

Programs & Exhibits

Library Exhibits Celebrate 100 Years of The Christian Science Monitor

It is my request that you start a daily newspaper at once, and call it The Christian Science Monitor. Let there be no delay.—Mary Baker Eddy to The Christian Science Publishing Society Board of Trustees, August 8, 1908 [Outgoing Correspondence L07268]

The Library's exhibit *Sensational Press. Radical Response.*

tells the story of Mary Baker Eddy's relationship to the press. Using a series of graphic panels that guide visitors along the second-floor mezzanine from the Quest Gallery to Lending and Reference Services, the exhibit charts her experiences from her first, early days of publishing poems and short articles to her growing fame as the media became interested in Christian Science and its founder. It also includes her founding of *The Christian Science Monitor*.

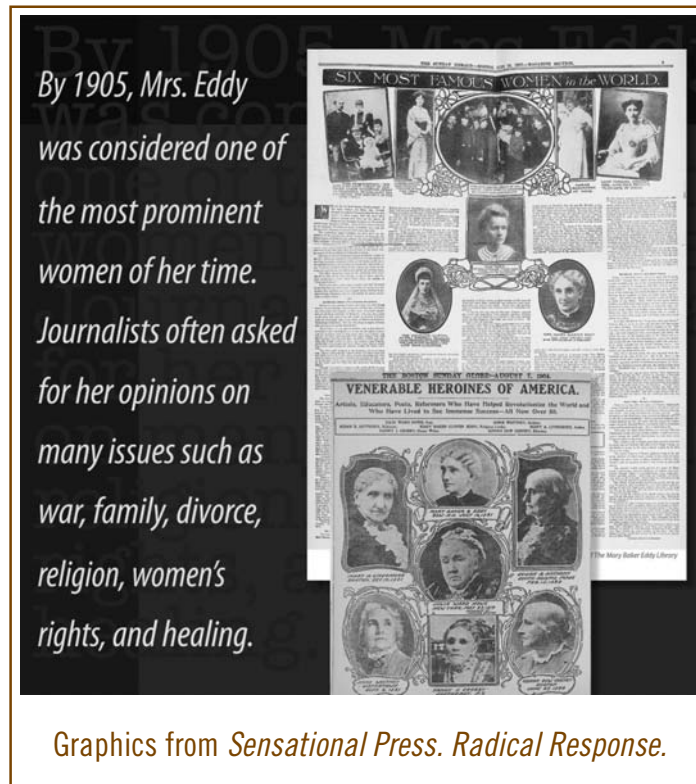
Several panels include newspaper clippings that show how Mary Baker Eddy, as one of the most famous women in America, was the subject of increasingly vicious yellow journalism attacks that hounded her every move and celebrated her public battles with lawsuits. Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* took a particular glee in publishing sensational reports. In 1906, it devoted a series of articles to claims that she was dying and that an impersonator was being driven around in her carriage.

By 1908, Mary Baker Eddy had clearly seen the need for a newspaper whose motto would declare it a stark contrast to the typical reporting practices of the day: "to injure no man, but to bless all mankind." [See *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 353]

August 8 of that year was a Saturday; by the Tuesday following Mary Baker Eddy's first letter, the Board of Trustees had met and begun to plan. Two days later, on August 13, they replied: "This is Thursday, and since receiving your message on Monday we have been continually at work finding out what must be arranged in order

to publish a daily paper." [Incoming Correspondence 94(b)] They followed that statement with several pages of detailed plans and communications.

Only 109 days later, on November 25, 1908, the first issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* was published. In the one hundred years since that day, the *Monitor* has become one of the most respected voices in international journalism and has won seven Pulitzer Prizes. The last panel in this exhibit features the front page of the first issue of the *Monitor*, as well as articles by other newspapers announcing its beginnings.



Graphics from *Sensational Press. Radical Response.*

In addition to exploring the *Monitor's* beginnings in *Sensational Press. Radical Response.*, you can learn about the history of the *Monitor* in the Quest Gallery. There you will find replicas of historic first pages, as well as a short video showing the *Monitor's* impact on the world today—and its commitment to carrying Mary Baker Eddy's founding mission into the twenty-first century.

