



SMITH COLLEGE

News from the Libraries

SPRING 2004

From the Director

Bones, beads, shards, coins, seals—in my first career as an archaeologist I knew what *primary source* materials were. When I became a librarian, my understanding of the breadth and depth of primary sources deepened. I have to confess, however, that I don't recall hearing the phrase or learning of the concept when I was an undergraduate, oh so many years ago.

At Smith, I am happy to say, primary source materials are essential elements of our collection and of what we teach. Smith College has a wide variety of primary sources, ranging from those that we have purchased over the years, to digital collections we license now, to our superb archival collections.

This issue of the *News from the Libraries* focuses on primary sources: what they are, what we have, and how we provide access to them. They range from manuscripts and incunabula held in the Mortimer Rare Book Room to digital image collections. Presenting these resources to the students and faculty takes teamwork, both within the libraries and with our partners on campus, such as the Imaging Center.

As you read this issue of the *News*, I think you will discover what we know, that our primary sources in the Smith College Libraries are truly spectacular.

Christopher Loring



A British flower garden from Humphry Repton's Observations on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening (London, 1803). The volume is described on page 4.

A Primary Source Primer

The very mention of primary sources conjures up images of parchment and illuminated manuscripts. Rare and unique materials within our special collections—letters, photographs, manuscripts, organizational records, diaries, and artifacts—are irreplaceable, or, in the case of rare books, replaceable only at great cost and with limited availability. Yet thousands of primary sources also reside within the general collections of the libraries, in formats that range from paper to the ether of the Internet.

Primary sources are created in the course of an event, a person's life, or an organization's work. They are first hand accounts, undiluted by subsequent views and events; indeed, primary sources can provide richer, more complex perspectives to later events. A diary, journal, or correspondence reflects the life, and often the times, of a particular individual. An organization records its interests and activities during a specific time, by keeping minutes of meetings or generating reports. This newsletter is a primary source reflecting the activities and interests of the Smith College Libraries in the spring of 2004.

A key element of a vigorous liberal arts education is knowing how a discipline is constituted. Primary sources provide the foundation of any discipline. Students undertaking research with primary sources have the unique opportunity to understand, interpret, and respond to documents in an immediate and singular way. They can apply their critical thinking to the source material and arrive at wholly new views. With the resources of the special collections, students have access to primary source materials generally available to graduate students only. Across the libraries, primary research is an integral part of information literacy, a program designed to provide conceptual and information skills to students.

Primary sources in a general collection may be issued in print, microfilm, or other formats (film, video, digital) and may be historical or contemporary. Examples include published sets of pamphlets, organizational and government reports, laws, treaties, congress-

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FIVE COLLEGE ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPT DATABASE

There are over eight hundred collections of manuscripts and archives in the Smith College Libraries. Laid side by side, these manuscripts measure over fourteen thousand feet or nearly three miles! They include a collection of 370 cuneiform tablets dating back to 2700 B.C. to drafts of recent memoirs by Jill Ker Conway. Many of these unique resources have been integrated into the curriculum; special collections staff present over one hundred lectures to classes each year. But greater access to the manuscript collections is now possible because of the Five College Finding Aids Access Project.

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this three-year project, directed by Kelcy Shepherd, has successfully cataloged and published finding aids for most of the manuscript collections at Smith, Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Undergraduates who search the online catalog (fclibr.library.umass.edu) encounter records for manuscripts as well as books. These records, many of which were prepared by project cataloger Melvin Carlson, Jr., also link students to the *Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections* database (asteria.fivecolleges.edu), a union catalog of finding aids on the Web. These finding aids describe manuscript collections in greater detail. A typical finding aid includes a biographical or historical note, a prose description of the manuscripts represented in a collection, and a detailed list of contents. Approximately one thousand finding aids will be represented in the database when the project is completed this spring. Special collections staff will continue to process and catalog manuscript collections and add finding aids to the database in years to come.

The Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections database changes the way undergraduates and scholars do primary research. The entire database may be searched by keyword, name, date, or subject. Any search engine is also able to navigate the database. Students who study the art of the book, for example, may conduct a simple Google search on the Internet for “book designers” and encounter the finding aid for the George Salter Papers, which are housed in the Mortimer Rare Book Room. Salter immigrated to the United States from Nazi Germany in 1934 and worked in New York for the leading publishing houses as a freelance book jacket designer and illustrator. Many of Salter’s commissions during the early 1950s helped to finance his daughter’s education at Smith College. After her father’s death in 1967, Janet Salter Rosenberg ’54 donated her father’s papers to Smith. Three years ago, Marit

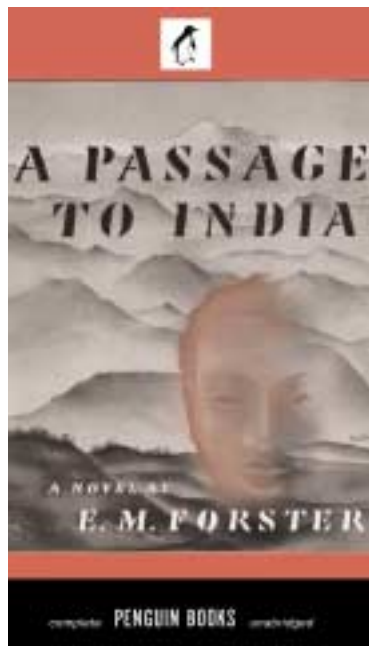
Cranmer, a graduate intern from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island, processed the George Salter Papers. Her finding aid is now available online in the database. Cranmer will be invited back to campus this spring to curate an exhibition of original designs by George Salter, which will be on display in May during Mrs. Rosenberg’s fiftieth reunion. New research is often generated because of the greater visibility of collections on the database. Next fall, for example, Thomas S. Hansen, a professor of German from Wellesley College, will publish his biography *George Salter: Odyssey of a Book Designer* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2004).

In addition to enhancing research, the *Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections* database enriches class instruction. For example, every year students from Susan Allen’s course, Introduction to Archaeology, use the papers of Harriet Boyd Hawes, class of 1892 and professor of Greek at Smith between 1901 and 1906. The Hawes Papers, which are located in the Smith College Archives, contain letters, journals, diaries, publications, and photographs documenting her educational and professional experiences at Smith; excavation work on the island of Crete at the turn of the nineteenth century; and volunteer nursing work during the Greco-Turkish War and with the Smith College Relief Unit in France after World War I. Students review the Hawes Papers using the online finding aid and write about their discoveries. Allen likens the experience of handling the originals to those skills that good archaeologists need: the ability to sift through many layers of materials; the patience to piece together from disparate sources information about a person, place, or topic; and strong analytical skills to identify and contextualize the findings.

Each section of special collections has a separate list of finding aids in the *Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections* database. Even a cursory look at the extensive list from the Sophia Smith Collection will impress any women’s history scholar. From the personal papers of political activist Gloria Steinem to the organizational records

of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, every aspect of women’s lives is documented.

Special collections and public services staffs have been inundated with research queries since the database went live this past fall. Help pages, developed by Molly Hazelt, an intern from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, answer basic questions about finding aids and how to search the database. For additional information see asteria.fivecolleges.edu.



A book jacket design by George Salter, whose papers are described in the Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections database.

Insight on *Insight*: The Smith College Image Database

Imagine having a late-night debate in your house. You are deep in discussion about how the politics of multiculturalism and difference are evidenced in contemporary art. Several powerful images that you saw in class would really drive your point home, but you are hard-pressed to describe them to your friends. Fortunately, you have 24/7-online access to Smith's *Insight* Image database. With just a few clicks, a particularly striking image of an Iranian political poster illustrates your point. Today, Smith students are experiencing a new type of learning made possible by the integration of digital imaging technology in classrooms, labs, libraries, and even dorm rooms.

The virtual nexus for teaching and learning with images at Smith is the Luna *Insight* database. Building on the Art Department's mission to "promote the meaningful integration of the visual world into the intellectual and creative life of Smith students," the *Insight* database is a collaborative project of the department and Educational Technology Services, in alliance with the Smith College Libraries. The new Imaging Center on the third floor of the Brown Fine Arts Center, Hillyer Hall is the focal point of activity for faculty, students, and staff working with images.

