



SMITH COLLEGE

News from the Libraries

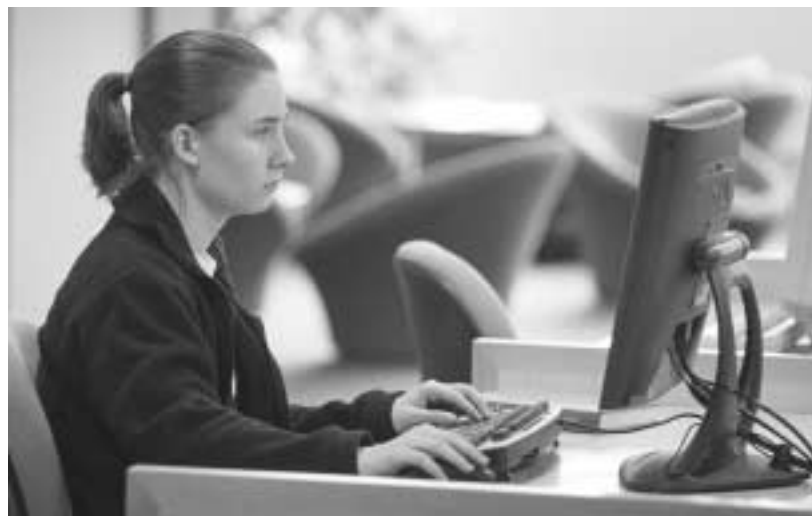
SPRING 2003

From the Director

Indulge me. Close your eyes and whisper the word “library.” What images come to mind? For me, I am transported to the library in the house of my youth and to the Boston Athenaeum, my refuge in college. I see warm rooms, comfy chairs, large tables, high ceilings, natural light, and lots of books. I feel welcomed and awed by the knowledge within.

Paradoxically, in this age of networked information, the library as a physical space is more important than ever. Last year, during our strategic planning, students and faculty resoundingly told us that great library spaces are essential; they want the same beautiful, inspiring library spaces that we conjure when we imagine libraries. We responded with this strategic direction: *The Libraries’ public spaces will be attractive, comfortable, and easy to use, and will meet the full array of user needs.*

This issue of our newsletter focuses on some of the major efforts we have undertaken to improve our physical environment. Hillyer Art Library has been renovated and transformed; we are planning to recreate a grand space in Neilson; and we have turned the core of Neilson’s third floor into a gallery. Unreported are the small, incremental steps we are continuously taking, from reupholstering furniture to adding wireless capacity for personal laptop computers. We are committed to ensuring that future students, faculty, and staff at Smith College have the library ambience they want and deserve. *Christopher Loring*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM GIPE

Courtney Baird '03 reads in the current periodicals area while Jessica Paga '05 searches art databases in the newly renovated Hillyer Art Library.

Old Space Made New: An Art Library for the 21st Century

After five years of study and construction, the newly renovated Hillyer Art Library opened to the public in the Brown Fine Arts Center on September 5. The art library occupies much the same space it did before the new fine arts center was created within the skeleton of the old, and retains a few traces of its earlier design. However, this latest Hillyer Art Library, the fourth since 1918, sets a new standard in accessibility—physical, technological, even psychological.

The original impetus for renovating the 1972 fine arts center—including the library, art department, and the Smith College Museum of Art—was to upgrade inadequate heating, air conditioning, and ventilation systems and to repair the

deteriorating exterior envelope. By 1998, however, the renovation had become something far more ambitious—a virtual reinvention of the center. Art library staff worked with a design team from Polshek Partnership Architects to create a facility that can support escalating changes in information technology and respond to evolving standards of library public services and changing patterns in library use.

Many modifications dictated by the Americans with Disabilities Act—installation of an elevator, wider stacks aisles, code-compliant (and graphically handsome) signage, and wheelchair-accessible computer workstations—make the library more pleasant and easy to use for all patrons. A new

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lighting system vastly improves visibility in the stacks and provides glare-free illumination at study tables and computer workstations.

