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# Bryn Mawr College

Caroline S. Rittenhouse

Bryn Mawr College

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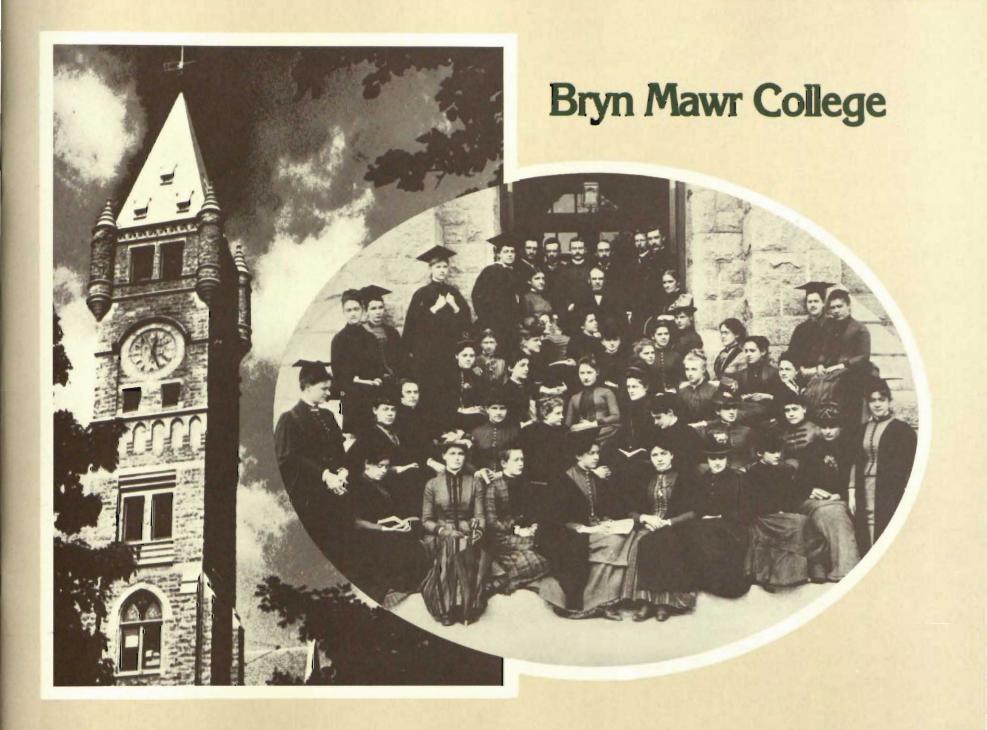
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#### COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Taylor Hall, the College's administration and classroom building, with "eight cut blue stone brackets" on its tower, was named for the founder of Bryn Mawr College, Joseph Wright Taylor.

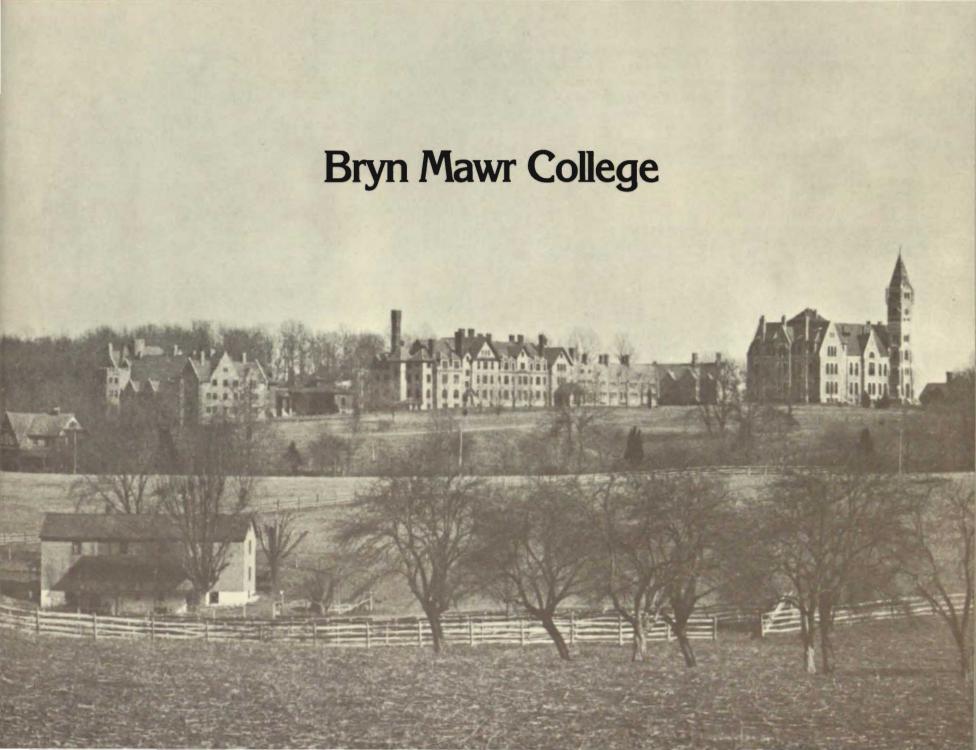
On the steps below Taylor Tower, Bryn Mawr's first class, which entered in 1885, was photographed in 1886 with the first faculty. Seated, upper left, Dean M. Carey Thomas; center, President James E. Rhoads. Standing, upper left, mathematician Charlotte Angas Scott; upper right, political scientist Woodrow Wilson.

#### TITLE PAGE

Bryn Mawr, "high hill" in Welsh, is seen from the northwest with fenced farmland where the athletic fields were later constructed. The photograph was made in the 1890s by Phillips Photographers of Philadelphia.

#### INSIDE BACK COVER

Fritz Janschka, Professor of Fine Art at Bryn Mawr, drew this map of the campus.



Photographs from the Bryn Mawr College Archives, the Alumnae Bulletin, and the Office of Public Information
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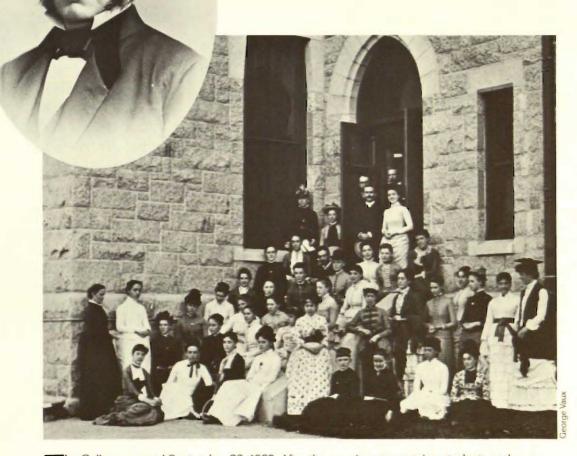
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Bryn Mawr College was founded by Joseph Wright Taylor, a Quaker physician from Burlington, New Jersey. He chose the site, a hill on the Main Line eleven miles west of Philadelphia, and under his supervision two buildings were begun. Designed by Addison Hutton, one was for classes and administrative offices and one a residence hall. Taylor died in 1880, endowing the College in his will: "I have been impressed with the need of such a place for the advanced education of our young female Friends, and to have all the advantages of a College education which are so freely offered to young men."

