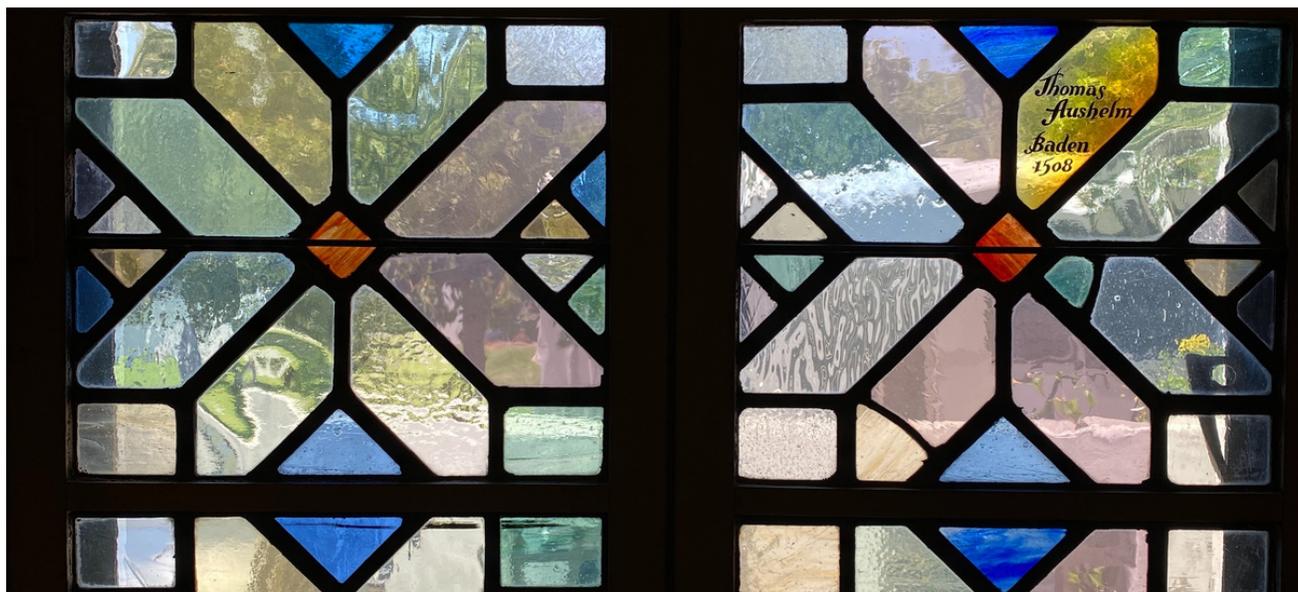


JANUARY 2021 (VOLUME 1, NO. 3)

The Denison Dispatch



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



Celebrate Denison Library's 90th anniversary in February!

As the third building constructed on the Scripps campus, Denison Library has been the intellectual heart of the college since its dedication on February 13, 1931. To commemorate the anniversary of this remarkable and beloved structure, a series of three half-hour Zoom presentations will be offered.

Register in advance for the Zoom meeting links on Denison Library's website: <https://www.scrippscollege.edu/denison/>

Ella Strong Denison: The Woman Behind the Name

Monday, February 8 @ 12:15pm

Designed to Inspire: Gordon Kaufmann, Architect of early Scripps Buildings

Wednesday, February 17th @ 12:15pm

Illuminated Learning: the Stained Glass Windows of Denison Library

Friday, February 26th @ 12:15pm

Join us for one session, or all of the above, to learn more about how Scripps College came to have one of the most beautiful and distinctive library buildings in California.

STILL REMOTE, YET EAGER TO HELP



As Scripps College begins its second semester of remote instruction due to the COVID-19 virus, Denison Library staff continue to answer research questions, digitize materials and create presentations. Above, a Lego model of Denison Library and a lava lamp brighten library director Jennifer Martinez Wormser's home workspace.

Donation of Photography Books and Archival Materials from the Jan Kesner Gallery of Los Angeles



We are delighted to share news of a recent donation to the Ella Strong Denison Library of books and archival materials related to the Jan Kesner Gallery of Los Angeles, a fine-art photography gallery which opened its doors on La Brea Boulevard in the late 1980s. Jan Kesner, the gallery's founder, received both her B.A. and M.F.A. at the Art Institute of Chicago and was the first woman to open a photography gallery in Los Angeles at a time when photography was just beginning to be accepted as a fine art form one hundred and fifty years after its invention. Scripps alumna Suzanne Muchnic '62, an art writer and critic for the *Los Angeles Times* for over thirty years, described Kesner in 1993 as "an art dealer specializing in photo-based work, [who] is particularly eager to break the barrier that persists between photography and art."

Kesner's donation includes rare photography books, including monographs, exhibition catalogs, thematic compilations, and annuals. It also includes archival records related to the operation of her gallery, notably correspondence with artists, exhibition records, and artists' files. The collection will enhance and complement Denison Library's existing holdings on women in photography.



