# Newsletter Spring 2012





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On the cover: Printing plates from the first edition of *Science and Health*. This image is from the new exhibit, *Impressions on Paper:* Mary Baker Eddy, Writer

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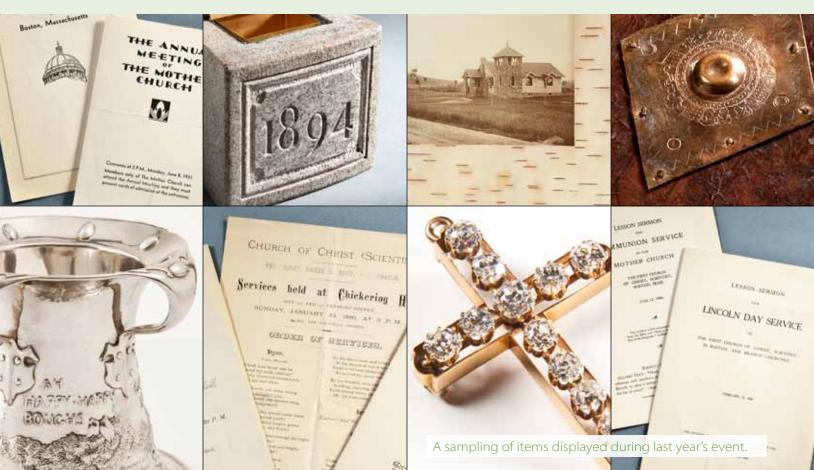
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#### LIBRARY NEWS



## You're invited! Library Open House

Join us on Sunday, June 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., to help kick off our 10 year anniversary celebration with a Library Open House. Staff from all departments will be stationed throughout the building to introduce you to their work and share more about the Library's collections, and through them, the history of Mary Baker Eddy and the Christian Science movement. On the third floor, don't miss a special opportunity to hear the Curatorial staff highlight key treasures from our collections. Visitors will be encouraged to ask questions about these rarely-seen objects. On the fourth floor, Research & Reference Services will have items related to the "Busy Bees" on view as well as fascinating historical documents to read and ponder. In the lobby, a member of the exhibit team will give a behind the scenes talk about the Library's newest exhibit, *Impressions on Paper: Mary Baker Eddy, Writer.* 

Reservations are not required. This event is being held in honor of all Library donors and is available on a first come, first served basis. If you've not contributed to the Library in the last two years, we will have staff on hand to answer your questions and help you donate on the spot.

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#### **New Exhibit Opens**

New England in the nineteenth century was a turning point for both women and writers, shaped by new voices from suffragettes to Transcendentalists. Mary Baker Eddy's own story is closely woven into this larger narrative, from her beginnings as a young girl whose father believed that her brain was "too large" for her body, to her triumph as a celebrated author and publisher at the turn of the twentieth century.

Through this recreated space, and the historic photographs reproduced behind it, visitors will see that Eddy's study was a flurry of activity...

This year's exhibit, *Impressions on Paper: Mary Baker Eddy, Writer*, brings Eddy's story to life. By carefully consulting historic photographs and mining the Library's extensive collections, our staff has pulled together objects from Eddy's Pleasant View study in order to create an

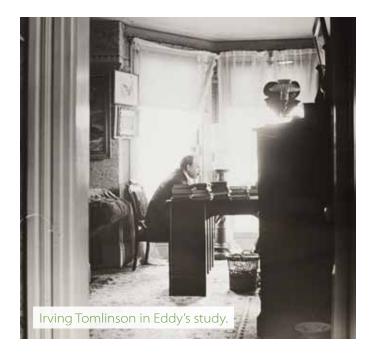
extraordinary experience for our visitor. Moving beyond objects in a case or photographs on a panel, visitors are invited to view Eddy's platform rocker, complete with draped shawl, as well as the desk where she spent hours every day writing letters, arranging the affairs of the Christian Science movement, and working on her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Through both this recreated space, and the historic photographs reproduced behind it, visitors will see that Eddy's study was a flurry of activity, filled with piles of books and paper, meaningful decorations, and a few notable pieces of late nineteenth century technology.

