AJL Boston Conference
Stereotypical Images of Librarians in Film
1932-1959
All images from Ray Tevis and Brenda Tevis
The Image of Librarians in Cinema 1917-1999

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Young Bride (1932). Helen Twelvetrees (left) is children’s librarian Allie Smith and Blanche Frederici (right) is library supervisor Margaret Gordon, who offers sympathy and support as Allie struggles with her personal problems. Note the large white collars.
No Man of Her Own (1932). Lillian Harmer (left) is Mattie and Carole Lombard (right) is Connie Randall, librarians at the Glendale Public Library. Note the large white collars. (Photograph courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.)
Sea Devils (1937). Doris Malone (Ida Lupino) stares disapprovingly at Mike O’Shay (Preston Foster) as he pinches the cheek of Miss McGonigle (Fern Emmett). Note the white collars of both librarians and McGonigle’s pince-nez and bun hairstyle. (Photograph courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.)
Wonder Man (1945). Milquetoast Edwin Dingle (Danny Kaye) and librarian Ellen Shavley (Virginia Mayo) on rolling library ladders, just seconds before he falls and brings down several shelves of books. (Photograph courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.)
Adventures (1945). Librarian Emily Sears (Greer Garson) copes with
the boisterous antics of merchant marine boatswain Harry Patterson (Clark Gable); it is love at
first sight, almost. Note the eyeglasses in Emily’s right hand.
Margie (1946). Professor Ralph Fontayne (Glenn Langan), Central High School’s new, young, handsome French teacher, visits the library and meets school librarian Miss Isabelle Palmer (Lynn Bari) and senior student Margie MacDuff (Jeanne Crain).
Good News (1947). Librarian Connie Lane (June Allyson), a student working her way through college, assists star football player, popular big-man-on-campus, and wealthy student Tommy Marlowe (Peter Lawford). Note the white collar.
I Was a Shoplifter (1950). Andrea King (left) is Ina Perdue, a member of a shoplifting gang, and Mona Freeman (right) is librarian Faye Burton, a kleptomaniac whom the gang is attempting to recruit. Note the white collar.
Katie Did It (1951). In the Wakely Public Library (left to right): Librarian (actor not identified); artist Peter Van Arden (Mark Stevens); comic book reader Steven (Jimmy Hunt); and librarian Katherine Standish (Ann Blyth).
The Man Who Never Was (1956). Gloria Grahame, busy stamping books, is librarian Lucy Sherwood. Although Grahame wears eyeglasses in the library in the film, she has removed them for this publicity photograph.
Storm Center (1956). Bette Davis (left) is librarian Alicia Hull and Kim Hunter (right) is her assistant, Martha Lockridge.
Desk Set (1957). The “girls in research” are (left to right): Dina Merrill as Sylvia Blair; Katharine Hepburn as Bunny Watson (her hair in a bun), head of the Reference Department; Joan Blondell as Peg Costello; and Sue Randall as Ruthie Saylor. The “girls” present one of the more positive cinematic depictions of librarians in twentieth century films.