

2024 RGME Spring Symposium at Vassar College

Friday to Sunday, 19–21 April 2024 (hybrid)



“Between Past and Future: Building Bridges Between Special Collections and Teaching for the Liberal Arts”

*Celebrating the Acquisition
of the Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection
of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts*

PROGRAM



Information and Registration:

<https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2024-spring-symposium-at-vassar-college/>

Image: Vassar College, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, “The Open Missal” by Ludger tom Ring the Younger, circa 1570.

2024 RGME Symposia on “Bridges” Part 1 (of 2)

“Between Past and Future: Building Bridges between Special Collections and Teaching for the Liberal Arts”

RGME 2024 SPRING SYMPOSIUM (HYBRID)

co-organized by Mildred Budny
and Ronald Patkus

Friday–Sunday, 19–21 April 2024
In Person at Vassar College and by Zoom



This year’s pair of Spring and Autumn Symposia in an RGME Anniversary Year is dedicated to building bridges to aid passage across obstacles and to standing watch on the bridge of a vessel poised to steer an enlightened course. Our voyage contemplates connections “Between Past and Future” in encountering original sources and considering them as opportunities for “Teaching Events”. For the Spring Symposium, resources and representatives of Vassar College stand as focus, as the scope attends to a wide context of accomplishments. Thus gather experts and practitioners in the fields of Special Collections, teaching, learning, and the Liberal Arts, with speakers from various centers and stages or directions of engagement. They include librarians, archivists, curators, collectors, manuscript and rare-book vendors, faculty, students, and former students working in the field. Featured contributions include reports by recent Vassar College alumnae/i working with Special Collections, current Vassar students engaging with materials in the Vassar collections, and Vassar alums of longer duration revisiting and reviving such engagement.

2024 RGME Symposia on “Bridges” Part 2 (of 2)

*** FORTHCOMING ***

“At the Helm: Spotlight on Special Collections as Teaching Events”

RGME 2024 AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM (ONLINE)

organized by Mildred Budny

Saturday, 22 October 2024

9:30 – 5:00 pm E.D.T. (GMT-4) by Zoom



As a one-day online event, the 2024 Autumn Symposium offers a follow-up for the Spring Symposium at Vassar College. Using the RGME tradition of one-day online symposia, this event allows presenters the opportunity, with minimal preparation, to showcase collections (public and private) in virtual visits guided by curators or collectors, in the company of teachers and students, both on-site and online. The informal style accords with our proven approach for online events as roundtables, interviews, conversations, master classes, and workshops. Thus, we might channel the purposeful momentum for the Spring Symposium as a central event for our 2024 RGME Anniversary Year in a simpler follow-up including, it might be, Vassar representatives: faculty, staff, students, and alums. The autumn event continues the engagement between original sources — medieval and more, across centuries, styles, and languages — and the people who study and care for them, teach from them, and learn from them. The pair of Symposia foster a focus upon original materials from the past as the evidence of witnesses with their own stories to tell.

Image: © The British Library, Yates Thompson MS 36, fol. 65r, Historiated Initial P of *Per*. Dante Alighieri, *Divina Comedia*, Canto 1, *Purgatorio*. Ship under sail, carrying as passengers the poets Dante (circa 1265 – 1321 AD) and Publius Vergilius Maro (70 – 19 BC).



Figure 1. Poughkeepsie, Vassar College, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, “The Open Missal” by Ludger tom Ring the Younger (1522–1584). Oil on wood panel (transferred to masonite). Circa 1570.

The oblique view of an opened book, seen at an angle from the bottom of the textblock, displays pages partly fanned outward in four segments (a group of leaves at the left and three individual leaves to the right) between the front and back sections which part about one-third of the way from the front, with a slight spreading between some segments at lower and outer edges. At the left, a pair of unfastened brown leather straps emerges from the front cover of the matching brown binding, drapes across the foreedge or the lower part of the exposed page, and leads to rounded golden mounts with extended black tongue-like terminals. The pages have gilded edges; the cover extends somewhat beyond them; and the outer portion of the grouped left-hand pages curves downward over its lower edge.

