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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Lloyd's New Podcast Kicks off Women's History Month



The first and third women to earn doctorate degrees at the University of Cincinnati went on to international acclaim, but in their hometown, the stories of their travels and adventures have rarely been told. In "[Dear Elizabeth](#)," Lloyd Library & Museum Research Fellow Elissa Yancey, MEd, brings the words and adventures of E. Lucy and Annette Braun to life, via their own words, in a four-part serial podcast that launches March 1.

The podcast charts the last research trip the Braun sisters took to the American West using the letters they sent back to their fellow scientist and protégé, Elizabeth Brockschlager, who left her collection of letters, photographs and papers to the Lloyd when she died in 1991.

"In many ways, Lucy and Annette are Cincinnati 'hidden figures,' said Patricia Van Skaik, Executive Director of the Lloyd. "They had such a major impact on conservation work in Ohio and Kentucky, yet aside from names of species and nature preserves, we know little about their personal experiences and lively personalities. We're excited to share these treasures from the Lloyd that few have been able to experience first-hand."

Beyond that, the podcast series adds context to the Brauns' travel by placing it in history: 1963, a year when the interstate system was still incomplete and that national parks were being reshaped for family recreation where protecting the land had to be balanced with providing picnic areas.

Perhaps most remarkably, the sisters were 75 and 79 years old when they set off by car from their white brick farmhouse in Mt. Washington, which they referred to as Braunwood, to the Rocky Mountains. As they hiked the Continental Divide in Colorado, they carefully detailed plant species as they shared their excitement and frustrations in letters to Brockschlager, who often housesat while the researching sisters traveled.

Lucy Braun was the better known of the Cincinnati sisters. A long-time professor at the University of Cincinnati, she served as the first female president of the Ecological Society of America in 1950, the same year she published *The Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America*, an ecology reference book that remains a classic. But Annette, Lucy's older sister who was the first woman to earn a PhD from UC in 1911, was a leading entomologist whose work both supported and complemented her sister's, as Yancey makes clear in the podcast.

Finding the right modern-day voices to bring the Braun sisters to life was critical to "Dear Elizabeth," van Skaik said. Botanist and head of UC's Department of Biological Sciences Theresa Culley, PhD, reads Lucy's letters—an appropriate homage considering that Culley is descended, academically speaking, from a line of researchers inspired by Lucy Braun. Local writer and editor Anita Buck, who has written extensively about the sisters and their conservation work, notably their advocacy for the creation of the Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve in Adams County, Ohio, reads Annette's letters.

New episodes of "[Dear Elizabeth](#)" will premiere on each of the first four Mondays of March, Women's History Month.

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### ***Natural Wonders: Pioneering Female Scientists of Cincinnati***



Join podcast creator, Elissa Yancey, on **March 18, from 7-8 p.m.** for her virtual fellowship lecture. Yancey describes her research mapping the inner and outer narratives of E. Lucy and Annette Braun as they paved a groundbreaking trail across the American West. These two scientists traveled tens of thousand miles in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century documenting flora and insects. Their work remains of great value to researchers today chronicling the impact of human population and climate change. By tracing the Braun sisters' correspondences with their student, house sitter and amateur botanist, Elizabeth Brockschlager, Yancey compares their scientific and public writings to create a more complete picture of their lives.

[Registration is required.](#)

Webinars presented by the Lloyd Library and Museum can be viewed on YouTube following their initial presentation. Catch all our virtual programs by subscribing to the [Lloyd Library YouTube channel](#).

The Lloyd Library and Museum is located at 917 Plum St. in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact the Library at (513) 721-3707 or email [contact@lloydlibrary.org](mailto:contact@lloydlibrary.org) or visit [LloydLibrary.org](http://LloydLibrary.org).



On March 12, the Lloyd Library reopens *Women and Nature in Arts, Sciences and Letters*, by appointment.