Quakers and Mental Health Project: The Student Perspective

Friends Asylum for the Relief of Persons Deprived of the Use of their Reason

BY ABIGAIL CORCORAN ’16
AND LINDSAY SILVER ’15

ABIGAIL CORCORAN
Haverford’s Quaker and Special Collections is the repository for many records of Quaker organizations. Among these is the Friends Hospital, a mental health hospital founded by Philadelphia Quakers in 1813. I spent the summer researching the early history of the Friends Hospital in order to write a framing essay about it. Originally the hospital was known as the Friends Asylum for the Relief of Persons Deprived of the Use of their Reason. I spent most of my time reading the day book of the first superintendent, Isaac Bonsall. I was fascinated by the details of life at the Asylum. Bonsall wrote about taking the patients on walks, treating them with an electrical machine, crops on the Asylum farm, and the difficulties of running such a large household. Reading Isaac Bonsall’s day book, as well as the minutes of the Asylum’s founders and visiting committee, gave me a good background on the early history of the Asylum. This background information I found, and the essay that I created out of it, will help future interns working on this project.

LINDSAY SILVER
On my first day working on the Quakers and Mental Health Project, I was told that I should try to find data I could extract from the Friends Asylum records in Quaker and Special Collections—data that could supplement and shape a website on the subject. Looking over the delicate documents that had been signed out to me -- with handwriting I could barely discern on topics such as what the patients ate, and who the doctor and superintendent yelled at -- I wondered how I could possibly find significant data for the project.

In my essay, I focused on one subject that really stuck out to me, which was the way that Bonsall and the founders talked about the “curability” of the patients. The founders thought that the patients were curable—it was an “Asylum for the Relief of Persons Deprived of the Use of their Reason,” not for people deprived of reason altogether. I was curious about the connections between believing that insanity was curable and the founders’ Quakerism. Bonsall wrote in his book that he did not think that the Asylum would fulfill his religious motives for helping those in need unless it served patients who were capable of being cured.

From the Librarian

The records of Friends Hospital are among the extraordinary holdings of the Quaker and Special Collections Library. Over the course of the last three years we have offered internships intended to provide in-depth research opportunities for our students while simultaneously exposing these holdings to a broader audience.

Our partner in this initiative is the Thomas Scattergood Behavior Health Foundation. The Foundation finds its roots in the Friends Hospital and actively engages in initiating relationships and collaborations that advance understanding of mental and behavioral health. With a shared appreciation of our institutions’ Quaker heritage, the Foundation provided funding for our work in making the archival holdings available to a broader audience. We will do so through a range of activities including the more traditional work of processing and describing the collection. Beyond that, this summer our student interns worked to create a narrative and technological framework for a web portal called “Quakers and Mental Health.” Over the next several years students will research topics related to the Friends Hospital and share essays and visualizations on specific findings. The portal is also designed to encourage community engagement and allow for broader public participation in generating questions and by contributing research.

In this newsletter, you will read more specifically about the work of Lindsay Silver and Abby Corcoran, two outstanding student interns, and their experiences this summer. Abby focused on creating a narrative framework while...
Lindsay worked at generating a technological infrastructure that could be added to over the coming years. Their projects served as a bridge that would connect past students' projects with future projects. Under the guidance of an excellent and inspiring group of colleagues from the Digital Scholarship unit and the Quaker and Special Collections Library, Lindsay and Abby worked together to present the early shape of a portal that we expect will help yield a greater understanding of the long-standing issues around mental health.

Dennis Hayton, Associate Professor of History, generously offered us his time and expertise throughout the summer. This semester, students from his class “Insanity” are able to work with the librarians involved in the project, take a trip to the present-day Hospital. It was fascinating to be able to see the buildings that had been discussed so many times in the Building Committee minutes. Yet, the most exciting part of the trip was the acquisition of new materials that the Friends Hospital deposited at Haverford College. Various new medical notebooks, patient entry and discharge forms, ward records, and financial ledgers spanning from the 1810s to the 1930s have been added to the Friends Asylum collection. It is amazing to think that internships in future summers will be able to use all of these new and valuable sources to build off of the work Abby and Lindsay did this summer to create new and thought-provoking projects on Quakers and mental health.