The exposed pages carry text and musical notation in double columns and an apparently full-page illustration within a rectangular border strewn with a frieze-like pattern of foliate motifs and insects. The visible lower right-hand part of the illustration shows a skull lying on the ground to the left of a bare foot beneath the ankle-length hemline of a draped skirt of a standing figure — presumably part of a Crucifixion scene, with a skull at the base of the cross and the customary witnessing figure of John the Evangelist at the right.

Spring Symposium Sponsors

Vassar College Library
 Special Collections
 Medieval & Renaissance Studies Program
 Art History Department
 The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

Diana L. Pearson (VC '78)

Barbara A. Shailor

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

Symposium Organizers

*§ Mildred Budny (VC '71) and *§ Ronald Patkus

Symposium Advisory Committee

*§ Ronald Patkus, § Elizabeth Lastra,
 *§ Mildred Budny * Barbara Williams Ellertson

§ = Vassar College (Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumnae/Alumni)

* = Research Group on Manuscript Evidence (Trustee, Associates, Consultants)

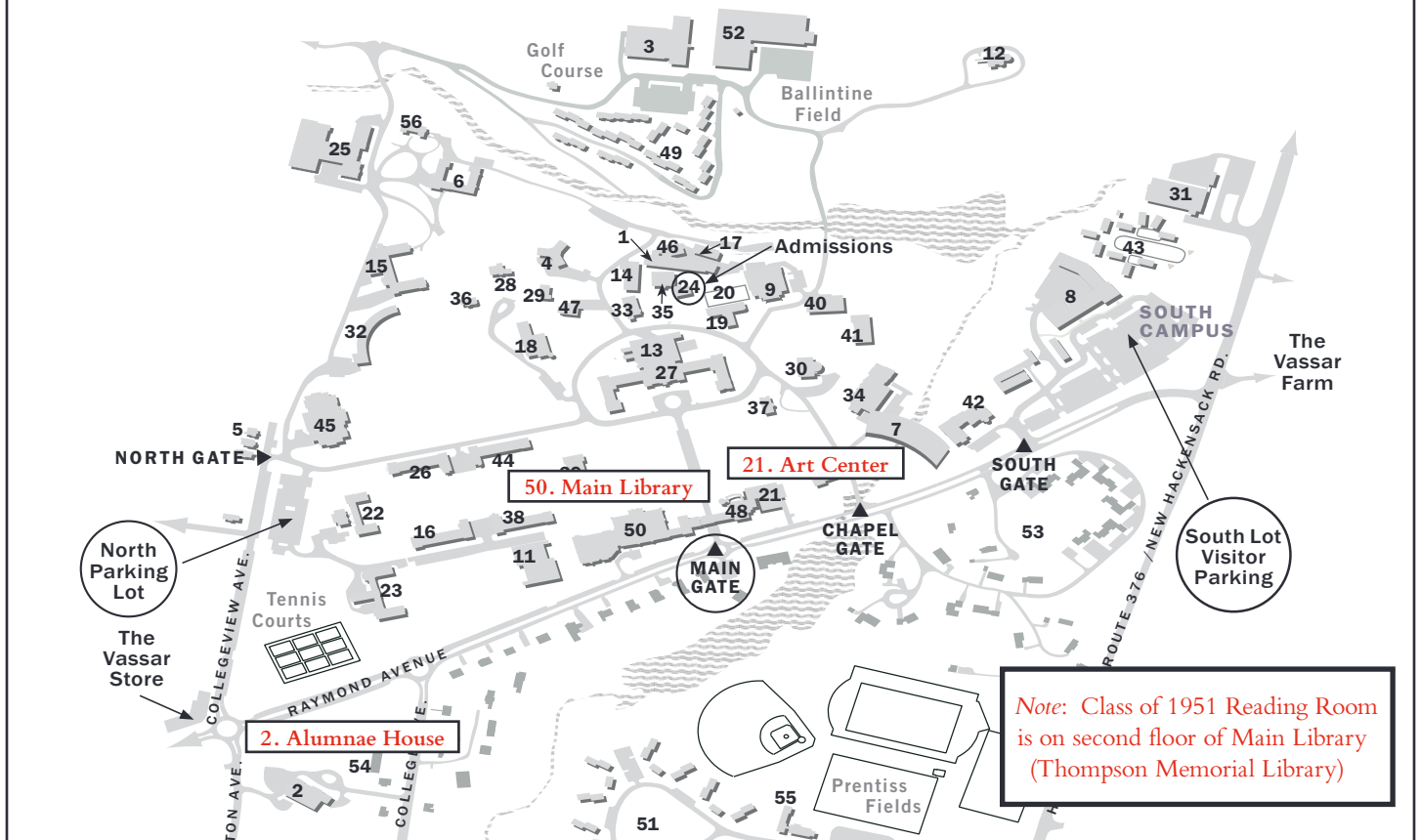
Thanks Also To

Contributors: Speakers, Presiders, Consultants, Advisors
 Supporters: Technical Support, Interns, RGME Publications

Alumnae House
 The Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library

Vassar College

<https://www.vassar.edu/sites/default/files/2021-06/campus-map.pdf>



Information

Alumnae House

161 College Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Reservations and Information: Guest Services (845) 437-7100 / alumnaehouse@vassar.edu

<https://www.vassar.edu/alums/resources/alumnae-house/accommodations/>

Local Information

Local Lodging: <https://www.vassar.edu/visit/community/lodging>

Campus Parking: <https://offices.vassar.edu/campus-safety/parking/>

Local Dining: <https://www.vassar.edu/visit/community/dining>