To meet the challenges of current information technology, eight computer workstations are housed on spacious desks. They support activities—such as image research and the retrieval of electronic full-text documents—requiring large-screen, high-memory computers. Network access is not confined to this area: all levels have public computer workstations and all ninety carrel and table seats have dedicated power and data ports for personal laptops.

Other changes are most evident on the first floor, which remains the heart of the library. A sleek maple service desk integrates circulation, reserve, and reference functions and borders the staff offices and workroom. The interlocking layout of service and staff areas and liberal use of glass make all staff visible—and approachable—from public areas.

Additional first-floor amenities include new reference collection stacks—low shelving capped with maple millwork countertops that provide convenient surfaces for consulting reference sources. Built-in exhibition cases are prominently featured in the entrance. A multi-purpose room, equipped with a data-projection system, supports bibliographic instruction and image study. Current periodicals surround an inviting reading area featuring Pierre Paulin “tulip” easy chairs purchased for the 1972 facility; now design classics, they have been restored and reupholstered in a tomato red that provides a bright note amid the library’s warm white walls, gray-blue carpets, and mustard-yellow accent walls. Study areas throughout the library are furnished with oak and laminate Gunlocke furniture refinished and reupholstered with funds donated by the Friends of the Smith College Libraries.

The library’s first- and second-floor footprints have shrunk slightly, but new stacks on the cellar level bring the total area back to the original 16,200 square feet. The 100,000-volume collection has been reconfigured to maximize on-site storage capacity and make the most heavily used materials readily accessible. Library-of-Congress-classified monographs remain on the first and second floors. Bound periodicals have been moved to the new cellar stacks, which are open to the public and equipped with electronically movable compact shelving. Older, Dewey-classified monographs are kept in the Smith College Libraries’ West Street storage facility and can be paged through the libraries’ online catalog. Together, these measures give the new art library enough space to accommodate fifteen years of growth.

The art library’s architectural felicities include floor-to-ceiling glass walls on the west and south. Individual carrels

lining the perimeter enjoy the open view of Seelye Lawn. Large tables for group study are tucked into the southeast corner of the second floor and these, along with the soft seating on the first floor, share a dramatic view of College Hall. Another window wall separates the library from the newly enclosed atrium between Hillyer and Tryon Hall, providing an inviting view of the library’s first floor from this popular gathering place and cross-campus pathway. It is not the least of the glories of this new design that it truly opens the library to the campus and draws the campus into the library.

Barbara Polowy, Art Librarian

New Comfort Zone for Students and Faculty

“Architectural magic” is how architect Michael Cohen described the potential of the Neilson Library circulation workroom, which is to be converted to a new reading room. “It talks to the history of the library and illustrates the original grandeur of the building,” he added.

Last spring the college added the renovation of the workroom to the capital campaign and enlisted the Friends of the Smith College Libraries (FSCL) to assist in fundraising. The room is located opposite the

Browsing Room and mirrors the elegant structure of that popular space. This renovation is being pursued partly in response to student and faculty requests for more comfortable seating, better lighting, and more attractive public spaces. With the Browsing Room reserved primarily for seminars and lectures, students desire an inviting public space that is conducive to both quiet reading and small group discussion. The renovation is also part of a phased plan to upgrade the library’s first floor.

According to director Chris Loring, “Our intention is to transform this large room into a vibrant space,” one that can serve as a popular spot at the entrance to the library—a “meet and greet” place—but also a place for intellectual socializing. Taking advantage of the high ceiling and excellent natural light, it will contain a variety of reading materials that is yet to be determined but might include recently received books, the Burack Collection, the Multicultural Collection, and current newspapers and periodicals.

Many alumnae will remember this room as the Periodicals Room. Indeed it served this purpose from 1909, when the library first opened, until 1982 when, as part of a major renovation, the periodicals were moved to the third floor Collacott Room (named for Marjorie Oliver Collacott ’26). Since then, the former Periodicals Room has served as a workroom for the circulation department.



