



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Clapp, Jewett Art, Jewett Music, Science Center, Special Collections, Archives

Friends of the Library Enables Acquisition of College Hall Architectural Drawings

Martha McNamara, Director, New England Arts & Architecture Program, and Jacki Musacchio '89, Professor of Art



We are thrilled to share the news of an exciting new acquisition that will expand our knowledge about the early history of Wellesley College. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Library, the College has acquired a previously unknown scrapbook containing over 300 architectural drawings and sketches by Boston architect Hammatt Billings, the designer of Wellesley's College Hall, and his brother Joseph E. Billings. Most importantly, this scrapbook contains early and unrealized interior schemes for College Hall and designs for other buildings related to both Wellesley and the

Durants. This is a great treasure that will add to our understanding of the design and construction of Wellesley's earliest buildings and enhance our teaching of American architecture and design here at Wellesley and beyond.

Pauline and Henry Fowle Durant founded Wellesley College—originally Wellesley Female Seminary—in 1870. Starting a new college was no easy thing; however, before they could hire administrators and faculty, or welcome students, they had to design and construct a building in which to house their new



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Report from the Co-chair

Kerry Carwile Masteller '01

Imagine this: it's a gloomy, unusually cold July morning. Suddenly, a student rushes through the doors of the Jewett Arts Center, makes a right turn, and frantically pounds down the polished floor towards the wooden door of the Music Library. The year is 2000, the student is me, and I'm running late.

Luckily, I arrived one minute before 9:00 on that Monday morning, just in time to duck behind the circulation desk and greet the first musician of the day. I'd never seen a music library before I went to college – I can't promise that I knew they existed – but even though I didn't succeed in my private quest to listen to every CD in the library, in call number order, the summer I spent working behind that desk in Jewett shaped my entire career. Without it, I might not be a librarian now, and I know I wouldn't be a music librarian. I hope you enjoy this issue's look at one of Wellesley's excellent subject libraries, and the accompanying profile of Music Librarian Carol Lubkowski. (And as one of Carol's colleagues in the Music Library Association, I can promise you that Wellesley is lucky to have her!)

We're also very happy to share with you a new acquisition in Special Collections, an architectural sketchbook belonging to Hammatt Billings, the architect of College Hall. When this book unexpectedly came onto the market last fall, a flurry of excited emails ensued, and the library was able to respond quickly to purchase it using funding from the Friends. It complements the College's strong existing collections of Billings materials, and faculty members eagerly anticipate using this unusual primary source in American architectural history with their students. It's a spectacular volume, and we're lucky to have an introduction to its history and contents from Art Department faculty members Jacki Musacchio and Martha McNamara.

No college campus is entirely free of construction, especially during the summer, and 2018 marks the beginning of the long-awaited Science Center renovation. Library staff are busy preparing to move collections safely out of the construction site, while building support for data literacy and curation, two increasingly important parts of any scientific research. Meanwhile, faculty and student interest in collaborative, project-based pedagogy has outgrown the space available in the Knapp Media and Technology Center in Clapp Library, and Ravi Ravishanker, CIO & Associate Provost is working with faculty to make sure the space and technology appropriately support student learning. We're sure to hear much more about both initiatives over the coming months.

One of my favorite Friends traditions occurs at the end of each academic year, when the Steering Committee gathers with librarians, faculty, and students to celebrate the winners of the annual Student Library Research Awards. This year, we're especially pleased to have a record-breaking number of nominees, each of whom used exemplary research methods to answer creative, original questions. Previous winners have worked in fields ranging from environmental science to English; I can't wait to see what this year's winners have to teach us! Look for more about their work in the next issue of our newsletter.

Thank you for joining us supporting the mission of Wellesley College Library, and through it, the entire Wellesley community.

