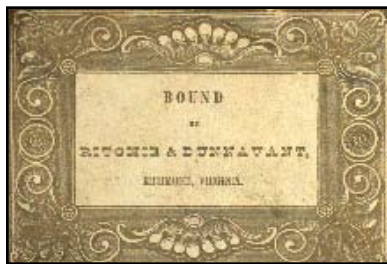
Eric Pumroy

Willman Spawn, the Bryn Mawr College Library's Honorary Curator of Bookbinding, is at work on his exhibition on American bookbinding in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, *Bound and Determined: Identifying American Bookbindings*. The exhibition will open Tuesday, January 30th, with a talk by Daniel Traister, Curator of Research Services at the University of Pennsylvania's Rare Book and Manuscript Library, "You Can't Tell a Book By Its Cover; or, Bindings?-- Why Bindings?" The exhibition is being co-curated by Thomas E. Kinsella, Associate Professor of English at Richard Stockton College, and Willman's co-author of *Ticketed Bookbindings from Nineteenth Century Britain*, the book that accompanied their 1999 exhibition on British bookbinding.

Willman Spawn came to Bryn Mawr in 1985 following a distinguished career as bookbinder and conservator at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. He has long been recognized as the dean of bookbinding historians in America as a result of his influential articles and lectures. In addition to his work on British ticketed bookbinding, he was also the co-curator of the Bryn Mawr exhibition *Bookbinding in America, 1680-1910*. The accompanying book was published by the library in conjunction with the University Press of Virginia in 1983. The new exhibition will draw upon Bryn Mawr's excellent collection of American bookbindings. A large number of the books will come from the bookbinding collection donated by the late Frederick Maser, and many others will be ones that the library purchased with funds donated by Dr. Maser.



Examples of American bookbinders' tickets from books in Special Collections, enlarged to show details; below, Willman Spawn at work.



Archaeology at Bryn Mawr

Lorett Treese

Very early in the college's history, Mawrters got the opportunity to study archaeology, first as a supplement to the college's programs in Latin, Greek, and History, and later as a discipline. Today the Special Collections department is privileged to house the papers of several Bryn Mawr scholars in this field as well as other materials that can be used to trace the history of archaeology at Bryn Mawr.

During the academic year 1887-88 Arthur L. Frothingham Jr., professor of archaeology at Princeton and editor of the *American Journal of Archaeology*, visited Bryn Mawr on a regular basis to deliver illustrated lectures on ancient architecture. In 1889-90 Herbert Weir Smyth, a new associate professor of Greek, added a course in Greek sculpture to the Greek department's offerings. In 1891-92 the college was offering three elective lectures weekly on Greek art and Roman architecture illustrated with photographs, delivered by Agnes Wergeland, a BMC fellow with a PhD from the University of Zurich.

By 1895-96, Bryn Mawr had created an independent History of Art and Archaeology department under the direction of Richard Norton who had studied at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. Its earliest offerings consisted of classes on the history of Greek art, the history of Italian art, and classical archaeology.

In 1899-1900 Joseph Clark Hoppin, known for his books on Greek vase painting, joined the faculty. Hoppin changed the course offerings to place more emphasis on the science of archaeology, topography, mythology, and the study of artifacts.

Caroline Louise Ransom, holding a PhD from the University of Chicago, was appointed Associate Professor in History of Art and Classical Archaeology in 1905. In accepting the position she suggested adding a course in Egyptology. Accordingly Egyptian Art appeared in the 1906-07 course catalog. A journal club was established the following year for students interested in discussing the latest professional publications on sculpture, coins, and vases. Under Ransom's leadership, the department grew by the addition of lecturers and

demonstrators. In 1910 it became possible to combine archaeology with Greek, Latin, or Ancient History for a double major.

The academic year 1914-15 opened a new era at Bryn Mawr when Classical Archaeology was officially split as a department from History of Art. Mary Swindler, who had come on board with the rank of reader in 1912 undertook the direction of the department in conjunction with Rhys Carpenter, whose initial rank was demonstrator. Carpenter's degree was in classical languages and literature from Columbia University, where he had been scheduled to become an instructor in the fall of 1913. A longstanding tradition at Bryn Mawr (confirmed by Carpenter prior to his death) holds that M. Carey Thomas brought Carpenter to campus and commanded that if he was not yet an archaeologist, he ought to become one. Swindler held a Bryn Mawr PhD in Greek, Latin, and Archaeology, and had studied in Europe thanks to a Mary E. Garrett European Fellowship.

