

Maine Women Writers Collection  
Annual Report, 2003-2004  
University of New England



Dorothy M. Healy Professor  
Jennifer Tuttle, PhD.

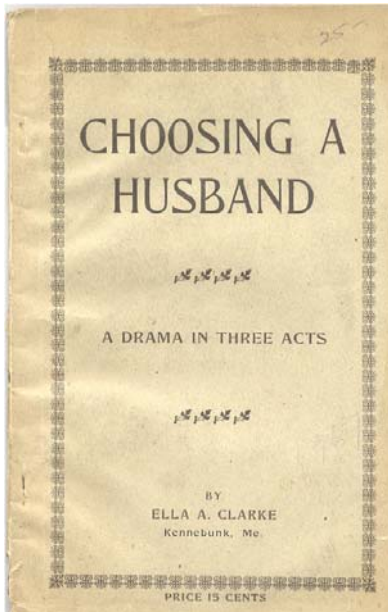
## Healy Professor

The three central charges of the Dorothy M. Healy Chair are to promote, develop, and encourage use of the Maine Women Writers Collection. Because she has scholarly expertise in the field of literature & health as well as in the area of U.S. women writers, Healy Professor Jennifer Tuttle (Assistant Professor of English) has pursued the additional goal of using the Collection to bridge the liberal arts and the health sciences at UNE.

To these ends, Professor Tuttle's recent contributions to the Collection include:

- Serving as the "public face" of the Collection through introducing MWWC-sponsored talks in venues such as the Portland Public Library, the MWWC's spring lecture series, and UNE's University Campus, as well as through giving presentations on the MWWC to the UNE Board of Trustees and at the Westbrook College Campus Reunion Weekend
- Collaborating with the Curator and a graphic designer to create the new MWWC brochure
- Working closely with the Curator and the owner of the Sarah Orne Jewett Collection to negotiate and facilitate the MWWC's purchase of this landmark acquisition
- Reviewing book and manuscript material and consulting current scholarship to determine scholarly value of proposed acquisitions (such as the recently acquired Kate Douglas Wiggin papers)
- Raising scholars' awareness and promoting their use of the Collection through designing (with the Curator) an informational table at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference and conducting the Research Support Grant Program
- Composing lengthy and detailed introductory material for readings of MWWC holdings by Rocky Coast Radio Theater
- Directing the MWWC's 2004 biennial academic conference on "Women, Health, and Representation"
- Helping to supervise a student intern in the MWWC
- Incorporating the Collection into the UNE curriculum and working with other UNE faculty to facilitate their doing the same
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with contemporary Maine women writers in order to enrich the Collection's holdings and programs

## Public and Academic Activities

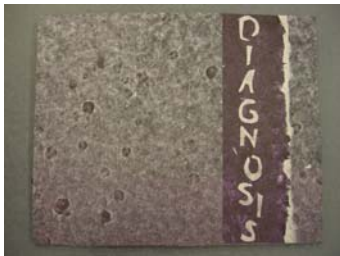


### Rocky Coast Radio Theater

Over the past two years, we have been collaborating with Portland's Rocky Coast Radio Theater to produce a series of 60-minute readings for radio, á la "Selected Shorts," from items in the MWWC. Maine Public Radio has expressed interest in airing these readings when they are complete. The readings would not only generate interest in the MWWC, but also make accessible to the general public the contributions of women writers to Maine history and culture. Programs in progress:

- A dramatic reading of Ella Clarke's play, *Choosing a Husband* (Kennebunk, 1905)
- A pair of short stories by Sarah Orne Jewett and Elisabeth Ogilvie
- A series of short readings unified by the theme "Nature and the Environment"

The Healy Chair and Curator have chosen and made available the selections used, crafted the introductory and contextual verbiage for each piece included, and secured use permission from copyright owners.



*Diagnosis*  
artist's book  
by Martha Hall

### Martha Hall book and video project

The MWWC is working together with the family of Martha Hall, an extraordinary book artist who recently died of breast cancer, to reprint one of her books and present it for use in medical training programs in combination with a scholarly introduction and original film of Hall created by Holly Haywood and Kari Wagner of the UNE Media Services department, a division of the UNE Libraries. Our respect and gratitude go to the Media Services Department for this powerful film creation.