Fall 2008 Issue

This periodic newsletter is provided to promote awareness of The Mary Baker Eddy Library, its exhibits, programs, and activities, to current and potential Library patrons and supporters.

Mission Statement

“The Mary Baker Eddy Library provides public access and context to original materials and educational experiences about Mary Baker Eddy’s life, ideas, and achievements, including her Church. The Library promotes exploration and scholarship through its collections, exhibits, and programs.”



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News

We Opened Our Doors

On Columbus Day, the Library partnered with The First Church of Christ, Scientist, to host the kick-off event on the Christian Science Plaza of the Fenway Alliance’s 7th annual *Opening Our Doors* celebration. As part of this annual event, 22 local institutions, including The First Church of Christ, Scientist, the Museum of Fine Arts, and Berklee College of Music, opened to the public for a free day of cultural activities. Special Library activities included classical music in the Hall of Ideas performed by Project STEP, a string training program for students of color. Over 1200 visitors toured the Library’s exhibits and enjoyed family-oriented activities such as face painting, storytelling, and a scavenger hunt. We were honored to be part of the *Opening Our Doors* festival and look forward to next year!



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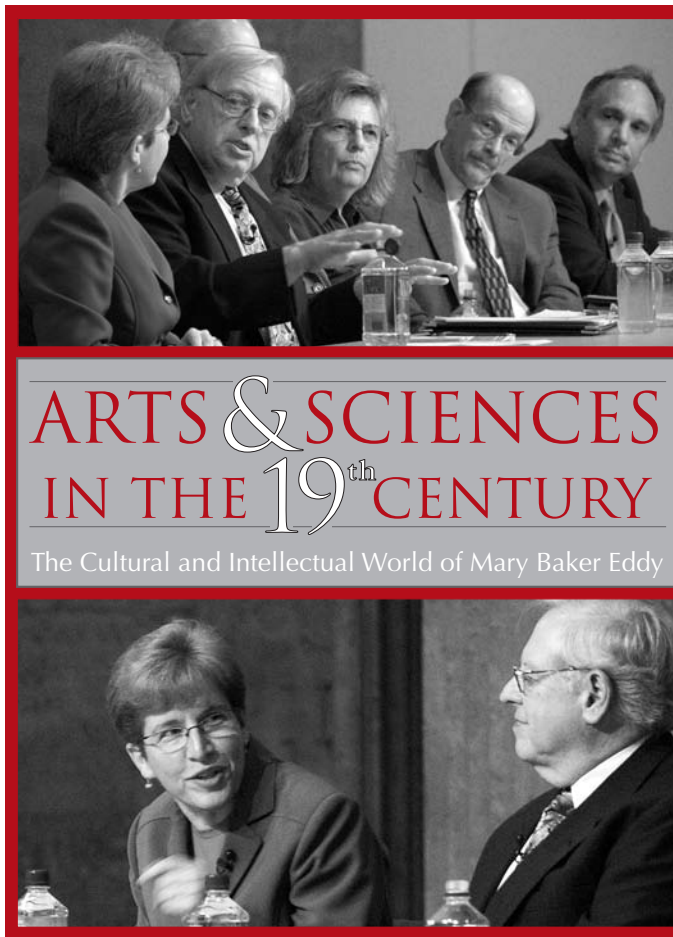
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Programs & Exhibits

Mary Baker Eddy and Nineteenth-Century Science

"Truth is found in the future, not in the past," was one of numerous provocative statements made during a recent panel discussion at the Library in a program entitled "Varieties of Scientific Experience: Mary Baker Eddy, William James, and Other Honest Investigators of the Nineteenth Century." The Hall of Ideas was packed not only with ideas but with a full house of visitors on Thursday evening, October 9, for this third installment in the series, *Arts and Sciences in the Nineteenth Century: The Cultural and Intellectual World of Mary Baker Eddy*. Professors and experts in history, the history of science, philosophy, and the philosophy of science, along with Library staff, provided the commentary. The issue of nineteenth-century scientific approaches to ascertaining truth lay at the heart of the discussion.