“Midnight Readings,” a woodcut from The Parish-side (New York: Mason Brothers, 1854).

Sarah Thomas '70, chair of the FSCL, is excited by the role the Friends will play in helping to make the renovation happen. As she recently observed, "The library at a college, especially one of the caliber of Smith College, occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of students. Restoring the reading room in Neilson Library offers the Friends of the Smith College Libraries an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to fostering the intellectual and social community of the college." For further information, please contact Mary Irwin, Office of the Friends of the Libraries (413-585-2903 mirwin@smith.edu) or Adam Siegel, Office of Advancement (413-585-2694 asiegel@smith.edu).

News from the Augean Stables

Well, "Augean Stables" may be a bit of an exaggeration, since the core area of the third floor of Neilson Library has not really been home to three thousand oxen for thirty years. But the space—an important crossroads connecting faculty offices, the magnificent Collacott Periodical Room, the newly-renovated Classics Study, the Kahn Institute offices and seminar rooms, and the Mortimer Rare Book Room—was certainly in need of some Herculean ministrations. Over the years the thoroughfare had become congested with rows of microfilm cabinets and ranks of stacks holding the current newspaper collection. Bewilderment and disorientation greeted the hundreds of daily visitors to the third floor upon debouching from stairwell or elevator.

The radically reorganized area, now known as the Book Arts Gallery, returns the space to its original function as crossroads or, perhaps even more picturesquely, as *piazza*: an easily-navigable thoroughfare, yes, but with much to entice passersby as well. After relocating the microfilm and newspaper collections, the space became the home of thirteen beautiful new exhibition cases, the generous gift of Ruth and Spencer Timm. With the enhancements of the lighting and a picture-hanging system, this gallery has showcased not only library materials, but also artworks. In addition, the gallery has been outfitted with ensembles of comfortable seating and study tables, allowing students several environments for prolonged study. The monumental rubbing of the famous inscription on the Column of Trajan in Rome, acquired for the college by Elliot Offner, graces one of the side walls. *Armillary Sphere*, a metal sculpture by Elfriede Abbe, provides the focal point of the Book Arts Gallery.

Recently, too, the Mortimer Rare Book Room has increased its presence on the third floor by building an attractive vestibule and exhibition space at its entryway, beautifully marking its location and giving passersby an inviting glimpse into the interior of the reading room with all its treasures. We have also spilled outside of our boundaries and installed an early nineteenth-century iron handpress and metal type in the adjacent hallway for demonstrations of historical printing techniques.

Martin Antonetti, Curator of Rare Books

Staff News

Martin Antonetti, curator of rare books, has been elected president of the American Printing History Association. He gave a joint paper with Véronique Plesch on the artist's books of Lucie Lambert at the International Association of Word and Image Studies Conference in Hamburg, Germany, in July. Also, this fall he accompanied a group of alumnae on a tour of the Veneto province of northern Italy and the Illyrian coast, sponsored by the Alumnae Association of Smith College. Antonetti is currently involved in organizing a visit by New York's prestigious Grolier Club to the libraries of western Massachusetts in March 2003. In September **Joyce Follet** and **Amy Hague** participated in "Headwaters: The Past and Future of Women's History." The conference marked the twentieth anniversary of the pioneering Ph.D. program in women's history that Professor Gerda Lerner established at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Follet and Hague were members of the first class to enter the program. This spring Follet is teaching "Women's History Through Documentary." She was also awarded a grant from the Schlesinger Library to research second-wave feminism. Amy Hague wrote the entry for Margaret Storrs Grierson for the next edition of *Notable American Women*. This spring **Kathleen Banks Nutter** will be teaching "Women and Work in 20th-Century America" as well as two upper level U.S. history courses online through the University of Maryland. In addition, she wrote the entry for Jessie Lloyd O'Connor for *Notable American Women*. **Rocco Piccinino** co-organized the program, "Getting Beyond Google: How Science Students Find Information and What We Can Do to Help" for the 2002 annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA) in Atlanta, Georgia. This year Piccinino will serve a seventh term as chair of the Boston chapter of the Special Libraries Association's western outreach program. In December **Sherrill Redmon** participated on a panel at the Radcliffe Institute. Redmon's panel focused on the ways women's research centers attempt to influence public policy. In May reference librarian **Pamela Skinner** made a presentation to regional library directors at the NELINET annual meeting. In a session on library productivity solutions, she described Smith's selection and implementation of ILLiad software in interlibrary loan. In August **Nanci Young** presented the paper "'Such unhappy events are naturally of concern. . .': The Affair of 1960 revisited in 2001 at Smith College" at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Young's panel discussed the difficulty of documenting controversy and scandal at colleges and universities. **Kate Weigand** edited a symposium consisting of talks given by the speakers at the Sophia Smith Collection's 1999 conference "Agents of Social Change: Celebrating Progressive Women's Activism Across the 20th Century." The symposium appeared in the summer 2002 issue of the *Journal of Women's History*, which also includes an article by Kathleen Banks Nutter. This spring Weigand is teaching "The United States Since 1890."

