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Applestein-Sweren Book Collecting Prize Entry

### Statement on the Collection

I first came to Baltimore in 2008 to attend Goucher College. As a native New Yorker, I knew very little about Baltimore except for a few anecdotes on crabcakes and the Orioles. As I took the time to explore the city and meet its inhabitants, I discovered a place rich with history and steeped in memory. Baltimoreans are rightfully proud of their history, architecture, and notable residents. Their many claims to fame include the first monument to George Washington, the first cathedral in the US, the home of Thurgood Marshall, the birthplace of American railroading, the burial place of Edgar Allan Poe, the birthplace of Billie Holiday, and so on.

There is also a profound sadness that permeates the culture of Baltimore. Decades of extreme poverty, economic decline, racism, discriminatory housing policy, and police misconduct have left a mark on the city. The struggle to overcome the darker side of its history is one of Baltimore's greatest contemporary challenges. The rows of vacant rowhouses that have become so infamously iconic are both a direct connection with the past and a roadblock for the future.

After graduating from Goucher, I moved downtown, took a job with the municipal government, and bought a rowhouse. As a professional historic preservationist for the city, my life became further entangled with the history of Baltimore and the legacy of its built environment. It was at this time that I began to collect books and primary sources that revealed the hidden sides of Baltimore history. In 2015, I enrolled at Goucher a second time to pursue my

Master's in Historic Preservation. Thus, my interest in collecting books about Baltimore history developed into a valuable resource for my academic work.

For both personal and professional reasons, I wished to learn not only about the history of this city, but also about the historiography of its chroniclers. As the attached bibliography will illustrate, the collection is as much about how Baltimoreans have perceived their histories through time (and by extension, themselves) as it is about recording the notable narratives, dates, figures, and events. In this way, many of the secondary sources in this collection have acquired status as primary sources over time.

Perhaps more than any other city in its peer class - Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, etc. - Baltimore has had one of the longest histories, reaching back to the early eighteenth century. A wide array of primary and secondary source material exists that chronicles the people who shaped this city. However, as a result of its declining size and prestige in the last half century, the number of readers available to consume such information is relatively small compared to the body of extant scholarship. The result is a canon that is surprisingly large but that is also strangely inaccessible. Publication runs tend to be fairly short and limited in quantity. Once the first editions have been snapped up by devotees, these books only resurface from time to time at estate sales and second-hand stores. More importantly, their contents have not been adequately transferred to the internet and other digital media so as to make them accessible for a new generation of readers.

The obscurity of these out-of-print books, and the unavailability of their content online, is part of what makes them so satisfying to collect. Like many collectors, for me, the thrill is in the chase. In addition to searches at used book stores, yard sales, and online auctions, this collection

was assembled through the generosity of friends, mentors, and professors who share my enthusiasm for the subject matter. In some special cases - as with Robinson and Dilts - items in this collection came as personal gifts from the authors themselves who knew that I cultivated a passion for the subject matter.

However, it is not only the physical or sentimental value of these books that makes them important to collect. There is also something empowering about assembling a body of knowledge that has such direct bearing on the improvement of current societal problems. The recent civil unrest in Baltimore has left many younger citizens asking the question, “why are things the way they are?” How could there be such a disparity between the beautiful architecture of yesteryear and the crushing poverty of today? How can we balance the pride of a resilient and innovative city with its legacy of prejudice?

These are not easy questions to address in the best of circumstances. The fact that the internet lacks good, detailed historical information about Baltimore only exacerbates the general ignorance of our civic past. Therefore, in the absence of a readily accessible online platform, this book collection is my attempt to assemble a body of information that will help to answer these questions so that we may heal the city for future generations.

### Baltimore History Book Collection Annotated Bibliography

(N.B. An asterisk following a citation indicates an autographed copy. Entries are alphabetical by author's surname)

1.

Alexander, Gregory J. and Paul K. Williams. *A Brief History of Charles Village*. Charleston, SC: The History Press. 2009.

Alexander and Williams have woven a historical survey of the development of Charles Village, a notable and widely recognized Baltimore neighborhood. Written in a readable and informal style, this book relates how the neighborhood was built from about 1890-1920, including its early notable citizens and architecture.