Yet the exhibit goes beyond the arrangement of objects. Through Eddy's own words and the words of those who knew her, *Impressions on Paper* carries the visitor through Eddy's development as a writer. Panels of text enclose the study, complemented by an interactive kiosk, enabling the visitor to explore why these objects are significant. Even for those familiar with her writings, this exhibit highlights new connections and insights into the complexities of nineteenth

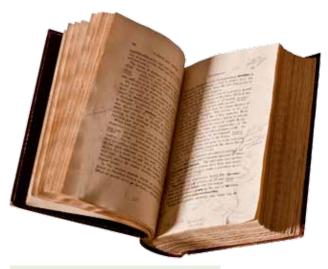


century publishing, the dedication of her household staff, and the intersections between Eddy's life and times and her writings.

Visit mbelibrary.org/impressions-on-paper for the Library's online exhibit experience.



Join us at the Library for free exhibit talks to hear in-depth and behind the scenes information from members of the Library's exhibit team daily at 12 noon from Friday, June 1 to Tuesday, June 5.



Eddy's edits in a copy of the 50th edition of *Science and Health*.

## New Trustee on The Mary Baker Eddy Library Board

In December 2011, the Board of Trustees announced two changes in its leadership. Brian Pennix, who served from September 22, 2004 to December 31, 2011, stepped down as a Trustee. The Library thanks Brian for his unwavering dedication as both a Trustee and Secretary of the Library, and for his great efforts in moving the Library's mission forward over the past seven years.

The Board is also happy to announce the election of Lisa Stepanski as a new Trustee, as of January 2012. Lisa is a full professor at Emmanuel College in Boston, and teaches courses in American literature and writing. She recently published her first book, The Home Schooling of Louisa May Alcott. Lisa comes to the Library by way of two summer research fellowships, in 2009 and 2010, during which she researched both the friendship between Mary Baker Eddy and Bronson Alcott, and the Church's use of modern technologies. In 2010, she was a featured speaker in the Library's program "Radical Minds, Radical Times: Eddy and the Alcotts," available at mbelibrary.org/videos on our website. Lisa continues her research and will deliver a paper on Mary Baker Eddy at the American Literature Association Annual Conference in May.

## Behind the Scenes: Curators in Action

Curators Pam Winstead and Alan Lester may work out of view at The Mary Baker Eddy Library, but they play an active role in many of the activities that the public enjoy every day. In addition to answering approximately 300 research queries each year, they manage and care for both the Library's historic photograph collection and its artifact collection.

Managing these collections not only entails knowing what artifacts are in our holdings but also their locations at any given time, and when and how they have been used in the past. Using the Library's archive, photograph collection, and outside resources, curators research and document the relationship of each object to the history of Mary Baker Eddy and her life and ideas.



This knowledge base fuels the Library's exhibits, programs, online articles, and publications like this newsletter. It also assists the work of outside scholars, researchers, and departments of The First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Artifacts must be properly stored within safe materials, such as acid free boxes and paper. Curators ensure this and carefully monitor the environment in which objects are stored or exhibited to maintain the least damaging light level, temperature, and relative humidity.

With each new exhibit, curators look to find objects that will illuminate Eddy's life and times, but are in sound enough condition to stand up to the rigors of exhibition—exposure to light for extended periods of time, variations in temperature and relative humidity, and even the vibrations that may occur when someone accidentally bumps an exhibit case.

The curators painstakingly examine each artifact chosen for exhibits and carefully plan how to best keep them safe while on display. At times, conservation of an artifact is needed to make it safe for exhibit. The Library is fortunate to have a dedicated conservation lab where smaller artifacts are prepared for exhibit and where routine treatments, such as surface cleaning, uncomplicated mending, and specialized mount-making, are done.

The Library's newest exhibit, *Impressions on Paper*, is rich with artifacts from Mary Baker Eddy's Pleasant View home, allowing visitors "a peep into my studio", to use Eddy's own words (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, 258). For most of the 30 artifacts exhibited, light vacuuming and surface cleaning were all that was needed. A more involved conservation treatment was carried out for three small textile pieces that required wet cleaning.

Not all conservation can be done on site. For example, the wicker rocking chair, on view in *Finding Peace* from April 2010 to March 2011, required treatment before it could be exhibited. As the work required was extensive, the chair was sent to experts who specialize in the conservation of this type of material.

Visit mbelibrary.org/blog to read more about the extensive work that goes into professionally preserving The Mary Baker Eddy Library collections.