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The following selections of exciting new acquisitions—both purchases and gifts—are described by the various curators of special collections and the branch libraries.



Gardenia Rose, a charcoal drawing by Lilian Westcott Hale (1912). Hale donated her image to the Red Cross to reproduce as a Christmas card during World War I. Additional Hale Family Papers, as well as images from the Bodman, Dunham, and Garrison Family Papers, may be viewed at Across the Generations: Exploring U.S. History through Family Papers, an online exhibit available on the Sophia Smith Collection's website: www.smith.edu/libraries/libsscl/atg

Mortimer Rare Book Room

Two star pieces were added to Smith College's extraordinary Bloomsbury Collection this year: an original letter from Virginia Woolf to Vita Sackville-West and the Hogarth Press edition of *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot. Virginia Woolf set the type for *The Waste Land* in 1923. This handsome volume, bound in blue marbled paper boards with a printed label bordered in asterisks on the cover, is one of 460 copies hand-printed by Leonard and Virginia Woolf at the Hogarth Press. From the time of its inception in 1917 until Leonard Woolf sold the Press in 1946, only 34 of the 525 Hogarth Press publications were printed by hand. *The Waste Land* has become the iconic volume produced by the Hogarth Press and an instantly recognizable emblem of high modernist verse.

Four handwritten letters from Virginia Woolf to her lover, Vita Sackville-West, were recently discovered in a secret drawer of Vita's ancient oak writing table at Sissinghurst Castle. The Mortimer Rare Book Room purchased the fourth letter from this cache. Written on February 26, 1939, Woolf's letter describes the beauty of life: "I like Hampton

Court in the sun—Chaucer and so on." It also comments on a wide range of subjects, from German refugees to the perils of traveling by automobile and airplane. The proceeds from the sale of this letter to Smith College will be donated by its former owner to the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain. The Society is currently raising funds to erect a bust of Virginia Woolf in Tavistock Square. It will be a sister bronze of the bust by Stephen Tomlin in the Mortimer Rare Book Room. Smith College will be publicly acknowledged at the unveiling ceremony in London.

Ann Safford Mandel '53, the Elizabeth Power Richardson '43 Fund, and the William Salloch Rare Book Fund made these purchases possible.

College Archives

The College Archives continues to expand and deepen its holdings relating to the life of the college. Records of the music department from 1918-1990, including files of the New Valley Music Press, were transferred to the archives in July 2002. The files include minutes of departmental meetings, biographical information about faculty, copies of programs, and general office files. Records of the New Valley Music Press document the creation of the Press in the early 1940s and the publications resulting from its creation.