James E. Rhoads, first president of Bryn Mawr and a member of the Society of Friends with wide-ranging concerns, was one of the trustees responsible for the original planning for the College.

Phillips Photographers



The College opened September 23, 1885. After the opening ceremonies, students and some of their professors were photographed on the side steps of Taylor Hall by George Vaux, distinguished Quaker lawyer, mineralogist, photographer, and friend of the College.



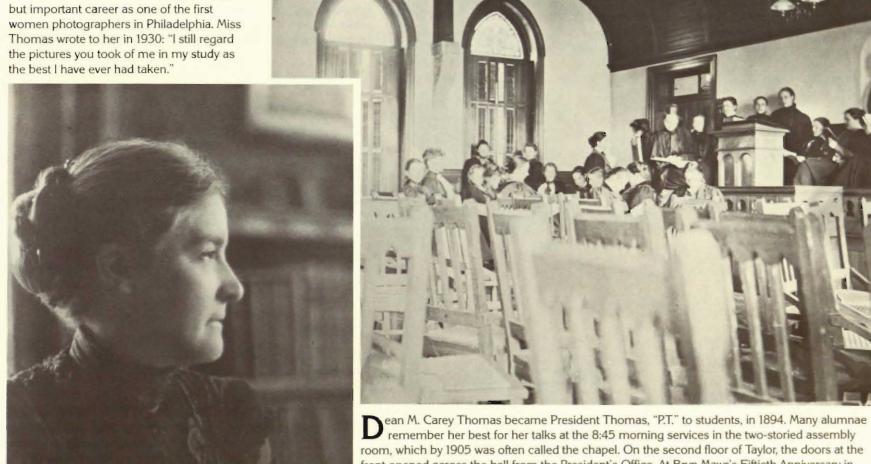
Many of the marble busts from the corridors of Taylor Hall are now in the Baltimore Museum of Art, to which M. Carey Thomas, first dean and second president of the College, bequeathed them. (They had been a personal gift to her from Baltimore friend Mary Garrett.) A grandfather clock still stands in the front hall.



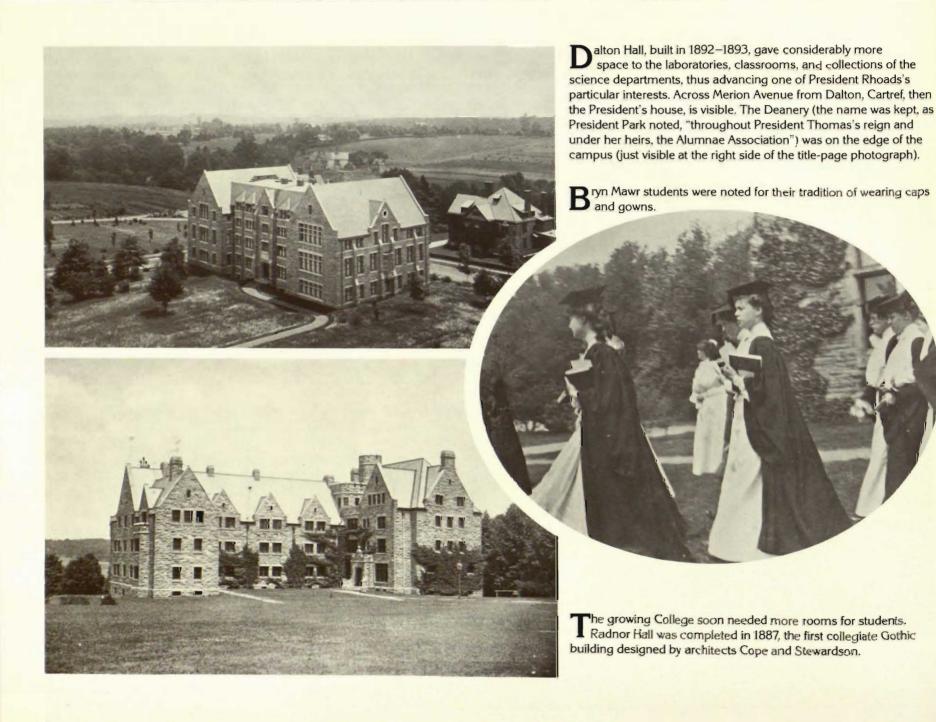
Taylor contained offices, the assembly room, library, all lecture rooms and laboratories, and the college bookshop. The library was located in rooms at the northern end of the first floor. After a new library was completed in 1907, this part of the building became lecture rooms D and E.

In 1885 Bryn Mawr was the only women's college to offer the Ph.D., and special libraries were provided for graduate students. The History and Political Science Library was on the third floor of Taylor over the President's Office.

This portrait of Miss Thomas is by Mathilde Weil '92. Miss Weil had a brief



remember her best for her talks at the 8:45 morning services in the two-storied assembly room, which by 1905 was often called the chapel. On the second floor of Taylor, the doors at the front opened across the hall from the President's Office. At Bryn Mawr's Fiftieth Anniversary in 1935, Miss Thomas quoted the letter which pleased her most: "Dear President Thomas: I have forgotten everything I learned at Bryn Mawr, but I still see you standing in chapel and telling us to believe in women."



**B**iology was part of the original curriculum, and the skeleton, shown in a laboratory in Taylor, was a gift from Miss Thomas. When a new biology building was completed in 1959, Professor Mary Gardiner gave the skeleton a ride in her car to its new quarters.





When the sciences moved to Dalton, the physics department had the ground floor, biology the second floor, and chemistry the third. The geology department was set up on the fourth floor in 1895.