Abigail Corcoran ’17, History
Lindsey Silver ’15, English

I have learned working for Haverford’s digital scholarship department, however, is that there is more to a website than just coding. Aside from the importance of coding and design to get to the end product, knowing first and foremost how you are using the web, and how you can make the most of the digital tools at hand, is of the utmost importance. The research Abby has done on Friends Asylum should be presented online not only because it could reach a wider audience, but also because technology provides various modes of research, and different avenues of exploration on that research, than could have been thought of or attained before.

CONCLUSION

In addition to writing a framing essay and designing a website on Quakers and mental health, Abby and Lindsay were able to, along with the librarians involved in the project, take a trip to the present-day Hospital. It was fascinating to be able to see the buildings that had been discussed so many times in the Building Committee minutes. Yet, the most exciting part of the trip was the acquisition of new materials that the Friends Hospital deposited at Haverford College. Various new medical notebooks, patient entry and discharge forms, ward records, and financial ledgers spanning from the 1810s to the 1930s have been added to the Friends Asylum collection. It is amazing to think that internships in future summers will be able to use all of these new and valuable sources to build off of the work Abby and Lindsay did this summer to create new and thought-provoking projects on Quakers and mental health.

Abigail Corcoran ’17, History
Lindsey Silver ’15, English

President Felix Morley in his office, ca. 1945

Felix Morley’s Diaries

BY LINDA STANLEY

The war was raging in Europe and Haverford’s student body was still unsure of what the United States should do about it when Felix Morley was appointed president of Haverford College in 1940.

His tenure was often contentious, with Morley alienating much of the College community. Yet in the 1983 review of Haverford World War II, Stephen Cary opined that Morley “deserves more understanding than history has yet accorded him.”

If anyone is to undertake that reassessment, Morley’s own carefully kept diaries will be a valuable resource. Donated to the College in 2006 by his son, Anthony Morley ’53, the 17 composition books, kept from 1934 to 1970, had been closed to researchers until this year. Although photocopies were previously available with special permission, this recent lifting of all restrictions may spark some new interest in an observer and participant in national and international politics stretching from the early Roosevelt administration to the first few months of the Nixon presidency.

Of most interest to Haverford, of course, are the years of Morley’s controversial college presidency through the war. Morley arrived on campus in September 1940, having left his seven-year position as editor of The Washington Post. The winner of the 1936 Pulitzer Prize for editing, he had been an important part of the newspaper’s reinvention under owner Eugene Meyer.

Yet Morley was beginning to feel uncertain about his future at the Post, and his relation with the finance of Meyer’s daughter Katherine, Philip Graham, “who was clearly in line for the succession” of the newspaper.

On the day of his arrival at Haverford, Morley wrote, “Thus the native returns.” And Morley was born on campus in 1894, the second of three sons of Dr. Frank Morley, a mathematics professor. In 1900, the Morley family moved to Johns Hopkins University, but all three of the Morley boys returned to Haverford for their undergraduate educations; Felix graduated in 1915. (The Morley Alcove in Magill Library is named for another brother, Christopher, class of 1910.) Felix’s September 10, 1940 diary entry continues on with his reflections and expectations of what lay ahead: “If the job does not yield itself to independent direction more than that on the Post, at least it should give me far more time and opportunity for buttering my own parsnips.”

Morley’s letter of resignation from Haverford five years later would help bring this broad perspective, citing service strain as a reason for his departure. During the intervening years, Morley had been under constant pressure to maintain a sufficient student population, decimated by enlistment and conscription, and adequate financial resources to keep the College viable. He was able to do this through attracting a series of federally subsidized non-combat programs, including Engineering and Scientific Management Defense Training Program, Pre-medicine, Language and Area Studies. In so doing, however, he had to confront the objections of those who felt that any involvement with the war time government was a violation of Haverford’s Quaker foundation.

Despite the attention these efforts required, Morley did manage to do some parsnip buttering. He was active in the Republican Party, especially as a supporter of Thomas Dewey in 1944; he went on frequent lecture trips; he was a columnist for several newspapers and journals, and began his own political newsletter, Human Events, in 1944. After leaving Haverford, Morley continued to write and speak against what he saw as the country’s increasing imperialism during the Cold War. Morley’s diaries record the thoughts and actions of a man fully engaged in international and national events, and provide a unique window into an especially challenging time in Haverford’s history.

