

Programs & Exhibits

Mary Baker Eddy and Scientific Thought

"Honest Investigator: Mary Baker Eddy and 19th-Century Scientific Thought," the latest installment in the *Windows into Lending and Reference Services* exhibit area, depicts expressions of scientific thinking in Mary Baker Eddy's day and their relevance to her ideas and life.

This exhibit, located in the Library's lobby area, highlights books from the Library's circulating collections and features relevant images and quotations from materials in the archive.

The first panel in "Honest Investigator" explores Mary Baker Eddy and homeopathy. Homeopathy was a widespread and popular medical practice in nineteenth-century America. In her writings, Mary Baker Eddy describes homeopathy as formative in her understanding of the mind/body relationship and as a stepping-stone to her discovery and understanding of Christian Science.

The second panel focuses on the nineteenth-century debate over Charles Darwin's ideas on evolution.

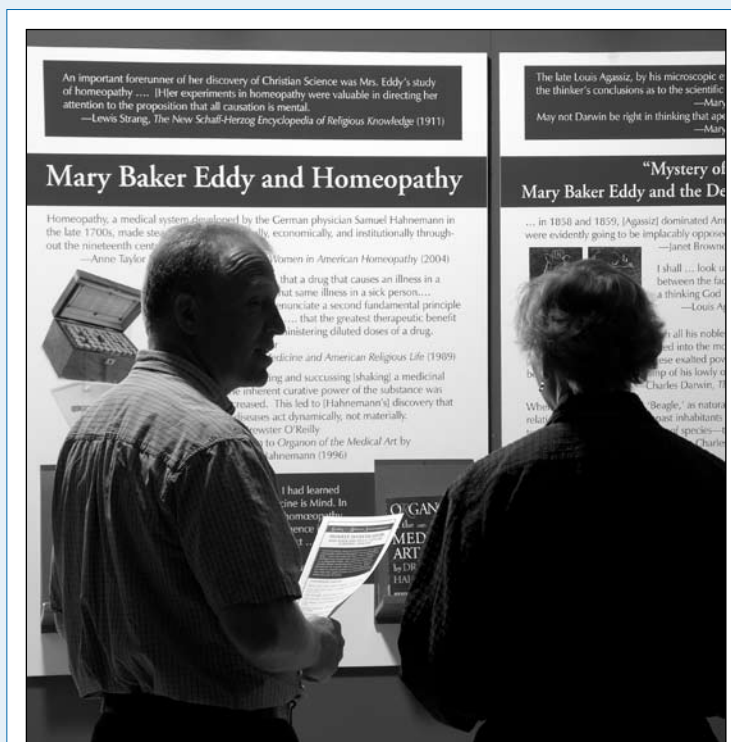
The prominent Harvard-based scientist, Louis Agassiz, vigorously opposed Darwin's views. Mary Baker Eddy was well aware of their disagreement and commented upon their respective perspectives as they related to her ideas on creation.

Images of clippings on scientific subjects from Mary Baker Eddy's scrapbooks are featured in the third panel. These items, along with other documents in the Library's collections, testify to Mary Baker Eddy's keen interest in the sciences.

How did other prominent thinkers view the subject of science in Mary Baker Eddy's time? The fourth panel features a variety of quotations on this subject from such luminaries as Henry David Thoreau, William James, and Hermann von Helmholtz, along with Mary Baker Eddy.

On October 9, the Library will be hosting a talk related to this exhibit. The program will provide an overview of the importance of science to nineteenth-century American thought and culture, with particular

emphasis on its impact on religion. Visit our Web site for details.



Visitors view the first panel in the new "Honest Investigator" exhibit.

Summer 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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Visitor Services

Has Your Group Taken a Tour?

For people fascinated by the life and ideas of Mary Baker Eddy, history buffs, architecture enthusiasts, and children studying geography, The Mary Baker Eddy Library has unique offerings for visitors of all ages and interests. So far in 2008, the Library has welcomed over 100 group tours, including more than 2,000 children visiting on school trips.

Group visits include a guided tour of the Hall of Ideas®, Mapparium®, and Press and Quest Galleries, as well as temporary exhibits such as *Private Carriage, Public Journey*. The guide presents historical information about Mary Baker Eddy and life in the nineteenth century, gives an introduction to the Mapparium, and hosts a discussion of how ideas have shaped the world. Group visits can also be arranged for Lending and Reference Services and the Research Room.

All tours are tailored to the group's needs and interests. For example, architecture tours emphasize the neoclassical Hall of Ideas and one-of-a-kind Mapparium. Other popular themed tours have featured topics including journalism, religion, and geography.

