

Kate Ouimette

EDUCATION

M.S. in Library & Information Science, Simmons University, Boston MA, January 2025

- Archives concentration
- 4.0 GPA

B.A. in History, *summa cum laude*, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA, May 2019

- Focus: Native American history and early American history
- 5 College Certificate: Native American & Indigenous Studies
- Nexus Program: Museums, Public Histories & Archives
- Honors thesis—"Bringing Back the Songs We Need": The Narragansett Food Sovereignty Initiative at the Crandall Minacommuck Farm

A.A. in Food Service Management, Holyoke Community College, Holyoke MA, May 2010

- Certificate in Culinary Arts
- Focus: Baking and fine dessert production

SPECIALIST TRAINING/EDUCATION

Rare Book School: Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description, taught by David Whitesell, summer 2024

- An intensive week-long course of study including lectures, hands-on experience, and "lab" work intended to teach the skill of bibliographic description, including writing and understanding bibliographic formulas
- Worked primarily with books from the handpress period to determine printing and binding formats, determine pagination and collation, analyze and interpret binding decisions, and identify irregularities

HONORS & AWARDS

- **Rare Book School Director's Scholarship**—Fall 2023
Merit scholarship for first-time attendees of Rare Book School
- **Summa cum Laude in History**—May 2019
- **Phi Beta Kappa**—May 2019
- **Class of 1957 Frances Perkins Scholarship**—Academic year 2018-19
Merit-based scholarship awarded to a senior Frances Perkins Scholar
- **Claire Grossman Memorial Prize**—2018
Award for ongoing research in American history
- **Barbara Bristol Rotundo '42 Mount Holyoke Fund Scholarship**—Academic year 2017-18
Merit-based scholarship awarded to a current History major
- **Catherine Bittenwieser Frances Perkins Scholarship**—Academic years 2017-18; 2018-19
Merit-based scholarship awarded to a current Frances Perkins Scholar
- **Frances Perkins Fellowship**—Academic years 2016-19
Merit-based scholarship program for non-traditional aged women returning to college
- **Stephen Brewer Intern Scholarship**—Academic year 2017-18
Merit-based scholarship for outstanding work as a college intern at Old Sturbridge Village
- **Phi Theta Kappa**—2009

ARCHIVES/BOOK-RELATED EXPERIENCE

Local History Reference Librarian—Chicopee Public Library, Chicopee MA, July 2024 - present

- Maintain & build the archival collections housed in the Chicopee Room according to industry best practices
 - ✦ Prepare materials for preservation by appraising them for repair needs and content/relevancy to collection guidelines and existing materials
 - ✦ Preserve materials by cleaning, removing fasteners, and housing/rehousing in archival storage
 - ✦ Perform basic repair work on archival materials as needed, including use of wheat paste, Japanese tissue, archival-grade adhesives, and basic bookbinding techniques
 - ✦ Create finding aids, digitize, and upload new collection items to the digital archive to increase patron access
 - ✦ Aid patrons with research requests

- Staff the Reference desk
 - ✦ Assist patrons with reference requests
 - ✦ Provide support for various technologies, including in-library and patron-owned computers, printers, phones, etc.
 - ✦ Request books for patrons via Commonwealth Catalog if not available in the CWMARS system
- Create & run patron workshops on basic bookbinding

Assistant Manager—Book Moon, Easthampton MA, July 2023 - July 2024

- Build and place weekly publisher and supplier orders, maintain relationships with publisher reps
- Manage staff, create schedules, find coverage for call-outs
- Compile publisher invoices and check against monthly statements
- Build monthly sales and tax reports for business owner
- Attend professional conferences to expand/improve business practices
- Build custom inventory reports, analyze sales patterns, build & process overstock returns
- Curate engaging displays related to local events and to promote certain authors or topics

Bookseller—Book Moon, Easthampton MA, October 2021- July 2024

- Engage with customers to assist in book selection according to their interests
- Stock shelves, conduct inventory, order & receive new books
- Select new books to stock based on local interest and trends

Archival Assistant—Lux Mentis, Booksellers, Portland, ME, March 2023 - May 2024

- Cataloged the project archive of Wide Awake Garage and Foliotrope, both owned by Daniel Kelm, bookbinder and book artist
- Assessed and described collections of materials from over three decades of bookbinding projects, including project notes, schematics, correspondence, test bindings, and numerous templates and custom-designed tools
- Created a proto-catalog of said collection for Lux Mentis, with intent to aid the placement of the collection in an academic archive
- The collection includes over 390 boxes, composed of materials from over 220 distinct projects

Archival Assistant—Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke MA, September 2023-December 2023