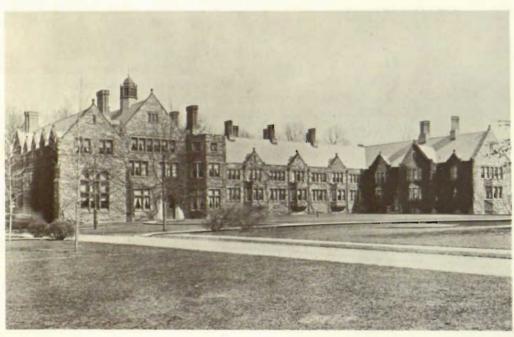
Phillips Photo



Denbigh Hall, continuing the collegiate Gothic style of Radnor, had been completed in 1891. On March 16, 1902, it was gutted by fire. The students all escaped safely. The fire was extinguished with help from Haverford College men.

The Class of 1905 sang:

You can bet your boots that they were on the spot. They hustled round to help the gals that slept where it was hot.



Denbigh was rebuilt. Since an overturned oil lamp was thought to have caused the fire. Miss Thomas finally persuaded the trustees to have electricity installed on the campus, replacing gas and the students' lamps. Electric light, heat, and hot water were furnished by a central power plant completed in 1903, funded by a gift from John D. Rockefeller. Part of the power plant is now the physical plant office, named for James Ward, Head Groundsman at the College for many years.

Single rooms and suites with two bedrooms and a shared study were offered to students. Although the College furnished each study with a bookcase, study-tables, armchairs, and lamps, students decorated with Victorian profusion, often adding tea tables.

Emma Bailey Speer and Abby Brayton Durfee, both Class of 1894, are seen in their Denbigh study. They were known to their friends as "the Banks and Braes."



The Tsuda, student from Japan, 1889 to 1892, with Anna Powers, Class of 1890, in Merion Hall. Miss Tsuda was one of the first of Bryn Mawr's illustrious foreign students. In 1917 the Chinese Scholarship was established; more recently, additional scholarships have helped applicants from many other countries come to Bryn Mawr.



After British sportswoman Constance Applebee was appointed athletic director in 1904, field hockey became an important part of Bryn Mawr life. She not only took over the physical education department but was active in the students' Christian Association. She also was faculty advisor for the College News, established in 1914. "The Apple" was famous for fierce coaching: "Keep your hands on your stick, you silly ass," was a typical order; however, she had a philosophy: "I began teaching an approach to games. There had to be a physical side which was also a health side, not to injure yourself. There had to be a mental side which controlled your actions; you saw the great power and strategy of games. You had to have the spiritual side which said love your neighbor even if you wouldn't let her have the ball."





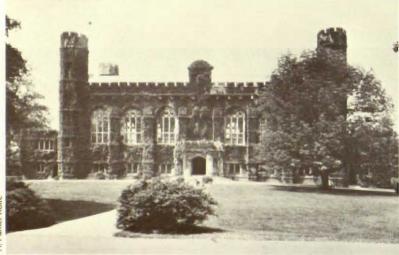


Pembroke (right) was the first residence hall to be built under Carey Thomas's presidency. She worked closely with Cope and Stewardson to plan the double hall. Beneath a central tower with a joint kitchen and dining room was the arch which formed the new entrance to the College. Pembroke East was completed in 1894, and Pembroke West in 1896. The main entrance to the College through Pembroke Arch was refurbished in 1984 and named McBride Gateway.

The new library building (below) begun in 1904 was Walter Cope's adaptation of Carey Thomas's desire for Oxfordian design. The exterior was of "gray stone in Jacobean Gothic of the period of 1630"; the porch was patterned after that of Oriel College Chapel; the Great Hall of Wadham College became the Reading Room; and the Cloisters resembled those found in several locations in England. When the library was completed in 1907, it was described as the "gift of friends, graduates, and students of the College" and was called the Donors' Library. In 1935 the building was named in honor of M. Carey Thomas.

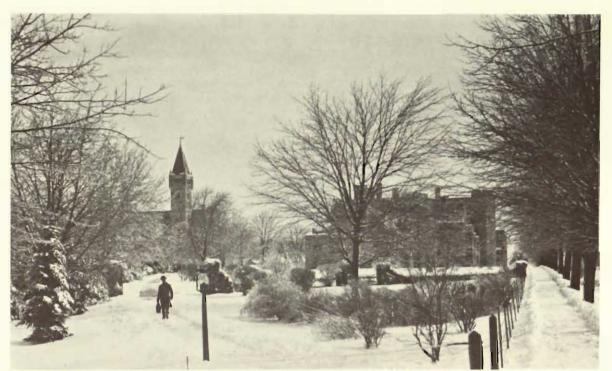
The gargoyles in the Cloisters (lower right) were carved in 1909 by Alec Miller, photographed in action by a student.







Parker Rolf

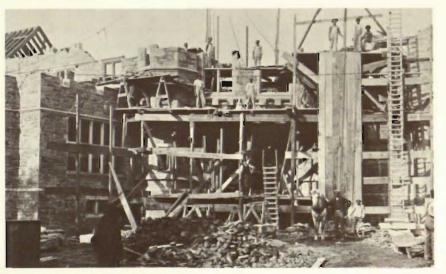


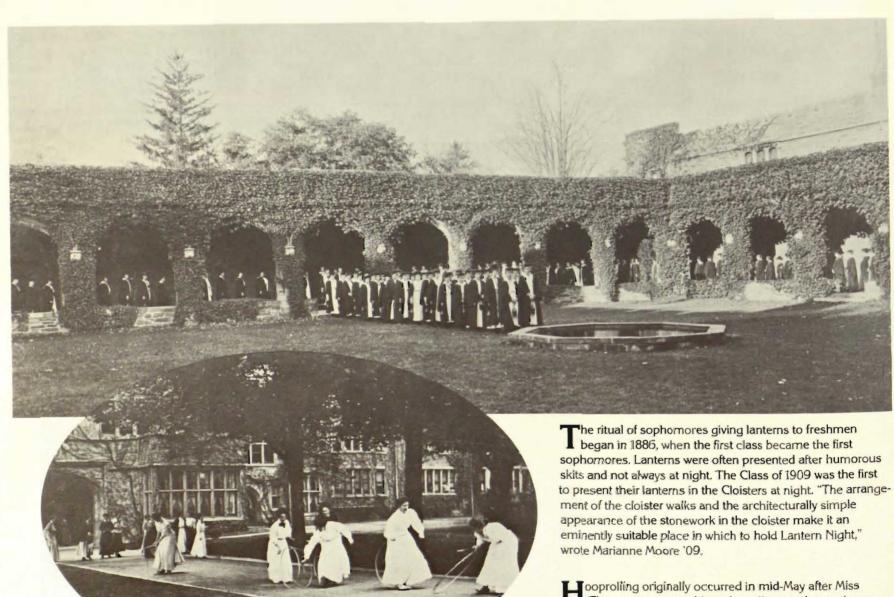
The original entrance to the College (left) was a "Private Path" between stone pillars beginning at the corner of Yarrow Road and Merion Avenue, where Rockefeller Hall was built in 1903–1904. The Lantern Man was a watchman and at night escorted College women from the train station to the campus.