## First Saturday Events: Spring 2012

Since First Saturday launched in January 2011, it has offered a range of free and informal instructional and educational programs that highlight the vast and varied resources of the Library collections. Past events have delved into the life of Mary Baker Eddy, highlighted resources for researching the history of the Christian Science movement, and included lively book discussions.

#### Exhibit Talk Saturday, April 7

Be among the first to visit our new special exhibit, *Impressions on Paper*. For those in Boston, at 1 p.m., a member of the exhibit team will introduce the display, objects, and recreated space and answer your questions about the many stories it contains. For remote visitors, at 2 p.m., a conference call discussion will offer behind the scenes stories into how such an exhibit is created.

# The Changing Face of the Christian Science Plaza Saturday, May 5

Join a member of Research & Reference Services staff at 1 p.m. for a walking tour of the Christian Science Plaza. Staff will discuss the ever changing face of the Plaza and showcase archival materials that chart the history of the Plaza's development. A remote version will be held at 2 p.m.

#### Exhibit Talk Saturday, June 2

Delve deeper into *Impressions on Paper* at 1 p.m. as members of the Library staff highlight the stories featured in this recreation of Eddy's Pleasant View study. By exploring Eddy as a writer, this exhibit talk will shed new light on her early life, discovery, and leadership of the Christian Science movement.

Please visit mbelibrary.org/first-saturday for further information and updates regarding programming. Contact Research & Reference Services at 617-450-7218 to RSVP.

### April School Vacation Week Program: For the Love of Writing Tuesday, April 17–Friday, April 20

During April school vacation, the Library hosted engaging children's activities that supported the theme of the exhibit, *Impressions on Paper: Mary Baker Eddy, Writer.* Visitors were given an introduction to the history of Eddy as a prolific writer as well as the various writing styles and forms she used in her life.

### Believing Young Voices: Youth Interfaith Program Sunday, October 30, 2011



An unusually early winter storm on the day of this event only added vigor to the Library's venture into teenage interfaith discussion. The Library collaborated with Youth LEAD of Sharon, Massachusetts for this program. Youth LEAD demonstrated how fun and joy can guide interfaith discussion by facilitating workshop activities.

The event began with a teenage panel discussion in the Library's Hall of Ideas. Moderated by a young woman from Youth LEAD, the panel consisted of two Christian Science youth, one Hindu youth, and one Muslim youth. Attendees were then invited to the third-floor conference room where novel icebreaking exercises led to round table discussions on communicating about religious identity. Attendees numbered around 30, and were equally divided between adults and teenagers. Visit our streaming video archive at mbelibrary.org/videos to watch this program.

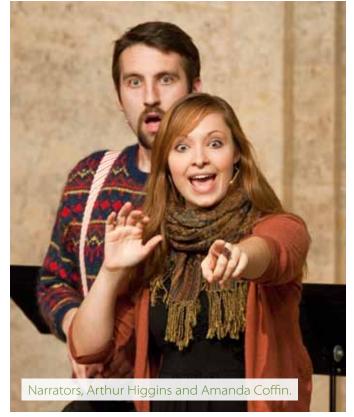
### Caring for Christmas & Charity Drive Sunday, December 11, 2011

It was standing room only for this year's thirdannual performance of "Caring for Christmas: A 19th-Century American Story." This original script was written with a youth chorus in mind, so we were happy to partner again with the New England Conservatory Children's Chorus under the direction of Sarah Houghton. Our narrators, Arthur Higgins and Amanda Coffin, Visitor Services Associates at the Library, and are very active in Boston's theatre community. Their talents added zest and spirit to the show.









The show coincided with the end of a charity drive that the Library hosts each year at Christmastime. This year we provided a venue for donations to Friends of Boston's Homeless, The Home for Little Wanderers, and On the Rise. After the show, audience members met with the charities, while a youth cello ensemble, Cellos 352, provided background music. Visit our streaming video archive online at mbelibrary.org/videos to sing along with this program.



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#### PAST PROGRAMS





First Night 2012 Saturday, December 31, 2011

The Mary Baker Eddy Library once again joined Boston's First Night celebration on December 31, 2011. This city wide event aims to reveal and celebrate diversity by using art as a catalyst and to unify the community through creativity, imagination and participation.

