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.
Symposium Credits

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)

Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

§ = Vassar College (Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumnae/Alumni)
* = Research Group on Manuscript Evidence (Trustee, Associates, Consultants)

Symposium Organizers

*§ Mildred Budny and *§ Ronald Patkus

Symposium Advisory Committee

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

Thanks Also To

Contributors: Speakers, Presiders, Consultants

Supporters: Technical Support, RGME Publications, . . .

The Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library

Alumnae House
Program Overview

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

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

Exhibition (Each Day) and Reception 1 (Friday)
The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center

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

Day by Day *(Friday 19th to Sunday 21st April 2024)*
All times are Eastern Daylight Time (GMT-5)

**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

Guided Walking Tour: “Architectural Highlights 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 2:05–3:30 pm**

**Pre-Symposium Roundtable**

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

Presider: *§ Mildred Budny

*§ Linda Civitello (VC ’71; Independent Scholar)

“Special: Collection 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. Kıvılcım Yavuz (School of History / Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds)

“Open Education Resources for Manuscript Studies”

**Break 3:00–3:30 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:

§ Natalia Fay (VC ’24)
§ Sadie Keesbury (VC ’26)
§ Jaden Miller (VC ’25)

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 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)  

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

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

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
Image: 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))

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Optional: Local Restaurant (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
by prior reservation at a local restaurant

To join the gathering (subject to space available), contact rgmesocial@gmail.com
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. Kıvılcım 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**

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**Optional Walking Tour (Weather Permitting) 3:00–4:00 pm**

*§ Martha Frish (VC ’78): “Architectural Highlights of Vassar College: An Informal Guided Tour”*

**Optional Post-Symposium Activities**

Self-Guided Tours of the Exhibition
and/or Campus

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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: [http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme](http://manuscriptevidence.org/wpme).

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

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*Images:* Vassar College, Archives & Special Collections Library, Nicholas B. Scheetz Collection: Leaves.


*Right:* Scheetz MS 42, recto. Book of Hours, Northern France, circa 1425.