

## Programs & Exhibits

### *New Arts and Sciences Program Series*

The Library is pleased to announce the start of a new program series, *Arts and Sciences in Nineteenth-Century America: The Cultural and Intellectual World of Mary Baker Eddy*. The series explores the important intellectual and cultural pursuits in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America and how Mary Baker Eddy's life and work engaged with these dynamic movements. From the influence of song and poetry on thought and cultural values to the development of new paradigms for science and philosophy, this series brings to life a time of vital self-expression in American culture and intense exploration of new ideas. Guest panelists and performers, together with a representative from the Library's archives, draw on their respective areas of expertise and the collections of The Mary Baker Eddy Library in presenting themes and issues of crucial importance to America and Mary Baker Eddy.

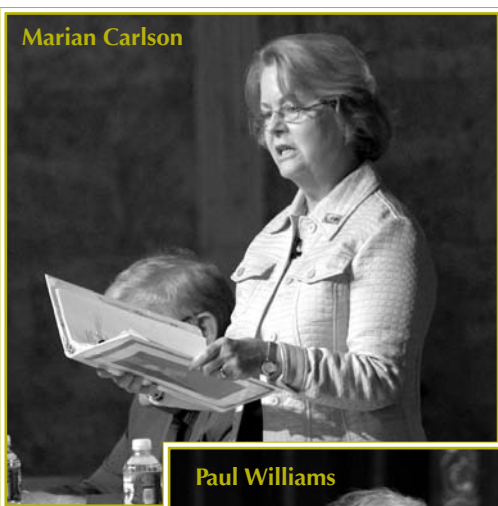
The first in the series, "Passion for Poetry: The Importance of Verse-making to Nineteenth-Century America and Mary Baker Eddy," occurred on November 1. The program explored the role poetry played in shaping the outlook and spirit of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America

and its meaning in the life and writing of Mary Baker Eddy. The Library was pleased to have the participation of three panelists: Marian Carlson, co-author of *American Genius: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* and co-chair of the Longfellow Bicentennial; Angela Sorby, Professor of English at Marquette University and author of *Schoolroom Poets: Childhood, Performance, and the Place of American Poetry, 1865-1917*; Paul Williams, past president of the Thoreau Society and Professor Emeritus of English at Principia College; and Library staff members Jonathon Eder, Reference Room Administrator, and Aliza Saivetz, Manager of Educational Programs.

The evening included panel presentations on poetry and recitations of poetry of the period, including work by Mary Baker Eddy, as well as a sung performance of Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" by noted Boston-area baritone Brett Johnson.

The second *Arts & Sciences* program, held December 9, highlighted hymns and songs of the season and featured performers from the local community.

In late winter, the *Arts & Sciences* series will continue with a third program focused on the scientific landscape of nineteenth-century America. Check our website for date and time information!



Three panelists share readings.

## Winter 2007 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.*

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## News

### *Reference Room Relocation*

As part of the Plaza-wide initiative to relocate the administration offices of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, into the Publishing House, it has become necessary to consolidate some of our space here at the Library.

The Mary Baker Eddy Library Reference Room will reopen on the second floor in early 2008. To facilitate the change, we temporarily closed our Reference Room to the public on Tuesday, October 9. Reference service remains available by phone at 617-450-7325 and via e-mail at [reference@mbelibrary.org](mailto:reference@mbelibrary.org).

**Please Note: The fourth-floor Research Room, the site of the historical archives, including letters and manuscripts, photographs, and other primary source material, is still open for personal study and research, as well as to answer historical questions about Mary Baker Eddy and the history of Christian Science.**

## Research Room

*“Will You Kindly Allow Me to Address You”:  
Ellery Sedgwick Corresponds with  
Mary Baker Eddy*

The Library's collection of documents written or dictated by Mary Baker Eddy numbers in the tens of thousands. Equally numerous are letters written to her. These letters comprise a fascinating group of brief notes, lengthy letters, essays, invoices, and even poetry. The variety of men and women who wanted to communicate with the Leader of the Christian Science movement is truly astonishing.