The diaries are available for use in Quaker and Special Collections.

-Linda Stanley is a volunteer archivist in Quaker & Special Collections

Connections
Testimonies in Art & Action

In an age where we are trapped in “peripatetic unrealism,” as Paul Saint-Amour argues, and an age where the United States is engaged actively and has been implicated in wars that have incurred atrocious civilian casualties, the question lays heavy on our minds: how does one respond ethically to total war, where civilians become military targets? Testimonies in Art & Action: Igniting Pacifism in the Face of Total War, organized by J. Ashley Foster from the Writing Program, addresses this question and looks to models from the past to build vocabularies of peace for the future. It opens a critical dialogue that engages texts, scholarship, and archives from several fields, thus creating a conversation about pacifism, activism, and ethics that speaks to the larger values of Haverford College and the entire Tri-Co community.

Testimonies in Art & Action is an exhibition and series of events in Magill Library that include classroom visits, a roundtable panel discussion entitled Three Guineas, Pacifist Activism, and the Events of Total War featuring Distinguished Visitors Jessica Berman, Farah Mendlesohn, Jean Mills, and Paul Saint-Amour, and the opening, and later a closing, of an interactive digital exhibition of student work that is displayed alongside Quaker & Special Collections material. This exhibition and event is organized around the themes of the freshman Writing Seminar, “Testimonies in Literature & Art,” taught by Professor Foster in the Spring and Fall of 2015. This course has looked at the connections between writing and ethics, cultural productions and civic engagement, and the ways in which authors and artists are using writing and art to engage pacifist, social justice, and human rights issues. It focuses primarily on the peace and social justice activism that the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War inspired. Students have studied Virginia Woolf’s Three Guineas, Pablo Picasso’s Guernica, Langston Hughes’s dispatches and poetry, the history of Friends on hospital relief mission in Spain, Scott Hightower’s poetry and translations, and Muriel Rukeyser’s Mediterranean.

Since the Spring 2015 semester, students in the “Peace Testimonies in Literature & Art” Writing Seminar have been collaborating with Professor Foster and the Libraries staff to launch the exhibition Testimonies in Art & Action: Igniting Pacifism in the Face of Total War. New students from the Fall 2015 sections of the class have joined the project, and we now have 48 total who are currently contributing or have contributed to the material of our exhibition. Librarians staff have worked alongside these seminars and Professor Foster, offering guidance, suggestions, and essential support to make our vision possible. It runs October 6–December 11, 2015.

As the introduction to the exhibition specifies, Testimonies in Art & Action: Igniting Pacifism in the Face of Total War forges a historical juncture with our present moment, illuminating how philosophies of nonviolence contained in art, literature, and action have been mobilized to stage a critical intervention in a progressively militarizing population. This exhibition juxtaposes primary source materials from the Quaker relief work in Spain—much of which is from Haverford’s own Quaker & Special Collections—with student digital humanities projects that explore the peace testimonies embedded in literature and art from the interwar period. Testimonies in Art & Action recovers lost pacifist histories and reminds us that there is still a call to incorporate pacifist thought into our politics and international relations today.

The two semesters of Writing Seminars have explored the multiple layers of art and literature through multimodal projects assisted particularly by Laurie Allen, Coordinator for Digital Scholarship & Services, where students write scholarly annotations about pacifism and social justice that are technologically mapped onto the text and art themselves. These annotations are hyperlinked, creating a network of textual connections. As a part of the exhibition, the web of annotations are on display through two large projected videos that loop through the class website, and an interactive media station where viewers can participate by exploring the annotations online. Through the creation of these annotations, the students have learned about researching, archival exploration, close reading, and analysis. The hands-on work of excavating and exploring the texts in their historical context and stages of creation allow students to see the relationships among activism and writing, ethics and cultural productions, because this research unfolds the genesis of a piece of art or literature and its cultural influences.