Spring Symposium “Between Past and Future”

<https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/2024-spring-symposium-at-vassar-college/>

Program Overview

Venues *(In Person, with online access for most events)*

All Sessions, Breakfasts, and Breaks (Friday to Sunday) and Saturday Lunch
 [Map 50] **Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library, Class of 1951 Reading Room**
 — with recording facilities and online participation by Zoom

Exhibition (Each Day) and Reception 1 (Friday)
 [Map 21] **The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center**

Symposium Dinner (Friday), Reception 2 (Saturday),
 and RGME Celebratory Brunch (Sunday)
 [Map 2] **Alumnae House Dining Room**

Day by Day *(Friday 19th to Sunday 21st April 2024)*

All times are Eastern Daylight Time (GMT-4)

Friday: Afternoon to Evening

Pre-Symposium Roundtable and Symposium Session 1, with Afternoon Break:
 Class of 1951 Reading Room

Reception 1: The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

Conference Dinner: Alumnae House Dining Room

Saturday: All day to evening (dinner optional by arrangement)

Sessions 2-4, with Breakfast, Morning and Afternoon Breaks, and Lunch: Class of '51 Reading Room

Reception 2: Alumnae House

Optional Dinner offsite (open to all Attendees): By reservation, at own expense, at a local restaurant

Sunday: Morning

Breakfast and Symposium Session 5: Class of '51 Reading Room

RGME Celebratory Brunch: Alumnae House Dining Room

Sunday Afternoon Post-Symposium: Optional

Self-guided tours of Exhibition and Vassar Campus

Architectural Presentation: "Some Symbols in the Architecture of Vassar College"

Friday Afternoon 19 April

FREDERICK FERRIS THOMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CLASS OF 1951 READING ROOM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION 2:00–2:05 pm

*§ **Mildred Budny** (VC '71; Director, Research Group on Manuscript Evidence)