Rockefeller Hall (lower left), as it looked when completed in 1904, bare of the ivy and wisteria which covered it until removed to protect the mortar. The buildings of the early campus are now in the National Register of Historic Places.

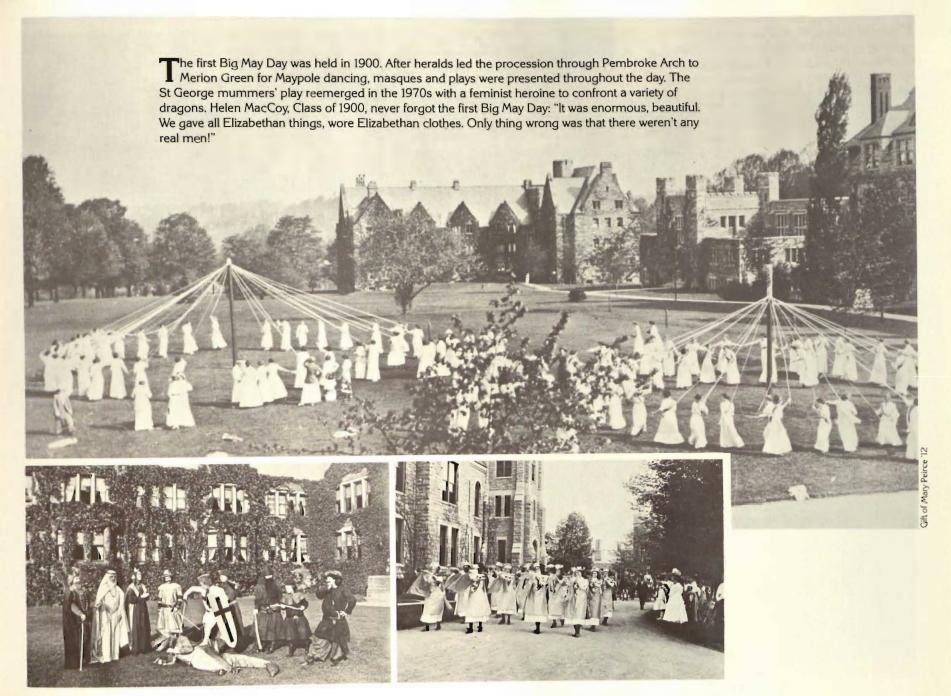
In 1903 there was a great deal of digging and construction on campus: for the new library, Rockefeller Hall, and the new light and power lines. Students sang: "Curses on your ditches, oh Bryn Mawr."







Hooprolling originally occurred in mid-May after Miss Thomas announced from her office window to those waiting below that the last senior had passed her orals in French and German. If the whole class did not pass, the hoops were to be broken. The Class of 1917 was the last to take "oral orals," and the Class of 1921 the first to roll their hoops on May Day.



resident William Howard Taft visited the College several times while his daughter Helen was a student. (She later became Dean, then Acting President, and finally Professor of History at the College.) In this photograph, her father, with President Thomas, is on his way to give the 1910 Commencement Address. Miss Taft is at the top of the steps on the left. Hilda Smith '10 described the event: "President Taft was our speaker, and the ceremonies were held in the cloister under a huge awning.... As we were lined up to march in, we had a long wait. Someone brought the word, 'The President has lost his clothes,' meaning, I suppose, his academic robes. Soon a reassuring message came down our line, 'He is coming anyway, without them."



Two members of the Class of 1909 became well-known poets. Seen in this snapshot from the album of Mildred Pressinger von Kienbusch '09 are her classmates Marianne Moore, second from right, and Hilda Doolittle, third from left, in the back row.



lass plays were often elaborately costumed. Some were original: The Inevitable, presented by the Class of 1917 as its Junior Show, included suffragettes, spoofing the serious suffragists. Many students felt woman's suffrage was inevitable: "Let's get on with it."

The Faculty Rebellion of 1915 to 1916 took place unphotographed. The faculty declared its independence from arbitrary decisions of President Thomas and set forth a plan for the government of the College. The Student Self-Government Association, established in 1892, made Bryn Mawr the first college to allow students to regulate their own conduct; however, an honor system for academic matters did not become a reality until the 1950s.







M Carey Thomas established three innovative educational projects: in 1913 the Phebe Anna Thorne Model School was opened, with progressive teaching in the open air in pagodas erected between the College inn and Cartref; in 1915 the Carola Woerishoffer Graduate Department of Social Economy and Social Research was established, the first graduate department in the country to offer professional training in social work, with Susan Kingsbury (above) as its director; in 1921 the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers in Industry began its sessions on campus.



Photographs of students in the years after World War I tend to show non-academic scenes: students at Rockefeller, 1919; in a snowball fight between freshmen and sophomores in front of Merion, 1920; and enjoying a mysterious treat, probably in Pembroke, in 1923.

