

F O S L NOTES



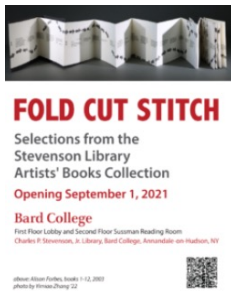
Friends of Stevenson Library, Bard College

Issue 2, Fall 2021

“One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.” Jane Austen, *Emma*

WELCOME BACK!

2021 has been an eventful year in and around the library! We have new faces, new collections, and new ways to connect to existing resources. Since the Bard community has reached the milestone of being 99% vaccinated against Covid, the library is now open to anyone with a current Bard ID, and library staff continues to provide access to information and resources remotely for the larger Bard community.



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

On display through the fall is our newest exhibit, *Fold Cut Stitch: Selections from the Stevenson Library Artists' Books Collection*, highlighting a new collection of artists' books (which are works of art that utilize the form of the book). These books are available for class instruction or individual research through the Archives & Special Collections reading room. In May, the Friends of Stevenson Library sponsored an award for a student-created artist's book. This year's

winner, a series of monotypes bound in an accordion-style binding by Olivia McLeod '23 (pictured right) is featured in the exhibit.



We are also pleased to announce four recent staff changes. Our own Shirra Rockwood has been promoted to Acquisitions Librarian; Kayla Whitehead came on board in June as the Electronic Resources Librarian; and Melanie Mambo joins us as the new Resource Sharing Librarian. Additionally, Palash Bosgang '93 expanded her role in the library to become Digital Projects Coordinator for Archives & Special Collections.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Early in the year, the Archives & Special Collections logo was redesigned by Visual Resources staff member Anna Cinquemani. The logo features the 'Nymph,' a sculpture designed by Bob Bassler '57 to be the centerpiece in the Blithewood Garden fountain as part of his senior project.

His advisor was Harvey Fite, himself an alumnus, and creator of the Saugerties landscape sculpture, Opus 40. Today, the Meditation Garden near the chapel is watched over by a bronze cast of the Nymph, and the original is once again seated in a fountain at the Bassler home in California. Of the new design, Bob commented: "I totally approve of the dynamic black and white version that forwards her conceptually into avenues of racial equality. I am honored that she has evolved into such contemporary issues."



Bard
Archives &
Special Collections

The Archives also has a new Instagram account; please follow us for weekly updates on what is happening in the Archives!

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FOSL EVENT

FOSL hosted its first event in May, sponsoring a Zoom lecture for the Lifetime Learning Institute by conservator and collector, Mindy Dubansky. Her talk previewed an exhibit titled *A Passion for Paper: American Decorative Paper, 1960-2000* that will be held at the Grolier Club in Manhattan in 2022, and highlighted the work of many paper artists working through this period. Mindy is a long-time friend to us here at the Bard Library; in 2016 she curated an exhibit titled *Blooks: The Art of Books that Aren't*, featuring selections from her collection of book-shaped objects. She has also conserved many rare books through our Adopt-a-Book program, and is currently working on an 1885 edition of Dante's *Inferno*, sponsored by an anonymous Simon's Rock alumna.

BARD IN BOOKS

Sometimes You Have to Lie: The Life and Times of Louise Fitzhugh, Renegade Author of Harriet the Spy, by Leslie Brody is a fascinating account of the author/artist and Bard alumna ('51) who introduced an entire generation of girls to the notion that they could wear boys' clothes, lie, and be unapologetically flawed.

Fitzhugh was not only the author of the Harriet trilogy (which includes *The Longest Secret* and *Sport*) but also of the lesser known *Nobody's Family is Going to Change*, the controversial *Bang Bang You're Dead*, *The Wonderful Adventures of Suzuki Beane*, *Lovable Little Hipster*, and the posthumously published *I am Three, I am Four, and I am Five*.



Fitzhugh at Bard ca. 1948

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

In keeping with campus-wide initiatives to ensure that Bard is a place of inclusion, equity, and diversity, the Stevenson Library is conducting a diversity audit of the entire print collection in an effort to begin the process of decanonizing the stacks. Three students, who are funded through the Office of Inclusive Excellence, have begun the process which we expect will take at least a year to complete. The students will be evaluating each book for representations of race/ethnicity, gender, religion, and ability.

HUDSON RIVER CLEANUP

On Saturday, May 1st, the staff of the Stevenson Library and friends participated in Riversweep, joining 125 groups from NYC to Troy, to clean up the river and its shoreline. We arrived at the Hudsonia Field Station at low tide, and scoured the shoreline, finding four tires, broken glass, rusted metal and discarded plastic bottles and wrappers. Eventually we launched several canoes into South Bay and pulled out more tires, plastic bottles, and a waterlogged riding toy. It was great to be together, and everyone was energized to clean up our beautiful Hudson River. A shout out to family (Judy, Alfie, and Seneca) and fellow Bardians (Jane Brien '89, Paulina Ascencio Fuentes '21, and Susan Fox Rogers) who joined us on land and water!



Kate Laing and Amber Billey

Yours in books,
Kate, Debbie, and Helene