

Programs

Signature event attracts new audience

2010 marks the fullest year of programming at The Mary Baker Eddy Library since it opened in 2002. Its centenary series, "Strength of Spirit: Engaging with Mary Baker Eddy 100 Years Later," kicked off in January and since then, the Library has brought the public an evening program every month, with a break during the summer. On September 23, the Library highlighted this series with an invitation-only event in the Hall of Ideas. Visitors were welcomed from Boston's cultural, academic, spiritual, humanitarian, business, and political communities, many of whom were coming through the Library's doors for the first time. In addition to the in-house audience, the event attracted many viewers via the Web—during the simulcast of the event, over 500 computers were logged on!

The evening program divided into three main parts: an introductory video on the life of Mary Baker Eddy, a panel discussion with staff from the Library, and scenes from Val Kilmer's screenplay on Mary Baker Eddy and Mark Twain. Margaret Rogers, Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees, welcomed the audience,

noting the value of their work for the greater Boston community and how that intersects with the Library's outreach. Lesley Pitts, the Library's Executive Manager and President, described the centenary series as a whole; and Jonathon Eder, Programs Producer, set the stage for the evening's proceedings.

The Library's panel focused on different dimensions of Eddy's career and included Ann Kardos, Reference Librarian; Kurt Morris, Researcher; Alan Lester, Senior Curator; and Katie Kimble, Visitor Services Manager. Kardos delved into Eddy's work as a writer; Morris covered her contributions as a healer, teacher, and religious leader; Lester discussed her accomplishments as a publisher and business person; and Kimble considered her value today for the general public visiting the Library.

After a brief intermission, the stage was turned over to Val Kilmer. He was joined onstage by Chet Manchester, former Creative Director of The Mary Baker Eddy Library; Anne Early, who has made several professional recordings of Eddy's writings; and Laura Lapointe, a Boston-area actress. This event was Kilmer's second at the Library this year. In February, he performed a one-man show as Mark Twain and participated

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Left to right: Members of the Library staff introduce the audience to Mary Baker Eddy. Val Kilmer, with Chet Manchester and Anne Early, read from Kilmer's dramatic script.

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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in a discussion of his screenplay. The four actors immersed themselves quickly into the worlds of Twain and Eddy, identifying how they intersected. Much of Kilmer's work is based on research he has conducted at the Library, which has helped him get a sense of the day-to-day life of Mary Baker Eddy and her household. Kilmer's screenplay balances and threads together different elements of Eddy's experience. Her insightfulness and wit, her highs and lows, her genius and her humanness are contrasted and compared with Twain's.

To complete the evening, Tim Rowell and Cathy Mason, respectively on banjo and fiddle, played vintage American music as the overture and interlude for the program. All together, it was a worthy signature event for 2010.

To view a video of the program, please visit the Library's Web site at www.mbelibrary.org.

Programs

Opening Our Doors Day 2010

On Columbus Day, October 11, The Mary Baker Eddy Library participated in the 9th annual Opening Our Doors Day, Boston's largest, single, free day of arts and cultural events. The official kick-off for this event was held on the Christian Science Plaza with a performance by the Boston Children's Chorus.



Each year on Opening Our Doors Day, the 22 institutions that make up the Fenway Alliance and 30 community partner organizations welcome members of the Boston community and neighbors from near and far to enjoy unparalleled offerings of free activities for every age.

This year's event saw over 1100 visitors walk through the Mapparium and exhibits and take part in the many activities offered throughout the Library.

The Library hosted performances, including classical music selections from Project STEP, ethnic dance routines by Staje Dance Company, and Peruvian folk music provided by Inca Son. All day activities included face painting,

a scavenger hunt, and floor mural drawing, as well as two sessions of storytelling held in Lending and Reference Services.

Radical Minds, Radical Times: Eddy and the Alcotts

What did Mary Baker Eddy have in common with the Transcendentalist movement? On October 19, panelists John Matteson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father* and Lisa Stepanski, an Alcott and Eddy scholar, discussed Eddy's connection with Transcendentalist Bronson Alcott. In addition, Jan Turnquist, Executive Director of Orchard House, Home of the Alcotts, performed a historical reenactment of Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women* and daughter of Bronson Alcott.

Eddy and Alcott met and corresponded after she sent him a copy of her first edition of *Science and Health*. He found in it "the seal of inspiration," and was heartened that "the blessed words are of woman's divinings" (A. Bronson Alcott to Mary Baker Eddy, January 17, 1876, Subject File, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection).

New Visions in Social Change

On November 4, the Library hosted three experts and trailblazers in the field of social entrepreneurship. David Bornstein, Alan Khazei, and Pamela Hawley have all contributed significantly to this movement, which applies an entrepreneurial spirit to bringing about positive social change.