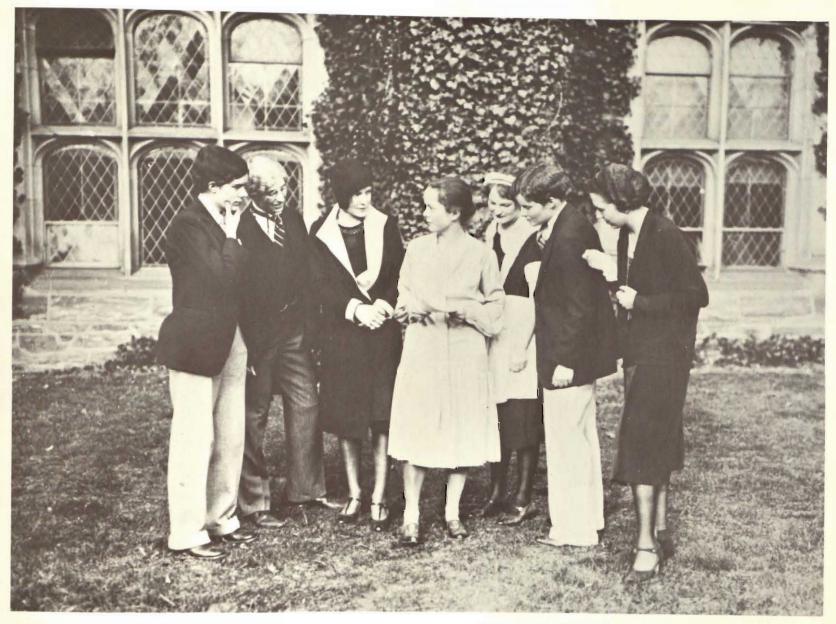




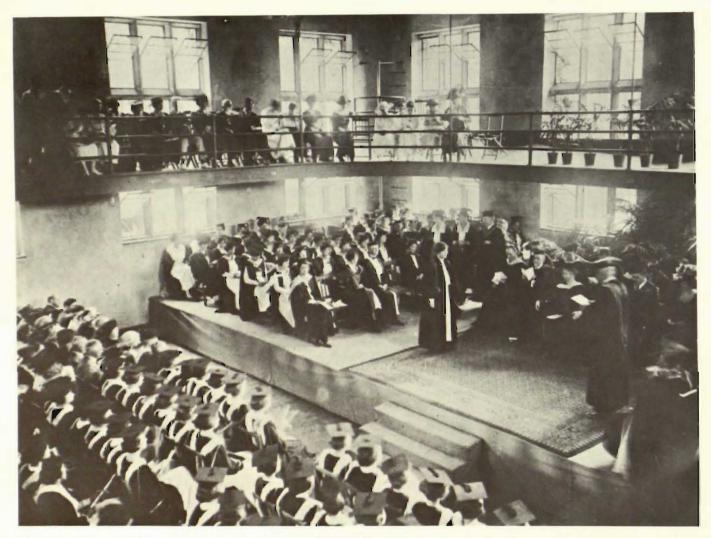


n October 27, 1919, Queen Elisabeth of the Belgians visited Bryn Mawr, in gratitude for support from the College during World War I. Her visit was "the most spectacular publicity of the autumn" for the Campaign for Two Million. Students and visitors took many photographs of her, but she also had a camera. The photograph was contributed by Jane Burges Perrenot '22 to the album of Emily Anderson Farr '22. They in turn were photographed in *Rosemary* with their classmate Cornelia Otis Skinner at left.





Another well-known Bryn Mawr actress in an early role: Katharine Hepburn '28, second from right, as Oliver in A. A. Milne's The Truth about Blayds, presented in 1927 by the College Varsity Dramatics group.



Commencement 1920: commencements were moved in 1909 from the chapel to the "new" gymnasium, where guests and potted plants shared the running track.

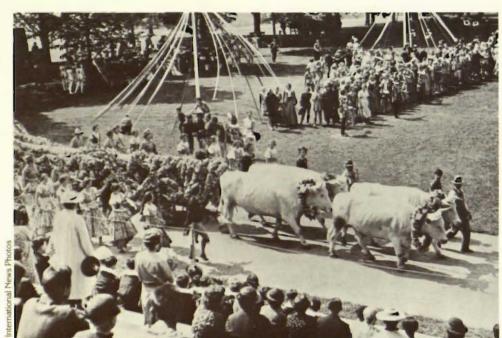
The 1920s and 1930s were decades when the undergraduate and graduate curricula were revised: the double major was abolished, honors introduced, and comprehensive examinations adopted for seniors; new requirements were also instituted for the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

President Park, who gave an illustrated talk on College history during the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration, noted that the academic changes were "spiritually, if not photographically, more important" than could be shown with slides.



The Marjorie Walter Goodhart Hall was completed in 1928, providing an auditorium for audiences at commencements, concerts, and special lectures by notable visitors, such as the Mary Flexner lecturers in the humanities and the Anna Howard Shaw speakers on social sciences.

President Marion Edwards Park was inaugurated in 1922. Miss Park is remembered for her speeches on international affairs in the dark years of the late 1930s. Many also recall her love of music and encouragement of concerts on campus. Commencements at which she presided, starting in 1923, began with chamber music, sometimes by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is shown here during the College's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration in 1935 with Dr Florence Sabin of the Rockefeller Institute and Dr Simon Flexner, retired director of the Institute. Dr Sabin received the M. Carey Thomas Award during ceremonies in Goodhart Hall.





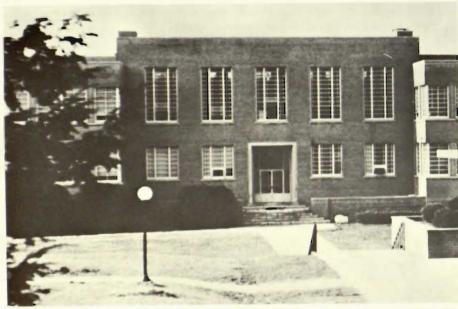
**B**ig May Days became community events, with special trains bringing alumnae and friends to Bryn Mawr. Every four years the productions required immense amounts of time from the entire College. Masses of paper flowers were needed to decorate the big Maypole and bedeck the procession. Students made the flowers, seven a day some say, and they were stored in the gym.

Robin Hood crowned Maid Marian Queen of the May, and faculty children were pressed into service to attend her.

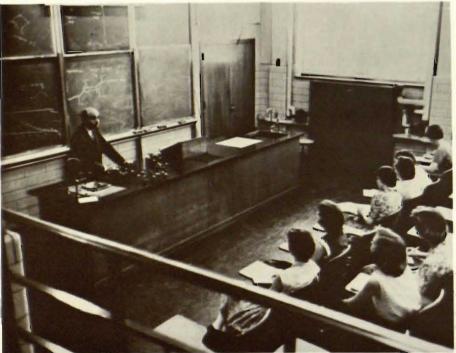


Queen Elizabeth was often the role of an alumna, here Theresa Helburn '08 in 1936. She was carried by young male faculty, sometimes called "the temptations."





Park Hall was completed in 1938 and later became part of the Science Center.



The 1930s and 1940s brought refugee scholars to the campus from Europe, including the eminent mathematician Emmy Noether, philologist Eva Fiesel, philosopher Erich Franck, and art historian Richard Bernheimer. Ernst Berliner came from Germany, first to Harvard for graduate study and then to Bryn Mawr's chemistry department.



Rhoads Hall, built 1937–1939, made possible an increase in the undergraduate enrollment. Rhoads featured furniture by Bauhaus designer Marcel Breuer, who had moved from Germany to the United States in 1937.