Suzanne Muchnic, upon hearing of Kesner's generous gift, said, "Denison Library will be a wonderful home for this collection, amassed by a woman of uncommon taste and knowledge. Like the highly integrated curriculum at Scripps, the field of photography is deeply entwined with international art, culture, history, and human experience."

CALLING ALL SENIORS: THE SLOCUM BOOK COLLECTING COMPETITION IS HERE!

Established in 1936 by M. S. Slocum, this annual competition with a cash prize is open to Scripps Seniors only. The award is given to the Senior who, while a student at Scripps, has formed the most meaningful collection of at least twenty books in the field or fields of their interests. Each and every Scripps Senior is welcome to participate in this longstanding tradition, which continues this year with a few small adjustments due to COVID-19 restrictions (for example, there will not be on-site displays of the students' book collections in the library). The deadline to complete and submit an entry form is Friday, February 12 at noon PST via the following online link: <https://bit.ly/2KLBadk>



Flashback: 1927 first faculty cohort included female Associate Professor of Biology Atsatt

Sarah Rogers Atsatt, a graduate of Pomona College and the University of California, was one of the few first women faculty members at Scripps College. A teacher both in and out of the classroom, Atsatt also led Scripps students on camping trips where they could apply their vertebrate zoology lessons in the field. An early Scripps College *Bulletin* stated that her "gift for inspirational and well directed formal teaching in [the] classroom or informal instruction on a mountain trail is rarely found in one person."

All Scripps students can apply by February 8, 2021 for the Library's Arthur Vining Davis Foundations Summer Internship

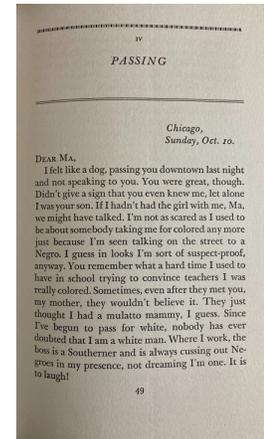
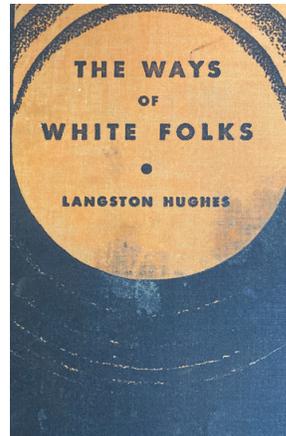
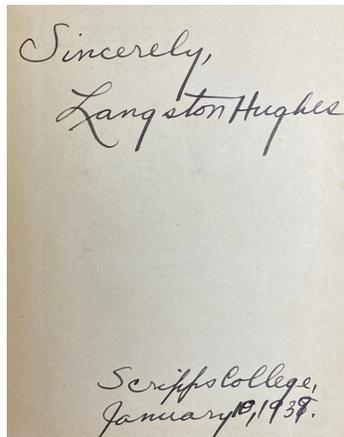
Supported by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, Denison Library hosts a summer internship which provides an opportunity for a Scripps College student learn more about primary source materials and conduct research in the library's collections from June-August. The application form and a brief description of the internship may be found online at:

<http://inside.scrippscollege.edu/fellowships/fellowships-and-scholarships-at-scripps-college>

Interested students are encouraged to contact library director Jennifer Martinez Wormser via email to further discuss this opportunity: jmwormse@scrippscollege.edu

ON THE LIBRARY'S BOOKSHELVES

Hughes, Langston
The Ways of White Folks
(1934)



Author, poet, playwright and leader of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes (1901-1967) visited Scripps College in 1939 and spoke at convocation on January 10th. The Scripps College student-run newspaper at the time, *The Scripture*, described his visit in the January 12, 1939 issue:

"Langston Hughes ceased to be just a name in a poetry anthology and emerged as a most interesting personality in last Tuesday's convocation. Mr. Hughes read some of his poems, explaining their significance in relation to his experiences. His plea for the extension of democracy in America to the Negro race was effective in its simplicity and sincerity."

Hughes inscribed Denison Library's copy of his book when he was in Claremont. At one time, the volume was a circulating copy, which is why it shows signs of wear, but today it resides in the library's Rare Book Room. February is Black History Month, and this book, benignly perched on a shelf, had a much richer story to tell us of Hughes' visit to campus in 1939, prompting more archival research. Hughes would not be the only Black speaker of note at Scripps that semester, however; Ruby Berkley Goodwin (1903-1961), actress and author, would visit in April and challenge the student body with the following statement: "You can do much in the field of race relations, if you are brave enough and if you are concerned enough in making this country the democracy conceived by its founders."

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US!**

DENISON@SCRIPPSCOLLEGE.EDU

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