*Dogwood*  
artist's book  
by Rebecca Goodale

### Rebecca Goodale's "Threatened and Endangered" traveling exhibition and lecture series

Working together with support from the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Arts Commission, Goodale has organized and MWWC publicized an extensive lecture series and traveling exhibition of Goodale's noted artist's books, some of which are held in the MWWC, to bring statewide focus to Maine's Threatened and Endangered Species list. The MWWC co-sponsored and UNE hosted three talks on the University campus this spring highlighting these books and the issues they raise.



Kate Kennedy,  
author of *End over End*



Sena Jeter Naslund,  
author of *Ahab's Wife*



Susan Franzosa, PhD  
presents "Kate Douglas Wiggin  
and the Garden of Childhood"  
June 12, 2004

## Public lectures and Conferences at MWWC

The MWWC lecture program is of primary importance for the Collection: lectures draw patrons in to the Collection and express Collection interests to the outside world and to the University community. Our scholarly focus, though bringing fascinating new concepts into the public arena, has selective appeal. Our challenge is to continue to define and cultivate an audience comprised of several special interest groups: those interested in the history of Maine women, those drawn to new research in Women's Studies, those with purely literary concerns, those seeking literary biography, and Friends of the Collection, many who identify with this place as a friendly sanctuary for visiting and sharing the unique and welcoming culture of the MWWC with friends and relatives.

In order to maximize our ability to deliver lectures that appeal to these specialized audiences, we are considering shifting our Spring Lecture Series to a more flexible Occasional Lecture Program. See a complete listing of lectures at the end of this report.

### *Special events*

**Jennifer Tuttle, PhD., Healy Professor**, delivered the talk entitled "Women, Health, and Medicine in the Maine Women Writers Collection" at Westbrook College Alumni Association Reunion Weekend, UNE, WCC, June 7, 2003.

**Susan Franzosa, PhD.**, University of New Hampshire Women's Studies and Education Faculty, spoke in the Collection during Westbrook College Reunion 2004: "Kate Douglas Wiggin and the Garden of Childhood," June 12. This talk both enlightened the audience about Wiggin, and celebrated the acquisition of Glenys Tarlow's Kate Douglas Wiggin collection, approved at the 2003 MWWC Advisory Committee meeting.

**Sena Jeter Naslund, PhD.**, nationally known and bestselling author of *Ahab's Wife*, spoke in the MWWC on June 4 to kick off the 2004 UNE Writers' Conference.

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Lori Arviso Alvord  
presenting the keynote speech  
for "Women, Health, and  
Representation"  
June 18, 2004

*Conferences*

**MWWC Academic Conference, June 17-19, 2004**

Theme: "Women, Health, and Representation." The conference sessions and presentations covered a range of topics related to women's health and representation (creative, artistic, medical, etc.), and successfully brought together scholars from all over the United States as well as from Australia, Japan, Canada, and the UK. Beyond the academic presentations, the conference offered an exhibit in the UNE Art Gallery, a play, a performance, and readings of creative writing on the conference theme. Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., presented the keynote address entitled "Changing the Face of Medicine: Healing from a Woman's Perspective." Dr. Alvord is the first Navajo woman to become a surgeon, and has written a memoir about her attempts to combine Western medicine with tribal healing ways.



David Kuchta conducting  
"Time, Place, and Memory"  
June 4, 2004

**UNE Writers' Conference, June 4-5, 2004**

Theme: "Time, Place, and Memory: Memoir and Historical Fiction." This conference helps to fulfill the Collection's mission of serving as a home for Maine writers. Now in its second year, the Writers' Conference has drawn on the expertise of nationally known writers of fiction and creative non-fiction, the talents of experienced writing instructors, and the insights of academic specialists. The Conference themes are designed to feature the unique resources of the MWWC and UNE, as well as the unique history and setting of Maine. To date, it has hosted Pulitzer Prize nominee Bunny McBride, best-selling author Sena Jeter Naslund, and acclaimed Maine fiction writer Van Reid. Each year, the MWWC also provides a scholarship for a gifted UNE student writer to attend. Its events have brought the Collection excellent exposure to the communities of Greater Portland and Maine. We hope that the Conference will continue to grow and attract increasing attention the Collection.