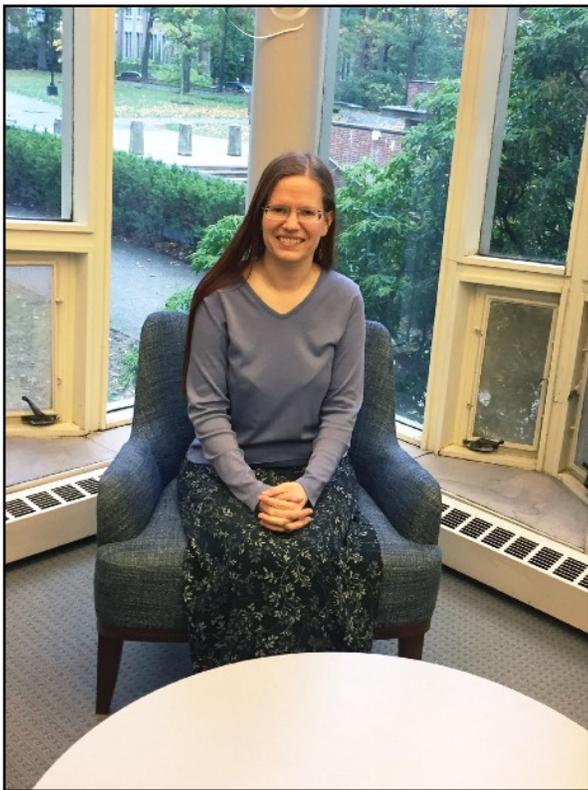
Meet Carol Lubkowski, Music Librarian

Lynda Leney Leahy '66

The Music Library, nestled in the west end of the Jewett Arts Center, overlooks the academic quad with a lovely view of Galen Tower. Its broad and varied collection of 62,000 volumes, nearly 13,000 CDs, and 241 serial titles covers medieval to pop, hip hop and Lady Gaga to Beethoven sonatas and operas by Henry Purcell. It is supplemented by online materials as well as streaming music performances of pop, country, blues, bop, jazz, opera, rock, folk, blues, classical, punk, electronic, soul, gospel, bluegrass, chant, world, ska, etc. In addition to more current formats, the library also has LP

performers. The library also holds some facsimiles of original scores, such as Gustav Mahler's Seventh Symphony, which allows students to use physical images that would not otherwise be available. The library holds other rare materials that students may use in the library.

Many music publications, especially serials, are now available in digital format, which is preferable to students who appreciate having 24/7 access to information. Some materials, however, remain in print-only format; music scores are a prime example.



Carol Lubkowski

recordings and turntables to play them on.

A particular strength of the collection has always been women composers, and Carol Lubkowski, the Music Librarian, is making an effort to add the works of living composers and



Display Area

Carol has a strong music background with both bachelors and masters degrees in music composition. She plays both the organ and piano and has joined the Organ Club on campus. Carol works closely with the faculty of the Music Department to make sure that the collections effectively support both the curriculum and the research needs of the college. Library instruction for music students, which began in 1875, is being ably carried on. Carol, an experienced teacher, seeks out faculty to determine whether they are interested in a classroom component and if so, exactly how they want the library involved.

educational institution. At this time, many colleges, and women's colleges in particular, were set in single, large, multi-purpose buildings. These structures, with their enclosed and protective plans, were based on medical asylums of the period. As a trustee of Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (later Mount Holyoke College), Henry Durant was familiar with the original asylum-type building constructed for that women's college in 1837; Vassar College followed with a similar building in 1861. It was therefore no surprise that the Durants did the same, constructing College Hall overlooking Lake Waban, where the Tower Court complex is today. College Hall contained dormitory rooms, a dining hall, chapel, and gathering spaces for the entire student body, as well as rooms for many of the female faculty and staff, classrooms, laboratories, and administrative offices.

The Durants hired Hammatt and Joseph Billings for this important building. They had previously commissioned the brothers to design a library for Mount Holyoke; an elevation for a library that appears in our scrapbook is probably the design for that building [illustration]. College Hall construction began in 1871, but it was four more years before it was completed and classes commenced. Little is known of the building's design



Designs for College Library and monogram



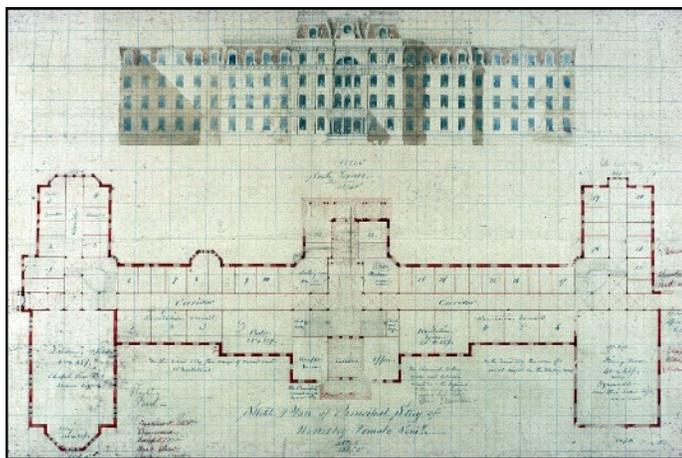
Elevation of a boathouse

process, because most of our earliest records were destroyed in the massive fire that consumed College Hall in 1914. But there must have been a great deal of interaction between the Durants and their architects during these years.

