

Programs & Exhibits

New Exhibit Highlights Historic Vehicle's Significance

Many people know that Mary Baker Eddy took daily carriage rides, but most do not realize that these private excursions became public events. For her, these rides represented recreation, rare moments of solitude, and opportunities for prayer—small breaks during her active days as a best-selling author, religious leader, publisher, and healer. For the public, the carriage became a symbol of Mary Baker Eddy's celebrity. Newspapers of the day such as the *Boston Post* proclaimed "Mrs. Eddy Takes Her Daily Drive" as headline news. Her daily rides marked press-worthy events, attracting crowds anxious to catch a glimpse of her. The media used her carriage rides as an indicator of her health and of the state of the Christian Science movement.

On February 10, the Library opened its new exhibit *Private Carriage, Public Journey*. Featuring Mary Baker Eddy's actual custom-built brougham carriage, which was carefully conserved by B. R. Howard and Associates in fall 2007, this exhibit highlights artifacts, reminiscences, and documents exclusively from the Library's collections.

Exhibit elements surrounding the carriage include images of Mary Baker Eddy's carriage rides and show how her personal time turned into a media obligation, as well as facts about nineteenth-century transportation in general. The exhibit is enhanced by artifact cases and an interactive kiosk featuring images with quotations from reminiscences that provide further insight into Mary Baker Eddy's drives, her love for her horses, and the public attention her carriage rides received.

Carriage Rides and Lecture

The exhibit opening celebration was marked by present-day horse-drawn carriage rides through the Christian Science Plaza.

On February 20, Library research and curatorial staff provided visitors with insights into the stories behind the photographs and documents used in the exhibit and into the physical construction of the carriage itself. This talk highlighted how artifacts can provide context for Mary Baker Eddy's life and help us to better understand selections from her published writings. *Private Carriage, Public Journey* is open through 2008.



Mary Baker Eddy's custom-built brougham carriage on display (top) and in 1903 (bottom). [P00120]

A special souvenir booklet highlighting images and reminiscence quotations from *Private Carriage, Public Journey* is available for purchase at the Library Shop (see back cover for ordering details).

Spring 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

Our Friend and Colleague

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of our President and Executive Manager, Dr. Elaine Follis. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Elaine knew her brilliance, unbounded compassion, and honest dedication to her work. In her tenure at the Library, she made a significant contribution to the Library’s effort to provide access to the papers of Mary Baker Eddy and an understanding of their context. She also reinforced our commitment to educate a very diverse audience—ranging from lifelong Church members to the general public—about the life and ideas of the Library’s namesake. Elaine’s love for Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science infused every aspect of her work.

Elaine brought to the Library more than 30 years’ experience in academia, an extensive record of publication, and years of public practice of Christian Science healing. She also brought warmth, charm, and a genuine listening ear to her role as chief executive. She valued the contributions of her entire team and happily served as a fellow worker when situations demanded it. Elaine easily moved from management meetings to painting the faces of 200 eager children.

Dr. Elaine Follis was a great friend and tireless advocate for The Mary Baker Eddy Library. She will be greatly missed, but her good work will continue.

We’re happy to announce that Lesley Ruth Pitts has accepted an appointment as Executive Manager and President of the Library. The summer newsletter will publish a detailed biography of Lesley.

Be a Friend

What Makes Me a friend of the Library?

When you make a contribution to The Mary Baker Eddy Library, you are considered an active/current Friend for the next twelve months. There are no membership cards or renewal notices. Benefits include receipt of our newsletters, free admission for you and a guest, and a 10% discount on purchases from the Library Shop.

You may donate online at www.mbelibrary.org. Go to “About the Library” > “Support the Library” > “Contribute Now.”

If you have questions about the Friends program or your status as a Friend of the Library, please call 888-222-3711, extension 7301, e-mail librarymail@mbelibrary.org, or write c/o Friends of the Library.

