For Immediate Release

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Delmas Foundation funds two spring conferences at Penn

Philadelphia--The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation has given the University of Pennsylvania a grant of $10,000 in support of two upcoming conferences. The first, scheduled for February 11, is “Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry into the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili,” a symposium to celebrate the acquisition by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries of the second edition of Colonna’s Hypnerotomachia Poliphili (Venice, 1545). The second, scheduled for March 30-31, is “Memory/Reason/Imagination: Librarians and Scholars—Past, Present, and Future,” a symposium in honor of Dr. Daniel Traister on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. “We are grateful to The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for supporting these two interdisciplinary conferences,” says Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries at Penn. “Their assistance will help us facilitate scholarly exchanges on topics which bridge the centuries and reveal the impact of the past on the present and future.”

The Anne and Jerome Fisher Fine Arts Library, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the School of Design will collaborate on “Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry into the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili,” a one-day symposium to give faculty, students, scholars, and the public the opportunity to discover the beauty, meaning, and mysteries contained within the book’s text and images. Topics to be addressed include: the book’s publishing history, gardens and landscape architecture in the book and in Renaissance Italy, classical inscriptions and ruins, the language of the text and its sources, and the continuing influence of the Hypnerotomachia on graphic design. For more information, please visit: http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/hypnerotomachia.html.

The second conference, “Memory/Reason/Imagination: Librarians and Scholars—Past, Present, and Future,” in honor of Dr. Daniel Traister will explore the worlds of librarians and scholars, examining how these worlds influence each other. The topics that the speakers will cover include: History of Collections and Collecting: Encyclopedism vs. Curiosity; Epistemology and its Classifications in Libraries; History of Librarianship/Portraits of Librarians; The Role of the Librarian: Scholar and/or Professional; and Changes and Continuities in the Digital Age: Textual Conversion, Reading Practices, and Knowledge.

Crossing disciplines and time periods are themes that reflect some of the broad interests that Dr. Traister has explored in a long career of publishing and work at Penn, the New York Public Library, and the Rare Book School at Columbia University and the University of Virginia. For more information, please visit: http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/traister_symposium.html.

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