While the evening's content was multi-layered and profound, the panelists fully engaged the audience with sharp, concise, and spirited remarks. Each related their topics to Mary Baker Eddy's ideas and experience: Jon Roberts, Tomorrow Foundation Professor of American Intellectual History at Boston University, gave an overview of the relationship of science and religion in nineteenth-century America; David Nartonis, a scholar in the philosophy of science, discussed rival philosophies of science; Anne Kirschmann, a lecturer in history at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, explained the history of homeopathy in America; and David Pfeifer, lecturer in Philosophy at Indiana University in Indianapolis, profiled the development of the philosophy of pragmatism. Judy Huenneke, the Library's Senior Research Archivist, spoke about Mary Baker Eddy's use of the term "science" and the value of the Library's collections in researching the impact of nineteenth-century science on thought and culture.



Jonathon Eder, Administrator of the Library's Lending and Reference Services, moderated the event. To watch a replay of this engaging program, please go to the Library's Web site.



Mark Your Calendars...

For the fifth straight year, the Library is a cultural partner and event venue for Boston's First Night. Join us from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for family-friendly fun including the Library's historical and interactive exhibits, the Mapparium, children's storytelling, face painting, the "Kids Quest" scavenger hunt, and refreshments.

Throughout the day, there will be musical performances by: students of the Boston Art School for Chinese Music, founded by world renowned dulcimer player Ping Li; Project Step, a music education program founded by the Boston Symphony Orchestra that provides students of color with preparation to succeed in the world of classical music; and Zili Misik, an all-female band whose powerful Haitian, Brazilian, and West African rhythms infuse their original creations and traditional folksongs.

News

Education Update

On August 13, several hundred Boston Public School teachers descended on the campus of University of Massachusetts Boston for a New Teachers Institute. The Mary Baker Eddy Library participated in the Institute's Resource Fair, by showcasing the educational opportunities the Library has to offer local teachers and their students. Whether it's geography lessons in the Mapparium or learning about Mary Baker Eddy's founding of *The Christian Science Monitor* in the *Sensational Press. Radical Response.* exhibit, the Library presents many teaching opportunities for local educators.

Programs

One World Children's Enrichment Program

Over 1100 children came to The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the third annual *One World* program for six Tuesdays in July and August. The *One World* summer program provides area children ages 4-10 free access to culture and the arts. The *One World* craft activities introduce the children to the nineteenth-century world of Mary Baker Eddy.

Sponsors of the *One World* program include: Candlewick Press, Cradles to Crayons, Hachette Book Group USA, Houghton Mifflin, Penguin Group USA, Simon and Schuster, Magnetic Poetry®, Michaels Stores, Inc., and The Charles J. Wyly Jr. Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas.



From scrapbooks and journals, bookmarks, photo frames, stationery, and keepsake boxes, *One World* participants got to take home their own examples of objects that were meaningful to Mary Baker Eddy.



The children enjoyed entertainment that was relatable and accessible, including dancing, performing in puppet shows, and playing world instruments on stage.



Each visit of the six-week program ended with every child receiving an age-appropriate book donated by our generous sponsors.



Nonprofit organizations such as Boston's Salvation Army, the YMCA, and the Boys and Girls Club are some of the many groups who enjoyed this year's activities.

Programs

Fellowship Winners Mine the Library's Archive

The Library's fellowship program is open to academic scholars and independent researchers whose work requires access to the papers of Mary Baker Eddy and records documenting the history of Christian Science. It is designed to support original research and to help increase scholarly awareness of Eddy and her ideas. This summer was a very successful season for our fellowship program, with four individuals earning awards to conduct in-depth research in the Library's collections.

Nancy Alexander's research project analyzed both the Original Edifice and the Extension of The Mother Church in terms of whether they qualify as feminine sacred space. Nancy examined how each church was designed, how much direct influence Mary Baker Eddy had over the designs, and how she responded to the churches once they were built. As a Ph.D. candidate at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, Nancy is now continuing her work in the fields of sacred space and women's religious experience and will be introducing Eddy and her church into this wider dialogue.