Neighborhood histories such as this have been common in the US since the 1960s. They are marketed primarily to homeowners interested in the cultural value of their own property and are not intended for academic use. They largely omit any critical analysis and rely more on anecdotal narrative. As such, this book and others like it should be thought of as primary sources on the value systems of urban homeowners at the time of their writing.

2.

Baltimore City Planning Commission and Department of Planning. *Baltimore's Development Program 1974-1979*. Baltimore: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. 1973.

This primary source is the published version of the Baltimore City capital improvement plan for most of the 1970s. This is a publication which is published annually by the city government as a measure of fiscal transparency for citizens to see exactly where funds are going toward the construction of public works and facilities.

This particular version is significant because it is a detailed look into the policy and priorities of the city in the 1970s, a period of large scale "urban renewal" projects following the devastating race riots in the 1960s. The construction of public works outlined in this document ushered in a period of optimism about the regrowth of the city and shaped the physical environment in a way that still has a legacy today.

3.

Bond, Allen K. *Guide to Baltimore and Environs*. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Company. 1926.

This book is a typical travel guide for its time. It was designed to aid someone visiting Baltimore for the first time by providing transportation information, traffic laws, local history, points of interest, walking tours, and photographs.

Travel guides have been an important primary resource for centuries in understanding urban history and development. This book has some interesting anecdotal information about points of interest, but is most valuable in seeing how a typical Baltimorean of the 1920s viewed his city. The book complements other travel books in the collection such as *Baltimore Today: A Guide to its Pleasures, Treasures, and Past*. (1969). A comparative analysis between the two reveals differences and continuities between two different time periods trying to accomplish the same task.

4.

Brugger, Robert. *Maryland, A Middle Temperament*. Revised Ed., Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1996.

To date, the most comprehensive historical survey of Maryland history from the colonial era to modern times. This book is a standard reference text for any student of Maryland history and is well cited and researched. Since this book attempts to cover a wide swath of history, it is not intended for in depth discussion on any one topic but it is a good starting point for any major event in Maryland's past.

Since this book covers Maryland as a whole, it is not dedicated specifically to Baltimore. However, since Baltimore is Maryland's largest city, the two topics are inextricably linked. The value of this book to the collection is its ability to demonstrate how Baltimore history fits into the larger context of the state.

5.

Chapelle, Howard Irving. *The Baltimore Clipper: Its Origin and Development*. 1930. Reprint, New York: Dover Publications. 1988.

The baltimore clipper is a type of small and fast sailing ship that was built in Baltimore for over a century and played an important role in the development of the city's maritime history and the War of 1812. This book provides a broad narrative on the history of this ship and goes into detail about the methods of construction as well as its role in the history of the city and maritime history globally.

Shipbuilding was one of the most important industries in Baltimore starting at the end of the 18th century until the middle of the 20th Century. This book fits into the broader context of maritime history in Baltimore, which is an important component to understanding the city's development as a whole.

6.

Clemens, Shirley B. and Clarence E. Clemens. *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County*. Publisher: Authors. 1976.

An amateur attempt to record the history of a relatively small agricultural community in northern Baltimore County. The book is self published and clearly the work of amateur historians in its formatting and presentation. However, it is handsomely printed on quality paper. At the time of its writing, it was likely one of the few (if not only) books covering this subject matter.

This book is valuable to the collection because it covers some arcane information that is more akin to oral tradition or folklore for Baltimore County. The county is historically tied to Baltimore City and the early histories of these two areas are essentially the same story. In some ways, this book could also be seen as a primary source in the historiography of Baltimore.

7.

Dehler, Katherine B. *Our Heritage: 11 West Mount Vernon Place*. 3rd ed. Baltimore: Engineering Society of Baltimore. 1972.

A small pamphlet that provides historical information about a single property located at 11 W. Mount Vernon Place (today known as the Engineer's Club). This impressive 19th century mansion was the home of the prominent Garrett family. The pamphlet provides historical facts about the architectural development of the house as well as its notable occupants.

This pamphlet was published by the Engineering Society of Baltimore shortly after they acquired 11 W. Mount Vernon Place to serve as their headquarters. This book is clearly an attempt to provide greater prestige and context to their new property. As such, it is very narrowly focused on one property; however, the architecture of the house is spectacular and of interest to most people interested in Baltimore architectural history as a whole.