The College Archives is in the process of recreating Sophia Smith's original library. *Comprehensive View of the Leading and Most Important Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion* by Reverend Samuel Stanhope Smith (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Deare & Meyer, 1815) and *Enoch Arden* by Alfred Tennyson (Boston: Ticknor & Fields, 1864), with handwriting of Sophia Smith on the flyleaf, were added this year.

An unknown donor contributed banners created for a peace demonstration on campus in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Three notebooks of Mary Ellen Chase, with manuscripts for *The White Gate* (1954) and *The Plum Tree* (1949), were discovered in the Smith College Infirmary and transferred to Chase's papers in the College Archives.

Sophia Smith Collection

The Sophia Smith Collection (SSC) is pleased to report that two distinguished social workers have placed their papers in its Social Work Archives (SWA). The SWA is a collaborative venture of the SSC, the Smith College Archives, and the Smith College School for Social Work (SCSSW). The Social Work Archives is charged with documenting the history of clinical social work in the United States and the growth of social work studies at Smith College.

Howard Parad, an experienced caseworker and professor of social work, served as dean of the SCSSW from 1956 to 1971. He founded the SWA in collaboration with SCSSW

executive secretary and registrar Elizabeth C. Johnson and was instrumental in acquiring two of its most important collections: the papers of Mary Cromwell Jarrett, SCSSW founder, and Bertha Capen Reynolds, former SCSSW dean. From Smith, Parad joined the faculty of the University of Southern California School of Social Work, from which he retired in 1988. Parad's papers, thus far, include 3.5 linear feet of materials pertaining to his career as a practitioner and teacher of clinical social work, in which he specialized in "time-limited" crisis intervention.

Clinical social worker Lynn Hoffman has been at the cutting edge of trends in the field of family therapy. Her clinical technique evolved from an "instrumental, causal approach to a collaborative, communal one . . . toward a more open, more mutual, and less controlling style," an innovative methodology that has become standard practice. Her most recent book, *Family Therapy: An Intimate History* (2002), chronicles the cases which most influenced her understanding of family dynamics. Although officially retired, Hoffman frequently teaches family therapy workshops in Europe. The first installment of her papers consists of 12 linear feet of correspondence, writings, and professional files.

Werner Josten Library

Suriname, on the northeast coast of South America, is a country inhabited by many different ethnic groups. These include Native Americans, Maroons (descendants of escaped African slaves imported by white owners), Creoles, Hindustanis, Javanese, and Chinese. In support of Smith's growing ethnomusicology program, the Werner Josten Library has acquired the microfiche collection *Music and Dance in Surinam*, a collection of source material selected from 4,000 publications examined by the editors, Claartje Gieben and Jan Ijzermans. Publication dates of these sources cover several centuries. The original sources are scarce, widely dispersed, and often ephemeral. Mostly written in English, these "extracts" include 6,000 pages of text and 369 illustrations from 481 publications. Sixty of these publications have music or dance as explicit subjects. These sources include works on ethnography, descriptions of the country and its peoples, accounts of journeys and expeditions, novels, catalogs, books of photographs, almanacs, missionaries' reports, and publications and archival material in the fields of history, the social sciences, and economics.

Young Science Library

The Young Science Library continues to add significant holdings of Web-accessible electronic journals with the acquisition of about 340 science, technology, and medical titles published by Wiley Interscience. This acquisition enhances our holdings of important research literature in the areas of chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering, life and medical sciences, mathematics and statistics, physics, and psychology, among other fields. Some of the new titles available include the *American Journal of Human Biology*, *Angewandte Chemie*, *Depression and Anxiety*, *Environmental Toxicology*, *Gene Function and Disease*, *International Journal of Climatology*, *Journal of Neuroscience Research*, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, *Mathematische Nachrichten*, *Proteomics*, and *Zoo Biology*. All journals are accessible from the libraries' electronic journal locator (www4.tdnet.com/5colleges) or directly from Wiley's website (www3.interscience.wiley.com/about.html). Users can view tables of contents and abstracts, search by subject, and link to many related articles. Wiley also provides an "early view" service that posts articles as soon as they are ready for publication. In addition, a mobile computing option is available so that users can download tables of contents and abstracts from select Wiley publications onto their Palm Pilots. Full-text coverage of this Wiley electronic journal package starts in 1997.

