

CHS LIBRARY NEWS

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026



"Ilias Picta."



"The Seventh Seal." Reader Marina Hall and friend.

The Mosaic (and Loeb) Room.



Upstairs carrel.



Spring at CHS.



The Van Sickle book donation.

ADDITIONS

In the past 16 months the CHS library has seen many changes - the retirement of the former librarian of 28 years, a new librarian, a new library assistant, a new space (the Epigraphy & Papyrology Reading Room with a new location code, EPIPAP), new added Loeb and Budé volumes in the Mosaic Room, new shelving for oversize books, new rare additions to the book collection in the form of facsimiles of ancient texts (Homer, Ptolemy, Dioscorides, and Nicander), a new ancient coin from 5th century Athens, new manuscript leaves from illuminated Books of Hours from the 15th century, a new facsimile of an entire miniature Book of Hours, a wedding gift from Pope Leo X to Lorenzo II de' Medici and Madeleine de la Tour d'Auvergne, Florence ca. 1520, new glass cases housing a number of new exhibitions (on Athenian democracy, the Greek language, Werner Jaeger, Herodotus, Homer, and more), new carrels (upstairs), new lamps (upstairs and downstairs), new lighting upstairs, new decorations on the walls downstairs (using poster ads for CHS publications and photos of the Acropolis), a new mailing list for library readers, new

DIGITIZATION

IT consultant John Fletcher has designed a new database, *CHS Digital*, the brain child of Director Mark Schiefsky, featuring links to manuscripts from institutions worldwide with ability to exchange thoughts with scholars across institutions in real time through annotations, and the beginning of the digitization of CHS's unique resources such as lecture notes from a Werner Jaeger class at the University of Chicago in 1938, hitherto unknown when recently discovered in the library, and Jaeger's published dissertation from 1912, *Studien zur Entstehungsgeschichte der Metaphysik des Aristoteles*, owned and annotated by well-known classicist Paul Shorey, Harvard Ph.D. 1878, and currently on display. Speaking of Jaeger, thanks to two former fellows, Kazuhiro Takeuchi, spring 2025, and Tejas S. Aralere, fall 2025, the library has acquired both a Japanese and a Chinese translation of Jaeger's chef d'oeuvre, *Paideia: Die Formung des griechischen Menschen*, originally published in Berlin in 1934, to be added to the library's collection of *Paideia* in many other languages. Arthur Harris, current Spring 2026 fellow, who knows both Chinese and Japanese, has provided descriptions of these books for the exhibit.

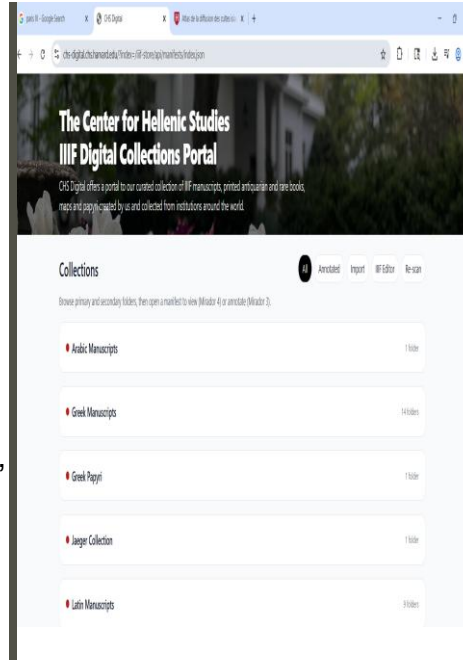
DONATIONS

The library has been gifted two artifacts, a bust of Poseidon and a bust of Apollo(?), by former CHS librarian Thomas Temple Wright whose support for the library and its staff continues to be invaluable.

In addition to individual book donations and multivolume works such as the *OED* by long time library reader Stan Burgess, Livezey More, in memory of her late husband, classicist John H. More, has donated a 3-volume set of Sir William Hamilton's rare and precious *Collection of Engravings of Greek Vases* from the late 1700s, currently undergoing minor conservation work at Harvard's Weissman Center. When it returns, it will be exhibited in the library.