M. Carey Thomas brought Carpenter to campus and commanded him to become an archaeologist

In 1928 Professor Prentice Duell introduced a course in American archaeology concentrating on the American southwest and Central America. The subject was dropped during the 1930s but reinstated by Dr. Frederica de Laguna in 1940, perhaps because the exigencies of World War II had complicated travel and study in Europe. De Laguna changed the course's focus to Central and North America, including the Arctic, which was her particular area of interest. The course remained among the department's offerings until the early 1960s.

The department expanded in the 1930 when Valentin Muller came on board to teach Egyptian and Mesopotamian archaeology as well as Ancient Architecture and Archaic Greek Sculpture. In 1934 the college



Rhys Carpenter with student Marian Holland, BMC 1947.

announced that the Archaeological Institute of America had invited Bryn Mawr to cooperate in an excavation at Tarsus in Cilicia to be directed by Hetty Goldman (BMC 1903), field director of the Fogg Museum.

The 1950s were a time of transition for the college's department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, thanks to the retirements of Swindler (1950) and Carpenter (1955). Machteld J. Mellink replaced Swindler during the academic year 1949-50. Kyle M. Phillips arrived in 1962 and Brunilde Sismondo Ridgway joined the staff as assistant and curator of slides in 1957-58, returning as assistant professor in 1963-64. This talented trio dominated the department until the early 1980s. Other members of the department during the 1950s included Cornelius Vermeule (1955-57), Alexander Cambitoglou (1957-61), and Dorothy Burr Thompson (1956-57).

During the 1960s, the college sponsored two excavation projects. In 1963 graduate students could participate in an investigation of the Bronze Age habitation of Ancient Lycia in Turkey. In 1966 excavations began at the archaic site

of Murlo near Siena. Both remained active until the early 1980s.

Carl Nylander taught from 1970 until 1977 and was the college's first specialist in Persian Archaeology. In 1973 Richard Ellis, specializing in Near Eastern Archaeology, joined the department where he remained until his retirement in 2004. James Wright, specializing in Classical Archaeology and Aegean and Bronze Age Archaeology, began teaching at Bryn Mawr in 1978 and is department chair. Other faculty members include Kathleen Wright (1978-82) and Gloria Pinney (1977-82). The department's current staff includes James Wright (chair), Stella Miller-Collett (1994), Alice Donohue (1994), Peter Magee (2001) and Mehmet-Ali Ataç (2003).

The Special Collections department houses papers from Mary Hamilton Swindler, Rhys Carpenter, Dorothy Burr Thompson and Phyllis Pray Bober who taught courses in both History of Art and Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology. Bryn Mawr alum Lucy Shoe Meritt's papers may be found in the archives, as may smaller aggregations of materials relating to the Bryn Mawr experience of Valentin Muller and Cornelius Vermeule.



Mary Hamilton Swindler and Rebecca Wood, BMC 1945.

From Cooperation to Collaboration: Seventy-five Years of Tri-College Library History

Michael Freeman & Scott Silverman

The year 2006 marks a special anniversary for Tri-College Library cooperation; Tripod has been the Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore integrated library catalog for 15 years! To celebrate, the staff of the Tri-Colleges sponsored several events in the last year to reaffirm the collaborative spirit that brought Tripod into existence, and we also reminded ourselves that the collaboration did not begin with Tripod, but much earlier...

1931

Librarians of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore are among the thirteen invited by the University of Pennsylvania to discuss ways whereby “Philadelphia’s great libraries could find it possible to cooperate more closely and systematically than at present.”

1942

Unsuccessful attempt to unite the libraries of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges under a single library director.

1952

Discussions held on the possibility of three college deposit storage facility. No action.

Sometime in the 1950s

Station wagon makes weekly deliveries between Bryn Mawr and Haverford Libraries.

Late 1950s

Occasional exchanges of publications and some shared purchases of expensive items between Bryn Mawr and Haverford.

1972

Joint book purchasing plan between Haverford and Bryn Mawr begins.

1984

Discussion of possible tri-college automated catalog.