Hillyer Art Library

The Kennedy Endowment for Renaissance Studies has presented the art library with a copy of *Il Messale Borgia=Borgia Missal* (Firenze: Vallecchi, 2001) in memory of Phyllis Pray Bober (1920–2002), who during the fall 2000 semester served as Kennedy Professor at Smith College. The first publication of the late fifteenth-century parchment codex, this fastidious facsimile presents every detail of the original in its actual size. Even the binding—thick boards covered with stamped leather and decorated with metal fore-edge clasps—is reproduced. The missal was commissioned in 1492 by Cardinal Giovanni Borgia in Naples and was completed by 1494. Its binding,



An image from *Madman's Drum*, a novel in woodcuts by Lynd Ward (New York, 1930), one of 132 books recently presented to the Mortimer Rare Book Room by Rosemary O'Connell Offner '53 and Elliot Offner, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Art.

stamped with the Medici shield, dates from around 1527, shortly before the volume was sent to Abruzzo as a gift from Archbishop Guido dei Medici. It remains in Abruzzo to this day. The texts are written in black ink punctuated by 625

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES

Commencement & Reunion Events

The Friends' commencement reception will take place on Saturday, May 17, at 2:30 P.M. in the Mortimer Rare Book Room. This annual event honors graduating seniors who have worked in the libraries and welcomes returning alumnae and their guests.

On Saturday, May 24, at 2:00 P.M. as part of reunion weekend activities, the Friends will host a tour of the libraries' special collections, including the Mortimer Rare Book Room, the Smith College Archives, and the Sophia Smith Collection. This is a special opportunity to learn about the collections and view artifacts and exhibits. A reception will follow in the Alumnae Gymnasium, Level A at 3:30 P.M.

Committee News

Recently appointed to serve on the FSCL executive committee are **Ann Martin '77**, author of the Babysitter's Club series for young readers, and **Arlene Colbert Wszalek '83**, editor and publisher of *Swirl Wine News*.

The books and prints of committee member **Enid Mark '54** are featured in an exhibition, *Collaborations: Enid Mark and the ELM Press*, from January 23-March 13, 2003, at the

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. One of Mark's "collaborators," bookbinder and Mortimer Rare Book Room book arts specialist **Barbara B. Blumenthal '75** is also highlighted in the exhibition. Enid Mark will publish a limited-edition broadside at the ELM Press for the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf.

Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting on Friday, April 25, 2003, will focus on the newly renovated Hillyer Art Library. "Form and Function in Library Design: The Rededication of the Hillyer Art Library" will begin in Graham Hall, Brown Fine Arts Center, at 2:00 P.M. The guest speakers will include Sarah Thomas '70, who is the university librarian at Cornell University and serves as chair of the FSCL, and Susan T. Rodriguez of Polshek Partnership Architects, one of the two principle architects who designed the Brown Fine Arts Center. Dr. Thomas will discuss "A Visual Tour of Academic Library Buildings in the Information Age," and Ms. Rodriguez will address "Information Space." The rededication program will be followed by a tour of the art library and a reception in the new atrium. The rededication program is part of the grand re-opening of the Brown Fine Arts Center.

EXHIBITS

The Image of Language: Lexicographica from the Mortimer Rare Book Room (Morgan Gallery & Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, March through April). Curated by Laurel Damashek '04.

Rare Silk, Rare Books (Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, March through April). Shown in conjunction with the Northampton Silk Project's symposium "Silk Unraveled," held at Smith College, March 26-28.

The Making of Terror's Children (Book Arts Gallery, March 24 through April 30). Photographs from the documentary film *Terror's Children*, produced by Kahn Fellow Sharmeen Obaid '02]. The film will be shown on April 11, at 7:30 P.M. in McConnell Auditorium.