Katharine Elizabeth McBride, President of the College from 1942 to 1970, was recognized for "her versatile and inclusive concern for the welfare of the College from all angles." Here she talks with Flexner Lecturer Arnold Toynbee in 1947.

One of Miss McBride's special interests was the education of children. Under her direction the Child Study Institute was established, operated by the Department of Education and Child Development. Her joy in children is evident in this photograph taken at a New Haven book sale, part of the Alumnae Association's fund-raising for scholarships.



w Haven Register/J



Lily Ross Taylor, Professor of Latin and Dean of the Graduate School from 1942 to 1952, is shown here in a seminar. From 1944 to 1945 she was on leave of absence, one of several faculty members away from the College on government service during World War II.

Thomas Reading Room had 136 desks, "each screened to a height of two feet, as in the British Museum Reading Room, to secure privacy to the reader."





Katharine McBride urged students to stay in classes, in laboratories, and in the library rather than leaving for war work: "When the war is over, educated, disciplined, civilized women will be needed to help in the reconstruction of the world—abroad and at home."





**B**ryn Mawr's distinguished faculty is not only wise but witty. The first Faculty Show was produced in 1922; others followed irregularly. The student handbook advises, "Whenever one next occurs—don't miss it." Here are scenes from *Profs. in the Pudding*,

1955; Top Secret, 1947; The Night of the Lacuna, 1962; and Curriculi Curricula, 1979.







The Deanery faced the main campus. It had been enlarged and renovated for Miss Thomas several times with Lockwood de Forest as consultant, particularly for furniture and fittings. As the Alumnae House from 1933 to 1968, it also offered a dining room for faculty and guests, and guest bedrooms, with the Alumnae Association Offices on the second floor. After careful, concerned consideration the Deanery was torn down in 1968 and a new library built on the site. Wyndham became the Alumnae House with a new wing providing a dining room and offices for the Alumnae Association.



Robert Frost, on one of several visits to Bryn Mawr, talked informally with students and faculty in the Dorothy Vernon Room of the Deanery.

Wyndham was originally an eighteenth-century farmhouse on Merion Avenue across from Pembroke Arch. In 1926 it was purchased by the College from the Ely family to be used as a residence hall. It became French House in the 1930s. The photograph shows Wyndham in the 1950s before the new wing was added.

Gertrude Ely '99 moved into the renovated Wyndham barn where she offered the College community friendship and support of many kinds. Here students enjoy wassail with her. The Ely House is now Bryn Mawr's Admissions Center. (The Career Planning Office, which expanded steadily through the 1970s, moved from the basement of Taylor into the Admissions Office quarters on the first floor.)





From the 1930s through the 1950s the maids and porters presented musical comedies almost every spring. One of the last of these was Oklahoma! presented in 1956.

From the beginning, the maids and porters helped make living gracious. In 1971 linen tablecloths and meals served in each hall vanished as dining was consolidated into five halls and maid service was reduced as part of the College's program of economies.

The Maids Bureau in Taylor offered skillful tailoring and produced custom-made curtains and window-seat covers for students.









The Mrs Otis Skinner Theatre Workshop on the Baldwin campus provided a small stage and a studio for painting for many years. Amecliffe, at the end of Merion Avenue, later became the College's center for fine art, and the Goodhart stage was remodeled for undergraduate theater and dance productions.

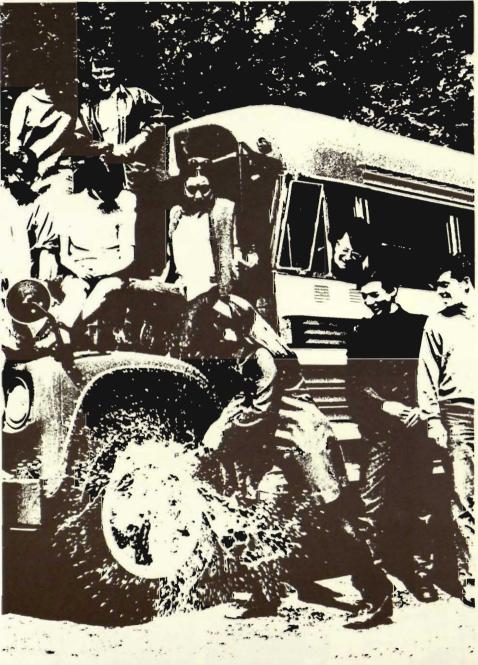
The combined choruses of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore sang at the Academy of Music in 1957 with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy conducting.

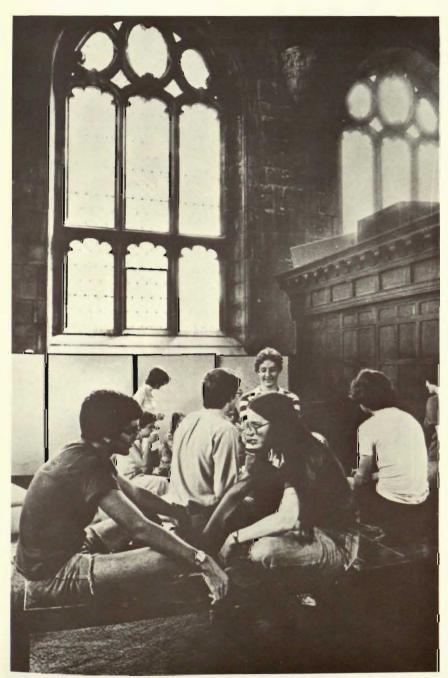


Three-college cooperation began during President Marion Park's administration in the 1930s, when library facilities, laboratories, and professors were first shared. Cross-registration in undergraduate courses began in 1964, made feasible by regular bus service.

"The Blue Bus," christened in the late 1960s, and "The Other Blue Bus" shuttle between Bryn Mawr and Haverford. A tri-college van makes runs to Swarthmore.