This acquisition helps us fill in some of that history. Last fall, Martha McNamara, Director of the New England Arts and Architecture Program in the Art Department, noticed an intriguing lot in Skinner's Fine Books and Manuscripts Auction on November 12th, 2017. It was simply described as "Hammatt Billings... Original Architectural Scrapbook, c. 1840-1880," but it included several interesting photographs and it was intriguing enough for Martha to forward the listing to her Art Department colleague, Professor Jacki Musacchio '89, who co-curated the 2014 exhibition commemorating the centenary of the College Hall fire. We made arrangements to examine the scrapbook in person, and immediately realized it was even better than we had hoped, with at least a dozen previously unknown and unpublished Wellesley-related drawings. These included designs for the College Hall library – ornamented with representations of the Muses and elaborate *groteschi* as well as the monogram "WFC" for "Wellesley Female College" – and an elevation of a boathouse – with a Viking ship weather vane, perhaps in homage to

College benefactor Eben Horsford's obsession with Viking history. Also included were hundreds of additional sketches, floor plans, landscape and furniture designs, and other decorative details documenting the prolific career of Boston's most accomplished late-nineteenth-century architecture firm.

We alerted Wellesley's senior staff and members of Library and Technology Services about the upcoming auction, but financial constraints precluded our ability to secure the funds we needed to make a successful bid. We asked advice of Gigi Barnhill '66, a member of the Friends of the Library Steering Committee and former Curator of Graphic Arts at the American Antiquarian Society; Gigi was as enthusiastic as we were, and her expertise allowed us to make the strongest possible case for acquisition. As a current member of Friends of the Library Steering Committee, Jacki then contacted FOL Co-chair Kerry Carwile Masteller '01 to ask for financial

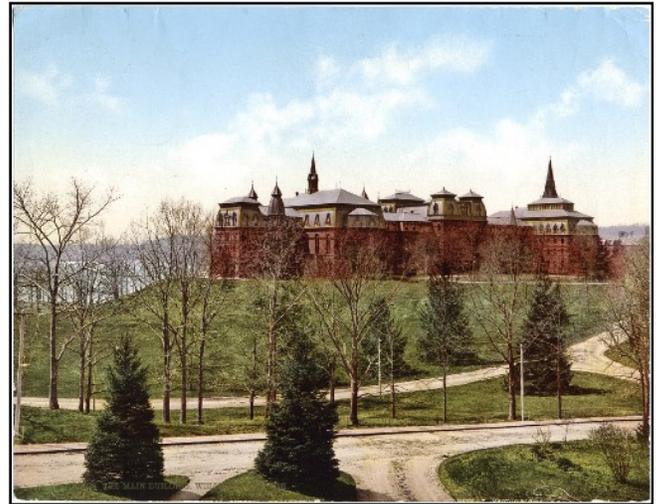


Elevation and Floor Plan

assistance. After looking over the information we accumulated, members of the FOL Steering Committee were immediately enthusiastic and generously provided the necessary funds. At the same time, thanks to the quick action of Wellesley's Vice President of Resources Cameran Mason '84, Wellesley trustee emerita Judy Jones '60 stepped forward with additional funds that, assuming we could acquire it, would enable us to begin the conservation and digitization of the scrapbook, preserving it for the future and enabling its use for student research projects. Martha McNamara and Curator of Special Collections, Ruth Rogers, attended the auction to bid in person. Although we met with some competition, thanks to the incredible generosity of

Friends of the Library, we were able to secure this amazing scrapbook for Wellesley.

The pages with information on the early designs for College Hall are especially exciting. The Durants believed in the aesthetic and moral importance of beautiful surroundings and they spared no expense in providing them. The corridors and public rooms of College Hall were eventually filled with works of art,



Postcard of College Hall

both originals and reproductions, culminating in the art gallery on the top floor. These ideas must have been conveyed to the architects from the start, and the Billings brothers came up with several ways to articulate them. In the future Jacki will be able to use these College Hall drawings for a seminar on the early history of Wellesley; with this new information, students will be able to trace the design and the function of the building, from plans to construction and occupancy and finally to destruction.