Moreover, the CHS has been generously gifted a number of rare antiquarian tomes from the 16th-18th century by former fellow John Van Sickle, 1974-1975 (an Estienne first edition of Anacreon from 1554, a Robortello edition of Aristotle's *Poetics* from 1610, a Vettori edition of Aristotle's *Rhetoric* from 1548, a Frischlin and Estienne edition from 1577 of Callimachus' *Hymns*, an Aldus Manutius first edition from 1513 of works by Callimachus, Pindar, and Lycophron, a 1692 French translation by Sieur André Dacier of Aristotle's *Poetics* (incidentally, the library owns his wife Anne's

library policies (9am-5pm M-F, no appointment or advance notice required, no lunch closures, new library cards, self-check-in), a new printed library guide, new [virtual tours](#) of the library, main building, and residences, new [blogposts](#), new [webpages](#) (library beginnings, accessing the library, library space, navigating the collection, collection areas and databases, local libraries, library exhibits, new books), the latter being set aside monthly and featured on the web.

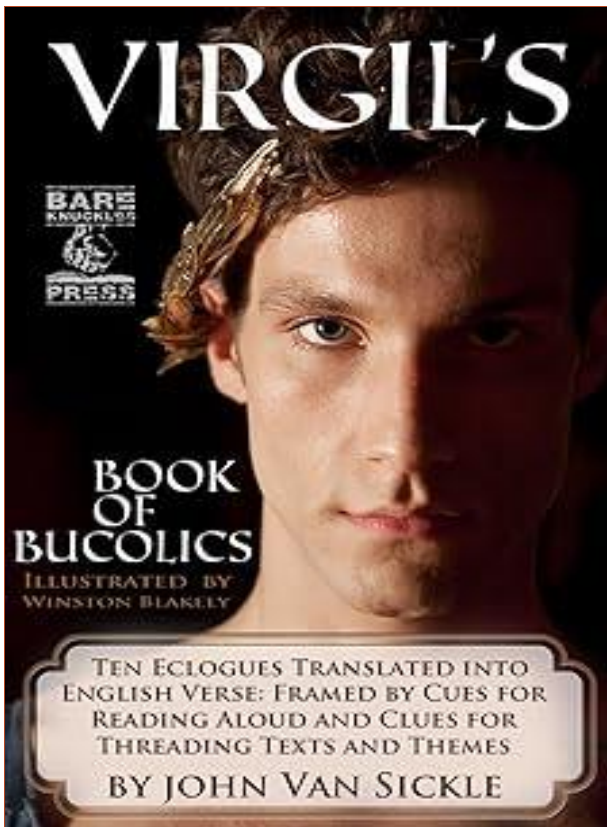


influential translation of the *Iliad* from 1711), an Estienne edition from 1579 of Theocritus' *Idylls* with a parallel Latin translation by Hessus, and more).

For an event honoring Professor Van Sickle, see below.

For donations in-kind, see [Book Donations Policy](#).

For information about the library, programming, digital projects, etc., consult the CHS [website](#).

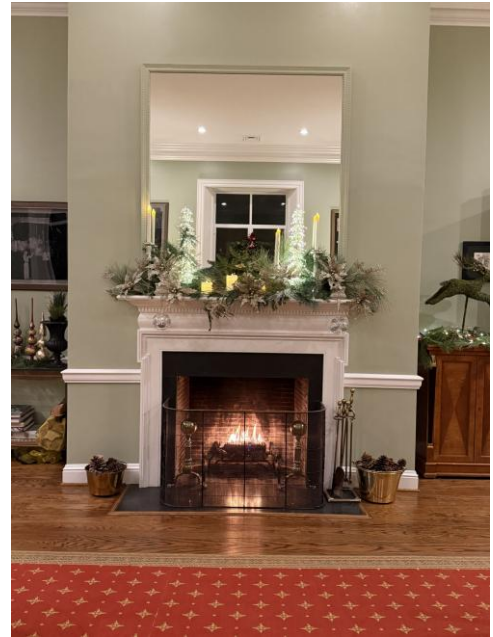


LIBRARY EVENT!