The *Insight* database is a digital library of high quality images packaged with a powerful presentation tool that works like a digital slide carousel. It allows teachers to select and save groups of images along with associated descriptive data for lectures and study. Special annotations, image details, side-by-side comparisons, and embedded website links are just a few of the features of *Insight*. In addition to offering the opportunity for a more dynamic lecture, presentations can also be saved and shared online with students.

Upon opening the *Insight* database, users are offered a virtual buffet of images specially tailored to the Smith curriculum across the disciplines. Beginning with the inclusion of images from Smith's own collections (e.g., from the Art Department, Smith College Museum of Art, and the Mortimer Rare Book Room), the digital library has expanded to over 150,000 images through licensing arrangements. One outstanding resource is the AMICO Library of images from over forty major museums and cultural institutions. Imagine being able to zoom in on the marvelous brush strokes of a painting like Vincent van Gogh's *Iris*es owned by the J. Paul Getty Museum. The content of *Insight* will increase three-fold this spring when Smith participates in the Mellon ARTstor beta test (described by Barbara Polowy on page 4).

Not surprisingly, the Art Department has led the way in the use of digital images in the classroom. The extensive

roster of classes enhanced by digital imaging includes: Introduction to Art History; Islamic Art and Architecture; Art since the 1960s; and Drawing I and II. Given the importance of visual literacy in our contemporary world, coupled with Smith's commitment to provide a complete liberal arts education, the use of digital images has expanded to all three divisions of the academic program. Courses such as Persuasion and Belief: Iranian Art, Propaganda, Film; Classical Mythology; Animal Behavior; Contemporary Literary Theory; and Mary: Images and Cults are just a few examples of how teaching with technology is changing the culture of Smith's academic environment.

One such change is the fact that technology allows for deeper engagement and collaboration across disciplines and communities. For example, working with engineering faculty member Andrew Guswa, the imaging staff is creating a complete digital course for Structures and the Built

Environment. The course consists of fourteen hundred 35 mm slides created by a Princeton University professor from whom we have received permission to digitize. With this work, the catalogers have developed an enhanced set of keywords that reflect the engineering perspective and help users search for the images. For example, the word "structures" was added to "architecture" since engineers think about the built environment in a different way than art historians. An engineering work-study student is working closely with the staff and with Guswa on every aspect of the project. Empowering students to

incorporate images into their work by giving them the tools and skill sets they need remains a central goal of the digital imaging initiative.

"Without image, thinking is impossible," noted Aristotle. The *Insight* image database offers Smith students and faculty an innovative approach to seeing and thinking.

The *Insight* database is accessible on the Smith campus only at public stations in the Smith College Libraries and at labs across campus. Expanded service and facilities are available in the Brown Fine Arts Center. Room 119 of Hillyer Art Library has two workstations with digital projection capabilities. Students may reserve the room for group study. Room 326 in the Imaging Center has a staffed digital image development lab for faculty and students who want to incorporate digital imaging into classroom lectures and projects. For complete information about *Insight* see the website (www.smith.edu/insight).

Elisa Lanzi, Director of Image Collections



This chromolithograph by William Sharp of Victoria amazonica is the most recent contribution to the Luna Insight database from the library. The original illustration appears in John Fisk Allen's Victoria Regia, or, The Great Water Lily of America (Boston, 1854).

NEWS & RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A digest of news and noteworthy acquisitions—both purchases and gifts—are described by the Smith College Libraries' curators and branch librarians.

ARTstor at Hillyer

Smith College is one of fourteen beta-test sites for ARTstor, a nonprofit project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation “to enable the use of digital technology to enhance scholarship, teaching and learning in the visual arts and associated fields.” Expected to eventually include millions of images and their related documentation, ARTstor currently includes nearly 300,000 digital images, from standard art history survey material to specialized collections that document the design and architecture collections of New York's Museum of Modern Art; works associated with the Buddhist cave shrines in Dunhuang, China; the “Illustrated Bartsch,” a collection of European old master prints; and other areas.

Developed as an educational tool, ARTstor restricts the use of its images to “non-commercial pedagogical and scholarly purposes” such as classroom presentations by faculty and students, course reserves, study materials, and student papers and other research documents. ARTstor's Web-browsing software allows users to search collections, examine works in great detail, create and save groups of images for personal or instructional use, and perform other functions.