Researchers using the  
Josephine Peary and Marie  
Peary Stafford Collections

**Research and Teaching Activities**

Research is the core activity of the Maine Women Writers Collection. The end goal of all our work is to provide a growing collection with a continuity of service over a very long period of time--literally hundreds of years. All of our decisions reflect that very long-term goal, from publicity to collecting strategies to preservation and handling procedures to facility management such as oversight of the climate control, fire suppression, and security systems and measures. The Collection, with its pleasant facility and excellent research service, continues to attract many researchers from near and far.



Visitors to the Collection

Researchers come with a wide range of interests and work on many levels, from undergraduates in American Studies and Literature to post-doctoral researchers working on book projects--biography, history, historical fiction, and works on social history, to name a few.

### Accessibility

Accessibility of Collection materials is crucial for efficient research: a primary function of the Curator and technical services librarians is to enhance accessibility to the materials through the library online catalog and manuscript listings, which are available both on the MWWC website and in paper form in the Collection. The listings correspond exactly with the sequential arrangement of the manuscript materials for efficient retrieval. The work of processing new collections is ongoing, as new collections are processed as units or interfiled with existing ones. The Curator fulfills many preliminary research requests via email, telephone, and fax, and through the mail; researchers with in-depth research needs work together with the Curator to plan efficient research strategies for a fruitful visit.

One of the things that sets the MWWC apart from many special collections repositories is our commitment to making our holdings accessible to researchers at all levels (even novices), and to providing each researcher with close, individualized attention. We continue to receive compliments and expressions of gratitude from researchers for the accessibility of our materials.

### Research Support Grant Program

This program is designed to provide modest support to individuals pursuing research that requires or would benefit from access to our holdings. Grant recipients come to the Collection facility to do primary research, submit a brief report of that research, and are invited to give a presentation of their findings to the UNE Community. Over the past two years, we have awarded grants to six individuals:



Denise Kohn, PhD.,  
2004 Recipient of a MWWC  
Research Support Grant  
examining mid-19th century  
women's fiction

- **Kathrine C. Aydelott, PhD.**, University of Connecticut  
Project title: "Maine Stream: A Bibliographic Study of the Critical Reception of Sarah Orne Jewett"
- **Mary Chapman, PhD.**, University of British Columbia  
Project title: "'Treacherous Texts': American Suffrage Literature, 1848-1945"
- **Carrie J. Cole, PhD.**, University of Maryland  
Project title: "The 'Social' Work of Women: Kate Douglas Wiggin and Women's Charitable Speaking Engagements, 1895-1925"

- **Susan D. Franzosa, PhD.**, University of New Hampshire  
Project title: "Grey Days and Gold: A Biography of Kate Douglas Wiggin"
- **Carolyn Gage**, Playwright and Independent Scholar  
Project title: "Lizzie Borden and Sarah Orne Jewett Play"
- **Denise M. Kohn, PhD.**, Greensboro College  
Project: scholarly edition of *Christine: or The Trials and Triumphs of Woman*, by Laura Curtis Bullard

### **MWWC in undergraduate teaching**

Over the past two years, the Healy Chair has continued to incorporate the MWWC into her courses at UNE, particularly in the advanced humanities course entitled "Writing and Women's Health." Students not only devoted an entire class meeting to studying Martha Hall's artist's books about breast cancer, but also had the option of writing a research paper about Collection materials. These students, most of whom were from the College of Health Professions, thus conducted primary research in the MWWC, worked closely with the Curator, and crafted advanced essays of literary analysis focusing on items ranging from the writings of May Sarton to a historic marriage manual to Gael Green's *Sex and the College Girl*.

