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.

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.

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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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

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Neufund und Zukunft:
Brücken zwischen Spezialbibliotheken
und Lehre der liberalen Kunst

Information und Registrierung:
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

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

Symposium Organizers

*§ Mildred Budny and *§ Ron Patkus

Symposium Advisory Committee

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

Thanks Also To

Contributors: Speakers, Presiders, Consultants
Supporters: Technical Support, RGME Publications, . . .
The Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library
Alumnae House

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

*****

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

*****
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: § Albert 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. Kivlicm 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 Collection-Based Curricular Opportunities through Donor Cultivations: Manuscripts in the Classroom at the Ohio State University”

Closing Remarks 12:00–12:10 pm

*§ Ronald Patkus

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

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

Presider: *§ Mildred Budny

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

“Special: Collection and College”

*§ Martha Frish (VC ’78; Independent Scholar)

“The Vassar Lourie 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. Kivlicim Yavuz (School of History / Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds)

“Open Education Resource 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: Material-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 Collazo (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”

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))

*****

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

Image: Vassar College, Archives & Special Collections Library, Nicholas B. Schaetz Collection, Schaetz 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 (2023), pp. 182–183.
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

Lauren 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 Converging 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 Embodifying, 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)

“One 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