The Smith beta-test team includes visual communication specialist Daniel Bridgman, digital image cataloger Jolene de Verges, director of image collections Elisa Lanzi, and art librarian Barbara Polowy. They and the other beta-test teams are assessing the quality of ARTstor images and their documentation, the scope of the collections, and its interface usability and functionality and network performance. The Smith team is also investigating ARTstor's interoperability with the Luna *Insight* system, the college's existing image database and presentation system. Luna *Insight* provides access to more than 150,000 images and data from both in-house and commercial sources and is used for classroom instruction, image study, and research (described on page 3).

ARTstor will be accessible throughout the Smith campus this spring, integrated into *Insight* classroom presentations and image study groups. Its browser interface will also be available through the Smith College website for reference and research use. More information about ARTstor is available at www.artstor.org.

Mortimer Rare Book Room

Once again proving the old adage that three purses are better than one, the libraries have recently made a spectacular new acquisition by pooling the resources of several campus groups. When a copy of the first edition of Humphry Repton's *Observations on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (London, 1803) surfaced in November, the excited Mortimer Rare Book Room staff alerted professor Ann Leone, director of the landscape studies program, and Michael Marcotrigiano, director of the botanic garden, that one of the cornerstones in

the history of gardening literature was within grasp. Repton's *Observations* had long been sought by the Mortimer Rare Book Room not only as a foundational work that would be useful to a variety of disciplines, especially the fledgling Landscape Studies Program, but also as an artifact that would link its already well-developed collections in botany, materia medica, and architecture. Copies on the antiquarian book market are scarce, but swift and purposeful cross-disciplinary collaboration ensued, and the quarry was ours.

Among the many illustrations found in the *Observations* is the famous series of fourteen before-and-after aquatint views with movable overslips that fold back to show Repton's proposed transformations of gardens and parks (“What God would have done if he had had the money,” according to a contemporary wag). The text includes both long quotations from his manuscript “Red Books,” many of which are now utterly lost, as well as his evaluations of “Capability” Brown, Uvedale Price, and other early English landscape gardeners. Repton ultimately abandoned Brown's strict formalism in favor of the more naturalistic style of ornamentation we associate with English country houses today. Nina James, the Mellon Fellow in landscape studies, comments: “The Repton will be an incredible teaching tool as it illustrates this most significant shift in the history of landscape gardening.”

In addition, the Mortimer Rare Book Room was especially excited to welcome another collection that promises to have an impact on several areas of the curriculum. This fall we received a gift of over seventy books from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries recounting travels and archaeological expeditions through Greece and the Levant. The deposit from Joanne Heffelfinger of San Francisco, made in memory of Virginia R. Annan Callery '23, richly documents western European contacts with the eastern Mediterranean in an era when the region was rife with religious, political, and social tension. Taken as a whole, the collection helps us understand Christian European attitudes toward the Turkish Ottoman culture that formed the foundation of today's Middle East. Among the gems in the collection are J. C. Hobbouse's *Journey through Albania and Other Provinces of Turkey in Europe and Asia* (London, 1813), Le Brun's profusely illustrated *Voyage au Levant* (Rouen, 1725), the magnificent *Antiquities of Ionia* (London, 1821) compiled by the Society of Dilettanti in three folio volumes, and George Wheler's early *Journey into Greece* (London, 1682).

College Archives

In 1932 a film camera accompanied the students of the Smith College Geology Department on their expedition to the Black Hills of South Dakota. The College Archives has recently acquired a second copy of this film through the good efforts of John B. Brady, Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor of Geology. The black-and-white silent film chronicles the activ-

ities of the students, which included hunting for fossils in the Badlands, mapping Spearfish Canyon, and exploring their home base in Deadwood, South Dakota. During this expedition, the students made an important discovery of a rich trilobite zone in Deadwood. A DVD copy of the film is now available for public use.

A large cache of over three hundred autograph letters, written between 1889 and 1907, were recently donated to the Smith College Archives. They were the gift of a private donor, who purchased the letters on eBay. The letters were written by more than two-dozen students and housemates of Helen Rachel Williams, class of 1892, a Smith undergraduate living in Washburn House. They chronicle student life on the Smith campus in the 1890s. Many of the letters provide insight into campus activities, including letters about football, elections, hypnotism, crushes, Valentine's Day, room descriptions, and evening "spreads."