Bornstein is a journalist who has written several books on social entrepreneurship. He sees social entrepreneurship as the third major force affecting globalization today, intersecting with as well as providing an alternative to the influences of national governments and multinational corporations.

Khazei, co-founder of City Year, which served as the model for AmeriCorps, highlighted the need for new organizational models to bring about positive social change. Khazei's work has created partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Hawley established UniversalGiving.org, which matches donors and volunteers online with social entrepreneurial projects throughout the world. She celebrates the healing potential and experience of social entrepreneurship.

Was Mary Baker Eddy a social entrepreneur?

Mary Baker

Eddy's work as a philanthropist is undoubted; she gave money to many local, national, and international causes. However, as a humanitarian her role in social reform went beyond giving money to worthy causes. If we view Eddy's body of work through a modern lens, it seems as though she may have been not just an author, teacher, and religious leader, but also a social entrepreneur.

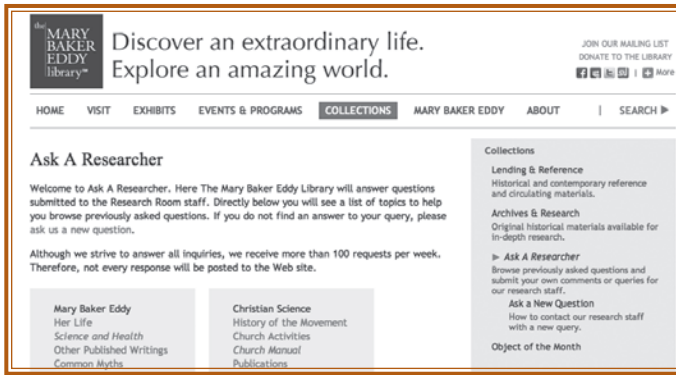


A social entrepreneur is someone who uses entrepreneurial skills to drive social change that has a sudden impact and a lasting legacy on society. The term social entrepreneur is a modern invention, so it may seem strange to apply the term to Mary Baker Eddy. However, social entrepreneurs have played an important role throughout history. Think of Florence Nightingale and her pioneering work as a nurse and in the standardization of medical care. She brought together her service to God, her nursing, and her mathematical skills to enact reform in the way we care for the ill and injured.

Like Nightingale, Eddy was not afforded the luxury of a formal business education. Her entrepreneurial skills were garnered from life experience and were fueled by determination. She was an adept publisher and business woman and it was this combination of skills that created a lasting vehicle for social change, *The Christian Science Monitor*. Mary Baker Eddy founded the *Monitor* in 1908, at the age of 87, as a riposte to the manipulative "yellow press" that was more concerned with volume of sales than truth. Her mission statement for the *Monitor* was "to injure no man, but to bless all mankind." After 102 years, Eddy's statement remains at the core of the *Monitor's* journalistic style.

Thanks to all those who responded on Facebook and gave their thoughts on Eddy and social entrepreneurship.

Did You Know...?



“Ask A Researcher” is now live! Check it out, under Collections.

Did you know that you can access our catalog for books and several databases online? Go to www.mbelibrary.org and click on the tab for Collections. Select “Lending and Reference” and you’ll see a link for “Online Catalog.” If you don’t have a library card or aren’t local, you can still borrow our materials! Just go to your local library, give them the title and author of the book you want and tell them to request it from The Mary Baker Eddy Library. As long as the book is not part of our reference or rare book collections, and it is in good condition, we will send the book to your library for you to borrow.

From the Lending and Reference page, you can also navigate to databases that contain great magazine and newspaper articles on a variety of relevant topics. Or if you still have questions feel free to contact us via the “Ask a Librarian” link.

THE NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN

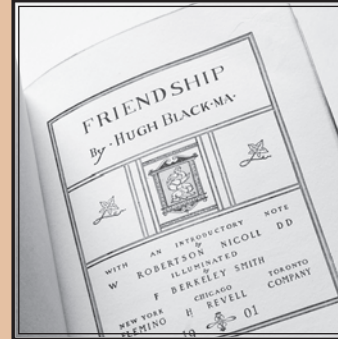
This is the last print edition of the Library newsletter! In an effort to lessen the Library’s carbon footprint, as of January 2011 the newsletter will only be available in electronic form. Don’t miss out! If you have not joined our e-mail list, please do so at www.mbelibrary.org.

Click on the “Join Our Mailing List” box in the upper right-hand corner and add your e-mail address. Thanks for supporting our green efforts.