Our educational programming includes free downloadable pre- and post-visit lesson plans. Guided tours of approximately 45-60 minutes are available Tuesday-Saturday. If you would like to make a reservation for a group tour, please call 617-450-7330 or complete a group visit request form at www.mbelibrary.com. Go to "Visit" > "Groups" for more information.

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.

The Mary Baker Eddy Library 2008 Annual Appeal will be mailed over the Labor Day weekend. Thank you! from everyone who uses the Library—tourists, school children, church members, and scholars—and please continue to help keep the Library and its resources open by responding to this year's Annual Appeal.

News

Lesley Pitts Appointed Executive Manager and President

The Trustees of The Mary Baker Eddy Library announced the appointment of Lesley Pitts of Plymouth, Massachusetts, as the new Executive Manager and President of the Library. Lesley is well known to the Library, recently serving as interim Executive Manager, and, from 2002 through 2005, as manager of the Library archives, the core of its purpose and mission. As chief executive, she will supervise all functions of the Library, including the archival collections, exhibits, and public programs.

Lesley also served as a member of the team responsible for the development and implementation of The Mary Baker Eddy Library. As part of this work, she helped create and manage a major traveling exhibit on the life of Mary Baker Eddy. Touring for over five years, this exhibit was featured at the National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, the National Press Club, The Martin Luther King Library, and The Gelman Library at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

An active Christian Science nurse for many years, Lesley has occupied administrative roles such as Superintendent of Nursing and Director of a Christian Science Nurses Training School at a Christian Science nursing facility in the UK. As Supervisor of Nursing Activities at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, she accredited nursing facilities and worked with Christian Science

nurses worldwide. In the past few years, Lesley has devoted her full time to the healing ministry as a Christian Science practitioner.

Mary Trammell, Chairman of the Library's Board of Trustees, remarked, "Lesley brings an extensive knowledge of the archives and the communities that will help the Library achieve greater levels of access with this extraor-

inary collection about a woman of historical importance." She added, "With Lesley's oversight, we can look forward to valuable—and I could even say exciting—programs and exhibits that capture the spirit of Mary Baker Eddy."

On her new role, Lesley stated, "My goal is to continue to bring the ideas of Mary Baker Eddy and her unique role in history to life through the Library's amazing collections. With our current resources and the support of our Friends,

the Library has the opportunity to broadly educate and inspire a great number of people."

As part of the Library's engagement with the Boston community, Lesley will also serve as a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of The Fenway Alliance, a consortium of academic, cultural, and arts organizations collaborating to enhance the cultural, environmental, and economic vitality of the Fenway area, where the Library is located.



On October 13, we're *Opening Our Doors*. Join us for this annual Columbus Day event, part of a city-wide festival of free cultural activities sponsored by the Fenway Alliance. As a member of this consortium that includes the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Museum of Fine Arts, and The First Church of Christ, Scientist,



the Library will be offering visitors free access to Library exhibits as well as special children's activities and musical performances.

To learn more about *Opening Our Doors* day, visit the Fenway Alliance Web site at: <http://www.fenwayculture.org>.

Programs & Exhibits

New Exhibit in the Research Room Highlights Historic Images

What does history look like? Even history buffs don't always remember that the past can be documented in many different ways. Visitors to The Mary Baker Eddy Library will find that learning about the past comes from exploring a combination of resources—it's not always about reading! An exhibit of photographs in our Research Room illustrates the possibilities. The collections are full of images that document the rich history of the Christian Science movement and the life of its founder, Mary Baker Eddy. Below are just a few of the pictures our exhibit highlights, but the "reader" of these photographs can learn a great deal. We get a sense of the excitement at Pleasant View in 1903, learn that delivery of *The Christian Science Monitor* depended on trucks as early as the mid 1920s, and understand the 1970s construction work that created The Mother Church's Portico.