We enjoyed performances from the Boston Art School for Chinese Music, a youth dulcimer group; the Back Bay Ringers, an advanced, auditioned community handbell ensemble based in Boston; and Zili Misik, an all female Haitian, Brazilian and West African rhythms group. The Library was open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for this event. Other activities included an exhibit based scavenger hunt, winter-themed crafts, face painting and storytelling. Hot cider and cocoa were provided in the café area, along with sugar cookies. Our staff did a wonderful job on this day of community activity, as we welcomed 1,024 visitors through our doors.







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## Paths of Peace in Crisis: A three-part speaker and conversation series

Tuesday, January 10th Thursday, February 16th Thursday, March 15th

Our winter programming included the *Paths of Peace in Crisis* series that delved into concepts and content found in the Library's exhibit, *Finding Peace*. *Finding Peace* focused on ways in which we can all actively create peace through kindness, forgiveness, understanding, and reflection.





Drawing upon the exhibit's feature on military chaplains, Boston University professors Dr. Shelley Rambo and Reverend Michelle Walsh began the series in January with a presentation on theological responses to the after-effects of war and other like experiences, often referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder.

The series continued in February with Reverend Dr. Carl Scovel, Minister Emeritus of Boston's King's Chapel, and Judy Huenneke, the Library's Senior Research Archivist.





They discussed "Spiritual Writing in Response to Crisis" and explored the spiritual autobiographies of two trailblazing women theologians: Julian of Norwich, a fourteenth century anchoress, and Mary Baker Eddy, a nineteenth century religious and scientific thinker. Although separated by centuries, these women were exceptional in articulating original spiritual thought during times of male domination in theological matters.

For the last program in the series, the Library hosted "Women in Military Ministry." The keynote speakers in March were Chaplain (Lt. Col.) (Ret.) Diana James, Chaplain (Col.) (Ret.) Janet Horton, and Chaplain Candidate (2nd Lt., USAF) Samantha Larason. James and Horton discussed their experiences as female pioneers in military chaplaincy; they were the third and fourth women respectively to ever serve as chaplains in the United States Army.

#### PAST PROGRAMS







Both James and Horton charted a "path of peace" for the men and women they were serving through trying circumstances and extraordinary experiences. Larason rounded out the panel with a contemporary perspective as she prepares to join the Officer Training Corp. at Montgomery Air Force Base in Alabama this May.

## February School Vacation Week Program: Mapping My World Tuesday, February 21–Friday, February 24

During February public school vacation week the Library hosted a week of free programming which encouraged children to look at maps, including the Mapparium, in a new way. There were three activity stations inviting youths to explore our exhibits, and to become familiar with the concepts of latitude and longitude, cardinal directions, and how maps are used to record information about our world in many different ways.





Various activities touched upon key skills of making and reading maps, highlighting the history of mapmaking, and sharing more about Mary Baker Eddy's life, time period, and personal travels.

#### Author Talk with Keith Collins Tuesday, March 27

The Library was pleased to host Keith Collins for his talk about his just-published book *The Christian Science Monitor: Its History, Mission, and People*, the first comprehensive history of this acclaimed international news organization since the publication in 1958 of *Commitment to Freedom: The Story of the Christian Science Monitor* by Erwin D. Canham. And much has changed in over 50 years.



Collins, an experienced journalist and *Monitor* contributor for more than 20 years, examined the origins of this international news organization in the life and vision of its founder, Mary Baker Eddy. He also chronicled how it has advanced and fared in its calling to provide a high standard of journalism that is, as Eddy mandated, solution oriented, injures no man, but blesses all mankind. In recent years, this has included the transition to a Web-first format and setting a new institutional record of over 40 million page views in January 2012 alone.

Monitor Editor, John Yemma, gave the opening remarks for this talk. He described the book as giving a "useful history" of the news source, and acknowledged the deep value that Collins places on the Monitor's guiding journalistic principles while assessing the Monitor's successes and trials over its now more than 100 year history.

## From the Archives: Spotlight on Walter Watson

The recent release of Volume 1 of the expanded edition of *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy* has brought renewed attention to the many reminiscences in the collections of The Mary Baker Eddy Library. While a number of individuals were included in the book, there are many others whose accounts remain unpublished. Walter Watson is one such individual, and though his personal interactions with Eddy were few, a recounting of his experiences with Christian Science gives the reader a view into his burgeoning faith.

A highlight of Watson's reminiscence is his telling of bringing the first issue of The Christian Science Monitor to Eddy at her home at Chestnut Hill on Wednesday, November 25, 1908.

