LIBRARY BACKGROUND

The reference room, now nearly above, and south wing of Main Hall, were added from the installation of the north and east wing of the Central Library in 1901. The north wing, Access, and between wings were opened to provide greater space for the growing collections, and to improve the overall architectural design of the building. The north wing, constructed in 1879, served as the College’s main auditorium and lecture hall for more than three decades until becoming library space. The north wing, constructed in 1896 and named for John Perry Brown, was the first addition to the original building and remains a part of the library today.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATES GOING TO WHITESTTHUR, MAY 3

The event for this year will be the Whitethur Museum and College which houses Henry Francis du Pont’s renowned collection of furniture, ceramics, textiles, paintings, and bronzes that were used in American interior design. The Museum also features the du Pont’s personal collection of American decorative arts and the American Textile Museum. The event will be held at the Museum and end with a meeting in the company of American artists.

NEW ACQUISITIONS OF LETTERS

Our collections now number over 2500 letters, and the list of donors includes notable figures from various fields of study and art. A notable letter from Ronald Reagan to President Jimmy Carter, dated Washington, January 19, 1988, congratulating him on becoming president of...
The greatest gift will be used and valued by all the people of the community. There are many among us who will be impressed by the beauty of the spirit of the men who have this marvelous collection together.

Shirley Stone

PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION GROWS

The photographs of Alice Stone Blackwell follow the history of women's reform. The original caption reads, "Women's History of the World, 1850-1950." The caption was later changed to "Women's History of the World, 1850-1950." The photographer, Alice Stone, was the first woman to have her work published in a book. She used her photos to show the progress of women's suffrage and the arts of women's rights, and her work was eventually added to the permanent collection of the Library of Congress. The photograph collection is available to the public for research and education.

Shirley Stone

AIA THROUGH QUAKER EYES

The late Dr. Vining, a native of Japan, once remarked that the only ink writing material he ever had during his reign was a green ink bottle. Dr. Vining was a doctor for the son, Garnet Vining, and is now the great-great-grandson of Lord Vining. His qualifications were not only in the field of education, his American Quaker heritage...
Library's special collections, for the Seminar on Historical Evidence, a history course at Harvard. In this case, the document is an 1843 letter from Secretary of State James Buchanan to President John Tyler.

Military historians, scholars, and students of the United States government:

Mr. President,

The subject of the present letter is the military decisions of the United States. The President's comments on the importance of these decisions, and the need for a systematic study of them, are both timely and relevant. The letter is a reminder that the past is not just a series of events, but a continuous process of decision-making.

The student's assignment is to transcribe the document, explain the references to people, places, and events, and, finally, place the document within its wider political, social, and cultural contexts.

In contrast to history courses that concern a particular period, area, or topic, this seminar focuses on the techniques of investigation and research, and gives students their first taste of the historian's craft. Professor John Stuart, originator of the course, says students find "an excitement in discovering that the past is real." While the course began in 1843, reference librarians became directly involved with it only a year ago, when they began teaching the seminar students about research methods and reference sources.

The student will approach the Madison letter with some experience in historical detective work, because earlier in the semester he or she will have researched a historical artifact, collected by Professor Stuart, on history books, in order to identify its function and to judge decisions about the society that produced it. Because the student begins research on his object, librarians must work with them to develop strategies, introducing them to the most efficient and productive ways of identifying and retrieving needed information. Particularly useful reference tools and investigative aids are highlighted, and sample searches show how to use them: finding indexes, subject encyclopedias, and newspaper databases. The students receive two specific assignments: one on historical artifacts, material culture, and the history of technology, the other, letter; one on such references as biographical.