With help from Sarah Horowitz, Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts, and her team, the students have also chosen the archival material featured in the exhibition from Haverford’s Quaker & Special Collections, researched the pieces themselves, and written the exhibition labels. This archival research has demonstrated to students how to work with primary sources, and has illuminated the value of digging through the archives when writing research. It adds additional depth to their thought by bringing them closer to the material, making it concrete and tangible in a way that textbooks cannot. Students are enthusiastic about working with original letters, diary entries, and modernist propaganda materials. Pamphlets and ephemera allow them to trace activist movements of the past, and model the ways in which causes intersected and various organizations worked together.

The Libraries have been an active and engaged part of Foster’s Writing Seminars, and have added a dynamic, essential element to the student’s education. Creating the exhibition has been a great collaborative effort; the students and Professor Foster have co-written all the materials for the exhibition, allowing for a collaborative writing process that engaged each member of the class and gave them ownership of the text for the curatorial statement and display. Six rising sophomores dedicated summer hours to work on the text, website, vision, and walls. Their creative element has been indispensable to helping shape what the exhibition now is, and contributes important thought to a larger conversation about what it means to ignite pacifism in the face of total war.

J. Ashley Foster is Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing

Testimonies in Art & Action: Igniting Pacifism in the Face of Total War

The Making of the “Quakers and Mental Health” Website

After a successful summer, the Libraries recently launched “Quakers and Mental Health,” an interactive website built around the archives of Friends Hospital, which are held in Quaker & Special Collections. As the heads of Quaker & Special Collections and Digital Scholarship, we here civilize the history of mental health care by developing the project, which included: creating a scholarly framework and background for research on Friends Hospital, Quakers, and mental health; building a beautiful website that could be expanded over time and to which the community at large could contribute; raising awareness of the historical importance of Friends Hospital and the wealth of information present in their records; experimenting with ways that archival materials and digital methods can be creatively combined in the service of new scholarship; and creating a method for broader community engagement around this important topic. Another important goal was providing opportunities for students to engage in original research in both the digital and material worlds, and to leave the project with a portfolio item.

Two student interns, Abby Corcoran ’17 and Lindsay Silver ’15, worked on the project with oversight from staff in Digital Scholarship and Quaker & Special Collections. Having two students working together allowed us to capitalize on their varied expertise and experience. While Abby focused on research and writing, Lindsay focused on building and designing the website. The work of each student informed that of the other, and it was vital that they worked together closely. For in addition to developing the website, we had to so that it could clearly and easily represent information that Abby uncovered in the archival documents, such as data on the duration of a patient’s insanity and age at entry to the hospital, while Abby tailored her writing to the demands of the web. For instance, making sure that each sub-page on the site had a coherent theme and was not too long. Lindsay also capitalized on data Abby found and recorded to create data models that would allow our information on hospital patients, donors, and managers so that researchers using the physical materials can enter data as they work and view connections among these groups. Some of this data has already been used to create visualizations, such as graphs depicting where contributors to the Asylum were from, which could be displayed alongside textual components.

The Quakers and Mental Health project is ongoing. Already some early patient information is available on the website and can be downloaded in a variety of formats; we hope such open data enables further research, and will perhaps bring further contributions to the website. Next summer, two new interns, who will bring their own ideas and interest to the project, will add further scholarship and technical features. Future researchers might pursue a wide range of research topics illuminated by the scaffolding created this summer, and we will be adding features that allow researchers working with the original primary materials in Quaker & Special Collections to add information they find about patrons to a database on the website.

Laurie Allen is Coordinator for Digital Scholarship & Services
Sarah Horowitz is Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts / Head of Quaker & Special Collections
Staff News & Notes

Compiled by Mike Persick

Laurie Allen, Coordinator for Digital Scholarship and Services, traveled with Professor Brock Lilleyaeng and her students to Oaxaca, Mexico, in June to find and examine documents from Colonial Mexico written in Zapotec as part of the Ticha project. In October, they presented at the 8th Congreso Internacional de humanidades digitales Hispanas in Madrid Spain, along with Aaron Broadwell, the Elling Eide Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. Their talk was entitled: "Archives, morphological analysis, & XML encoding: interdisciplinary methods in the creation of a digital text explorer for Colonial Zapotec manuscripts" and was about the Ticha website <ticha.haverford.edu>. In July, Laurie and Mike Zarafonetis, Digital Scholarship Librarian, presented "Strategic Planning for Digital Scholarship" at the Keystone Digital Humanities conference at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Horowitz, Curator of Rare Books & Manuscripts/Head of Quaker & Special Collections, presented a paper as part of the panel "Meeting Researchers Where They Are: a User-Driven Manifesto" at the annual conference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (RBMS-ACRL) in June. Sarah has also been appointed as a member of the RBMS-Society of American Archivists joint task force on primary research at the University of Mary-land in 2009, with a specialization in Archives, Records, and Information Management. She earned her BA from Earl-