8.

Dorsey, John and James D. Dilts. *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture*. 3rd ed. Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers. 1997.\*

Since its initial publication in 1973, this book has been the definitive reference guide to Baltimore architecture and architectural history. Laid out as a series of “tours” with maps and photographs, the book is a sort of field guide to notable buildings in and around Baltimore with succinct but illuminating profiles for each. The introduction by John Dos Passos is hugely entertaining and written in that author’s characteristic style.

The built environment of any city is a crucial artifact and witness to its development and social history. This book provides well-organized reference material to the physical context in which the social, economic and political facets of the city exist. As such, this book is a useful companion to many of the other books in the collection.

9.

Dorsey, John and James DuSel. *Look Again in Baltimore*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 2005.

A combination of art, architecture, history, and aestheticism, *Look Again in Baltimore*, is a singular cross-over in genres. The book is organized as a series of fine-art photographs capturing a variety architectural features in Baltimore. The corresponding analysis of each delves into the historical context as well as the artistic merits of the photograph in terms of both craft and content.

This book is significant to the collection because it reveals elements of history and architectural history in a way that is different than most historians might approach. The reader who is not historically inclined can still take away knowledge from this book and

understand it in a visual arts context which might be more approachable than traditional narrative and analysis.

10.

Elfenbein, Jessica I., John R. Beihan, and Thomas L. Hollowak, eds. *From Mobtown to Charm City*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society. 2002.

This book is a collection of scholarly essays assembled to uncover new perspectives on Baltimore's past. They are taken from a series of conferences presented in the late 1990s. The book presents a wide range of topics from early murder trials, alley houses, volunteer fire companies, slums, secession, post-Civil War racial accommodation, World War II aircraft workers, a populist uprising in the 1960s, public housing, and the school system.

Although something of a hodge-podge of subject matter, this book provides some excellent research that re-examines many of the time periods and events that were analyzed in 20th century histories such as in Stockett (see below). The updating of these perspectives is essential for students of Baltimore history to understand how historical analysis changes over time. For its attempt to reevaluate overlooked aspects of Baltimore's past, this book can be considered a prime complement to *The Baltimore Book*, also found in this collection.

11.

Eshelman, Ralph E., Scott S. Sheads, and Donald R. Hickey. *The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 2010.

Published in anticipation of the bicentennial of the War of 1812, this book is the most well documented book on every aspect of that war in the Chesapeake region. Organized as a sort of encyclopedia on the subject, the book provides entries for all key people, places, and events related to The War of 1812. The book also has a generous selection of maps, photographs, paintings, and other images. It is handsomely prepared and intended for scholars and amateur history enthusiasts alike.

The War of 1812 and the Battle of Baltimore were defining moments in Baltimore history. This book attempts to compile a scientific and comprehensive collection of information as it relates to this period of history. Many of the historic sites around Baltimore are enriched by the context provided therein. The publishing of this book was timed to coincide with the observance of the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The book



thus captures the spirit of revived interest that always accompanies important commemorations.

12.

Ewing, Kathleen M. H., *A. Aubrey Bodine: Baltimore Pictorialist, 1906-1970*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1985.

A. Aubrey Bodine was among the foremost Baltimore photographers of his generation and the most prolific in the documentary style. This retrospective on his life's work bears witness to how his photographs combine great artistry with the sensibility of someone capturing artifacts for future posterity.

Striking images from throughout his career are reprinted here in high quality with helpful annotations. The images often convey a far better sense of time and place in history than any written narrative could. Although not a stand-alone for someone intent on learning about Baltimore history, this book provides a visualization and context for many of the places and people described elsewhere in this book collection.

13.

Farrell, Michael R. *The History of Baltimore's Streetcars*. Sykesville, MD: Greenberg Publishing Company. 1992.

This attractive hard cover book is oversized and features a wide array of full color glossy photographs in addition to historical narrative on the history, development, and decline of the Baltimore streetcar system. The streetcar system and public transportation were widely important to the patterns of urban growth in Baltimore for almost one hundred years. The author has assembled a detailed (if slightly amateurish) collection of knowledge about this specific vestige of the past.