Sophia Smith Collection

The Sophia Smith Collection is the fortunate beneficiary of three new funds that help address key needs of Smith's internationally renowned women's history collection. The largest fund ever to benefit the collection is named for its donor, Frances Garber Pepper '62. Coming from a family of path-breaking women activists, Francie has long been a strong supporter of and believer in the work of the collection. Interest from the Pepper Fund will help support staffing. The Bain Scholars' Program Fund is the second fund established for the SSC by archivist and Cambridge cultural leader Caroline Dwight Bain '44. It will provide travel stipends to researchers using the collection. The Anne Morrow Lindbergh Fund—a final gift from the estate of Mrs. Lindbergh '28—will be used to help process her papers.

Werner Josten Library

In January, the Werner Josten Library instituted a subscription to Classical.com, the first streaming classical music service for libraries. The subscription enables listening at the Smith College Libraries and on some off-site computers connected to the Internet. It is our intention to use Classical.com as a pilot project to deliver audio reserves to select music classes. All the available music is legal and fully licensed for both streaming (listening) and downloading. With over fifteen thousand recordings, record company labels include Arabesque, CRD, Forlane, Hänssler Classic, Hyperion, Newport, Vox, and others. A negotiation for additional labels is in the works.

Young Science Library

The Young Science Library has a subscription to over seven hundred electronic scholarly journals published by Kluwer Academic Publishers. Kluwer recently merged with Springer Science to become the second largest publisher of scientific and technical literature in the world. This package will significantly

increase patron access to the key research findings across the disciplines of astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, environmental science, mathematics, medicine, physics, psychology, and many areas of engineering. It contains the full-text of each journal from 1997 in HTML or PDF format, and over fifty thousand new articles are added every year. Since Kluwer participates in CrossRef, an effort among over 170 publishers to link their publications, patrons can easily navigate to an abstract or the full-text of items cited in the articles they are viewing. All journal titles are available individually through the libraries' Electronic Journal Locator or from Kluwer's website, which provides a subject and alphabetical list of all titles. A versatile search engine enables searching by author or keyword in a specific journal or across all journals.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Continued from page 1

sional hearings, and statistics, to name but a few of the kinds of primary sources available. Examples of these are: *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States* and *Early American Imprints: 1639-1800*. Libraries purchase reprints as a means of accessing primary sources otherwise available only in an individual library or to preserve fragile originals, such as original publications of the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Formats can include images, maps, video and audiotapes.

Collections digitized by publishers are purchased by libraries to offer access to multiple users from local and remote locations. With the digital archive of the *New York Times Historical, 1851-1999*, scholars are able to search the news archives from remote desktops and then view and print specific articles. One can also search the *Washington Post Historical, 1877-1987*, the *Times (London) Digital Archive, 1785-1985*, and *AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive*, containing news photographs from the 1840s to the present. Other notable series purchased by the libraries include the *American Periodical Series*, *Early English Books Online*, and *Women and Social Movements*. What was previously available only to a limited number of scholars is now accessible to students and public users of all ages.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Below are a few starting points for readers interested in using primary sources:

- Smith's *Library Class Guides*: www.smith.edu/libraries/research/class
- Smith's *Five College Archives and Manuscript Collections*: asteria.fivecolleges.edu/index.html
- Berkeley's *Library Research Using Primary Sources*: www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/PrimarySources.html
- Yale's *Using Manuscripts and Archives*: www.library.yale.edu/mssa/tutorial/tutorial.htm
- Harvard's and George Mason's *DoHistory*: www.dohistory.org

Executive Committee News

Susan von Salis '79, associate curator of archives at the Harvard University Art Museums, has joined the executive committee of the Friends of the Libraries. For many years, Susan worked at Harvard's Schlesinger Library.