Bryn Mawr's Canada Library

1987 - 1991

Colleges decide to pursue joint fundraising for Tri-College Library automation, resulting in successful grants from the Department of Education, Keck Foundation, Culpepper Foundation, and Bell of Pennsylvania.

1991

Tripod goes public. The three-college automated catalog, with nearly one million records, is accessible over the network.

1997

Patrons can place on hold items not located in their home campus libraries; the TriCo van delivers these materials, usually within a day, to their favorite Tri-College library.

1998

Mellon Foundation awards a grant to the Tri-Colleges to advance cooperative instructional technology initiatives. The libraries play vital roles, and the grant eventually funds the initial purchase of the BlackBoard course management system used on all three campuses.

2000

Mellon awards another grant; it half funds “Talking Towards a



Techno-Pedagogy,” which brings together teams of faculty, students, librarians and technologists from Tri-Colleges and seven peer institutions to redesign existing courses utilizing newly available information resources and technologies; the other half advances Tri-College library collaboration and funds database-driven web page creation and innovative web development, virtual reference services, a videoconferencing system, training of student workers and staff development, and the purchase of the SFX linking system that greatly facilitates user access to full-text online journals.

Inter-campus, twice-a-day delivery of books and articles begins.

2001

Another Mellon grant provides for a comprehensive study of Tri-College library facilities and collections.

2003

Following up on the facilities and collections study, a Mellon grant provides for the further development of collaborative collection development and management, and to seed the digitization of book content and images.

2003

Combining funding from a private grant to Haverford with Mellon5, TriCo special collections librarians begin work on Triptych, a digital objects repository system using ContentDM software.

2004

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awards Tri-Colleges Libraries a grant to redesign the management of electronic information resources and design a software system to maximize

efficiency of associated tasks.

2005

TriDid, the first sustained experiment in managing a central repository of Tri-College images, comes online using the MDID open source system created at James Madison University.



Swarthmore's McCabe Library

2005 - 2006

Celebrating 15 years of Tripod, the Consortium hosts panels of library leaders from three peer institutions in Fall, and library and information technology leaders from major research institutions in Spring.

Scott Silverman is Head of the Nodes and Tri-College Budgeting and Licensing Coordinator.



Haverford's Magill Library

Celebrating Kate

Eric Pumroy

As part of the celebration of the opening of the **Katharine Houghton Hepburn Center** this fall, the library is mounting an exhibition of Katharine Hepburn theater photographs in the lobby of Canaday Library. The photographs are drawn from collections donated by **Theresa Helburn**, Bryn Mawr class of 1908, and a long-time producer with the Theatre Guild in New York. Among the 1400 photographs in the collection are more than 200 photographs of Katharine Hepburn, including her roles in *Jane Eyre* in 1936, *Philadelphia Story* in 1939, and *As You Like It* in 1950.

Over the last year, organizing and cataloging the Helburn Collection has been the major project of **Christa Williford**, a theater historian and Bryn Mawr's Post-Doctoral Fellow in Scholarly and Information Resources, sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Resources. As a result of her work, there is now a finished guide on the web to the extensive collection of play scripts, programs, ground plans, and advertisements for more than 150 Theatre Guild productions. In addition, she created an image

database for the photograph collection. The Helburn Collection guide can be found at: <http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/speccoll/guides/helburn/index.shtml>,

while the photograph database is part of **Triptych**, the Tri-College Libraries digital library <http://trptych.brynmawr.edu/cdm4/helburn.php>.

The exhibition is part of the College's larger celebration of Katharine Hepburn, Class of 1928, and her mother, Katharine Houghton Hepburn, Class of

1899, an early suffragist and family-planning advocate. Named as the only organization authorized to commemorate the life and achievements of Katharine Hepburn, Bryn Mawr has established the Katharine Houghton Hepburn Center to honor the adventurous and bold spirit of the Houghton Hepburn women. Drawing its focus from the life work of its namesakes in film and theater, civic engagement and women's health, the Center will inspire Bryn Mawr students and graduates to challenge conventions and to make a meaningful impact on the world, just as the Houghton Hepburn women did.



*Katharine Hepburn as Jamie Coe Rowan
in Philip Barry's Without Love, produced by the Theatre Guild
at the St. James Theatre in 1942.
Photographed by Manatt*