Programs & Exhibits

Arts & Sciences in the 19th Century Series

The life of Mary Baker Eddy intersected with many important intellectual and cultural movements. From the influence of song and poetry on thought and cultural values to the development of new paradigms for science and philosophy, the Library's program series *Arts & Sciences in the 19th century* brings to life a time in American culture of vital self-expression and intense exploration of new ideas.

In each program, guest panelists and performers, together with Library staff, draw on their respective areas of expertise in presenting how Mary Baker Eddy's life and work engaged with the intellectual and cultural pursuits of late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America, as well as how and why these dynamic movements were of crucial importance to her.

No One Could Keep from Singing at the Second Event

Hymn singing and spiritual song animated nineteenth-century American culture, and they did the same for an audience of 100 or more in the Library's Hall of Ideas on Sunday, December 9. Entitled "How Can I Keep from Singing?: The Musical Life of Nineteenth-Century America and Mary Baker Eddy," the afternoon included musical performance with commentary, drawing from the talents of musicians associated with the Christian Science Plaza and from intellectual resources found in the Library's collections. While focused on the history

of spiritual song in nineteenth-century America, much of the program's content had a Christmas theme and included selections for audience participation. Many of the works came from the *Christian Science Hymnal*, including "Christmas Morn" by Mary Baker Eddy and an adapted version of "Still, Still with Thee" by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The program title refers to a standard

gospel hymn, written by the Baptist preacher Robert Lowry in 1860. Songs like "How Can I Keep from Singing?" inspired popular culture in nineteenth-century America as well as contributed to the repertoire of American religious music. Such songs were a mainstay in hymn sings throughout the United States, a type of gathering beloved by Mary Baker Eddy.

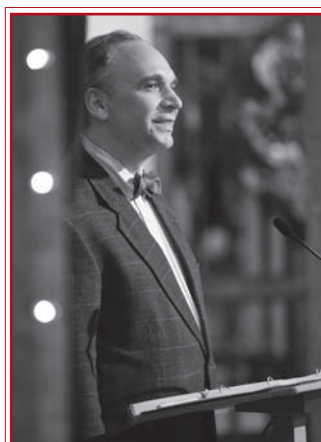
Library staffers Jonathon Eder and Aliza Saivetz organized the event, which included vocal solos, four-part harmony, and recitation, all with musical accompaniment. The collegiate musicians accompanied with great aplomb, featuring Asher Severini on piano, Lauren Hunt on cello, and Kelly Medcalf on clarinet.



Library researcher Allison Rose (r.) spearheaded the singers as soloist and as soprano in the quartet. Also singing were (l. to r.) Robert Wyckoff, bass; Norm Bleichman, tenor; and Carol Fisher, alto.

ARTS & SCIENCES IN THE 19th CENTURY

The Cultural and Intellectual World of Mary Baker Eddy



Jonathon Eder emceed, providing historical and anecdotal commentary on the selections, including references from documents in the Library's archives.



College music majors provided the accompaniment for the event.

Visit our Web site for details on upcoming and past events in this series.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007

In 2007, our fifth year in operation, Library management and staff participated in an assessment of our progress and accomplishments as an institution.

We identified the need to educate our audiences about the Library's key attributes, namely, focusing on our collections and including the message and achievements of Mary Baker Eddy in all of our endeavors, as well as to establish a vision that allows for future growth.

This special report provides a summary of the Library's activities over the past year and the initial steps taken to ensure its place in the community for years to come.

Our Mission

On February 21, 2008, the Trustees of the Library adopted a formal revised 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."

Re-envisioning the Library

With renewed purpose, the Library is better able to educate a diverse audience about the institution, its value, and its commitment to the community. To reflect the change in Mission Statement and to communicate the shift in emphasis from the Mapparium to the collections, we have begun moving to a new visual identity. Library endeavors—community events, special programs, and future exhibits—will entail strong, relevant connections to our historical collections.

Visitors

Almost 60,000 visitors came to The Mary Baker Eddy Library in 2007. Group visit revenue—from those who came as part of a school group, senior group, or planned tour—is up 10% from the previous year.