Exhibits

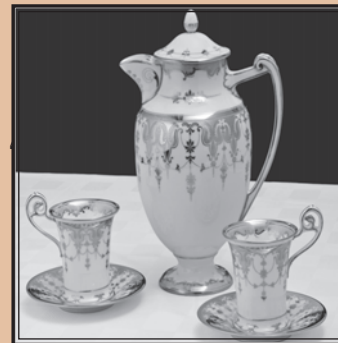
Object of the Month

Take a look at the “Object of the Month” on the Library’s Web site. Each month we showcase an object, letter, document, photograph, book, or textile from the Library’s collections. In addition to the objects listed below, learn about horses, a shell cameo, and many other interesting items.



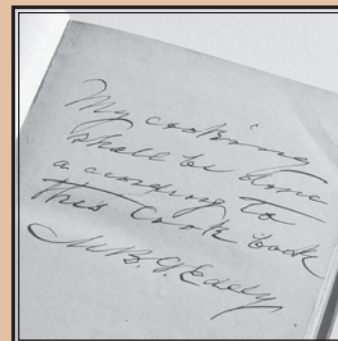
September 2010

Friendship by Hugh Black
Rev. Black was a preacher, seminary teacher, and lecturer whose writings interested Mary Baker Eddy, and she owned and annotated this book of his.



October 2010

Chocolate Pots
Hot chocolate was served regularly in Eddy’s homes. Learn how it was made and served, and about two of the chocolate pots in the collections.



November 2010

Cooking with Minnie Weygandt
Weygandt prepared meals for Eddy’s household from 1899 to 1907. Read about one of the cookbooks she used and food she prepared.

Go to <http://www.mbelibrary.org/collections/research/objects/> to see the latest item and to view past selections.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

Edward Young's *Night Thoughts*

One of the most remarkable things about Mary Baker Eddy is the depth and breadth of her self-education. She was an extraordinarily well-read woman for her time—indeed, perhaps more well-read than many male intellectuals of her day. The Library has dozens of books that she read and annotated, and we know that she was conversant with dozens more.

One work that she knew especially well was Edward Young's book-length poem *The Complaint: Or, Night-Thoughts on Life, Death, and Immortality*. More commonly known as simply *Night Thoughts*, Young's masterpiece was written and published between 1742 and 1745. It consists of nine separate poems, each detailing a night's worth of rumination by the author, which range in length from 458 to 2434 lines.

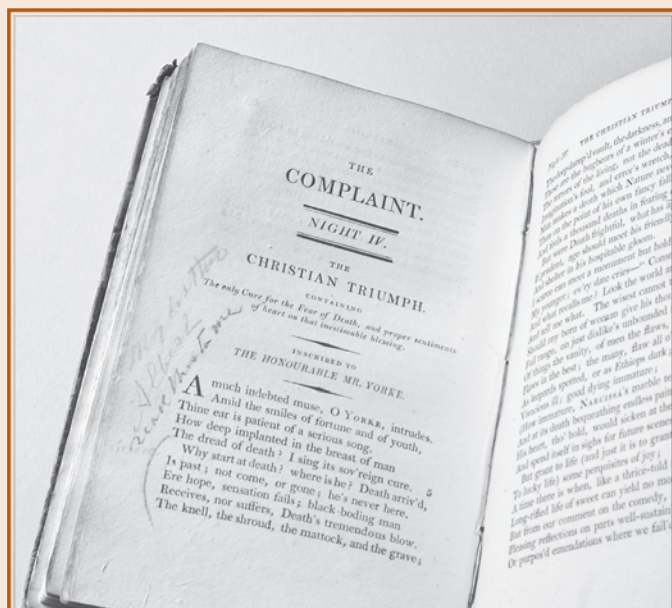
From its publication, *Night Thoughts* was heralded as one of the great poems of the English language. Samuel Johnson praised it highly, and his biographer, James Boswell, stated in *The Life of Samuel Johnson* that “no book whatever can be recommended to young persons, with better hopes of seasoning their minds with vital religion than ‘Young’s *Night Thoughts*.’” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe learned English by reading *Night Thoughts* and Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, and confessed that he preferred Young’s poetry. (He later wrote a poem of his own called “Night Thoughts.”)

Young (1681-1765) was a graduate of Oxford University, having spent time at New College, Corpus Christi, and All Souls. He initially pursued law, but published his first poem at the age of 30. For the next 20 years, he wrote poems, plays, and satires, attempting to find a patron for his work without success. Shortly before he turned 50, he experienced a renewed religious fervor and took holy orders in the Church of England, spending the rest of his life as a clergyman and religious philosopher. *Night Thoughts* is a deeply personal work. He wrote it shortly after the death of his beloved wife and incorporated many other figures from his life as allegorical characters.