Our Research Support Grant Program has yielded other opportunities for the MWWC to support UNE's curriculum, as several grant recipients have delivered reports of their research in the Collection to classes of students on UNE's University Campus: artist Rose Marasco addressed a photography class, anthropologist Patricia Erikson presented her findings to a sociology class, and playwright Carolyn Gage visited a class in American Literature.

Beyond these grant presentations, however, the care and security requirements demanded by special collections material have, for the most part, limited pedagogical use of the MWWC to courses offered on the Westbrook College Campus. It is our hope that future library renovations on the University Campus might allow temporary rotation of select items to the Ketchum Library on that campus to facilitate wider use of Collection materials in UNE's College of Arts & Sciences.

One such promising initiative has come from beyond the humanities: faculty in UNE's Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Chemistry & Physics recently asked the Healy Chair for a tour of the facility, and they hope to incorporate Collection materials into new and innovative teaching initiatives in their departments.

## Volunteer work and internships

### **MWWC student intern**

In the spring semester of 2004, Professor Elizabeth De Wolfe, the Healy Chair, and the Curator co-supervised a UNE undergraduate pursuing an American Studies internship in the Collection. This student, Kristie Worster, did considerable advanced research in order to compose background/biographical notes and scope & content notes about a selection of Maine women writers for the MWWC's ReDiscovery database; from there, the information is being exported into our Finding Aid and thus will be available on our website. Ms. Worster completed notes on Sarah Orne Jewett, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Celia Thaxter; this summer, she is continuing the internship.



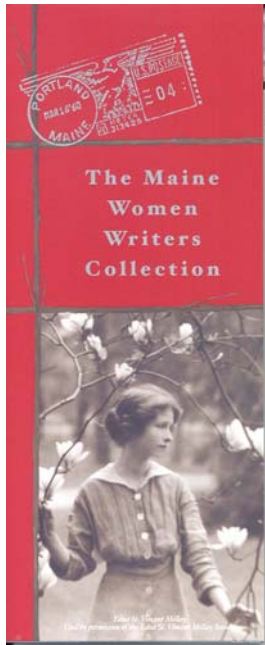
Carol Farley Kessler, PhD.

### **Volunteer work by Carol Farley Kessler, PhD.**

Dr. Kessler, a native of Portland, is Professor Emerita of English, American Studies, and Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University's Delaware County Campus. We are extremely fortunate that she returned to Portland upon retirement and is enthusiastic about contributing her time, expertise, and insight to the Collection. A new member of the MWWC Advisory Committee, Dr. Kessler has written substantial background/biographical notes and scope & content notes on Fanny Fern and Harriet Prescott Spofford, and intends to continue this valuable work for the Collection in the future. She is an excellent scholarly advisor, and actively participates in Collection activities, including serving as a panel chair for the academic conference.

### **Volunteer work by Nancy Kinoshita**

Nancy, a talented and experienced library technician, has almost singlehandedly re-shelved the entire book collection in new order dictated by Library of Congress cataloguing. She excels at other book and manuscript processing tasks; this work, called "End Processing" is essential to the effective utilization of the cataloging work done by Kristina MacCormack, Special Cataloger.



## Promotion of the Collection

### Brochure

The MWWC promotional brochure, produced in 2003 and included in a 2500-piece statewide mailing, has brought us many positive comments and visitors.

### Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference

In September of 2003, the Healy Professor and Curator traveled together to Fort Worth, Texas, to attend this lively conference to “network” and to host a table of promotional materials. We met and were re-acquainted with many scholars in American women’s literature whose recognition is key to the advancement of the MWWC’s scholarly goals.

### Entry on MWWC in *The Encyclopedia of State and Local Women's History*

The Healy Professor and Curator have submitted an entry on The Maine Women Writers Collection for publication in this reference work (forthcoming from Grolier Publishing Group, New York).

### Website

MWWC staff has started to re-design and upgrade the MWWC website. The website has worked reasonably well over the past four years to make our listings available to patrons and otherwise inform patrons of our events, but it is time to provide more in-depth information, to reorganize the site, and to give the site a new look. The Web continues to be of growing importance for the provision of research information and for getting the message out about the Collection.