M. Michelle Robinson investigated whether the early culture of Christian Science in Lynn, Massachusetts, directly or implicitly cultivated a message that attracted industrial workers. She investigated how the new occupation of Christian Science practitioner changed the economic opportunities available in Lynn. Michelle's work offers scholars new ways of looking at the intersection between religion and labor reform. She is a Ph.D. candidate in American and New England Studies at Boston University.

Mary Baker Eddy's lesser known poems were the subject of Lance Carden's project. Lance spent a significant amount of time transcribing and dating poems that are handwritten in Eddy's own copybooks. He also worked to collect and date the poems that are scattered throughout her correspondence. Since very little is known about these poems, Lance's work provides a great service to those interested in Mary Baker Eddy as a poet.

For the past year Diane Hanover has been examining the early growth of Christian Science congregations in the

western United States from the 1880s to the 1940s, and the fellowship allowed her to continue her research this summer. Diane worked to document the development of branch churches, to understand how they took shape and how they evolved into the congregations of today. Her project will also be invaluable for its investigation of the cultural and societal impact that Christian Science had on local communities.

One of the requirements for the fellowship award is that fellows share their findings with a wider audience. This year's winners gave informal talks to staff on the Christian Science plaza as a way to begin collecting their ideas, which will ultimately form publications, conference papers, or other public presentations. A number of our past fellows have already put their findings into print (see "Book Talk by Former Library Fellow" below).



Diane Hanover shares her fellowship project.

Applications for the 2009 fellowship program are available via the Library's Web site.

Programs

Book Talk by Former Library Fellow



Heather Curtis

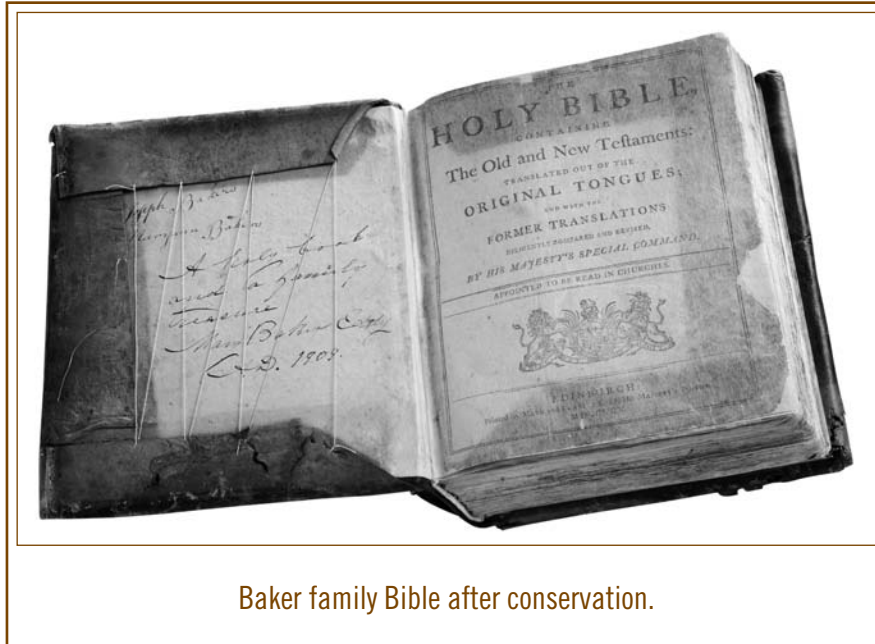
Over seventy guests gathered in the Hall of Ideas on September 23 to hear Dr. Heather Curtis, a former Library fellow and Professor of Religion at Tufts University, speak about her recently published book *Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900*. A portion of the book relates to research that Curtis conducted at the Library during her fellowship in the summer of 2005. In her talk she highlighted these aspects of her book, focusing on the interactions as well as distinctions and similarities between divine healing, an evangelical healing movement of the nineteenth century, and Christian Science. The book received the 2008 Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History. To hear a replay of Dr. Curtis's talk, please visit the Library's Web site.