Eddy became aware of *Night Thoughts* during her childhood. Stephen Cornford, who in the 1980s edited the first publication of *Night Thoughts* in 150 years, states that it was a “standard devotional work” and that many households kept it on a shelf right next to the Bible. Eddy’s older brother Albert, a major intellectual influence during her childhood, read many passages aloud to her. Later in her life she owned and read a copy of the poem—an 1804 edition can be found in the Library’s holdings, annotated in her handwriting. [B00339] Touchingly, she marked some of the specific passages that she remembered her brother reading.

She absorbed a great deal of the poem and consciously and unconsciously echoed its lines. In the essay “Pond and Purpose,” on p. 205 of *Miscellaneous Writings* and in *Science and Health* p. 271, Eddy sounds much like Young. In Young’s Night VII, he wrote: “That, is the Chain of Ages, which maintains/Their obvious Correspondence, and unites/Most distant Periods in One blest Design.” [Lines 1018-22]

The poem is extremely difficult for today’s reader, filled with random capital letters, italics, and archaic language. Sadly, it had even fallen out of favor in Eddy’s own lifetime. Nevertheless, it remains an important tool for understanding Eddy’s intellectual world.

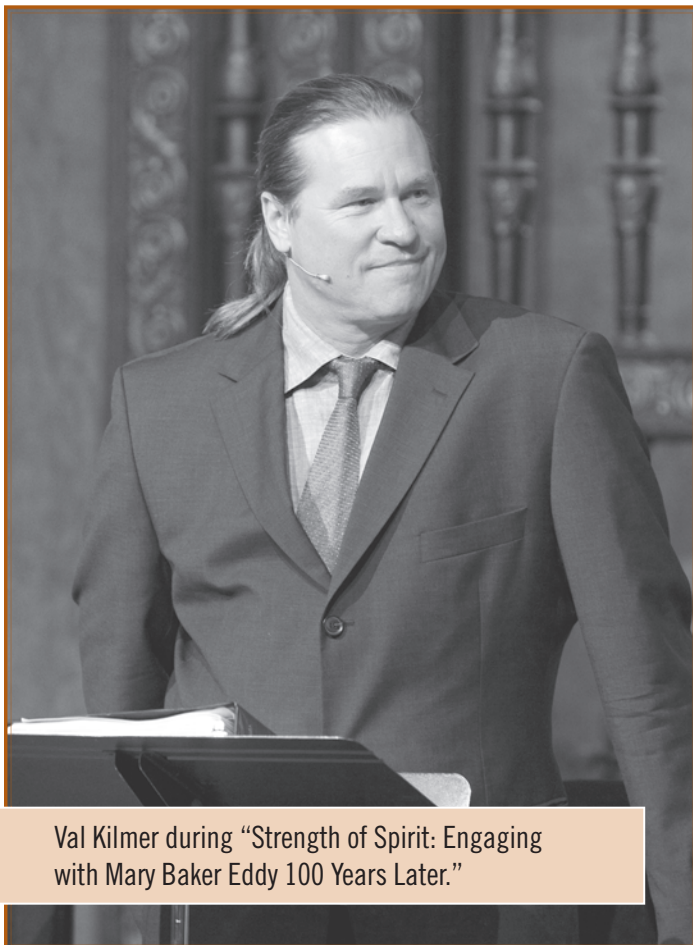


Eddy's copy of *Night Thoughts*. She wrote in the margin, “My brother Albert read this to me.”



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Val Kilmer during “Strength of Spirit: Engaging with Mary Baker Eddy 100 Years Later.”

Now through January 30, 2011	STUDENT POSTER CONTEST—MAKING A BETTER WORLD For the first time, the Library will be accepting mailed submissions to our annual poster competition. Themes and rules are available online at www.mbelibrary.org .
December 5 2 p.m.	HOLIDAY REVUE —CARING FOR CHRISTMAS Experience what Christmas was like in Mary Baker Eddy’s time in our grand Hall of Ideas®! This program will feature an original script performed by local actors and singers. Admission will be by donation to a local charity.
December 24 & 25	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
December 31 10 a.m.— 5 p.m.	FIRST NIGHT 2011 The Library joins the city of Boston to welcome another new year with musical performances, a scavenger hunt, craft activities, face painting, and an opportunity to hear a recording of Big Blue Earth®, a unique choral performance, inside the Mapparium®. Official First Night buttons will be on sale at the Library.
January 1	CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR’S DAY
February 22–25 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.	FREE SCHOOL VACATION WEEK PROGRAM In time for the Boston Public Schools’ February break, the Library will offer free admission to all exhibits for youths under 17. Activities will also be planned for each day.