Maine Women Writers  
Collection Curator  
Cally Gurley at  
SSAWW Conference

### Published articles

*Portland Magazine* (Summerguide 2003, Vol. 18, No. 4), pp. 87-94. Gwen Thompson's piece, "Personal Effects," is a feature article about the Maine Women Writers Collection, focusing on our holdings of authors' personal effects (i.e. clothing, rejection letters, homemade Christmas cards, photo albums, furniture) and how they complement the literary sources in the Collection. Articles also have appeared in the *Portland Phoenix*, the *Portland Press Herald*, and on the new web site: "AroundMaine.com."



### Visits by literary or other interest groups to the Collection

- The Maine Booksellers Association, June 2003
- The College Club of Portland, July 2003
- The Baxter Society, Portland bibliophilic society, hosted lectures in MWWC in 2003 and 2004:
  - Jennifer Bunting, Director of Maine's Tilbury House
  - Roberta Zonghi, Keeper of Rare Books for Boston Public Library
- Friends of Martha Hall, December 2003
- Maine Breast Cancer support group, May 2004
- Maine Media Women workshop on archival arrangement and preservation, April 2004
- Molly Chancey's Southern Maine Community College Women's Literature class visited in 2003 and 2004

## Curatorial activities

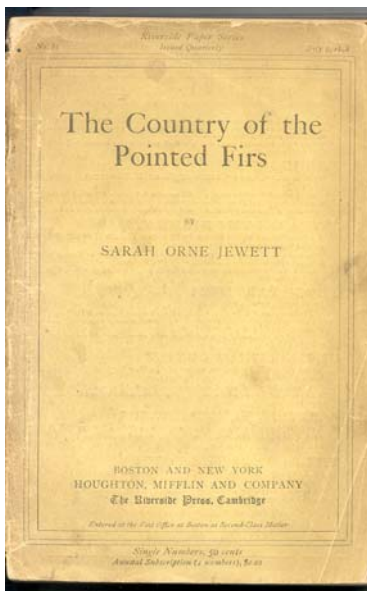
Curatorial work at the MWWC is full of enlightening discoveries, pleasure, excitement, creative potential, and a sense of accomplishment. Work at the Collection generates many wonderful personal interactions, learning experiences, and professional relationships with exceptional people--scholars, librarians, administrators, friends of the Collection, and supportive colleagues from other institutions. Acquisitions work, finding important pieces to enrich the Collection, is a fascinating ongoing project requiring the skills of a detective. The position of MWWC Curator is truly a "Dream Job" and the Advisory Committee and UNE should remember that: this position is one of privilege.

### Acquisitions

2004 has been a year of major acquisitions for the MWWC, with the campaign to acquire a new Sarah Orne Jewett Collection and the acquisition of a definitive Kate Douglas Wiggin collection leading in importance.

### Jewett Collection Acquisition Campaign

Kent Bicknell's Sarah Orne Jewett Collection is the most important collection ever sought by and offered to the MWWC for purchase. It has generated a major acquisition campaign and, in so doing, an analysis of our long-term goals and expectations. With the support, encouragement, and hard work on the part of friends and colleagues,

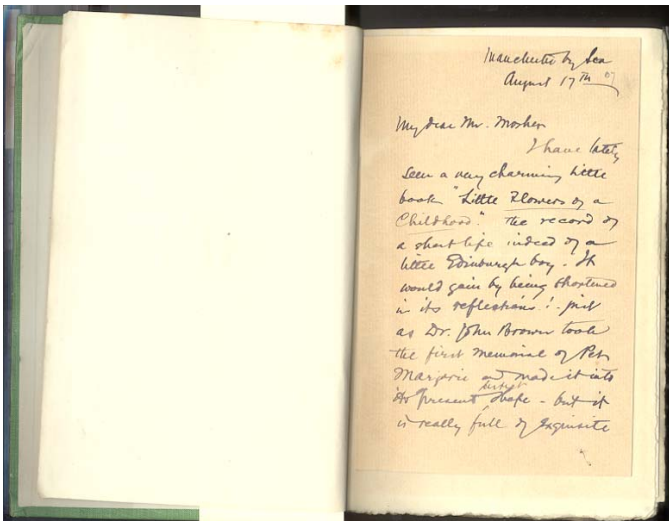


The only known paperback copy of Sarah Orne Jewett's *Country of the Pointed Firs*