Just under 100,000 visitors logged on to www.mbelibrary.org in 2007. Whether learning about our programs, accessing *Science and Health*, or logging on to our online catalog (MABEL), the largest percentage of our visitors access the Library remotely through our Web site. As such, it is vitally important that we secure funding to update and improve the user experience at this portal.

Mary Eddy Baker is an amazing lady and force of nature.

This whole place is here because of her vision. Regardless of your religious, philosophical, spiritual stance on Christian Science, this place is here for you to explore, expound and enjoy.

—Tracee D., Boston, MA



Programs

Since the Library's opening, over 100,000 visitors have participated in Library programs, which highlight strong, relevant connections to our historical collections.

Arts & Sciences in the 19th Century

(November 1, 2007 through 2009)

is a program series presenting how Mary Baker Eddy's life and work engaged with the intellectual and cultural pursuits of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America.

- **"Passion for Poetry"** (November 1, 2007) focused on how poetry enlivened nineteenth-century America and how, in her letters, scrapbooks, and journals, Mary Baker Eddy turned to poetry as a resource and form of self-expression.
- **"How Can I Keep From Singing?"** (December 9, 2007) featured American spiritual song—a mainstay in hymn sings throughout the United States, a type of gathering beloved by Mary Baker Eddy.

"Myths and Tall Tales" (June 3 and 5, 2007) examined some of the Mary Baker Eddy "myths" that have persisted over one hundred years.

"Caring for Your Home Library" (April 10, 2007) offered advice on how to best store and preserve personal books. Topics included proper lighting and storage, how to evaluate your books, and how to find a professional conservator.

"Muckrakers, Scholars & Mythologists" (March 13, 2007) explored the history of a number of Mary Baker Eddy biographies and the individuals behind them, beginning with the several published during her lifetime.

Help the Library continue to bring Mary Baker Eddy's ideas and achievements to a wider audience. We urge you to contribute to the friends of the Library program today.

friends of the Library

www.mbelibrary.org

617-450-7301

librarymail@mbelibrary.org

Annual Community Events

First Night® (December 31, 2007)

welcomed 500+ early revelers to enjoy the Library exhibits, children's theater, musical performers, face painting, and craft activities on New Year's Eve day.

One World (Six Tuesdays in Summer 2007), in partnership with several benefactors and supporters, is an annual children's enrichment program that helps over 1,200 children explore art and culture through "create-your-own" crafts related to items from the collections, live performances, face painting, and a free book giveaway.

Opening Our Doors (October 8, 2007), an annual Columbus Day event, is a city-wide festival of free cultural activities. Over 700 visitors enjoyed free access to the Library exhibits, children's activities, and free musical performances in the Hall of Ideas.

Exhibits

The Hall of Ideas, Mapparium, and Quest Gallery draw hundreds of new visitors to the Library each week.

We continue to fine-tune our permanent exhibits, while developing plans for several new temporary exhibits each year. The evolution of existing and temporary exhibits reflects our commitment to educate the public about Mary Baker Eddy's life and to demonstrate the relevance of her ideas today, within an historical context.

Windows into Lending and Reference Services is a rotating exhibit that features items from the Library's book collections. This lobby display presents how Mary Baker Eddy's life and work engaged with the intellectual and cultural pursuits of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America, in tandem with the *Arts & Sciences* program series.

- **"Verse-maker": Mary Baker Eddy and Poetry** (June 2007 to April 2008), the first display in the "Windows" series, portrayed the importance of poetry in Mary Baker Eddy's life and writings within the context of nineteenth-century American culture.

PLANS FOR 2008 AND BEYOND

In February of 2008, the Library opened *Private Carriage, Public Journey* (see cover story). Additionally, the *Mapparium: An Inside View* exhibit offers a permanent display of letters, documents, and artifacts related to the construction of the Mapparium.