ROUNDTABLE 2:05–3:15 pm

Pre-Symposium Roundtable

“Bridges: From the Past to the Future with the RGME”

Presider: *§ **Mildred Budny** *in Conversation with Respondents*

*§ **Linda Civitello** (VC '71; Independent Scholar)
“Special: Collections and Colleges”

*§ **Martha Frish** (VC '78; Independent Scholar)
“The Vassar Lowrie Hours Revisited (After 45 Years): Reflections on the Influence of Vassar”

* **Phillip Bernhardt-House** (Independent Scholar)
“Pitfalls and Splendors of a Liberal Arts Life”

* **N. Kivilcim Yavuz** (Lecturer in Medieval Studies and Digital Humanities, Institute for Medieval Studies / School of History, University of Leeds)
“Reflections on Digital and Open Educational Resources for Manuscript Studies”

BREAK 3:15–3:30 pm

SESSION 3:30–5:00 pm

Session 1

“Using the Vassar Collection: Former Vassar Students in their Professions”

Presiders/Moderators: § **Nancy Bisaha** (Professor of History, Vassar College)
and

§ **Zoltan Markus** (Associate Professor of English and Director of Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Vassar College)

§ **Maeve K. Doyle** (VC '07; Associate Professor of Art History, Eastern Connecticut State University)
“Carrying On the Connection: Materials-Based Manuscript Teaching Without a Collection”

§ **Emma Iadanza** (VC '22; M.A. History of Art '23; Ph.D. Candidate, The Courtauld Institute of Art / Junior Research Fellow, Internship Coordinator, and Social Media Manager, The Medici Archive Project)
“A Slice of the Sistine Chapel at Vassar: Leo X's Liturgical Manuscripts”

§ **Gwendolyn Collaço** (VC '11; Collections Curator, Aga Khan Documentation Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
“Raising the Standard: Provenance and Today's Art Market for Islamic Manuscripts and Rare Books”

Friday Evening 19 April

THE FRANCES LEHMAN LOEB ART CENTER

RECEPTION. 5:15–7:00 pm

Reception 1

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

Showcasing the Special Exhibition

“Books in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance”

(with the chance to view the companion Exhibition)

WELCOMING REMARKS

§ **John Murphy** (Curator of Prints and Drawings, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center)

Panelists:

§ **Jaden Miller** (VC '25)

§ **Sadie Keesbury** (VC '26)

§ **Natalia Fay** (VC '24)

Following Session 1 featuring former Vassar students, current students will speak at this Reception about their involvement with creating the current Exhibitions at the Art Center and the Art Library.

ALUMNAE HOUSE DINING ROOM

DINNER (FOR ALL ATTENDEES). 7:30–9:00 pm

Symposium Dinner

Alumnae House Dining Room

REMARKS (“TOASTS”)

*§ **Ronald Patkus** (Head of Special Collections, College Historian,
and Adjunct Associate Professor of History on the Frederick Weyerhaeuser Chair, Vassar College)

Saturday 20 April

FREDERICK FERRIS THOMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CLASS OF 1951 READING ROOM

BREAKFAST 8:30–9:00 am

SESSION 9:00–10:15 am

Session 2 Keynote Address with Q&A “Collecting for Collections”

Presider: § **Debra Bucher** (Head of Collections & Discovery, Vassar College Libraries)

Sandra Hindman (Les Enluminures & “Manuscripts in the Curriculum”)

and

* **Laura Light** (Director and Senior Specialist, Text Manuscripts, Les Enluminures)

“A Resource for Institutional Collections: A Quarter Century of www.textmanuscripts.com”

BREAK 10:15–10:30 am

SESSION 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Session 3 “Visual and/or Digital Access to the Materials”

Presider/Moderator: § **Paolo Scartoni** (Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Italian, Vassar College)

Elizabeth Hebbard (Assistant Professor, French and Italian, Indiana University Bloomington,
and Primary Principal Investigator, “Peripheral Manuscripts: Digitizing Medieval Manuscript
Collections in the Midwest”)