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with constant mentoring and training from the UNE University Relations Department and senior staff, we embarked on a major acquisitions campaign to raise funds to acquire this significant \$200,000 collection of Jewett books and manuscripts. Thanks to many, many generous individual and foundation gifts, we have now raised 85% of the necessary funds and transacted a preliminary purchase of one half of the collection. The Collection is deeply indebted to Mr. Bicknell for his commitment to our mutual goal of retaining Jewett's papers and rare inscribed books in the most appropriate repository: the Maine Women Writers Collection.

We believe that such a unique and significant collection merits the best possible investment in its future: investment in a meritorious special collection is an investment in the future of the University itself. Frequently, universities become known not only for their excellent academic programs, but also for their study resources.

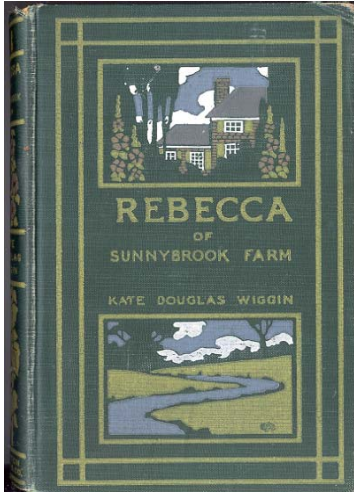


Jewett book with her letter pasted in

Very special thanks and gratitude are due to Louise James, Wilma Redman, Dodie Detmer, Susan Rouillard, Charlie and Ann Harriman, Heather Payson Hamlin, Sandra Featherman, as well as to our own librarian Bobby Gray and her mother, Lucile Cleaves, who presented our case to the Eunice Frye Home Foundation, netting the campaign a gift of \$8,000. In cash and pledges, we have raised \$172,000. Currently we have 3 more grant applications underway and a number of individual solicitations. We are continuing to receive helpful recommendations for the completion of the campaign. Although the larger gifts are impressive and crucial to the success of the campaign, the effort has brought many smaller gifts, indicating a broad support for the collection.

**Major foundation gifts include:**

The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation	\$50,000
The Neihaus Fund	\$10,000
The Fisher Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
Eunice Frye Home Foundation	\$ 8,000
The Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Foundation	\$ 5,000
The Baxter Society	\$ 2,500



### **Kate Douglas Wiggin collection**

The Curator has been in discussion with Glenys Tarlow for several years to arrange a mutually beneficial arrangement to enable Tarlow's Wiggin collection to come to MWWC. After the 2003 discussion, terms were reached for a combination purchase and gift of the collection, and the Curator purchased and brought the collection to the facility in March of 2004.

### **Lael Morgan collection**

Lael Morgan, a career journalist who spent years living in and writing about Alaska, who sailed world-wide with former husband Dodge Morgan, and who owned the *Casco Bay Weekly* newspaper for some years, has given her book collection to the MWWC and will transfer her manuscript collection in the future.

### **Art in the Collection**

The Collection continues to acquire art that reflects or depicts Collection themes, at a modest rate. We are in the process of acquiring three important large Cibachrome photographs by Rose Marasco depicting artifacts and manuscript material from the MWWC connected to Portland's Margaret Jane Mussey Sweat, founder of the Portland Museum of Art.

### **Cataloguing**

After two solid years of cataloguing the MWWC book collection, according to rigorous standards for improved classification and access, master cataloger Kristina MacCormack has finished the enhancement of the entire MWWC catalog record. Congratulations go to Kristina and to Sharon Eckert, Director of Technical Services at the UNE Libraries, without whom the project simply could not have been successful. Kristina will continue providing ongoing book cataloging services for new materials.