The streetcar system was scrapped in the early 1960s, but its 100 year history played an important role in the outward growth of the city. An understanding of the transportation system of Baltimore is integral to understanding how and why buildings were erected farther and farther from the city center prior to the invention of the automobile.

14.

Fee, Elizabeth, Linda Shopes, and Linda Ziedman, eds. *The Baltimore Book: New Views of Local History*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1991.

This collection of essays is arranged as a “tour” of Baltimore. The organizing theme is uncovering the history of the common people and correcting some of the exclusionary histories of previous generations. Focusing on labor history, union organizing, the civil rights movement, immigration, and more, *The Baltimore Book*, remains just as important today as it did when first published.

This book has important narratives, based firmly in specific places, that have direct bearing on Baltimore’s citizens today. It was one of the first of a series of books in the 1990s to uncover “forgotten” histories of marginalized groups of people. The book is richly illustrated, and generally respected and cited by current scholars, educators, and amateur historians alike. Although it only scratches the surface on the subject matter, it is a notable early attempt to correct the narratives of the early 20th century that largely centered around the deeds of wealthy white men- to the exclusion of all others.

15.

Kahn, Philip. *Uncommon Threads: Threads that Wove the Fabric of Baltimore Jewish Life*. Baltimore: PECAN Publications. 1996.

This book is a in-depth social history of the Jewish community of Baltimore from the late 18th century to the 1990s. Kahn combines extensive personal knowledge of Baltimore with a wide narrative and relevant sources and photographic material.

The Jewish community of Baltimore was a significant ethnic and religious group in Baltimore from its earliest days, and particularly in the late 19th century on to the present day. Their impact on shaping the social fabric of the city has been tangible. As part of this collection’s attempt to gain a diverse selection of perspectives and narratives, this book provides an essential look into this community.

16.

Hayward, Mary Ellen and Charles Belfoure. *The Baltimore Rowhouse*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press. 2001.

Hayward and Belfoure have created a definitive history of Baltimore’s most ubiquitous architectural element: the rowhouse. From the earliest days of development in the 1790s to the present day, the authors provide a deep narrative and critical analysis of the rowhouse from its stylistic and structural development to the social context surrounding

housing. Heavy use of primary source material and original drawings speak to the great care and attention that were paid in writing this superb book.

One of the best books ever written on Baltimore's architectural heritage, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*, is an essential book for any Baltimore history collection.

17.

Jones, Carleton. *Lost Baltimore: A Portfolio of Vanished Buildings*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1993.

Jones has assembled a book that depicts over one hundred buildings from Baltimore's past that no longer exist. Each photo or illustration is accompanied by a brief description and historical narrative including location details, date of construction, and date of demolition or destruction by fire.

This book is interesting because it provides a valuable visual record for places that no longer exist but which may be referenced in other social histories. In some ways, this book is a paean to the lost glory of Baltimore architecture and is an implicit call to arms for the historic preservation movement.

18.

McKeldin, Theodore R. *No Mean City*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society. 1964.\*

This small volume was written by Theodore McKeldin during his second term as the Mayor of Baltimore, following two terms as Governor of Maryland from 1951 to 1959. The book is an informal history of the legacy of philanthropy in Baltimore. It focuses on the deeds of three principal men: Enoch Pratt, Johns Hopkins, and George Peabody. These wealthy nineteenth century industrialists each dedicated their excess wealth to founding important institutions for the public benefit.

Clearly a piece of mild propaganda, this book is an interesting artifact of its time. It would seem unusual for modern mayors to spend their time writing histories, but McKeldin captured the spirit of an age when history was appropriated to further the ideal of sacrifice to the state. The historical narrative presented here is of some interest to historians, but more important is that it demonstrates how city leadership wished to revive a culture of philanthropy and public service among its citizens.

19.

Melton, Tracy Matthew. *Hanging Henry Gambrill: The Violent Career of Baltimore's Plug Uglies, 1854-1860*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society. 2005.

Melton weaves a vivid account of the 19th century people and events who spawned Baltimore's infamous moniker: "mobtown." This history of gang warfare depicts the seedy underbelly of life in Baltimore and a group of people who were often written out of previous histories.