This year we also hope to continue the *Arts & Sciences* program series and to have a second young photographers program and exhibit. We will again open the doors of the Library to local, under-resourced children with the *One World* program.

To help the Library continue to bring Mary Baker Eddy's ideas and achievements to a wider audience, we urge you to contribute to the Friends of the Library program today. For more information about becoming a Friend of the Library, please visit our Web site at www.mbelibrary.org or call 617-450-7301.



Despite the bitter cold and rain, the carriage rides on the Plaza [for the 'Private Carriage' exhibit opening] gave me a new insight into the world of Mary Baker Eddy. Experiencing for myself what riding out in the elements on rough roads was like, brought her experience to life for me!

—Pam P., Providence, RI

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2008 Children's Arts and Culture Program Gearing Up!

Library staff is now planning our third annual *One World* program, a series of arts and cultural events for children ages 4-10. This popular series runs for six weeks from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays from July 8 through August 12. Drawing from Library collections, children's activities range from make-your-own scrapbooks to a poetry-writing wall. The program also offers live musical entertainment from around the world, free Mapparium tours, and provides a free book for each participant.



One World, made possible through generous corporate and private donations, serves many local under-resourced children from community groups such as the Y.M.C.A., The Home for Little Wanderers, Salvation Army, and several chapters of the Boys & Girls Club, among others. If you would like to contribute or provide in-kind support to this program, please email groupvisits@mbelibrary.org or call 617-450-7330 prior to June 27.

Lending and Reference Services

New Location, New Name, Ongoing Service

"Where's the library?" is a question sometimes asked by visitors expecting to see rows of books upon entering the reception area of The Mary Baker Eddy Library. There's a new answer to that question, as the circulating and reference books have now moved a bit closer to the foyer, into new space on the Library's second floor (the historical archive is still located in the Research Room on the fourth floor). With the move, prompted by the Plaza-wide initiative to relocate the administrative offices of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, into the building in which the Library is housed, came the opportunity to rename the Reference Room. "Lending and Reference Services" (LARS) is a title which gives a more complete picture of its offerings.

Lending and Reference Services supports research by onsite, remote, and staff users of the Library. Sometimes, this involves tracking down unique items from

other institutions through interlibrary loan. Is there a hard-to-find book that we can track down for you?

The public can also enjoy access to a free borrower's program through Lending and Reference Services. The Room's collections focus on materials that stem from

and give context to the life, ideas, and contributions of Mary Baker Eddy. Many items circulate from the Mary Baker Eddy Studies section, as well as from the Media and Main collections with their emphasis in such areas as the history of religion, nineteenth-century America, and women in religion.

With a staff of five full and part-time reference and public librarians, this department is well-positioned to lend resources as well as expertise to the scholar/researcher and the casual visitor. Our response to "Where's the Library?" could be "on the second floor," but in a real sense it's

a "lending and reference service" that can meet you wherever you are. Learn more at the Library's Web site www.mbelibrary.org, or email at reference@mbelibrary.org, or telephone at 617-450-7325.



Lending and References staff from left:
Cassandra Cacoq—*Work Study Assistant*;
Jonathon Eder, MA—*LARS Administrator*;
Amanda Gustin—*Reference Assistant*;
Paula Hartman, MLS—*Public Services Librarian*;
Jason Hoefel, MLS—*Reference Librarian*.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

The Library's Research Room staff often answers as many as 100 research queries each week, most via phone or email. Here's a recent question—and its answer.

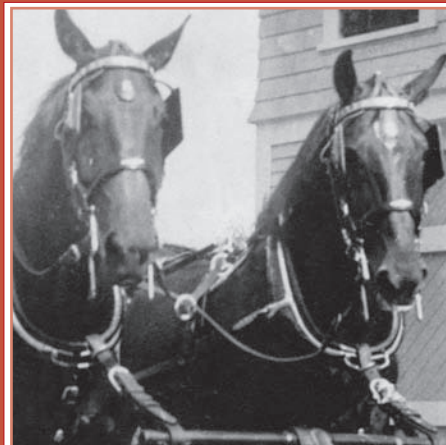
Did Mary Baker Eddy have any pets?