The CHS and its library will honor Professor Van Sickle, Brooklyn College, CUNY, and former CHS fellow, and his book donation on March 19, 2026, with presentations of the tomes, their history and cultural contexts by Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History Emeritus, Princeton University, and Déborah Blocker, Associate Professor of French and affiliated faculty in Italian Studies at UC Berkeley, accompanied by the sound of a crackling fireplace in the Center's elegant yet cozy Common Room.

The event has limited seating, see the [CHS events](#) page to register.

The library will also curate an exhibit in connection with the CHS and Greek Embassy celebration of Greek Independence Day on March 25.



Reading a good book (e.g., among the [newly-acquired](#) ones or a classic Homer translation such as that of Pope, Fagles, or Butler or a more contemporary one as that of Mendelsohn, Whitaker, or Wilson) in one of the carrels with cozy lamps downstairs or with calming canopy views upstairs, or lounging in a comfortable armchair in the Epigraphy & Papyrology Reading Room or the Black Classicists Room, and taking a break with a cup of tea in the Common Room, are guaranteed to expand minds and soothe souls in troubled times.

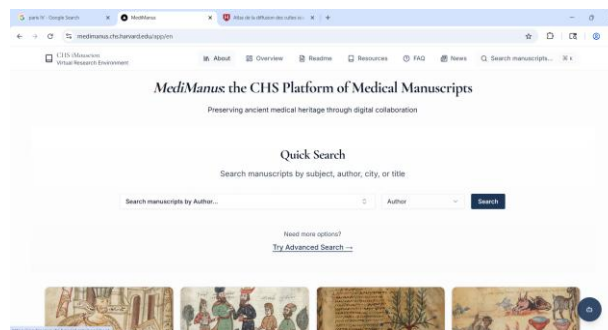
Scents can also soothe troubled souls...

A rather unusual concrete example of how combining text and material culture complement and inform our understanding of antiquity is a workshop for our fellows led by a CHS library reader who will be working with the library's facsimile of the *Vienna Dioscorides*. Participants will read entries on myrrh, galbanum, resin, calamus, and other scents while smelling and tasting the materials themselves in the form of ancient perfumes produced in a lab in Prague. "The guiding question: What does sensory experience reveal that reading alone cannot?"





A unique and for historians of ancient medicine, social and cultural historians and others a most welcome resource is [MediManus](#), another initiative by Director Schiefsky, which allows the researcher to locate ancient medical manuscripts and search on authors such as Hippocrates, Soranus, Dioscorides, and Galen, titles, subjects, keywords, and more. Try, for example, such search terms as fever, leprosy, plague, rabies, tumors, gout, heart, bone, brain, and eyes. The content of the database is continuously expanding.



Coming soon!

- A Digital Humanities Lab with a high-resolution scanner with OCR recognition of ca. 200 languages, including historical fonts and languages such as old English, German, French, Italian, and Spanish. The scanner is initially to be used for the digitization of the library's rare book collection, and subsequently for digital classics projects undertaken by the CHS and its fellows and the broader scholarly community.
- Digital conversion of our collection of rare books on microfilm and microfiche.
- Preservation work on the library's rare books will be undertaken after careful examination by a conservator in addition to a handful of rare books having been sent to Harvard's Weissman Center in Cambridge for repair.
- Added bookcases in the Black Classicists Room with a newly-acquired reference set of Greek *Oxford Classical Texts*, and added *Loeb* and *Budé* editions.
- Added bookcases in the Epigraphy & Papyrology Reading Room to hold all or most of our epigraphy and papyrology collections.

🌸 HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE 🌸