The modern reader delights in stories of the amoral and this book does not disappoint. The social conditions that Melton traces are akin to the slum fiction of the Progressive Era writers such as Sinclair and Crane. This book is also an account of the types of people and conditions seen in the 2002 film *Gangs of New York*. In that sense, the book feeds off of a popular audience while still providing a scholarly account of real historical events. These are important to understanding the genesis of lower class culture that persisted throughout the 20th century.

20.

Mencken, H.L. *Happy Days*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1940.

One of the leading essayists, journalists, and cultural critics of the early twentieth century, H.L. Mencken is closely associated with his home city of Baltimore. This book, the first in a trilogy, is a memoir of his early life in Baltimore as a child. The book is written for a general audience, and like most memoirs, is stylistically breezy and anecdotal. However, typical of Mencken, it is not a trivial book and provides vivid details that paint a tableau of typical middle class life in Baltimore during the 1880s and 1890s.

In addition to its colorful stories from life, Mencken inadvertently provides modern readers with a blunt and often shocking portrayal of racial stereotypes and uses the racist and anti-semitic rhetoric typical of his time and place. Although offensive to modern readers, the casualty of racism in this book is an honest representation of prevailing white attitudes in the early 20th century, and therefore is a valuable historical record for understanding the legacy of racism in Baltimore and the United States.

21.

Mitchell IV, Alexander D. *Baltimore Then & Now*. San Diego: Thunder Bay Press. 2001.

Essentially a coffee table book, Mitchell presents about three dozen historical photographs of Baltimore. They are beautifully reproduced and printed in high detail and glossy paper. Each historical photo is juxtaposed with a photograph of roughly the same location in the early 2000s. Minimal captioning is provided with minimal citations.

This book serves largely as an illustrative companion to many of the other books in the collection. The level of photographic detail is among the best in the collection and therefore is a powerful visual aid. However, by itself, the book lacks substantive written detail.

22.

Olmsted Brothers. *Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*. 1904. Reprint, Baltimore: Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks & Landscapes. 1987.

The Olmsted Brothers were the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted and were a notable team of landscape architects and urban planners in their own right. Following in their father's footsteps, the Olmsted Brothers were commissioned by cities across the United States during the early 20th century to prepare plans for the improvement of parks, roads, neighborhoods, and public squares. Many of the ideas in this plan were ultimately adopted by the Baltimore municipal government through a series of public works projects in the succeeding decades. Thus, this book documents the genesis of the shaping of the Baltimore we know today.

23.

Phillips, Christopher. *Freedom's Port: The African American Community of Baltimore, 1790-1860*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press. 1997.

This book is a social examination of the condition of African Americans living in Baltimore from its earliest days up to the Civil War. Baltimore was unique among antebellum American cities in that it claimed the highest population of free blacks of any city in the United States. This book examines the social fabric of the contradictory parallel lives shared between free persons and enslaved persons in Baltimore during this period.

Essential to telling the history of Baltimore is the telling of the African American experience. Unfortunately, most scholarship on Baltimore history before the 1990s was largely exclusionary of black history. This book was an important watershed moment in the historiography of black history in Baltimore and is a well-researched attempt at uncovering this forgotten chapter in the city's past.

24.

Pietila, Antero. *Not In My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped A Great American City*. Lanham, MD: Ivan R. Dee. 2010.

Pietila, a retired reporter from the Baltimore Sun, chronicles the history of segregation and discriminatory housing policy in Baltimore during the twentieth century. This landmark piece of scholarship is meticulously researched and referenced and provides a disturbing look at a dark aspect of American society for the past 100 years.

In addition to an important piece of scholarship, this book has also become the foundation for ongoing political activism against the legacy of racist housing policy. The problem with older historical texts about Baltimore is that they gloss over or omit many of the shameful policies of historical figures. This book is a giant leap forward in correcting these omissions from the historical record.

25.

*Prints of Baltimore and Beyond*. Annapolis, MD: Friends of the Maryland State Archives. 2012.

A colorful coffee table book that presents high quality reproductions of lithographs, maps, prints, and drawings depicting early Baltimore. The collection presented in this book was assembled by the Hackerman family and was offered to the Maryland State Archives for publication in this volume.