Wellesley has long had carefully annotated plans and elevations of College Hall as it was built. Examined with the newly discovered drawings in this scrapbook, we know the building incorporated the very latest innovations in plumbing and heating, some of which were not yet available in many male colleges and other institutions. The Durants spared no expense to make College Hall as safe and as comfortable as possible. Visitors entered via the circular path, known as the doughnut, through a portico into the five-story atrium known as Centre. This was the acknowledged showcase of College Hall; walking through it one reached the south porch overlooking picturesque Lake Waban. Centre was the site for all important speeches and

Current Exhibition
***Seeing the Light: Celebrating the Rare Book
Collection of Photographer
Olivia Hood Parker, '63***

Clapp Library, 2nd floor display cases

Award-winning photographer Olivia Hood Parker has been collecting rare books for decades, as inspiration and influence on her



Ethiopian Bible

artistic work. The books on display cover early science and discovery, astronomy and anatomy, manuscript ledgers and sketchbooks, and sacred books from East Asia and Ethiopia.

The Friends of the Library were deeply saddened to learn of the death of their beloved former Steering Committee member, **June Milton Grey Stobaugh, '66** on March 15, 2017. While in the Boston area, June served on the Steering Committee of the Friends of the Wellesley College Library for nine years, five as alumnae co-chair with Ruth R. Rogers, Curator of Special Collections.

June's outstanding organizational and promotional skills were instrumental in raising funds to support the vision of a Library Conservation Facility, and between 1989 and 1999, a portion of membership dues was set aside to help fund the facility. In November 1997, the Friends voted to contribute \$250,000 toward the construction of the new facility, which remains a vital part of the Library's commitment to preservation of its print and media collections. Other endowed funds were generously contributed by Barbara Lubin Goldsmith '53. In addition to these efforts, June was tireless in generating support and new members of the Friends group by inaugurating a series of outreach programs in Washington D.C., New York City, and Houston, Texas.

Continued from page 5

ceremonies during the academic year. Students came here for rousing class cheers during special occasions like college government elections, when seniors and juniors stood on the ground floor, sophomores on the second, and first-years on the third, hanging over the railings to watch the activities below. Corridors stretched east and west for 475 feet, passing offices, classrooms, laboratories, and dormitory rooms, anchored by the library, chapel, gallery, and dining room.

Of course, one reason the scrapbook is such a valuable acquisition is because College Hall was destroyed. On the morning of 17 March 1914 a fast-moving fire (probably started in the heated tanks that held the beetles Zoology professor Miss Hubbard used in her research) traveled through the building. The quick actions of students and staff got everyone out safely, as

well as some of the valuable contents of the building's "Browning Room" and other ground-floor spaces. But it took just four hours for fire to consume College Hall, and with it almost forty years of Wellesley history.

College Hall reflected the Durants' desire to train young women in "noblest usefulness," and to create a close-knit community of female students and faculty. Indeed, for the first generations of Wellesley women, College Hall was the College. Although Wellesley quickly expanded, erecting additional buildings for living and instruction across the campus as needed, College Hall was the heart of the community. Thanks to the new Billings scrapbook, we will be able to articulate this early history in more detail; we are exceedingly grateful to the Friends of the Library and Judy Jones for making this acquisition possible.

Though physically separate, the Music Library is an integral part of Wellesley's Library and Technology Services. The Science, Art, and Music librarians meet monthly to keep in touch, and regular meetings of the library's Collections



CD collection

and Research & Instruction groups enhance Carol's ties to the Clapp Library. In addition, she is in daily contact with Ray Schmidt, Assistant Director for Discovery Services, who catalogs music materials. Carol has recently begun working with the Davis Museum, assisting them with finding the relevant dance music for African masks in the museum's collection.

The extensive CD collection, although shelved behind the front desk, is available for users to browse; alumnae may borrow all materials. Carol pointed out that the collection

is arranged by accession, meaning that items are put on the shelves as they are processed. Therefore you won't be able to see all of the works of Beethoven together, but by placing them on the shelf randomly, it's a great way to discover new things. There is, however, an online catalog that will give you the accession number of the Beyonce album that you want so



Student Assistant Shrutikona Das

that you can find it quickly.

As with the rest of Wellesley's library, Carol depends on the strength of her student assistants, whom she praised highly. When searching for candidates, she seeks some music background, looking for someone who has played an instrument or at least can read music. She said that the students that she has hired are the "best I've ever had."

In addition to selecting materials for the Music Library, Carol has collection development responsibilities for Anthropology, East Asian Languages and Cultures, East Asian Studies, Asian-American Studies, Sociology, South Asia Studies, Latin American Studies, Spanish, and Portuguese.

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Thank you for your continuing support!