The Libraries Have Welcomed several New Staff Members in Recent Months:

Tess Amram worked in the Science Library during the fall semester as the Circulation Services Supervisor. She graduated in May 2015 from Swarthmore Col-lege, where she worked in the library's circulation department for three years. Tess spent the past summer working at Bryn Mawr as a Cataloging Assistant in the Rare Books Room.

Mary Crauderueff, who joins us as Curator of Quaker Collections, earned her MLS from the University of Mary-land in 2009, with a specialization in Archives, Records, and Information Management. She earned her BA from Earl-

The Cope Evans Project: An Update

By Mike Zarafonetis

Over the summer, the Haverford students -- Sarah Roth ’17, Jean Leighton 17, and Nhi Nguyen 18 -- continued work on the Cope Evans Project, which launched in early 2015. The project, a collaboration between Digital Scholar-ship and Quaker and Special Collections, combines traditional historical research methods with tools and data visualization to explore a corpus of eighteen, nine-teenth, and twentieth century letters between members of the Cope and Evans families. Last summer’s work produced a website featur-ing several visualizations and mini-essays about family life, politics, and commerce in the Philadelphia area during the nineteenth century. For this summer’s work, a new essay was added and other improvements were made to the site.

An addition to the collection of letters from the Cope and Evans families was received by Quaker and Special Collections in the late spring, and these letters were the central elements of this summer’s work. Of these letters, Sarah, Jean, and Nhi focused on about 400 documents written by three women: Anna Stewartson Cope (1848-1937) and her two eldest daughters, Eliza-tha and Anna-Alexandra. The letters, which were authored by Quaker and Special Collections, began in the late 1880s and extended into the 1930s. Anna’s research interests include early Chinese religion, early Asian science and technology, and the intersections of art and religious practice. She is a specialist in Chinese divination practices.

This graph demonstrates the large number of references to specific symptoms of male subjects compared to the small number of vague references.

Protocol: The proto-col leverages the Center’s Open Sci-ence Framework platform for teaching students how to organize their data and statistical code in such a way that their research can be easily and exactly replicated.

Mary Crauderueff, who joins us as Curator of Quaker Collections, earned her MLS from the University of Mary-land in 2009, with a specialization in Archives, Records, and Information Management. She earned her BA from Earl-

Norm Medeiros, Associate Librarian, and Richard Ball, Associate Professor of Economics, gave an invited talk at the Center for Open Science in July on their Project TIER Documentation.
Brie Gettleson arrived in October as Social Science Librarian supporting the departments of Anthropology, Education, and Sociology. She comes from New York, where she attended the New School for Social Research for her MA and PhD in Anthropology, the latter of which will be completed with her defense this fall. Her research interests concern gender violence in post-conflict states, specifically in Guatemala, where she explored the conceptual and historical intersections of femicide and genocide. When she takes a break from the world’s atrocities, Brie can be found either hassling her two dogs or trying to remember how to drive after a ten-year break. She’s very much looking forward to making the transition into the kinds of academic engagement represented by librarianship, and will be pursuing her MLS as she simultaneously learns from her new colleagues. Brie can’t wait to dedicate herself to the research of Haverford’s wonderful students and faculty.

Emily Thaisrivongs joined the Libraries in July as Metadata Librarian. Previously, Emily served as a cataloging intern at the Boston Athenaeum and as archives intern at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. She graduated from Oberlin College in 2012 with a B.A. in Latin Language and Literature, and received her MLS from Simmons College this past spring. As Metadata Librarian she creates and maintains metadata for Tripod and the Libraries’ digital repositories. In collaboration with the Digital Scholarship staff, she also consults with faculty and other campus constituents on incorporating metadata into research projects to facilitate access and discovery. In her spare time Emily enjoys playing nerdy board games, watching British television, and baking.

-Mike Persick is Head of Acquisitions & Serials