Curatorial

Bible from Library Collections Conserved

In preparation for an upcoming Library exhibit on the Bible, "A Holy Book and a Family Treasure," the Baker family Bible was transported to the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) in Andover, MA, for conservation treatment.

The Bible is a King James Version purchased by Mary Baker Eddy's grandparents. Eddy's father, Mark Baker, made its tanned sheepskin over-cover to protect the original binding, which had become worn from daily use.



Baker family Bible after conservation.

should be removed. Also, excessive oiling of the over-cover had caused staining to the Bible's pages over the years. Recommended conservation included surface cleaning, removing loose dirt, removing the old backing repair, and washing several pages to remove the staining. After treatment, the staff reassembled the Bible, mending tears, reinforcing sewing, and re-backing the binding

with leather. The over-cover was then placed loosely over the repaired binding and barrier sheets were added between the text and boards to keep the cover from re-staining the newly cleaned pages.

The newly conserved Bible is on display, along with Mary Baker Eddy's personal copy of The Book of Psalms, outside Lending and Reference Services on the second floor from

Examination by NEDCC staff revealed that repair efforts made several decades ago were beginning to fail and

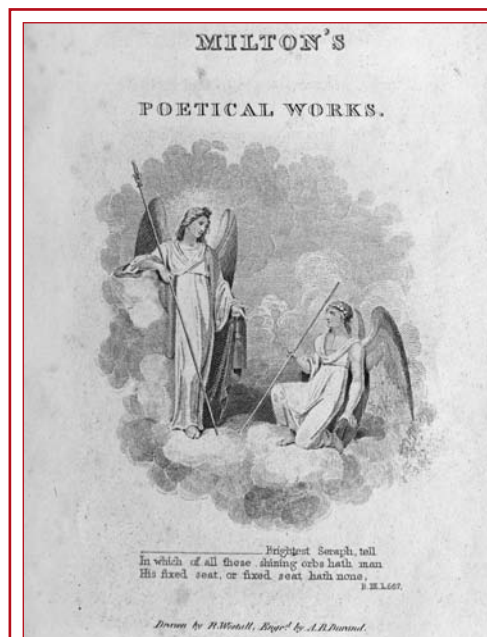
November 18 though mid-March.

Lending and Reference Services

Celebrating Milton

This December, Lending and Reference Services (LARS) will celebrate English poet John Milton's 400th birthday. Mary Baker Eddy looked to Milton for inspiration and insight and marked passages in her copy of *Milton's Poetical Works*. She also references him in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "What you call matter was originally error in solution, elementary mortal mind,—likened by Milton to 'chaos and old night'" (p. 372).

Mary Baker Eddy also kept a watchful eye on how society responded to Mil-



Frontispiece from Mary Baker Eddy's copy of Milton's poems.

ton. For her scrapbook, she clipped an article from *The Literary Digest* called "Our Debt to Milton," which expresses why Milton was relevant in nineteenth-century society and continues to be so today: "If our life and influence as a nation are to stand for a living influence in the world, if we are to be saved from the very real perils of materialism, we shall go to Milton for our ideal." [Scrapbook 025]

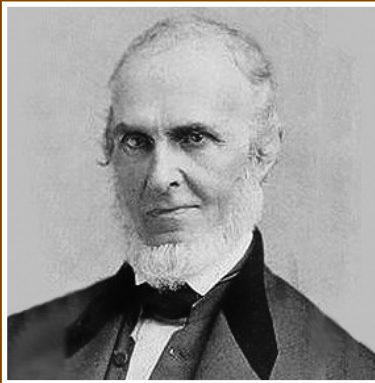
The staff at LARS invites the public to visit John Milton on his birthday. Whether he is a new acquaintance or an old friend, we can help you "catch up" with Milton by providing books and other resources in celebration of this distinguished poet.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

Did Mary Baker Eddy ever meet John Greenleaf Whittier?