“The Peripheral Manuscripts Project: A Consortial Model in the Midwest”

Agnieszka Rec (Early Materials Cataloger, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University)

and

Özgen Felek (Lector of Ottoman Turkish, The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations,
Yale University)

“‘Rich and Gorgeous Beauty to Delight’: Surfacing the Turkish Manuscript Collections at Yale”

* **Lynn Ransom** (Curator, SIMS Programs, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies,
University of Pennsylvania)

“The Digital Scriptorium Catalog: Bridging Manuscript Collections in North American Collections”

LUNCH 12:00 to 1:45 pm

Saturday 20 April

FREDERICK FERRIS THOMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CLASS OF 1951 READING ROOM

SESSION 1:45 – 3:15 pm

Session 4

“Catalogues, Materials, and Learning from the Sources: Vassar & Beyond”

Presider/Moderator: *§ **Thomas E. Hill** (Art Librarian, Vassar College Libraries)

***Justin Hastings** (Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of English, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore)

“Bridging, Embodying, and Containing the Violence:

The Bawdy House Riots and Margaret Cavendish’s 1668 Plays, Never Before Printed”

Anna Siebach-Larsen (Director, Rossell Hope Robbins Library and Koller-Collins Center for English Studies, University of Rochester)

“Building Community-Focused Manuscript Collections in Western New York”

*§ **Mildred Budny**

“A Vassar Liberal Arts Education, ‘Going to the Sources’, and the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence”

BREAK 3:15–3:30 pm

SESSION 3:30–5:00 pm

Session 5

“Cataloguing and Seeing the Objects: Issues and Displays”

Presider/Moderator: § **Yvonne Elet** (Professor of the History of Art and Architecture, Department of Art, Vassar College)

§ **Mark Seidl** (VC ‘87; Special Collections Librarian/Cataloger, Vassar College Libraries)

“Making Vassar’s Manuscripts Accessible”

* **Scott Gwara** (Professor of English Language and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina / Founder of King Alfred’s Notebook, LLC)

“Otto F. Ege, Entrepreneur”

* **Barbara Williams Ellertson** (The BASIRA Project: Books as Symbols in Renaissance Art and Research Associate of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania Libraries)

“Windows & Mirrors: Viewing the Loeb Art Center Collection through the Lens of BASIRA”

INTERIM REMARKS: INFORMATION AND UPDATES 5:00–5:10 pm



Figure 2. Vassar College, Archives & Special Collections Library, Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection, Scheetz MS 13. Cutting of a polychrome illuminated initial S from a choirbook. Composed of rotating foliate motifs upon a patterned ground, the letter is set against gold leaf background in a square-shaped frame and enclosed within a modern mat, with scraps of text on the back. Italy (probably Northeast), last quarter of 15th century. Scott Gwara (2014), pp. 81–82 (“Antiphonal illuminated by Jacopo Filippo de’Medici d’Argenta” at Ferrara); Peter Kidd (2024), pp. 182–183.

Saturday Evening 21 April

ALUMNAE HOUSE DINING ROOM

RECEPTION. 5:15–7:00 pm

Reception 2 Alumnae House

Celebrating the Acquisition
of the Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection
of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts

REMARKS

***Scott Gwara** (Author of *Bibliotheca Scheetziana: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts from Western Europe in the Collection of Nicholas B. Scheetz* (2014))

§ **Diana L. Pearson** (Vassar Class of '78; Wife of the late Nicholas B. Scheetz and representative of the Scheetz trust for books and manuscripts)

OPTIONAL: LOCAL RESTAURANTS (BY ARRANGEMENT)

OPTIONAL DINNER 7:30–9:00 pm

Saturday Dinner (at attendees' expense)

A chance to gather with Symposium attendees
and continue the conversations
at a local restaurant

Sign-up sheets are available at the Symposium. To join the gatherings (subject to space available), please contact rgme.events@gmail.com, or consult the Sign-Up Sheets at the Symposium Welcome Desk to choose among a selection of local restaurants.