Like many of the books in this collection that are image-based, this book augments the reader's understanding of the social patterns of urban history with visual representations contemporary with historical events.

26.

Robinson, Jo Ann Ooiman. *Education As My Agenda: Gertrude Williams, Race, and the Baltimore Public Schools*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2005.\*

Robinson uses a case study of a particular school and its principal to explore larger trends in the history of public education in Baltimore. Vivid detail is included that relies on oral histories as well as traditional primary print sources. The result is a very accessible and readable account of public education and the inequity which plagued it for most of the 20th century. The book is very scholarly and well cited.

Education is one of the most important services that government provides to its citizens. As such, the history of urban development is tied, in part, to education. This book helps to paint a compelling portrait of that system. The challenges faced by the subject of this book are illustrative of larger trends in Baltimore history.

27.

Sandler, Gilbert. *Small Town Baltimore: An Album of Memories*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2002.

Written in Sandler's characteristic style and prose, this book documents everyday life in Baltimore from the 1940s to the 1960s through stories, vignettes, anecdotes and photographs. Although not intended to be a scholarly history, the book does an exceptional job at painting tableaux from life so that any reader can be instantly transported back in time to streetcars, ballparks, department stores, and the like. Combining personal recollection with other forms of ephemera and oral history, Sandler is truly unique among contemporary Baltimore writers.

As a frequent contributor to local radio broadcasts and a prolific writer on Baltimore's past, no collection of Baltimore history books would be complete without a representative item from Sandler's bibliography. His style is all his own and his work is a rare example of local history entering the mainstream of public interest.

28.

Smith, C. Fraser. *William Donald Schaefer: A Political Biography*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1999.\*

William Donald Schaefer was, arguably, the most influential Maryland politician of the last half century. His five decade long career included service as Baltimore City Councilman, Mayor of Baltimore, Governor of Maryland, and finally Comptroller of

Maryland. Although his autocratic style was sometimes controversial, his leadership was highly influential in shaping the face of Baltimore and Maryland. This biography, by one of the leading political analysts in Maryland today, chronicles Schaefer's life story as it relates to the politics of Baltimore and beyond.

The sheer magnitude of Schaefer's public life means that no discussion of Baltimore history would be complete without some inclusion of his life's work. This book enriches the collection by putting a human face on a man who was often mercurial but inextricably tied to the development of the city that he led and loved for a lifetime.

29.

*Social Register Baltimore 1943*. Vol. LVII, No. 10. New York: Social Register Association. 1942.

This small book is a directory of names and addresses for fashionable Baltimore social elites. It was updated and reissued annually.

Social registers such as this one were common until the end of the last century. They are directories for the elite socio-economic classes as a means of keeping communication and socialization within their particular milieu. Another famous example is the Baltimore "Blue Book," a directory for debutantes and their families to ensure that courtship and marriage occurred within one's financial and social stratum. The Blue Book is best known because it survives to the current time; however, the *Social Register Baltimore 1943* is a reminder that there were other such directories produced. The book speaks to the importance that Baltimore elites placed on insulating their own social ranks.

30.

Stieff, Frederick Philip. *Eat, Drink and be Merry in Maryland*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 1932.\*

*Eat, Drink and be Merry in Maryland* is a unique text. Over the course of many years, the author traveled the state collecting traditional recipes from Maryland and Baltimore cuisine. This book collects and assembles traditional cuisine as a kind of oral history. Although not a scholarly text, it is an invaluable primary source that preserves many folkways that would have otherwise been lost to time.



The gastronomic history of any culture is often overlooked by most historians. However, insights into the culture of the past can be gleaned from this book in addition to an understanding of how modern culinary practices came into being. The recipes are still largely relevant to modern chefs and thus this book is a practical guide as well as a historical artifact that enriches our sensory understanding of local history in Baltimore and the state as a whole.

31.

Stockett, Letitia. *Baltimore: A Not Too Serious History*. 1928. Reprint, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1997.

This book was one of the first attempts to write a comprehensive survey of Baltimore history following J. Thomas Scharf's *History of Baltimore City and County* published in 1881. Letitia Stockett, a Goucher College alumna, provides a broad overview of the major events surrounding the development of Baltimore City from the middle of the 18th century up to the 1920s. As the title suggests, the narrative is slightly irreverent and is intended to be humorous. Unfortunately for the book's posterity, this also means that the text occasionally slips into the racist rhetoric typical of its time. The work is only minimally referenced and the various vignettes are probably somewhat apocryphal.