- Continued cataloguing the Nueva Esperanza Collection
 - ✦ Work had been started before the pandemic and was interrupted, but there were no notes left by previous archivists, so part of this was reverse-engineering what their intentions were regarding processing
- Focused especially on photographs, which comprise ~40-50% of the collection, and had very little pre-existing organization
 - ✦ I fully processed over 3,500 photographs, and partially processed around 2,000 more
 - ✦ Created and described 28 folder-level units of photographs, and created another 20-30 that need to be cross-checked for redundancy before being described in the finding aid
- Kept detailed notes on what has been done, and what the suggested next steps are for the next archivist to work with this collection

Education Intern—Abbe Museum, Bar Harbor, ME, May 2018 - August 2018

- Created and ran educational programming for student groups on- and off-site (K-12)
- Conducted gallery tours and pop-up programs, emphasizing the museum's decolonizing efforts
- Researched Wabanaki history and contemporary culture to update existing programming RE Wabanaki history; added new programming RE Wabanaki foodways past and present
- Assisted museum staff in day-to-day operations of museum, primarily in public-facing roles (offered tours, ran museum shop, provided information about wider Bar Harbor/MDI events, provided some minor tech support)
- Conducted daily operations at the Abbe Museum at Sieur de Mont Springs in Acadia Nat'l Park
- Assisted museum staff during special events such as the Summer Gala and the Native American Festival
- Provided assistance to visiting artists and guest educators in running public workshops
- Self-directed a comprehensive research project of Native food sovereignty, resulting in the creation of new educational programming
- Helped collections staff inventory ~600 donated books

Research Assistant—History Department, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA, October 2017 - May 2018

- Analyzed and interpreted primary and secondary sources regarding Colonial-era architecture
- Wrote and compiled abstracts for potential sources based on relevance of information
- Used results from initial sources to seek new sources and expand research base
- Self-managed time, communicated with supervisor regarding progress and findings
- Used online databases to find and view primary documents kept in various archives

Garden & Interpretation Intern—Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge MA, June - August 2017

- Cared for a 19th century garden, including pest management, planting, harvesting, and general management
- Provided historical interpretation to the public regarding garden techniques, herbs & herbal medicine, open-hearth cooking, and basic aspects of 19th century life in New England
- Conducted independent research using primary sources from the OSV archives
- Created new training materials for the herbal remedies program; conducted daily demonstrations

PROJECTS

Historical Interpreter—Das Geld Fähnlein, 16th Century Reenactment Group, September 2014 - 2020

- Prepared food on an open fire using period-appropriate tools and materials
- Researched to verify ingredients, recipes, and techniques used
- Interacted with the public as a first-person interpreter, representing the wife of a soldier
- Answered a variety of questions covering a broad range of topics, including general camp life, religion, arms and armor, etc.

Volunteer—Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth NH, 2016 - 2020

- Costumed interpretation representing a 1915 suffragist
 - ✦ Interpreted the women's suffrage movement from a modern perspective, emphasizing the roles of people of color in the movement, as well as racial disparities in regards to voting rights and access that continued after the passage of the 19th amendment
- Engaged with the public explaining various features of the museum
- Assisted the Special Event Coordinator in setting up and breaking down large fundraising events
- Acted as a liaison between participants and museum staff/volunteers during events

SKILLS

- Research: Find, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary sources; transcribe handwritten primary sources; utilize both digital and physical databases/indexes to seek documents and materials in various collections
- Technology: Microsoft Office Suite; Mac Pages, Numbers, and Keynote; Google Docs and Sheets; HTML, CSS, EAD; Bookmanager (inventory software); Basil (inventory software); LibGuide; Omeka; CW MARS; Ancestry Library Edition; Assabet; Mosio; Commonwealth Catalog; CLIO
- Technology Instruction: Conduct basic tech support for a range of people and needs; skilled at creating instructional videos that can be uploaded to the web
- Bookbinding/book repair: Multiple stitches to bind texts; casing-in of bound texts; disassembly and re-binding/re-casing of damaged texts; basic archival repair of historic documents; minor book repair (damaged hinges, text block, etc)
- Other: Reader's advisory; excellent customer service; time management; teamwork/collaboration with various groups; give presentations on various topics to both the general public and colleagues
- When I encounter something I don't know how to do, I am very skilled at tracking down relevant information and utilizing available resources to learn and understand

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Baker, Prep Cook—Phoenix Fruit Farm, Belchertown MA, June 2021-December 2021

Produce Team Member—River Valley Co-op, Northampton MA, July 2015 - August 2016

Supervisor, Barista, Waitress—Esselon Cafe, Hadley MA, January 2014 - October 2015; January 2017 - November 2020

Cook, Barista, Waitress—Rose 32 Bread, Hardwick MA, June 2010 - January 2014