Paul Alpers Lecture

On Wednesday, March 3, at 4:30 P.M. in the Neilson Browsing Room, Dr. Paul Alpers will present "Shakespeare and the Outer Isles," in which he will examine aspects of Shakespeare's tragedies, particularly *Macbeth*. Although he is principally known on campus as the husband of President Carol Christ, Dr. Alpers is widely known as a distinguished literary critic and scholar. Prior to his retirement, he was professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley for forty years. He has written extensively on Edmund Spenser and is the author of *The Poetry of the Faerie Queene* (Princeton University Press, 1967). He has also written about poetry of the European Renaissance and about Latin poetry, most notably in *The Singer of the Eclogues: A Study of Virgilian Pastoral* (University of California Press, 1979). Dr. Alpers' most recent book, *What Is Pastoral?* (University of Chicago Press, 1996), won the Christian Gauss Award of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the Harry Levin Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association.

Annual Meeting

At a time when book publishing is threatened both by electronic competition and the bottom line, it is interesting to witness the Connecticut River Valley's thriving cottage industry in the book arts. "Fine Press Books: Making Art a Business" will be the focus of the 2004 FSCL annual meeting on Friday, April 2, 2004, at 2:00 P.M. in the Neilson Browsing Room. The program will feature a panel of women involved in various aspects of the business, including Carol Blinn of the Warwick



Woodcut of Macbeth and Banquo meeting three strange women, from Holinshed's *Chronicles* (London, 1577).

Press; Barbara Blumenthal '75, bookbinder and owner of the Catawba Press; Karen Pava Randall of the Propolis Press; and Julia Ferrari of the Golgonooza Letter Foundry and Press. This program coincides with events honoring Elliot Offner, former Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, who has nurtured the creative arts at Smith College for thirty years. A reception will follow.

Commencement and Reunion Events

The Friends' commencement reception will take place on Saturday, May 15, 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 22, 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.

Papers of Smith Doctors Go Global

Digital technologies are extending access to primary sources in archival repositories, like the Sophia Smith Collection, to scholars around the world as well as to high school students and teachers. Two newly opened collaborative exhibits drew library director Chris Loring and Sherrill Redmon, head of the Sophia Smith Collection, to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) outside Washington, D.C., last November.

They were the guests of former Friends committee member and NLM associate director, Betsy Humphreys '69, who joined the D.C. Smith Club in touring an ambitious live exhibit *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating Women Physicians*. While this state-of-the-art interactive exhibition has something for everyone, the presence of photographs and other items

loaned by the Sophia Smith Collection enhanced its appeal for Loring, Redmon, and the alumnae. Among the three thousand medical women featured in the exhibit were our own Florence Rena Sabin, class of 1893, and eight more Smith MDs, some of whose papers (notably Drs. Jane C. Wright, Caroline Bedell Thomas, and Dorothy Reed Mendenhall) are preserved in the SSC. The exhibit can be seen through May 2005 or online at (www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine).

Loring and Redmon also toured the NLM's History of Medicine Division, which had just incorporated one hundred documents from our Sabin Papers in its permanent online exhibit *Profiles in Medicine*. This in-depth permanent exhibit requires only virtual travel (profiles.nlm.nih.gov/RR).



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FSCCL Office, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063
or, if you prefer, enroll online at www.smith.edu/friends.*



Catalogue from the Girl Printers exhibition, curated by Carol Blinn.



"A Turkish Female Slave Playing on the Dulcimer," an illustration from John Hobbouse's Journey through Albania (London, 1813), part of the Heffelfinger collection.

EXHIBITS

Girl Printers (Morgan Gallery & Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, January through March). An invitational show curated by Carol J. Blinn, proprietor of Warwick Press, Easthampton, Massachusetts. The exhibition features printing, books, and ephemera "made by hand, made by machine, made with humor and passion" by thirty-seven women printers. Reception: February 19, 2004, 4:30-6:30 P.M. in the Book Arts Gallery.

The Face—An Obsession: Mood Portraits by Linda Stein (Morgan Gallery, March). This exhibit celebrates Women's History Month with images of feminists by New York artist Linda Stein, whose illustrated diaries will become part of the Sophia Smith Collection.

George Salter's Book Designs from the 1950s (Mortimer Rare Book Room, Neilson Library, May through August). Curated by Marit Cranmer.

Elliot Offner and the Smith College Student Printing Office (Morgan Gallery & Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, April through August). This exhibition will include letterpress works printed by students of professor Elliot Offner. Curated by Barbara Blumenthal.

Selections from the Rosemary Press (Hillyer Art Library, April through May).