"The Politics of Mind": Writing on Woolf, Teaching Woolf (Alumnae Gym, April through August). An exhibit featuring material from the Carolyn Heilbrun Papers, Sophia Smith Collection, and the papers of various Smith College faculty members in the Smith College Archives.

Woolf in the World: A Pen and a Press of Her Own (Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, May through August). A major exhibition of Virginia Woolf's manuscripts and Hogarth Press first editions from the Frances Hooper '14 and Elizabeth Power Richardson '43 collections in the Mortimer Rare Book Room.

RELATED WOOLF EXHIBITIONS:

A Story of Their Own: Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, and Gloria Steinem (Morgan Gallery, Neilson Library, May through August). Using original manuscripts and published biographies, this exhibition examines the various ways women's lives are portrayed.

"Her Novels Make Mine Possible": Virginia Woolf's Influence on Sylvia Plath (Mortimer Rare Book Room, Neilson Library, May through August). Curated by Amanda Golden, M.A., University of Massachusetts. *Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury* (Hillyer Art Library, May through August). This exhibition includes Virginia Woolf's publications about art and original drawings by Bloomsbury artists, including Woolf's sister, Vanessa Bell. *Vanessa Bell and Bloomsbury* (Smith College Museum of Art, May 13 through June 15). An exhibition of the museum's paintings by Vanessa Bell, including a portrait of Virginia Woolf, recently donated by Ann Safford Mandel '53. Loaned pieces include Virginia Woolf's writing desk. *Virginia Woolf: A Botanical Perspective* (Church Exhibition Gallery, Lyman Plant House, May through September). This installation features botanical descriptions from the novels of Virginia Woolf and showcases the gardens and botanical artwork of Woolf's family and friends.

Friends Events

An afternoon of Scottish poetry and song is on the slate for Thursday, February 27, 2003, beginning at 4:30 P.M. in the Neilson Browsing Room. "A Celebration of Robert Burns: Manuscripts, Poetry, and Song" will mark the acquisition of the exquisite McCurdy collection of Burns materials by the Mortimer Rare Book Room. Ann Boutelle, a native of Scotland and English department lecturer, will read and comment on Burns poetry, while music department professor and soprano Jane Bryden will present a sampling of Burns melodies accompanied by Clifton J. Noble, Jr. on guitar. Curator of Rare Books Martin Antonetti will introduce the program. A reception and viewing of the manuscripts will follow in the Book Arts Gallery on the third floor of Neilson Library

Other Events

British printing historian Roderick Cave will deliver the 2003 McGrath Lecture in the Mortimer Rare Book Room on April 22 at 4 P.M. Cave's talk, "Darwin and the Duodecimo: Natural Selection and Books," will review the ways in which we in the West have arrived at our notions of what books ought to be and provides thought-provoking observations for the design of the book of the future.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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decorative initial letters, many spilling out into the page margins. Wide gold-leaf bands embellished with exuberant plant, animal, and insects motifs and small scenic miniatures frame the opening folios of each main division of the text. The facsimile is accompanied by a volume of essays on the history of the manuscript, its religious and paleographic aspects, and the nature of sixteenth-century patronage.



Lithograph of Loch Awe in Scotland from Vues pittoresques de l'Ecosse by F. A. Pernot (Paris: Charles Gosselin et Lami-Denoizan, 1826).

William Allan Neilson Library

With the acquisition of ProQuest's *Early English Books Online* (EEBO), the Smith College Libraries now offer a rich array of books published between 1475 and 1700. When complete the database will contain over 125,000 full-text titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave's *Short-Title Catalogue* (1475–1640), Wing's *Short-Title Catalogue* (1641–1700), and the *Thomason Tracts* (1640–1661). These volumes are of interest to those studying history, literature, music, art, science, government, economics, women's studies, and many other fields. Although not replacing the need to use the original sources, this database provides unprecedented access to the full image of primary texts, many of which could previously be viewed only on microform. Furthermore, users may search for books by title, subject, date, author, and many other parameters. To access EEBO, search in the libraries' online catalog (fclibr.library.umass.edu) under *Early English Books Online* and click on the "connect from Smith" link.