Walter W. Watson was born in 1853 in the New Hampshire town of Salisbury, one of nine children. He grew up in Littleton, New Hampshire, and met his future wife, Ada Hatch, there when she came to board at his parents' house. They married in 1876. The couple first heard of Christian Science while living in Littleton. At the request of some townspeople, Julia Bartlett visited the community to discuss this new system of healing in 1884. (While the Watsons are not mentioned specifically, pages 72-74 in the new edition of *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy* discuss Bartlett's trip to New Hampshire.)

In a few weeks, Ada Watson was healed of long years of frail health, and the couple embraced Christian Science. Ada would later become a member of The Mother Church in 1892 (Walter joined in 1894), and a Christian Science healer who occasionally helped out at Eddy's home in Concord, New Hampshire, as a cook.

#### COLLECTIONS

In 1885 the couple moved to Boston, where Mary Baker Eddy was leading a fledgling group of Christian Scientists from her home, which also served as the Massachusetts Metaphysical College.



Walter's reminiscence tells of the growth of Christian Science in Boston, describing Sunday services at Hawthorne Hall with an attendance of two hundred growing to thousands by the time The Mother Church Extension was completed in 1906.

Watson was one of the first ushers at Christian Science services and served in this position for over twenty years. He describes the duties of the ushers in the early days before the Original Edifice was built as seeing "that everything in the hall was in order, bringing in extra seats if needed and passing out the programs before the service. We also had to put the hymnals out—we had no Christian Science hymnal then, but used a collection of orthodox hymns" (34).

Walter's last day as an usher was the dedication day of the Extension: June 10, 1906. Due to the thousands of people attending six services, there were two hundred ushers on hand. It was a far cry from his first days in this position, when Watson was one of two ushers for one Sunday service!

In 1900, Walter became the first regular janitor at The Christian Science Publishing Society. This was a position he filled for 22 years. His responsibilities included

...firing two furnaces in the winter, keeping the sidewalks clear of snow, washing floors and windows, sweeping and dusting and putting things in order. I never knew what it was to have regular hours, arriving about five o'clock in the winter mornings to start the fires and oftentimes to shovel off heavy snows so that the way would be clear before anyone came to work, and usually staying until very late at night, sometimes this being the only opportunity I had to get the rooms straightened out for the next day. (70-71)

A highlight of Watson's reminiscence is his telling of bringing the first issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* to Eddy at her home in Chestnut Hill on Wednesday, November 25, 1908. "It was all securely wrapped and tied with pink ribbon and I carried it as carefully as if I had been transporting the crown jewels" (96).

In 1932, when Watson wrote his reminiscence, he was still working for the Publishing Society, but as a watchman. He speaks of the appreciation and gratitude for having had "even a small part in this grand organization" (103). Watson died in January of 1934.

For more information on Walter Watson's reminiscence or any of the many other reminiscences we have in our collections, please contact Research & Reference Services. You can also see a list of all the reminiscences in our collection by visiting mbelibrary.org/research and clicking on Finding Aids.

## From the Collection: Object of the Month

Every month, the Library's Archivist selects a piece from our historical collections to share, specifically highlighting the ideas that the piece represented to Mary Baker Eddy, as well as the significance it may have had to others.

#### January 2012

An Ivory Pigeon for Eddy's "bright bearer of messages"

Mary Baker Eddy's gift to Laura Sargent
was a thank-you for her help with the
book Miscellaneous Writings.



#### February 2012

Little Mementos of the Past

The Library's collections include objects Mary Baker Eddy gave to others, as well as many gifts she received herself. One fascinating example is a small collection of keepsakes given to Eddy by her sister-in-law, Mary Ann Baker.

#### March 2012

A Tale from Cañon City

This large photographic print of the Royal Gorge, Colorado, was a gift to Mary Baker Eddy in 1902 by Chalmers W. Talbot of Cañon City, Colorado. This piece was displayed in Eddy's Pleasant View study in Concord, New Hampshire.



During our year-long celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, the Library partnered with a number of organizations for programming and displayed our own rare 1611 Bible throughout the year. In order to assess the Library's collection of over 600 Bibles. Senior Curator Alan Lester invited renowned biblical scholar Dr. Donald L. Brake to view pieces from the Library's Historic Bible and Sacred Texts Collection.