Women of Color at Smith (Alumnae Gymnasium, April 2004). Using materials from the College Archives, this exhibit explores the history and experiences of being a woman of color at Smith.

"The God-eyed Tall-minded Ones": W. H. Auden and Sylvia Plath (The Poetry Center, Wright Hall, April 27 through September). This opening exhibition in the new Poetry Center will feature selections from the Sylvia Plath Collection. Curated by Shannon Hunt '04.

A Pantheon of Presidents (July through August 2003). Shown in conjunction with Northampton's 350th anniversary. Check library website for location.

Collaborations: Enid Mark and The ELM Press (Morgan Gallery & Book Arts Gallery, Neilson Library, September through October).

Investigating Incunabula

Among the forty thousand rare books in the Mortimer Rare Book Room are seventy incunabula (books printed before 1501). Building on former curator Dorothy King's checklist of fifty-five volumes, published in 1975, Salloch Fellow Mark Morford is halfway towards completion of a catalogue raisonné, expected in 2005. To the descriptive bibliography he is adding a commentary on each volume, which will help students understand its cultural and historical context and the significance of the work, its printer, and his patrons. Morford (Emeritus Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia) is enjoying a voyage of discovery upon which Smith undergraduates can also now embark.

Sadly, a few incunabula are fragments, but precious nevertheless. There is a single sheet from the earliest printed book, the 42-line Gutenberg Bible, printed at Mainz in 1454-1455, and one from Ralph Higden's *Polycronicon* printed by Caxton in 1482, our only English example. About one quarter of the volumes are classical texts. Some, like the Aldine text of Manilius printed in 1499, are objects of great beauty, and others, like Grüninger's illustrated edition of Horace printed at Strasbourg in 1498, important in the history of classical texts.

The collection has much of special interest to feminist historians. The *Letters* of the fourteenth-century spiritual powerhouse, Catherine of Siena, were printed by Aldus in 1500, and an oration delivered at the age of twenty-three by Cassandra Fidelis, a fifteenth-century humanist and orator, was printed at Modena in 1494. *Le Vite de Pontefici & Imperadori Romani*, falsely ascribed to Petrarch, was printed at the Dominican convent of San Jacopo di Ripoli in Florence in 1478, and nuns were its compositors. Low pay and long hours were their lot: wages were two florins a month (half the rate for a male compositor), while Suor Marietta worked for twenty-four days in February 1481.

These seven nuns were the survivors of plague and prejudice, and this volume is a poignant witness to the conditions under which even educated women labored in the fifteenth century. As for prejudice, a grotesque chapter in Antoninus's *Summa Theologica* (printed by Leonard Wild in Venice in 1480) is a satirical list of women's vices from A to Z, with examples of each: a woman is *avidum animal* [greedy beast], full of *concupiscentia carnalis* [fleshly lust], and *ymago ydolorum* [just like an idol]. Antoninus was Archbishop of Florence in 1446-1459 and is better known as the founder of the monastery of San Marco. A wise guide and counselor to nuns and laywomen, he was an unlikely author of scurrilous satire. In fact, the sources for this chapter are mainly classical, and it was basically the work of a twelfth-century Archdeacon of Oxford, Walter Map. Jenkyn, the fifth husband of Chaucer's Wife of Bath, read it: "he hadde a book that gladly, nyght and day, / For his desport he wolde rede alway." Fortunately for us, Antoninus's book did not get thrown into the fire, like Jenkyn's.

Among the curiosities in these books is an illustration, shown below, of a near-eastern WMD from a book printed in Verona in 1483. Defense for a besieged city was the [spurious] letter of Christ written to the Syrian ruler Abgar and printed at Cologne in 1498. Copies of this letter inscribed on the city-wall protected the citizens of Edessa from Parthian attack. This 1498 volume contains a Latin grammar with the question, *Quid est mulier?*, answered by, *Hominis confusio* [What is woman? Man's confusion]. Chaucer's tactful Chaunticleer did better: "Madame, the sentence of this Latin is – / Womman is mannes ioy and al his blis."

Woodcut of an "Arabica Machina," a near-eastern weapon of mass destruction, from Robertus Valturius's *De Re Militari* (Verona, 1483).

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