

Friends of the Smith College Libraries



SPRING UPDATE-MARCH 2004

WILLIAM ALLAN NEILSON LIBRARY • SMITH COLLEGE • NORTHAMPTON, MA 01063

2004 Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will take a look at the Connecticut River Valley's thriving book arts community, with a special focus on what it takes to make a business out of a passion for books, art, and handmade objects. The panelists, all women, are at various stages of their careers and represent all aspects of making fine press books.

About the Panelists:

For thirty years **Carol J. Blinn** has produced a variety of illustrated, printed, hand-bound and hand-decorated books and ephemera at the Warwick Press in Easthampton, MA. She is affectionately known far and wide as the "Duck Lady".

Barbara B. Blumenthal '75 has been a professional bookbinder, letterpress printer, and designer for over twenty-five years. She also works part-time in the Smith College Mortimer Rare Book Room as a library assistant, conservation consultant, and book arts specialist. She has produced five publications under her own imprint, Catawba Press.

Julia Ferrari is another veteran of the book arts. Artist, letterpress compositor, and printer, she operates the Golgonooza Letter Foundry and Press with her partner Dan Carr. Julia composes type and prints commercial fine press books; she also produces books under her own imprint Trois Fontaines.

A relative newcomer to the book arts, **Karen Pava Randall '90** is nonetheless garnering attention for her books printed under her Propolis Press imprint. She moved to the Valley in 1998 and worked for Art Larson setting type and printing Leonard Baskin's large woodcuts for the Gehenna Press. She then worked for Ben Schiff at Osiris before launching Propolis in 2001.

A reception will follow in the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

Special exhibits:

- *Elliot Offner & the Smith College Student Printing Office*, Morgan Gallery and the Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, Levels 1 and 3. Open house: Friday, April 2, 3:00-5:00 P.M.
- *Selections from the Rosemary Press*, Hillyer Art Library
- *Elliot Offner: Sculpture*, Smith College Museum of Art
- *Elliot Offner: Works on Paper*, Oresman Gallery, Hillyer Hall

Friday, April 2, 2:00 P.M.,
Neilson Library Browsing Room

Fine Press Books: Making Art a Business

A discussion with women in the book arts.

This event is part of a program marking the retirement of Elliot Offner, Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities and Printer to the College. Members of the Friends are also invited to attend the following:

Friday, April 2, 4:15 P.M.,
Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall

Animal Magnetism: Some Beastly Reflections on Art

by Susan Donahoe Kuretsky,
Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Art, Vassar College. A reception will follow in Brown Fine Arts Center Atrium. Sponsored by the Smith College Art Department and Museum of Art.

Visitor parking is available in the Parking Garage on West Street. Use blue or white-lined spaces on levels 2, 3, or 4. Please display the enclosed invitation on the dashboard to avoid getting ticketed.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

The Neilson Browsing Room was filled to capacity on March 3rd to hear Paul Alpers address "Shakespeare and the Outer Isles: *Macbeth* and Barbarous Scotland". This was Dr. Alpers' first public lecture on campus since he moved here in 2001 with his wife Carol Christ. We were very pleased to provide the occasion to hear from this distinguished literary scholar.



Earlier this month, we joined with the other Smith College Friends' groups in a combined membership appeal intended to broaden our base among alumnae. The penguin-embazoned mailing invites you to become a Friend of one or more groups with a special incentive to join all four.

I would like to thank all of you who have made gifts to the Libraries this year. Your contributions of dues, additions to endowed or other funds, and gifts of books and materials, all make a crucial difference to the Friends' ability to enhance library collections and services. Gifts received in memory and in honor of alumnae and other dear ones remind us of the strong bond that binds the Smith community across time and across generations. A recent example was a special gift to honor the ninetieth birthday of Rose Susan Hirschhorn Behrend '35. A retired docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Mrs. Behrend has an enduring passion for sculpture. Her children's gift to the Hillyer Art Library enabled the art librarian to purchase exciting new reference works for consultation by faculty and students.

One of the most ambitious projects that the Friends have undertaken since I became chair is supporting the transformation of the former Periodicals Room in Neilson Library into a much-needed reading room. Director of Libraries Chris Loring and the Friends are about to move into an active fund raising phase for the project, and I will write to you in more detail in April about this important initiative and how you can play a part in making it come to life.

I look forward to meeting some of you at the annual meeting on April 2nd.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Thomas '70, Chair

Commencement & Reunion Events

Saturday, May 15, at 2:30 P.M.,
Mortimer Rare Book Room.
Our annual reception honors graduating seniors who have worked in the Libraries, and welcomes returning alumnae and their guests.

Saturday, May 22, at 2:00 P.M.,
Neilson Library Circulation desk.
As part of reunion activities, we will host a tour of the Libraries' special collections, including the Mortimer Rare Book Room, the Smith College Archives and the Sophia Smith Collection. A reception will follow in the Alumnae Gym, Level A.

FSCS Executive Committee 2003-2004

Sarah E. Thomas '70, Chair
Priscilla Barlow '80
Mary Hinkel '73
Micheline E. Jedrey '71
Katharine Kyes Leab '62
Ann M. Martin '77
Cheryl Stadel-Bevans '90
Nancy C. Steeper '59
Susan von Salis '79
Arlene Colbert Wszalek '83.
Ex-Officio: Carol Christ, President,
Honorary Chair,
Christopher B. Loring, Director
of Libraries,
Carrie Cadwell, Executive Director,
Alumnae Association,
Sherrill Redmon, Coordinator of
Special Collections,
Mary Irwin, Executive Secretary.