One interesting example is Ellery Sedgwick's correspondence with Mary Baker Eddy and her staff. Sedgwick (1872-1960) is best known for his work as Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* (1908 to 1938). When he wrote Mary Baker Eddy in the autumn of 1901, however, he was Editor of *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly*, a magazine in difficulty, as Sedgwick recalled many years later. “Frank Leslie had made a reputation for himself with his *Illustrated Weekly* of Civil War fame, but the name Frank Leslie was dead as a haddock and as for ‘Popular,’ that was not even funny as a joke. However, beggars aren't choosers...[and] I had been given the job of reconstructing the magazine.” [Ellery Sedgwick, *The Happy Profession* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1946), pp. 86-87]

Ellery Sedgwick longed to turn *Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly* into a more prosperous and respectable periodical, and his decision to contact Mary Baker Eddy made good business sense and good journalistic sense as well. In 1901, the media was very interested in Christian Science and its founder. In June, a vicious lawsuit against Mary Baker Eddy had been decided in her favor. Perhaps she had hoped this would be the end of nearly two years of nonstop publicity, but the curiosity only continued. Sedgwick's understanding of the situation is apparent in his initial letter to Mary Baker Eddy, dated September 4, 1901:

*Dear Madam:--*

*Will you kindly allow me to address you upon a subject of deep interest to us and I hope to you.*

*Various magazines, as you doubtless know, have of late made a specialty of articles upon the doctrines of Christian Science. If I am any judge, all or almost all of them have*

*been predicated upon a very comprehensive ignorance of facts. Articles which have attacked Christian Science, and they have been numerous, have seemed to me vindictive, while those in defence have seemed to me not at all conclusive, and not even very persuasive.*

*It occurs to me that in view of the wide-spread circulation of false ideas, for which these various articles have been responsible, that you may think it wise and proper to make a short but comprehensive address to the general public, setting forth views which, whether the reader holds them to be true or not, he must at least admit to be correctly stated. It would be a privilege for us to place such space as you desire to have in our Magazine, at your disposal, and we should, of course, be glad to pay you liberally for any contribution which you might see fit to make....I am, awaiting your answer with much interest,*

Ellery Sedgwick  
Editor. [IC688(a)]

Unfortunately, Sedgwick's letter was sent to Concord, Massachusetts, rather than Concord, New Hampshire. By late October, having received no response, and realizing his mistake, he wrote again. Mary Baker Eddy quickly replied, and her letter, dated October 25, 1901, is remarkably open and honest:

My dear Editor:

*I thank you and appreciate your offer – but beg to say I have not time to avail myself of it. I coincide in part with your incisive criticism on some Christian Science writers.*

*About fifty years ago I had the honor of occasionally writing for your magazine; But it has outgrown my pen, or vice versa. Were I to write for your readers it would be somewhat in an unknown tongue.*

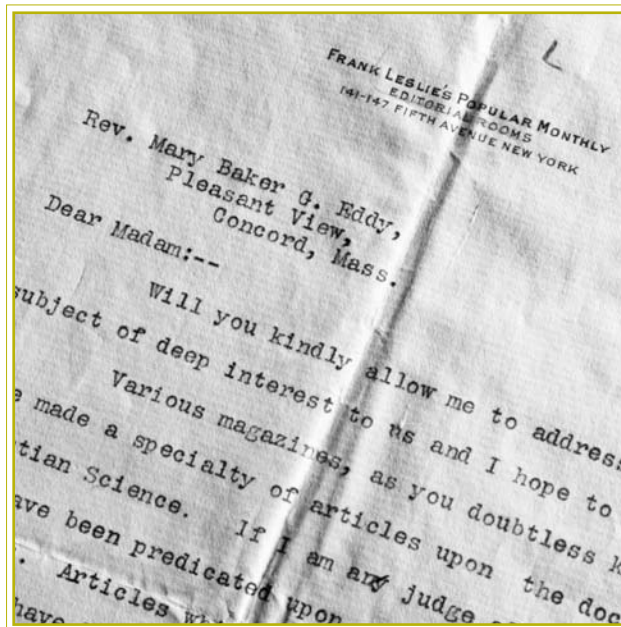
*The style of your contributors is ~~pro~~ gorgeous powerful pure in its English. My writings permit of but one excellence namely spiritual Science. And to adjust Science to the unattuned ear requires much attention. Christian Science is not generally understood hence my sayings are misinterpreted and need much reiteration. So I wait a bit till the world and I can talk together in the new tongue. Then at least we can have a fair fight.*

Most truly  
M. B. Eddy [V01904]

Why did Mary Baker Eddy decline Ellery Sedgwick's offer? Clearly she was touched by his discernment of her situation. Examining the archives, we can see that her concerns were legal in nature. Irving C. Tomlinson, a Christian Science practitioner in Concord who was also a student of Mary Baker Eddy, was embroiled in a lawsuit filed by one of his former patients; the lawsuit was decided in his favor in the spring of 1902. Shortly before writing Sedgwick, Mary Baker Eddy's secretary Calvin A. Frye wrote Frank Streeter, her legal counsel, wondering if "her freedom of pen" could lead to legal challenges "if she complies with the frequent requests from the Editors of our leading magazines to furnish them with articles on Christian Science." [V01903]

A few days later, Streeter responded that she could write anything she wanted, as long as she avoided mention of the lawsuit, but by that time she had already declined Sedgwick's request.