Sunday Morning 21 April

FREDERICK FERRIS THOMPSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CLASS OF 1951 READING ROOM

BREAKFAST 10:00–10:30 am

SESSION 10:30 am –12:00 pm

Session 6 “Teaching with Collections”

Presider/Moderator: § **Alberto Gelmi** (Assistant Professor of Italian, Vassar College)

§ **Marc Michael Epstein** (Professor of Religion on the Mackie P. Davis and Norman H. Davis Chair
and Director of Jewish Studies)

“The Book and the Brick, or That Time I Really Screwed Up”

* **N. Kivilcim Yavuz** (Lecturer in Medieval Studies and Digital Humanities, School of History /
Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds)

“Manuscripts in the Classroom:

Active and Experiential Learning with Special Collections in the Digital Age”

* **Eric J. Johnson** (Professor & Head, Thompson Special Collections / Interim-Head, Area Studies,
The Ohio State University Libraries)

*“Creating Collections-Based Curricular Opportunities through Donor Cultivation:
Manuscripts in the Classroom at the Ohio State University”*

CLOSING REMARKS 12:00–12:10 pm

*§ **Ronald Patkus**

Sunday Midday 21 April

ALUMNAE HOUSE DINING ROOM

BRUNCH 12:30–2:00 pm

RGME Celebratory Brunch.
Alumnae House Dining Room

“Cast & Crew Party”
Celebrating the Symposium, Exhibition, Catalogue,
and RGME Landmark Anniversary Year

MENU NOTES

*§ **Linda Civitello** (VC '71; Food Historian):
“Cuisine and Trading Routes in the Medieval & Renaissance Periods”

GOODBYES & THANKS

MEEKER ROOM, ART LIBRARY

OPTIONAL POST-SYMPOSIUM ARCHITECTURAL PRESENTATION 3:00–4:00 pm

*§ **Martha Frish** (VC '78): *“Some Symbols in the Architecture at Vassar College”* with Q&A

OPTIONAL PRE- TO POST-SYMPOSIUM ACTIVITIES

Self-Guided Tours of the Exhibition
and/or Vassar Campus

“Books of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance”
(April 19 – June 24, 2024)

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

<https://www.vassar.edu/theloeb/exhibitions/books-middle-ages-and-renaissance>

<https://www.vassar.edu/admission/explore/campus/>



Figures 3–4. Vassar College, Archives & Special Collections Library, Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection: Leaves.

Figure 3 (left). Scheetz MS 17, folio 58r. Peter Lombard, *Great Gloss on the Pauline Epistles*, France, 13th century.

Figure 4 (right). Scheetz MS 42, recto. Book of Hours, Northern France, circa 1425.

Founded in 1989 in England as an international scholarly organization, and incorporated in 1999 in the United States as a nonprofit educational corporation for the purpose of “lectures, discussions, and other publications”, the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence exists to apply an integrated approach to the study of manuscripts and other forms of the written or inscribed word, in their transmission across time and space. The Research Group is powered mainly by volunteers and volunteer donations.

Information about the activities and publications of the Research Group appears on the official website: <https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme>.

Our website and our Booklets are edited by our Director, Mildred Budny. Our multi-lingual digital font, Bembino, is freely available: <https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/bembino>.

We invite you to subscribe to our mailing list, for our Newsletter, and for information about our activities. Please contact director@manuscriptevidence.org with your questions, suggestions, and contributions.

The Research Group welcomes donations for its nonprofit educational mission, including donations in kind, expertise, advice, and contributions to our work, research, scholarly events, exhibitions, and publications. For our 501(c)(3) organization, your donations may be tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law. They are easy to send via <https://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme/contributions-and-donations>.