Mary Baker Eddy loved animals from her early days on her family's farm. Her fondness and care for animals carried into her adulthood as she had canaries and goldfish, and she especially loved her horses.

Once carriage rides provided a daily excursion for Mary Baker Eddy, her horses became particularly beloved because they helped provide her with an hour of peaceful reflection during her active days as the leader of the Christian Science movement.

At a time when horses were often regarded as machines and work horses in Boston had an average life expectancy of only three years, Mary Baker Eddy's love for her horses reflected a progressive shift in attitudes towards animals that was only beginning to take hold in the late nineteenth century. Several of her household workers wrote about her fondness for her horses:

In writing on the subject of horses, I must mention Jerry and Jean, who were very much attached to her, and seemed to know her well. When she returned from her drive and got out of her carriage she would often go to the end of the verandah nearest to the horses' heads, and speak to each one. Jerry was nearer to the verandah than Jean, and she would pat his neck or face and speak to him, and then Jean would put his head up over Jerry's neck, as if he were afraid of being left out, and then she would speak to him. [Clara Shannon, "Golden Memories," pp.38-39]



Mary Baker Eddy's carriage horses, Duke and Prince. [P06497]

Mrs. Eddy had a pair of horses for her own private use. The only time they were taken out was either when she was driving or when they were exercised. When I came to Pleasant View she had a splendid pair of bays—Prince and Duke. Duke was a very intelligent and trustworthy animal, much more so than Prince. I remember that when I had him out in the washroom he would take the hose right out of my hand and hold it in his mouth, trying to drink from it. [John Salchow, "Reminiscences of Mr. John G. Salchow," pp. 21-22]

Although Prince may have been more spirited and less "trustworthy" than Duke, Mary Baker Eddy wrote in her correspondence, "[N]o animal can ever suit me better than *dear Prince*." [L03543]

Salchow also remembered, "She was very fond of her horses and saw to it that they had the best of care. It is true that they wore blinkers and a checkrein, but in those days it was felt that a horse kept his mind on his business better with blinkers on and was therefore easier to drive. Mrs. Eddy would never have permitted a high checkrein. Her horses' heads were only checked sufficiently to hold them in a normal position." [John Salchow, "Reminiscences of Mr. John G. Salchow," p. 30] A checkrein connected the harness and the bridle and was used for holding the horse's head up. Disregarding a horse's comfort and well-being, some drivers used a severe checkrein, which held the horse's head unnaturally high, simply because they liked the look.

Mary Baker Eddy also did not believe in whipping horses. She wrote in a letter, "My driver is a good man and a judge of horses but he does not understand how to govern horses except by the whip. And I have no faith in slashing animals." [L14263]

Her caring sensibility towards animals was further reflected by her endorsement of healing them through prayer. When the head of the Bureau of Agriculture in Manila wrote to her in 1906 asking permission to heal animals through Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy responded that animals were deserving of care under her system of spiritual healing. [L14627]



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I was always at the porte cochere regularly at one o'clock to hold the horses when she entered her carriage and at two o'clock when she returned from her drive—this being her customary hour. Mr. Frye always escorted her to the carriage, the maid holding the door open and tucking her in. August Mann drove and Mr. Frye sat on the box. At her request Mr. Joseph Mann would have peanuts and candies put up in little bags which he would give to Mrs. Eddy to take with her to distribute to the children she passed on her drive. —John Salchow



A special souvenir booklet highlighting images and quotations from reminiscences from *Private Carriage, Public Journey* is available for purchase at the Library Shop for \$10 each (+ \$6* for priority mail shipping). To order by phone, please call the Shop at 617-450-7222 or toll free at 888-222-3711 ext. 7222.

*This shipping rate valid for up to 10 copies and valid only through 12/31/08. Orders over 10 copies, or to addresses outside the U.S., will incur additional shipping charges.