The greatest value of the book is in those descriptions that are contemporary with the time of its writing. Here, Stockett draws from her direct experience. Her critical analysis of the culture and architecture of 1920s Baltimore is an illuminating primary source for today's scholars of the period.

32.

Thomas, Thaddeus P. *The City Government of Baltimore*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1896.\*

A small volume of only fifty-one pages, this book is the published version of a doctoral dissertation. The author was a Goucher College (then the Woman's College of Baltimore) professor of history and the book is inscribed as a gift to Dr. John Goucher. It is a concise history of the municipal government of Baltimore from its earliest days in the 18th century up to the 1890s. The author offers constructive advice as to potential restructuring of the government for better efficiency and transparency.

This is an interesting text because it offers a valuable history of the city government, which does not have a lot of scholarship written about it. Therefore, the narrative is still relevant to students of local government today. In addition, it functions as a primary source having been born from the Good Government Movement of the late 19th century. It seems clear that Thomas is representative of a generation of so-called “goo goos,” “mugwumps,” and “progressives.” That he held these beliefs is in keeping with the time and, as a gift to the college president, it illustrates the kind of political beliefs held by Goucher College faculty in the early years of the college’s history.

33.

Waesche, James F. and A. Aubrey Bodine. *Baltimore Today: A Guide to its Pleasures, Treasures, and Past*. Baltimore: Bodine and Associates. 1969.

This combination travel guide and business directory was published shortly after the devastating race riots of the 1960s. It is aimed at attracting and revitalizing the tourism industry by providing an accessible and concise guide to the notable attractions in and around Baltimore. This is a primary source that is reflective of how city leaders saw their home and the priorities of a time when tourism was beginning to become a major industry for Baltimore.

This book complements the older *Guide to Baltimore and Environs* (1926) also found in this collection by illuminating the differences between two books that essentially tried to accomplish the same thing but were separated by time.

34.

Welsh, Lilian. *Reminiscences of Thirty Years in Baltimore*. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Company. 1925.\*

This memoir was written by a former Goucher College professor, Lilian Welsh, and contains primary source information about the early years of the college as well as her time as a pioneer in fields of medicine and women’s education. As a memoir, it is written in a conversational style without indexing. It is a relatively brief but vivid snapshot into the life of a remarkable woman in the first decades of the twentieth century.

This book is of particular interest to students of early women’s education, the suffrage movement, and Baltimore from 1890-1920. The advantage of this book in the collection is that, like Mencken’s *Happy Days*, it enriches historical scholarly research with colorful

vignettes from life that make historical facts seem more vibrant and accessible. It is also a rare primary source voice from a professional woman at a time when few of these accounts existed.

35.

*Work of Maryland Architects, Centennial Issue.* Baltimore: American Institute of Architects Baltimore Chapter. 1957.

This primary source is a catalog of important designs from Baltimore architects from the year 1957. The Baltimore chapter of the American Institute of Architects (the second oldest in the country) published this catalog annually. However, 1957 marked the centennial anniversary of the chapter, and special care and attention was paid in assembling this book. The quality of the book is very high with quality paper and glossy printing.

The many photographs and drawings bear witness to a period of prolific construction and development in Baltimore and the United States. Many of these buildings are still in use today. The catalog allows for comparison of their appearance when they were new to their current appearance- a valuable resource for historic preservationists looking to maintain the integrity of these buildings. Although the 1950s have been hitherto overlooked by architectural historians, this period of design continues to have a profound impact on daily life in Baltimore. This book is valuable within the collection because it is a record of a period which is only just now starting to gain attention among academics and is deserving of further study.

Annotated “Wishlist” for Future Collection Expansion

Beirne, Francis F. *The Amiable Baltimoreans*. 1951. Reprint, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1984.

This is an informal collection of anecdotes about notable people in Baltimore history including Babe Ruth, H.L. Mencken, Edgar Allan Poe, Betsy Patterson, and Wallis Simpson. It was intended for consumption by the general public and is not a work of historical scholarship, per se. Like many books in this collection, it is representative of how citizens of Baltimore viewed their place in the world at the time of its writing.