Mary Baker Eddy was a lifelong admirer of the work of influential nineteenth-century poet John Greenleaf Whittier. An avid scrapbooker, she clipped his poems out of literary magazines, and later quoted his words in her own published writings. The archives also contain an unpublished poem she wrote sometime before 1877 titled "Lines On Reading Whittier's Snow-Bound."



In 1868, Eddy was living in Amesbury with her student Sarah Bagley, a family friend of Whittier's. In July of that year, they paid a call on the poet, who was suffering from a variety of ailments, as he had throughout most of his life. In previous months, he had written frequently to friends complaining of his precarious health, canceling engagements and apologizing for not returning their letters sooner. In fact, when Sarah Bagley proposed the visit to Whittier, she did so with the warning that he might not live much longer.

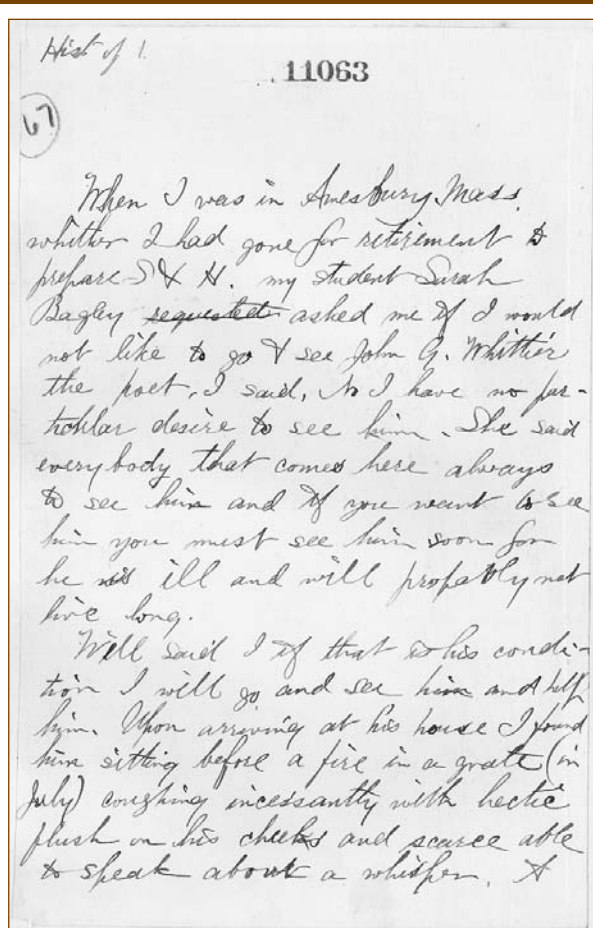
The two women arrived to find Whittier in a frail state, coughing constantly and shivering despite a roaring fire in midsummer. Mary Baker Eddy commented that it was

likely a much more comfortable atmosphere outside than in, to which Whittier replied, "If Jesus Christ was in Amesbury, he would have to have brass-lined lungs to live here." [Manuscript A11063]

Mary Baker Eddy spoke with him for some time, "in the line of Science," and by the end of their conversation he seemed much improved. As she left, Whittier called to her and said, "I thank you, Mary, for your call; it has done me much good." [A11063] She received word the next day that he had left his sickbed to walk down to the village.

In 1872, Mary Baker Eddy sent an early manuscript of "Questions and Answers in Moral Science" (which would later become the chapter "Recapitulation" in *Science and Health*) to Whittier via Sarah Bagley. Though we do not have his exact words, correspondence with Bagley indicates that he thought very highly of it and praised some sections. Later, in 1875, Mary Baker Eddy sent him an inscribed copy of *Science and Health*. Whittier remarked that he found it to be a work that would require a lifetime's worth of study. That same copy of *Science and Health* was found among his belongings after his death.

For answers to historical questions, please contact the Research Room at research@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7218.



Mary Baker Eddy's account of her visit to John Greenleaf Whittier as recorded by Calvin Frye.



Private Carriage,
 Public Journey

Our special souvenir booklet highlighting the **2008 *Private Carriage, Public Journey*** exhibit is only available through February! To order, call the Shop at 617-450-7222 or toll free at 888-222-3711 ext. 7222. \$10 each (+ shipping).