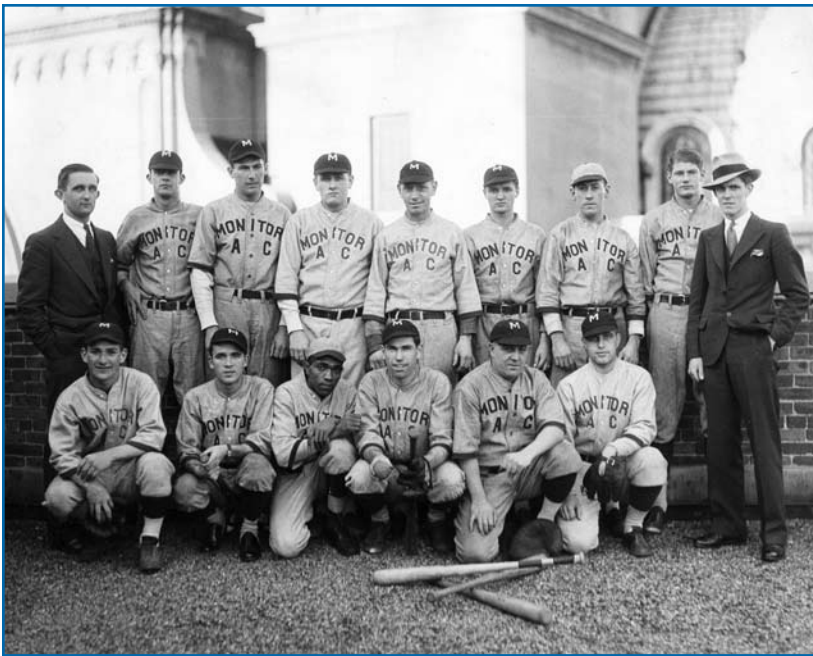
So, what does history look like? It's hard to say, really—history is everywhere you look, and a lot of it can be found in the Research Room.



Mary Baker Eddy reads her primary work, *Science and Health*, while reclining on a chaise lounge in the study of Pleasant View, her home in Concord, New Hampshire. Part estate, part working farm, she lived there from 1892-1908. This photo was taken in October of 1902 by Calvin Frye, who enjoyed taking pictures in his spare time. [P00050]

On June 29, 1903, Mary Baker Eddy spoke to more than 10,000 Christian Scientists from the balcony of her home. Most of these guests, in Boston to attend the Communion services of The Mother Church, traveled by specially arranged trains to Concord to see and hear the Church's founder. Here crowds of followers gather on her lawn and spill over onto Pleasant Street. [P06742]





Staff members of *The Christian Science Monitor* formed a baseball team as early as 1911. The team enjoyed some success in the Boston Newspaper League and in playing teams fielded by local churches, department stores, and the utility company. This photo was most likely taken in the late 1920s. [P04892]

Here in 1925, a transport truck is piled high with bags of *The Christian Science Monitor* for delivery. Starting in 1960, printing of the *Monitor* gradually moved from the Christian Science Publishing House in Boston to five regional plant presses. [P04249]



In the summer of 1973, 130 tons of limestone and granite were removed from The Mother Church Extension façade to make way for the Portico designed by I.M. Pei & Partners and Araldo Cossutta Associated Architects. [P03789]

For more information about our photographic collections, please contact the Research Room at research@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7218.

Lending and Reference Services

Recent Acquisitions

Lending and Reference Services (LARS) at The Mary Baker Eddy Library acquires books and audiovisual media to aid study and understanding of the context surrounding Mary Baker Eddy's life, ideas, and contributions. A recent acquisition of special interest is:

Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860–1900 by Heather D. Curtis. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007. (Winner of the 2008 Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize from the American Society of Church History.)

Dr. Curtis, an Assistant Professor of Religion at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, was awarded a research fellowship at The Mary Baker Eddy Library during the summer of 2005. Her subject, the divine healing movement, emerged during the same period of American religious history as Christian Science but was a distinct belief system. She recently wrote to us about her experiences as a fellow and about how the Library's collections contributed to her book:

The weeks I spent at the Library were incredibly productive both for my book, Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900 and for an article entitled: "Healing, Belief and Interpretation in 19th-Century Protestant America," in Spiritual Healing: Science, Meaning, and Discernment, ed. Sarah Coakley (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., forthcoming). In this essay, I argue that both divine healing and Christian Science—rival movements that constantly sought to distinguish themselves from each other and other competitors—shared many common themes and concerns. In particular, leaders in these two movements conceived of healing as evidence against scientific materialism, skepticism, and naturalism. And despite sharp theological differences,

both practitioners of Christian Science and proponents of divine healing recommended similar forms of prayer and meditation as means of healing. Material from The Mary Baker Eddy Library archive was crucial for this piece of work. I am grateful to the Library for providing me with both financial support for my fellowship and with excellent research assistance during my time there.

