

# Loann Crane Award Recipient

## Rebecca Mason

Rebecca is working on a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature, specifically during the Golden Age/Early Modern Period. She is particularly interested in the medical discourse used to describe and define gender and sexual difference during this time period.

Rebecca was the recipient of a University Fellowship, as well as award from the Karpus fund and the Nicholas G. Howe Memorial Fund.



### 1. In 2012, you received the Loann Crane Award. What did you do with the funds received?

I used funds from the Loann Crane Award to travel to Madrid, Spain, during June and July of 2012, where I carried out research at the Biblioteca Nacional (National Library of Spain) and the Archivo Histórico Nacional (National Archive of History).

### 2. What did this award help you accomplish in your studies and professional development?

This award allowed me to explore research interests and the process of doing archival research, which is a skill that graduate students definitely need to develop before beginning their dissertations if they are planning to use archival materials for their project. Additionally, the research I carried out in Madrid is forming the basis of my plans for my dissertation.

### 3. What do you remember the most about this experience?

Obviously the most important takeaway from the time that I spent in Madrid have been the texts and concepts I researched there that are coming together to form a dissertation project, which is a direct result of the opportunity to go to Madrid. I had never done research of this sort (archival, international) and so it was a learning experience in that aspect as well. I think that for anyone who studies non-contemporary literature, the experience of going into an institution like Spain's National Library and having access to centuries-old texts is thrilling. Many times the copies we read are very new reproductions of older texts, they've been edited, re-typed, the original notes in the margin may or not be there. To have original versions of very old texts right in front of you and to be doing research in a place like the National Library, a place that is full of so many fascinating texts, some of them very old, and important documents, and to work there surrounded by other researchers who are taking advantage of all the potential work to be done with the archival holdings, it is an entirely different situation, it is so exciting.

### 4. What are the benefits of receiving this award?

The Loann Crane Award allowed me to make the most of my trip to Spain by allowing me to stay longer and, consequently, see all of the documents and texts that I needed to see.