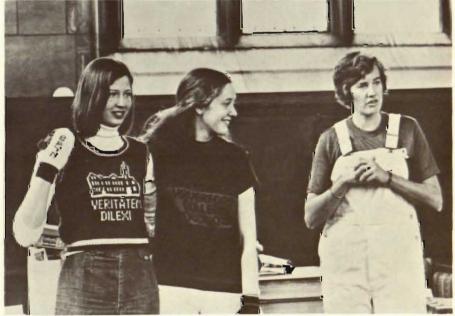


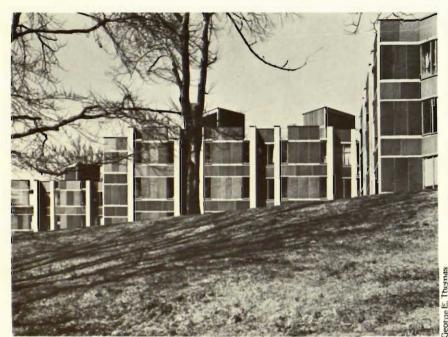


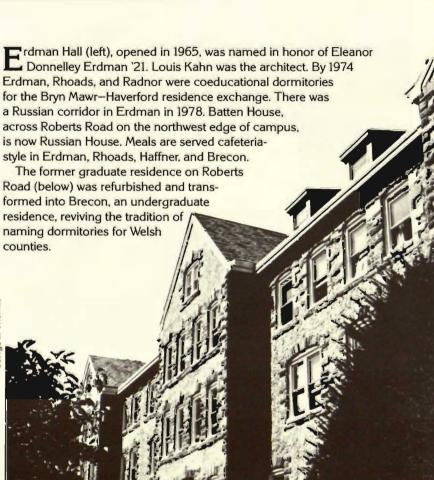


Coffee Hour in Thomas, described by the student guide as "the calm oasis of each weekday morning," began in the early 1970s when the Reading Room was remodeled into the Great Hall. Lectures and concerts also take place there.

Paculty auctions are movable attractions, but this one took place in the Great Hall with Mary Patterson McPherson, then Dean of the College, as auctioneer.

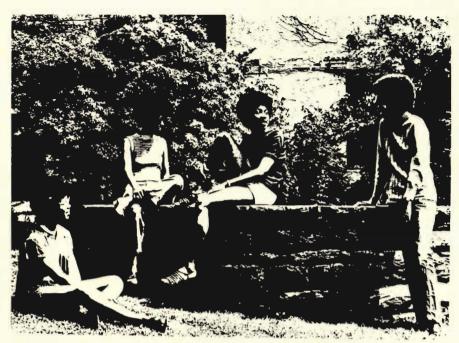












Since early 1970 Perry House has been the Black Cultural Center for the Sisterhood, a voluntary support group for black women at Bryn Mawr. A small group of students may choose to live at Perry.

The Clarissa Donnelley Haffner Hall was opened in 1970 as Bryn Mawr's "European Village" with French, German, Italian, and Spanish wings.





velyn Taylor

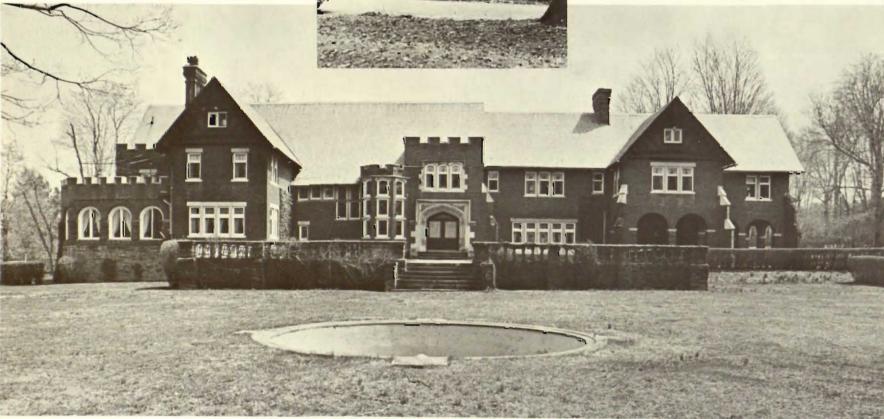
Vaux House (right), across New Gulph Road from Merion Hall, was acquired by the College in 1958 to house the growing Graduate Department of Social Work and Social Research. Vaux House is now English House with the Russian Center in the remodeled garage.

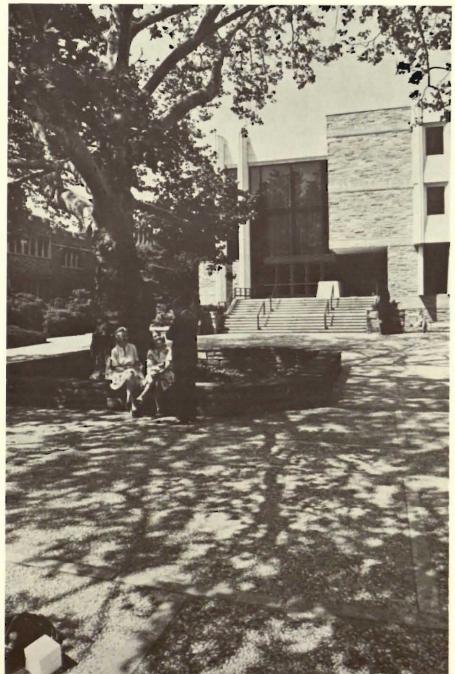
Social Work and Social Research is now located at 300 Airdale Road, just off campus to the northwest. In 1970 the department became a school under a new academic plan of government which divided the College into three schools: the Undergraduate College, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research.

Glenmede (below), the former Pew estate near the College on Morris Avenue, was renovated in 1980 to serve as a residential center for graduate students.











The Mariam Coffin Canaday Library opened in 1970. Its rich and diverse library resources range from the incunabula in the Class of 1912 Rare Book Room to the more-than-ten Apple computers available on stack level B.

Mrs Canaday '06 shared a love of archaeology and the classics. In front of the library named for her, three generations of Bryn Mawr faculty, photographed in 1977, represent the College's continuing academic excellence in these fields: Rhys Carpenter, first professor of classical archaeology at the College; Mabel Lang, Paul Shorey Professor of Greek; and Richard Hamilton, Associate Professor of Greek.

arris Wofford, President of the College from 1970 to 1978, came to Bryn Mawr during a decade of concern over individual rights and the Vietnam War. Civil Rights and international connections were concerns of his administration, as well as long-range academic and financial planning. He also found time to make clear that Bryn Mawr is "a very good place to learn first-hand the strength of women." Here he listens to Katharine Hepburn '28 on campus in 1973.