This interesting exchange between Ellery Sedgwick and Mary Baker Eddy represents only one example of the fascinating dialogues that make up her correspondence. Her letters and the Incoming Correspondence file are available for reading in the Library's Research Room.



Sedgwick's September 4, 1901 letter.

As of November 30 at 1:00 p.m., almost 80% of our readers who answered our poll indicated their preference to receive the newsletter electronically.



Join our e-distribution list at: [www.mbelibrary.org](http://www.mbelibrary.org)  
> About the Library > Newsletter.



## Curatorial

### *Souvenir Spoons*

Souvenir spoons representing many localities, causes, and events were very much in demand from the 1890s through the 1920s. They were purchased as mementos of trips and vacations and also as gifts.

Library curators Pam Winstead and Alan Lester selected twelve spoons from the collection to show and discuss with visitors during *Opening Our Doors Day* on October 8. The selection included the Christian Science souvenir spoon along with others that Mary Baker Eddy had received as gifts. These spoons commemorate various places, including Salt Lake City, Utah; Atlanta, Georgia; Pueblo, Cuba; Nashville, Tennessee; Seward, Alaska;

Boston, Massachusetts; Arkansas City, Kansas; and a group from Colorado representing Boulder, Soda Springs/Cañon City, Gate Way Garden of the Gods, and Royal Gorge.



Three spoons from the collection currently on display.

The spoons in the last group are of special interest because Mary Baker Eddy had large photographic prints of these Colorado scenes hanging in her home. Little information could be found about the Gate Way Garden of the Gods print and spoon, but the Royal Gorge print and spoon and the Soda Springs/Cañon City

spoon were gifts sent to her by C. W. Talbot from Cañon City, Colorado, who was Treasurer of The Raymond Consolidated Mines Company in Cañon City.

The Christian Science souvenir spoon has a cross and crown at the end of the handle, Mary Baker Eddy's likeness and signature on the front of the handle, her Pleasant View home in the bowl of the spoon, and the

## Programs & Events

### *One World Returns*

What do Mary Baker Eddy's scrapbooks have in common with foam animal shapes and chapter books? They were all part of this summer's *One World* arts and culture enrichment program for children hosted by the Library. Building on the success of last year's inaugural program, this year's *One World* expanded from four to six weeks of activities and increased daily attendance by 25%. Every Tuesday between July 10 and August 14, participants ages four to twelve came from community groups such as Y.M.C.A., The Home for Little Wanderers, Salvation Army, Washington Heights Tenant Association, and several chapters of the Boys & Girls Club, among others.

Each week featured a different craft activity that highlighted an area of the Library's collections. Us-

ing Mary Baker Eddy's scrapbooks, letters, picture frames, bookmarks, and diaries as models, kids made their own versions, decorating them with stickers, foam shapes, rubber stamps, markers, and crayons provided through support from The Charles J. Wyly, Jr. Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas.

Other activities included Mapparium tours and entertainment that ranged from puppets performing Aesop's fables, to a children's book illustrator sharing his cut paper images, to musicians who invited youngsters from the audience to play traditional African and Haitian instruments. Through the generous donations of Hachette Book Group USA, Houghton Mifflin, Penguin Group (USA), and Rand McNally, every child who attended also received a free book.

The Library looks forward to next year when its smallest neighbors return to celebrate our *One World*.

motto “Not matter but Mind satisfieth” on the back of the handle. It was designed by Frederick R. Roberts for the Christian Science Souvenir Company of Concord, New Hampshire, which consisted of three Concord businessmen, George F. Durgin, Allan H. Robinson, and George Moses. The William B. Durgin Company of Concord, New Hampshire, manufactured the spoons in 1898 for the company.

In the February 1899 issue of *The Christian Science Journal*, Mary Baker Eddy encouraged Christian Scientists to purchase the spoons. Although it was falsely rumored that Mary Baker Eddy herself received a share of the profits, the spoons were not sold to raise funds for any Church-related project. All profits went to the Christian Science Souvenir Company. The spoon was one of the means by which she supported businesses in the Concord community.