Eff, Elaine. *The Painted Screens of Baltimore: An Urban Folk Art Revealed*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi. 2013.

Part history, part art criticism, this book is the first serious attempt to document a traditional folk art from Baltimore: the painted screen. Richly illustrated and handsomely bound, this book is the only book of its kind and is essential for understanding the people of Baltimore through the lens of folk art.

Fields, Barbara Jeanne. *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland During the Nineteenth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1984.

In this groundbreaking text, Fields crafted the first (and in many ways, still the best) account of the nature of slavery in antebellum Maryland. Although not specific to Baltimore, this book does place a substantial amount of attention on Baltimore and how it played a role in the economy and institution of slavery in Maryland as a whole. The book provides quantitative and qualitative analysis of the social, legal, and economic facets of slavery. Labor historians agree that the legacy of slavery is with us still today, making this book an essential text for understanding contemporary social conditions.

Mencken, H.L. *Heathen Days: 1890-1936*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1943.

The third and final installment in Mencken’s memoir and autobiography, this book is a companion to *Happy Days* (found in this collection). Like *Happy Days* and *Newspaper Days*, these books provide lively vignettes from real life and depict a bygone era. While controversial and in many places offensive to modern readers, they are an honest

depiction of life that helps modern readers understand middle-class attitudes in Baltimore at the turn of the century.

Mencken, H.L. *Newspaper Days: 1899-1906*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1941.

The second installment of Mencken's autobiography. See entry above.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County (Maryland): From the earliest period to the present day, including biographical sketches of their representative men*. Baltimore: Louis H. Everts. 1881.

J. Thomas Scharf remains a pervasive and controversial figure in the historiography of Maryland. His voluminous histories were the first serious attempt to chronicle Maryland's past. His access to a variety of primary sources (many of which are not extant today) made his work important to all Maryland historians who succeeded him. However, his style of apocryphal storytelling makes much of his writing unreliable at best, and fictitious at worst. Still, this book is the first comprehensive history of Baltimore ever written and is therefore a landmark work in itself. Therefore, this book complements the rest of the collection as the progenitor of all subsequent histories.

Hayward, Mary Ellen. *Baltimore's Alley Houses: Homes for Working People Since the 1780s*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2008.

This book builds upon research presented in essay-form and published in *From Mobtown to Charm City*, found in this collection. The alley house was an important residential building type from the 19th century that allowed for certain urban development trends particular to Baltimore. Namely, the construction of smaller houses in the alleys off of main thoroughfares provided housing for middle to lower income families who lived adjacent to their more affluent neighbors. Thus, the early part of Baltimore development showed a remarkable degree of class heterogeneity. As an extant building type in many Baltimore neighborhoods today, the alley house still exhibits relevancy over two hundred years later.

Hayward, Mary Ellen and Frank R. Shivers. *The Architecture of Baltimore: An Illustrated History*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2004.

This book picks up where *A Guide to Baltimore Architecture* leaves off (see above). Hayward (who co-authored *The Baltimore Rowhouse* also in this collection) and Shivers have assembled the most complete discussion on Baltimore architecture to date. This

book delves into common themes and broad analysis rather than focusing on specific buildings the way that Dorsey and Dilts do.

Rockman, Seth. *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2009.

This book is part of the ongoing mission to uncover and document the history of labor in the early part of the nineteenth century. It builds on the work done by Fields and Phillips (above), while putting additional emphasis on labor relations as a whole in Baltimore specifically.

Lisicky, Michael. *Baltimore's Bygone Department Stores: Many Happy Returns*. Charleston, SC: The History Press. 2012.

Michael Lisicky is recognized as the preeminent expert on the history of Baltimore retail stores. His book documents department stores and shopping with corresponding images from his own collection. This book is marketed to a general audience but is still a serious work of scholarship like the rest of Lisicky's body of work. Shopping and commercialism is an important part of the American experience, and one that is often overlooked by professional historians. Particularly in the 20th century, the rise and fall of the department store is a fascinating look at everyday life for people of every social strata and speaks to larger trends on urban and suburban development.