### **Manuscript Processing**

"The Lone Arranger" is a nickname frequently given to the archival technician who is often the unsung hero of the archival research process. Sue Walker, current MWWC assistant, and past assistants Anna Brandenburg, Ginny Ouellete, and Jennifer Bryant, have all made major contributions to the continuous flow of organization, arrangement and housing of MWWC manuscript materials, as well as

entering the descriptive cataloging to the MWWC collections management database program "ReDiscovery." Advisory Committee members (and any patrons, in fact) are welcome to make an appointment to view the detailed records in the database, from which our continually updated listings are generated. As with book cataloging, consistent procedures in this work are critical to the accurate searching, listing, and overall continuity of the Collection records.

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century periodicals have been arranged for better access into an archival series of their own, arranged alphabetically by periodical title and then chronologically, with cross referencing to particular authors who appear in those periodicals.

### **Preservation**

Preservation work has many facets and requires a coordinated, long-term plan, investment in tools, and consistent procedures and guidelines, as well as an understanding of the most recent scientific research bearing on the chemical properties and deterioration processes of book and manuscript material and artifacts. We are proceeding slowly to adopt new and sustainable preservation procedures, starting with the creation of mylar book covers for "at-risk" books. We plan to embark on some book repair in 2004 and 2005, setting up a small conservation and repair area in the MWWC Processing Area.

### **Facility Improvements**

The major focus for facility improvements for 2004-2005 will be the investigation and purchase of a new security system. To date, the Collection has been protected through standalone alarms, close monitoring by the WCC Security Officers, and specific security measures rigorously implemented by the staff of the MWWC and the Library. However, with the planned acquisition of this very valuable Jewett Collection, it is time to invest in a high-technology, comprehensive system which will probably combine three technologies: a glass-break detector, a motion detecting system, and a set of digital cameras that record not only in the MWWC but throughout the library. New digital camera systems can be monitored from the Curator's computer desktop as well as from other authorized workstations on the campus for even greater protection.

## MWWC Lectures from January of 2003 through June of 2004

### MWWC Spring Lecture Series

- Phyllis Cole, PhD.: on her book *Mary Moody Emerson and the Origins of Transcendentalism*
- Elizabeth De Wolfe, PhD.: on her book *Shaking the Faith* (anti-Shaker literature)
- Hannah Holmes: a reading from her book *The Secret Life of Dust*
- Candace Kanen, PhD.: on "Business Women in Literature in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century"
- Barbara Korn: on Anne Carroll Moore, first children's services librarian at the N.Y.P.L.
- Susan McHugh, PhD.: on "Animal Advocacy and The Case of the Fake Maine Woman Writer"
- Sena Jeter Naslund: a public reading
- Rhea Cote Robbins: on Franco-American Women Writers
- Cynthia Thayer: from her book *Strong for Potatoes*

### Co-sponsored lectures and special events

*In connection with the Woman's Literary Union*

- Kathrine Aydelott: A presentation of her MWWC research on Sarah Orne Jewett

*Co-sponsored with the Portland Public Library*

- Martha Tod Dudman: *Expecting to Fly: A Sixties Reckoning*
- Dory McCullough Lawson: *Posterity*
- Linda Docherty, PhD., Bowdoin Art History Department

*Co-sponsored with UNE's Leader Scholar Program*

- Carol Wagner: "Women Rebuilding Cambodia"
- *The Vagina Monologues* (performed by UNE students, March 2003)

*Co-sponsored with UNE's Core Connections program*

- Dave Evers, PhD.: "Loons & the Biodiversity Research Institute" (highlighting the Goodale exhibition)
- Rebecca Goodale: on "Threatened and Endangered" (traveling exhibition of artist's books)
- Owen Grumbling, PhD.: "Liberal Education and the Subversive Tradition of Nature Writing" (highlighting the Goodale exhibition)
- Nawal El Saadawi: "Creativity, Women, and Mental Health"
- Zainab Salbi: "An Iraqi Woman Looks at War"