

# The Denison Dispatch



An E-Newsletter from the Ella Strong Denison Library, Scripps College



## Documenting Women During World War II

Two notable manuscript collections at Denison Library are the papers of Mary Alice Jaqua (Scripps '34) and Suzanne Macpherson, both of whom saved their correspondence, photographs and other materials related to their service abroad during World War II.

The papers of Mary Alice Jaqua document her career abroad from 1941-1946, first as secretary to the director of the American Red Cross-Harvard Field Hospital Unit in Salisbury, England, then as civilian secretary in the office of the Commander in Chief, European Theater of Operations, in England, Algeria and Italy. They include correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings and scrapbook pages and document the hardships of daily life in acquiring basic goods and services while also providing insights into the military and civilian social circles of a young and unmarried expatriate woman during this time. The collection's two boxes are currently in the process of being scanned, and the finding aid is posted online at:

<https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt0z09r5hs/admin/?query=jaqua#ref307>

The Suzanne Macpherson Papers consist of correspondence, diaries, photographs and ephemera related to her work as a volunteer for the Red Cross Clubmobile Service (ARCCS). She received training in first aid and nursing before traveling abroad, where she and her cohorts delivered coffee, doughnuts and entertainment to boost the morale of American soldiers in France, Italy, and North Africa. In a letter to her father, she described her work with "a big canteen truck, carrying jukebox, lending library, coffee and donuts, and 2 girls - to outposts where no recreation has been organized." The collection is currently undergoing archival processing and will be available for research soon.



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## FLASHBACK: FIRST BLACK STUDENT ENROLLED AT SCRIPPS IN FALL 1958



Adrienne Alma Jones is believed to be the first Black student to enroll at Scripps College. She enrolled in Fall 1958 and attended Scripps for the entire 1958-1959 academic year, later transferring to another college. Even though she did not graduate from Scripps, for our records we would associate Adrienne Jones with the Class of 1962.

Jones was from Los Angeles, California. During her year in Claremont, she lived in room 5 of Toll Hall and was elected President of her class.

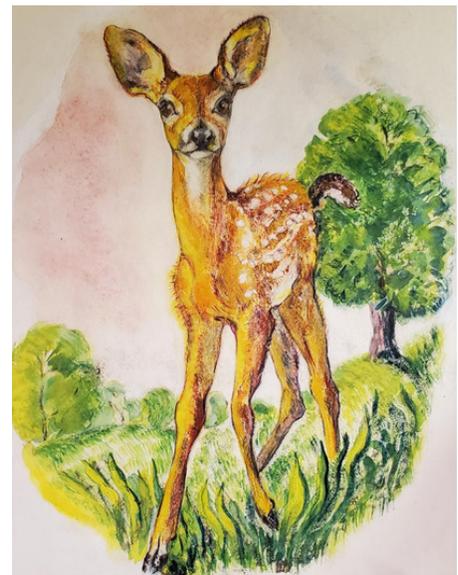
The 1959 Scripps College yearbook, *La Semeuse*, features a photo of the freshman class officers for the 1958-59 academic year, and the photo above shows Adrienne Jones, President, in the upper right corner. Jones is shown with her fellow officers Gayle Weaver, Vice President (upper left), Louise VonWiese, Treasurer (lower left) and Dee Tackett, Secretary (lower right). In the same yearbook, the photo for the Toll Hall residents is accompanied by a paragraph in which there is clear indication of their pride in Adrienne's role as President for the first year students and as a member of College Council (today known as Scripps Association of Students, or SAS). Her election was notable enough that an article appeared on page 13 of the November 13, 1958 issue of *Jet* magazine, a nationwide publication.

Jones graduated from UCLA in 1963, and married and changed her last name to Smith. She shared a few brief reminiscences about her time as a student at Scripps in a letter to the editor of the 2008 issue of the *Scripps Magazine* (see printed page 2 at <https://ccd1.claremont.edu/digital/collection/scr/id/73/rec/2>).

## Exhibition on Children's Books Explores the Nuances of the Genre

*Forces for Change: Realizing a Better World Through Children's Books* is the title for the new exhibition on display at Denison Library. Thematically arranged to examine the collection through a more diverse and inclusive lens, the exhibition explores early conceptualizations of childhood, the role of animals in the genre, indigenous voices, and gender stereotypes and fluidity. The exhibition also includes materials highlighting authors associated with children's books who came to the Scripps College campus, several Coretta Scott King award-winning titles, and some works that were challenged or banned.

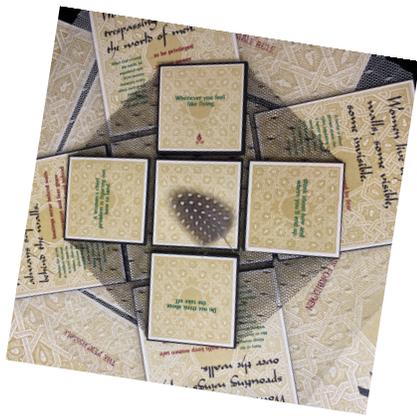
Among the items on display are three original drawings by the children's book illustrator Irene Robinson (1891-1973), one of which is pictured to the right.



## Indigenous Drawings in the Hartley Burr Alexander Collection

One of Scripps College's early faculty members was Hartley Burr Alexander (1873-1939), who left his position at the University of Nebraska to join the then-new women's college in Claremont in 1928 to establish its Humanities curriculum. Alexander's areas of research included the religion, mythology and philosophy of Indigenous Peoples, and in his archives at Denison Library are 16 pieces of original art by various Indigenous artists of the plains and pueblo regions. Fully digitized, they can be viewed on the Claremont Colleges Digital Library at: <https://ccdlib.claremont.edu/digital/collection/pap>

The image featured here, "Two Women with a Child" is watercolor and ink on paper by Tesuque artist Thomas Vigil (c. 1889-1960), also known as Pan Yo Pin or Summer Mountain.



### ON THE LIBRARY'S BOOKSHELVES

*Women Dream*  
Elsi Vassdal Ellis / EVE Press  
(2001)

Elsi Vassdal Ellis's conceptual artists' book examines gender-based language, boundaries, and constructs within Judeo-Christian and Muslim traditions. Letterpress printed with the use of polymer plates, the book is designed as a series of nested boxes so that when the reader removes the lid of each box, the walls fall open, revealing the sometimes uncomfortable text inside.

## Denison's Blind Date with a Rare Book Delights Participants

Denison Library's fourth annual Blind Date with a Rare Book event was held on Monday, February 14th in Valencia Courtyard, where participants were "matched" with one of the library's rare and unusual books. Of the nine titles available to peruse, some of the most popular volumes were the library's 1493 copy of *Liber Cronicarum*, Kazumi Wilds' *Kojiki: The Story of Ancient Japan: Written by Ono Yasumato in 712 C.E.* (2018), and Casey Gardner's *Avalanche Safety. Book I, Rocky Mountains and Chamonix Alps, 1934-1937* (2020).

Of note among those displayed were two volumes with unique Claremont connections. One was the 1808 copy of Izaak Walton's *The Complete Angler, or, Contemplative Man's Recreation: Being a Discourse on Rivers, Fish-Ponds, Fish, and Fishing* which was previously owned by early Scripps College trustee Janet Jacks Balch. Balch's copy featured a fore-edge painting of a pastoral fishing scene along its gilt textblock. The sumptuous 835-page Arion Press edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses* featuring etchings by Robert Motherwell was published in 1988 by a Pomona College alum, Andrew Hoyem '57.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!  
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