SHOW **YOUR** SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARIES BY JOINING THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARIES. Your *tax-deductible* gift will help us purchase books and other materials, and enhance the services we offer the college community. Members of the Friends receive *News from the Libraries* and *Imposing Evidence*, as well as invitations to special events. New members at the basic rates receive a complimentary set of archival postcards while donors at the Contributor level and above will have a book plated in their honor. The following levels went into effect on July 1, 2002 for all Smith College Friends groups.

Membership Levels:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Recent Alumnae/Students | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Contributor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 Sustainer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 Champion |

My/our company will match the gift.

I wish to make my gift in honor/in memory of _____

Name _____ Class _____ (if alumna)

Address _____

Please make your check payable to the Friends of the Smith College Libraries and mail to the FSCL Office, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063 or, if you prefer, enroll online at www.smith.edu/friends.

Woolf Watch

Smith College will host the Thirteenth Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf on June 5-8. A pantheon of plenary speakers will include Carol T. Christ, Jill Ker Conway, Frances Spalding, Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Hermione Lee, and Carolyn Heilbrun (interviewed by Provost Susan C. Bourque). Over one hundred conference papers will focus on Woolf's multifaceted life and career as a writer, journalist, teacher, and publisher at the Hogarth Press and will also examine how Woolf continues to influence young writers, feminists, and publishers today. Neilson Library will be the central meeting place of the conference. The college's rich collections of Woolf and Bloomsbury materials will be on display. (See page 6 for a complete listing.)

Many exciting events and courses related to the conference have been planned. Robert E. Hosmer, Jr. teaches an advanced seminar on Virginia Woolf each spring for the English department. This year Hosmer will also offer a special studies course, "Woolf in the Real World," which will allow students to participate in the conference.

There will also be a public lecture series, *Woolf in the Valley*. It will include "Shakespeare and Virginia Woolf," a seminar led by Hampshire College associate professor L. Brown Kennedy in the Renaissance Center, Amherst, March 6, 4 P.M.; "The Company of Books: The Women of the Hampshire Bookshop," a lecture by University of North Carolina professor Barbara Brannon in the Mortimer Rare Book Room, March 13, 4 P.M.; and "A Celebration of Valley Feminists," a panel discussion moderated by Dean Lee Edwards from the University of Massachusetts in the Neilson Browsing Room, April 4, 4 P.M.

"Virginia Woolf in Place and Time" will be one offering at Alumnae College this spring on May 16 and May 23. Faculty speakers will include Elizabeth von Klemperer,



VIRGINIA WOOLF, 1927



VIRGINIA WOOLF, 1923

Robert E. Hosmer, Jr., Cornelia Pearsall, and Ann Leone. Alumnae presenters will include Marilyn Bender Altschul '44 and Ann Pflaum '63.

Anticipating the conference, Jan Freeman's Paris Press, a nonprofit publishing house in Ashfield, Massachusetts, issued a new edition of Woolf's essay *On Being Ill*, which includes an introduction by biographer Hermione Lee. The original Hogarth Press edition was published in 1930 and is long out of print as a separate essay. Vanessa Bell's original dust jacket design has been reproduced for the new trade edition (seen below). Deluxe copies, printed in letterpress by Michael Russem and bound by Claudia Cohen, will raise funds for the Paris Press, which is devoted to publishing neglected literature by women writers. For more information: www.parispress.org.

The Woolf conference and many of these special events are co-sponsored by the Friends of the Smith College Libraries, the Ruth Mortimer Rare Book Fund, and many additional campus departments. For more information: www.smith.edu/woolfconference.

News from the Libraries

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