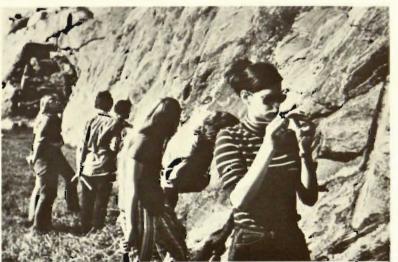


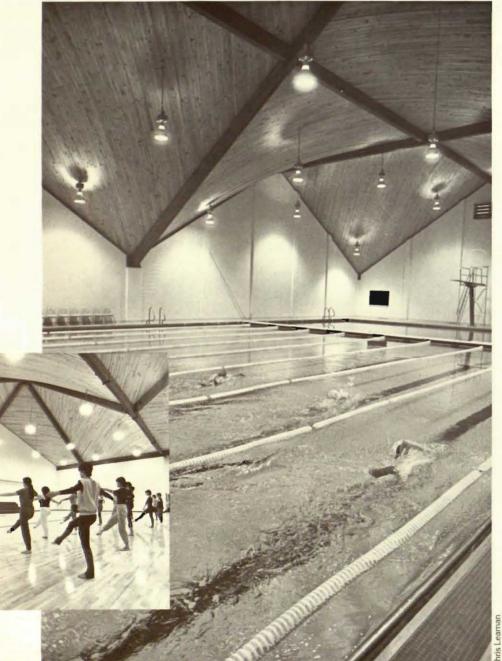
Women Workers Week took place in January 1975, in honor of Hilda Worthington Smith '10, first director of the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers in Industry.



New interest in the history of Bryn Mawr has encouraged a look at the past. One much-photographed academic adventure is the geology field trip: in the early years, when Florence Bascom was teaching geology at the College; in the 1940s; and in recent years.

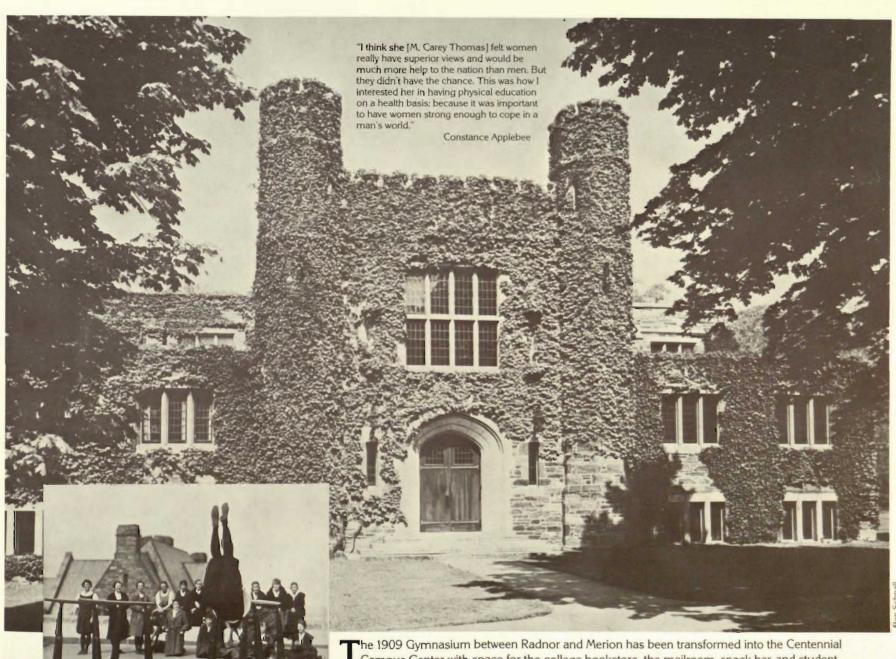




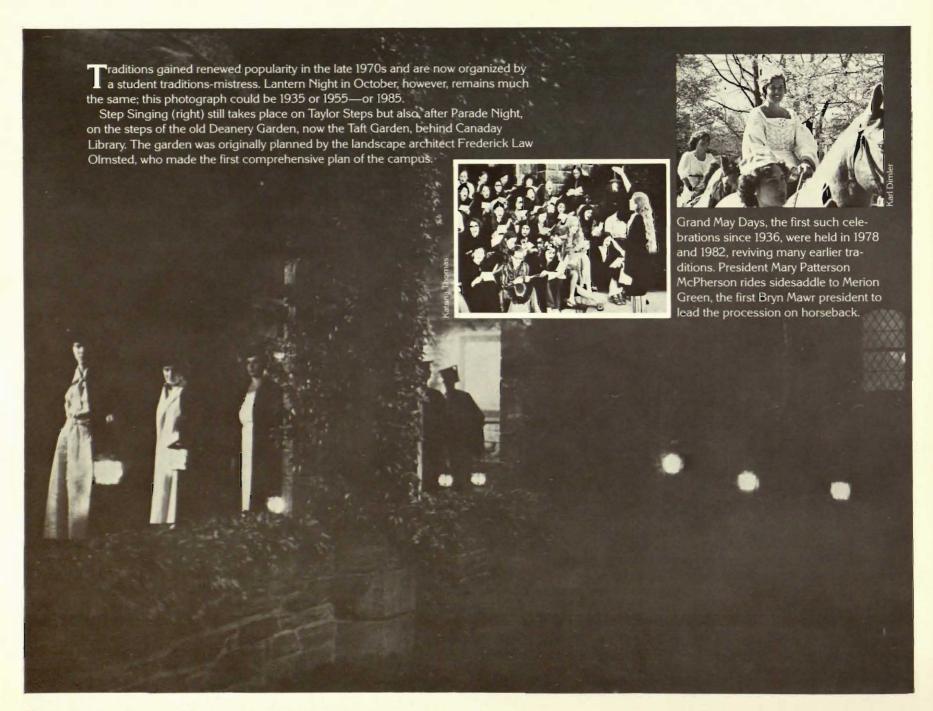


The Bern Schwartz Gymnasium, opened in 1983, was constructed on the old hockey field near the power house. It has an eight-lane swimming pool, basketball courts, locker and shower space, training and weight room, and a gymnastics area which fencers and dancers also use. Photographer Bern Schwartz, husband of Rosalyn Ravitch Schwartz '44, made portraits of some of Bryn Mawr's professors emeriti and also photographed Constance Applebee when she was over 100 years old (below).





The 1909 Gymnasium between Radnor and Merion has been transformed into the Centennial Campus Center with space for the college bookstore, the mailroom, snack bar, and student offices.







66 Taking a fleeting look at the past is a very ancient Greek thing to do, since from their eminently logical point of view one starts in the present facing the past, which is known and laid out for all to see; the future unknown and unseen, lies at one's back and will come after or behind. We apparently abhor the thought of standing still and must always be on the move, so that, since one cannot march forward into the past, we have turned around and face the future with only an occasional glance back into the past. 99

Mabel Lang, Acting Dean, February 4, 1961

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Miss Applebee with camera; Anna M. Carrere '08 Album