Christian Science souvenir spoon.

Interest in the Christian Science spoon seemed to wane in the 1920s as it did with souvenir spoons in general. The spoon was revived in 1949 when Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr. and Stanley Jacoby located molds

for the spoon and formed the Jubilee Spoon Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. They sold spoons during the 1950s and 1960s. There is no identifying mark on the spoons to distinguish between original issues and later productions, though the relief designs on the later spoons tend to be less distinct than the earlier spoons, especially in the area of the motto and signature.

Because of the interest generated on *Opening Our Doors Day*, the twelve souvenir spoons are on display for a limited time in the

fourth-floor Research Room.

## Exhibits

### *Carriage Exhibit Update*

On September 18, Mary Baker Eddy's brougham carriage was transported to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to undergo conservation treatment. It arrived in good condition and was parked next to Abraham Lincoln's carriage, which is also undergoing conservation. Brian Howard of B.R. Howard & Associates, Inc. reported that the work is moving along faster than anticipated. He said his staff enjoys taking breaks from some of their more tedious projects to work on Mary Baker Eddy's carriage. As the conservators stabilize and clean the surface paint, they are choosing key areas from which to remove the over paint and expose the original surface and design detail. These areas are called “windows.” One window on the carriage door has revealed

the original ornate gold monogram “MBE.” The conservators are also in the process of finding new tires for the carriage wheels, since the solid rubber tires have flattened areas from resting in storage over many years. The carriage is scheduled to return to Boston in late December and will be displayed in the Library reception area in early 2008.



Courtesy of B.R. Howard & Associates, Inc.

### *Monitor Gallery Re-tooled*

The Monitor Gallery exhibit closed on October 9. In the coming months, select elements from the Monitor exhibit will be incorporated into the Quest Gallery to better highlight Mary Baker Eddy's achievements.

## Programs & Exhibits

### *Opening Our Doors Day 2007*

As a member of the Fenway Alliance (a consortium of twenty-two cultural, academic, and arts institutions), The Mary Baker Eddy Library participated in *Opening Our Doors Day*, Boston's largest annual free day of arts and cultural activities. The event, held on October 8, brought in over 700 people to the Library, a number that surpassed recent years and ranked third among members of the Alliance in overall attendance.

Throughout the day, the Library had family friendly activities, including Mapparium® tours, face painting, and an assortment of art activities. Visitors of all ages had the opportunity to explore the exhibit spaces highlighting the life and achievements of Mary Baker Eddy and experience what the Library has to offer to the local Boston community. The Library's curatorial staff also joined in the festivities by hosting a table talk to display some of the items from the collections, including several nineteenth-century spoons given to Mary Baker Eddy by her supporters (see "Souvenir Spoons" on page 4 for more information).

Additionally, Library visitors were treated to musical performances in the Library's Hall of Ideas®. The young musicians from Project STEP (String Training and Education Program for Students of Color) impressed the audiences with their classical training, and Zili Misik ended the day with their African- and Haitian-inspired rhythms.

The sixth annual *Opening Our Doors Day* was an immense success and the Library looks forward to continued participation in this annual Boston tradition.

## Programs & Exhibits

### *You Could Be a Docent*

Looking for a unique volunteer opportunity? The Library docent program is an excellent way to share your enthusiasm for history and Mary Baker Eddy and to work with audiences of all ages! With an increasing number of group visits each year, the Library has come to rely on more of its volunteer docent staff and is constantly looking for new volunteers to lend a helping hand.



**Zili Misik performer.**

Currently, we have a small but dedicated team who helps the Library serve groups, ensuring that their visits are educational and fun. One of our docents recently explained that she not only enjoys sharing her knowledge of the exhibits but also learning from the Library visitors themselves, particularly "Mapparium visitors as they tell about their experiences and connections around

the globe." She continued, "My happiest moments are when I feel that [the visitors and I] are exploring the Library together, rather than one giving and the other taking a tour."



**Docent welcomes a group tour.**

Docents are responsible for leading guided tours of all of the Library's exhibits and also have the opportunity to assist with the Library's special programs. Ideally, docents have museum and/or teaching experience, or are comfortable guiding groups through the exhibits, and must enjoy working with visitors of all ages.

