

## Literary Gentlemen and a Girl Like I

On a train ride from New York to California, popular screenwriter Anita Loos sketched out a farce based on a gold-digging blonde capable of manipulating any man she wished. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes: An Intimate Diary of a Professional Lady* became the second best selling novel of 1926, and its first printing in December 1925 sold out overnight. This exhibit places Loos's cultural phenomenon into the context of the literary world of the 1920s.

The exhibition was curated by Anne Peale and Jay Satterfield. This exhibition was on display in the Class of 1965 Galleries from December 15, 2011 - February 29, 2012.

### Materials Included in the Exhibition

Case Title	Materials included
<p><b>Case 1. "Brains are really everything..."</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anita Loos. <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes: An Intimate Diary of a Professional Lady</i>. New York: Boni &amp; Liveright, 1925. <a href="#">Rare Book PS3523.O557 G4 1925</a></li> <li>2. Anita Loos. <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>. Typed play script, 1927. <a href="#">Anita Loos collection (MS-1092)</a>, Box 1, Folder 4.</li> <li>3. Playbill for <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>. Times Square Theater, 1927.</li> <li>4. Charles Lederer. <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>. Screenplay, Final Revised, November 13, 1952. <a href="#">Scripts 164</a></li> <li>5. Screenplays from our collections with major contributions by Anita Loos: <i>I Married an Angel</i> (1941, <a href="#">Scripts 1068</a>); <i>Susan and God</i> (1940, <a href="#">Scripts 1917</a>); <i>When Ladies Meet</i> (1941, <a href="#">Scripts 2117</a>); <i>Blossoms in the Dust</i> (1941, <a href="#">Scripts 429</a>); <i>Biography</i> (1934, <a href="#">Scripts 15</a>); <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> (1944, <a href="#">Scripts q185a</a>).</li> <li>6. Anita Loos. <i>Cast of Thousands</i>. New York: Grosset &amp; Dunlap, 1977. <a href="#">Baker Berry PS3523.O557 Z49</a> [Not available at Rauner]</li> </ol>

<p><b>Case 2, Part 1. "...a gentlemen called Mr. Mencken"</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The American Mercury</i>, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 1924). [Not available at Rauner. <a href="#">Library Depository AP2 .A37 v.1-112 1924-1976</a>]</li> <li>2. H. L. Mencken. "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" review. <i>The American Mercury</i> Vol. 7, no 25 (January 1926): 127. [Not available at Rauner. <a href="#">Library Depository AP2 .A37 v.1-112 1924-1976</a>]</li> <li>3. H. L. Mencken. "My Life as Editor," manuscript. <a href="#">H. L. Mencken Papers (ML-693)</a>.</li> <li>4. H. L. Mencken. Signed Photograph.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Case 2, Part 2. "So here I am writing a book..."</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anita Loos. <i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes: An Intimate Diary of a Professional Lady</i>. New York: Boni &amp; Liveright, 1925 [1926].</li> <li>2. Ernest Hemingway. <i>In Our Time</i>. New York: Boni &amp; Liveright, 1925. <a href="#">Rare Book PZ3.H3736 In</a></li> <li>3. Sherwood Anderson. <i>Dark Laughter</i>. New York: Boni &amp; Liveright, 1925. <a href="#">Rare Book PS3501.N4 D3 1925</a></li> <li>4. Theodore Dreiser. <i>An American Tragedy</i>. New York: Boni &amp; Liveright, 1925. <a href="#">3 copies: Val 817 D814 O2 (2 copies) or Roberts Library PZ3.D814 Am c.3</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>Case 3. "...so that I would improve my mind"</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Benvenuto Cellini. <i>The Life of Benvenuto Cellini Written by Himself</i>. Boston: Merrymount, 1906. <a href="#">Presses M554c</a></li> <li>2. Joseph Conrad. <i>Lord Jim</i>. New York: Doubleday, 1900. <a href="#">Conrad 74</a></li> <li>3. Motion Picture Code. Hays Office, Motion Picture Association of America, 193-.</li> <li>4. Playbill for <i>The Firebrand</i>. Morosco Theater, New York, 1924.</li> <li>5. Robert W. Service. <i>Songs of a</i></li> </ol>

	<p><i>Sourdough</i>. Toronto: William Briggs, 1907. <a href="#">Rare Book PR6037.E72 S5 1907a</a></p> <p>6. Anita Loos. <i>A Girl Like I</i>. New York: Viking, 1966. <a href="#">Baker Berry PS3523.O557 Z5</a> [Not available at Rauner]</p>
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