Other recent acquisitions in LARS include:

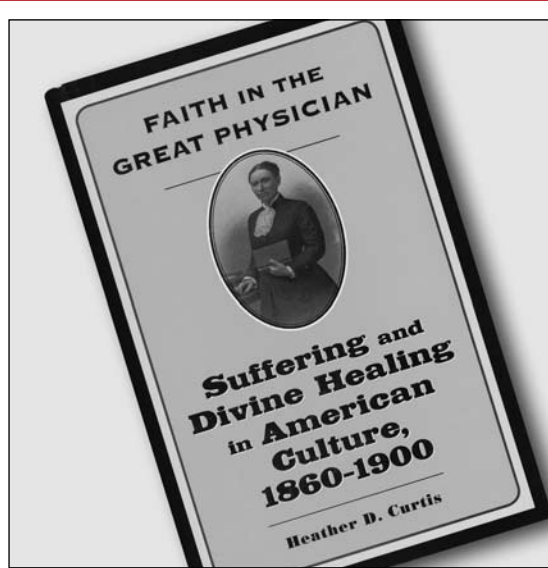
The Cure Within: A History of Mind-Body Medicine by Anne Harrington. W. W. Norton & Co., 2008.

The First English Bible: The Text and Context of the Wycliffite Versions by Mary Dove. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Recovering Nineteenth-Century Women Interpreters of the Bible edited by Christiana de Groot and Marion Ann Taylor. Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.

A Vital Force: Women in American Homeopathy by Anne Taylor Kirschmann. Rutgers University Press, 2003.

If you would like to read any of these titles, LARS invites residents of the Boston area to participate in its free borrower program by registering for a Library card. For long-distance or remote users, the Library participates in a national interlibrary loan program, allowing it to lend to libraries throughout North America. Search our online catalog (MABEL) by going to www.mbelibrary.org. Go to "Collections & Resources" > "Search the Catalog." Then request items that interest you through a local public, academic, or special library. Contact LARS at reference@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7325 for more information.



New book by Library fellowship recipient Heather D. Curtis.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

The Library's Research staff often answers 100 or more research queries each week, most via phone or e-mail. Here's one of the more frequently asked questions—and its answer.

Where can I learn more about life in Mary Baker Eddy's household?

Answers to this question are contained in some of The Mary Baker Eddy Library collections' more than 800 largely retrospective reminiscences. Written by those who had either direct or indirect contact with Mary Baker Eddy, these narratives and diaries range in length from one page to 967 pages and cover a wide variety of experiences.

Some of these reminiscences were written by the more than 150 different individuals who worked at various times at her homes in Concord, New Hampshire (known as Pleasant View), and in Boston and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Most of them were Christian Scientists and the length of their service varied from one day to as long as 28 years. They performed many roles: personal maid, dressmaker, laundress, cook, coachman, secretary, Christian Science practitioner, groundskeeper, and handyman.

Upon arriving at Pleasant View in 1907, Adelaide Still received an indication of what was expected of workers in Mary Baker Eddy's home, when she was told, "Remember, half the world is condemning Mrs. Eddy and the other half is deifying her, and the workers there stand between the two." Originally from England, she began practicing Christian Science in 1900, six years before immigrating to the United States. She would serve as Mary Baker Eddy's housekeeper and personal maid for three years.

Her reminiscence includes details that range from the mundane (carefully recording the steps she took

to dust the study) to the metaphysical (copying Mary Baker Eddy's morning lessons and instructions to her household staff).

Sometimes, families served together. Joseph Mann (who was healed of a near-fatal gunshot wound through Christian Science) first arrived at Pleasant View in June 1898, and served intermittently until 1907 as one of Mary Baker Eddy's groundskeepers and as an associate secretary. His brother, August, and sister-in-law, Amanda, joined the household at Pleasant View in March 1900; he served as a coachman and she as a dressmaker until 1908. Joseph and August's sister, Pauline, was a seamstress, assistant housekeeper, and cook at Pleasant View from 1898 to 1904. All the Manns wrote about their experiences.



Pauline Mann, in Mary Baker Eddy's Pleasant View study, awaits her return from her daily drive. [P01229]

Laura Sargent and her sister Victoria became Christian Scientists after experiencing healings. Both took Normal class instruction with Mary Baker Eddy in 1886 and both later served in her household. Laura in particular was Mary Baker Eddy's personal assistant, sporadically from 1890 to 1903 and then continuously from 1903 until 1910. Mrs. Sargent kept a small black notebook containing hundreds of entries, nearly all of a spiritual nature. Her entry from December

25, 1900, records these words from Mary Baker Eddy: "Put away all selfishness; bury out of sight any sense of being wronged and injustice and ingratitude from others. Where you feel you have been wronged love more and God will pour in love to you."

The Reminiscence File provides valuable insight into both the life of Mary Baker Eddy and the history of Christian Science. In it we find not only the answer to this question but also to many other important historical questions. All of the reminiscences mentioned in this article as well as many hundreds more are available through the Library's Research Room.

Do you have an historical question? Need a copy of an archival document? Want information about donating manuscripts or artifacts? Please contact the Research Room at research@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7218.



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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



Private Carriage,
Public Journey



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.