**To learn more about becoming a docent,** please contact the Manager of Educational Programs at [saivetza@mbelibrary.org](mailto:saivetza@mbelibrary.org) or 617-450-7330.



## 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 e-mail. Here's one of the more frequently asked questions—and its answer.

#### **What books did Mary Baker Eddy own?**

Mary Baker Eddy's personal library reflects her keen interest in the world around her. The collection includes books on politics, writing, natural science, history, medicine, theology, poetry, philosophy, world religions, and current events. Additionally, she had several different hymnals and books of music. Some of the books in the collection are those she used as a child while in school.

At the time of her passing in 1910, Mary Baker Eddy's personal library contained over 1,000 volumes. However, this tally does not reflect all of the books she may have read or owned during her lifetime. A large percentage of the books in the inventory were not selected by her but were gifts from grateful students and other authors.

We have a sense of the topics that interested Mary Baker Eddy and the books she read, in part because of her annotations and markings found in some of the volumes. To protect these rare books, we have scanned the specific pages Mary Baker Eddy annotated, and these are available to view via the computers in the Library.

Copies of some of the books in her collection have been purchased to duplicate her library and can be examined by visitors to the Library. Some titles can also be viewed through Google™ Book Search on the Internet.

A few examples of the types of books found in her personal library follow:

#### **Scriptural/Theological:**

- *The History of Christianity* – John S.C. Abbott
- *A Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments or a Dictionary and Alphabetical Index to the Bible* – Alexander Cruden
- *Of the Imitation of Christ* – Thomas à Kempis

#### **Fiction and Poetry:**

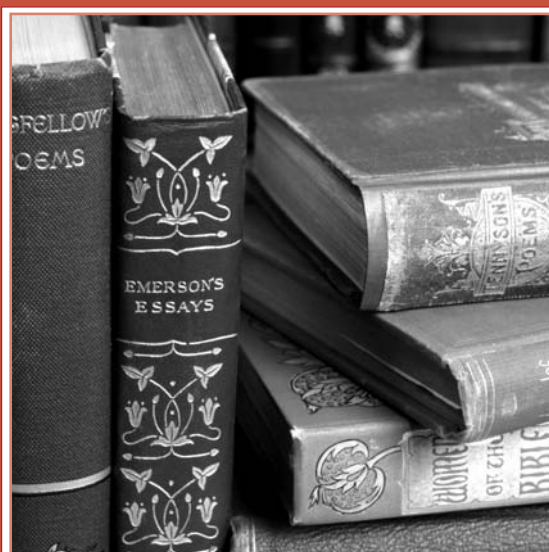
- *The Kreutzer Sonata* – Count Lyof Tolstoi [Leo Tolstoy]
- *The Right Princess* – Clara Louise Burnham
- *The Betrothal: A Poem* – Martha Baldwin Ensign

#### **Philosophy/World Religion:**

- *Nature* – Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *The Light of Buddha* – S. Kuroda

#### **Science/Medicine:**

- *The Structure of Animal Life: Six Lectures Delivered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in January and February, 1862* – Louis Agassiz
- *Jahr's New Manual of Homeopathic Practice* – ed. A. Gerald Hull



Selections from her personal collection.

#### **Hymnals and Song Books:**

- *Gospel Hymns*
- *Hymns and Verses* – Samuel Longfellow

**Do you have an historical question? Need a copy of an archival document? Want information on donating manuscripts or artifacts? Please contact the Research Room at [research@mbelibrary.org](mailto:research@mbelibrary.org) or 617-450-7218.**



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## Programs & Events

### *Be a Library 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](http://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](mailto:librarymail@mbelibrary.org), or write c/o Friends of the Library.

## Programs & Events

### *2008 Fellowship Program*

The Mary Baker Eddy Library awards fellowships to scholars and independent researchers for research in its collections, which center on the papers of Mary Baker Eddy and records documenting the history of Christian Science. These public holdings offer scholars countless opportunities for original research. Resources include: scrapbooks and copybooks; household account ledgers and receipts; newspaper clippings; Mary Baker Eddy's sermons and lectures; an extensive historic photograph collection; architectural records; early histories of branch Churches of Christ, Scientist; and voluminous correspondence and manuscript material, which offer opportunities for new analyses of Mary Baker Eddy's life and ideas.

**Applications for 2008 fellowships must be postmarked by February 11, 2008.** Additional information and application forms are available at [www.mbelibrary.org/collections/fellowships.jhtml](http://www.mbelibrary.org/collections/fellowships.jhtml).