Dr. Brake is a theology teacher and Dean Emeritus of the Multnomah Biblical Seminary in Portland, OR. He is the author of *A Visual History of the English Bible: The Tumultuous Tale of the World's Bestselling Book* and *A Visual History of the King James Bible: The Dramatic Story of the World's Best-Known Translation*. Brake is also an avid collector of rare Bibles and Greek New Testaments and has one of the most impressive private collections of these books in North America.

Among the books collected and preserved by The Mary Baker Eddy Library, Dr. Brake judged several to be quite historically significant, including first editions of the 1537 Matthew's Bible, a 1539 Great Bible, an octavo edition of Tyndale's 1550 New Testament, a 1560 Geneva Bible, and a 1568 Bishops' Bible. Dr. Brake's real surprise, however, was in discovering a first edition 1535 Coverdale Bible. According to Dr. Brake, "A first edition Coverdale Bible is arguably, the most important English Bible for a collection. While there are quite a few copies worldwide, they are primarily found in well established and famous libraries and museums."

Following his visit to Boston, Dr. Brake published an article about his findings, "A Bible collector's unexpected discovery in an unlikely place," which was featured on Communities at WashingtonTimes.com.



## mbelibrary.org/shop

Did you know that The Mary Baker Eddy Library Shop is now online? You can find unique museum logo and Mapparium merchandise, as well as our favorite books about the life of Mary Baker Eddy including the original Library publication, *In My True Light and Life*.

Shop our new "Make a Difference" collection to find products made from recycled materials, globes that run on solar and magnetic energy, and journals that are part of a "buy 1, give 1" initiative. There's something for everyone!

For further information or to order, please visit us online at mbelibrary.org/shop or call us at 617-450-7222, Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Ongoing	
through December 31	IMPRESSIONS ON PAPER: MARY BAKER EDDY, WRITER-Lobby Discover the life of a writer who challenged the constraints of a time when women had few opportunities. This exhibit also brings Eddy's study to life with original furnishings.
April	
7	FIRST SATURDAY-1 p.m. on-site, 2 p.m. remote Insightful exhibit talks about <i>Impressions on Paper: Mary Baker Eddy, Writer</i> including behind-the-scenes insights.
17–20	SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAMMING-Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join us for fun programming and free admission to exhibits, including the world-famous Mapparium. For youth 17 and under.
19	EXHIBIT TALK-12 p.mLobby Join us for behind the scenes exhibit talks about the Library's new special exhibit, Impressions on Paper: Mary Baker Eddy, Writer.
May	
5	FIRST SATURDAY-11:00 a.m. on-site, 2 p.m. remote Join us for a "Changing Face of the Christian Science Plaza" tour with historic photographs of the area including buildings, streets, and more!
June	
ongoing	ON VIEW-4th Floor See the "Busy Bees," original items from the Library's archival and object collections.
1–5	EXHIBIT TALKS-Friday through Tuesday, 12 p.mLobby Join us for behind the scenes exhibit talks about the Library's new special exhibit, Impressions on Paper.
2	FIRST SATURDAY–11 a.m. on-site, 2 p.m. remote Join us for a Library collections orientation with Research & Reference Services staff.
3	LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE–Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. All areas of the Library will be open as we kick off the Library's 10 year anniversary celebration. The day's highlight features Curatorial staff displaying and discussing key objects from the Library's collections. If you're not a regular contributor yet, we'll have computers available for you to donate on the spot!

Visit **mbelibrary.org/whats-new** for more information about these listings.

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST** to receive monthly e-mails and quarterly newsletters with in-depth reporting about Library exhibits, collections, programs, and news. Visit mbelibrary.org/mailing-list or click on "Join Our Mailing List" at the top, right-hand corner of any page on our website.

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK** to join the community of almost 1,000 people who follow daily life at the Library. With behind-the-scenes photo albums and an opportunity to join the conversation, facebook.com/mbelibrary is a dynamic picture of what we do at the Library.

**VISIT OUR "WHAT'S NEW" PAGE** at mbelibrary.org/what's-new for a one-stop resource of current information about the Library. This single webpage orients you to everything the Library offers online, from answered research queries to blog posts, newly posted videos, upcoming programs, and more.

#### **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.

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#### MARY BAKER EDDY

At a time when women had few rights or opportunities, Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) founded a college, established a church, wrote a landmark book, and—at the age of 87—

founded a newspaper. Discover her extraordinary life, ideas, and achievements at The Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston.



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