Nota Bene brings you news from the several precincts of the Yale University Library. With this publication, we wish to extend our communication with the Yale community beyond the flourishing direct contacts which are most important to us. Our purpose is to foster general awareness of the library’s great strengths and of issues related to library services and scholarly information activities. We intend to encourage the fullest possible use of the Yale Library’s collections and services and to broaden the dialogues so useful in tailoring this great bibliothecal endeavor to the scholarly enterprise at Yale.

So, take note!

Among the most important topics we will discuss more fully in future issues are the building and preserving of the collections, the capacity and quality of library facilities, and the growing impact of automation on the handling of scholarly information.

We are deeply committed to maintaining the quality, richness and distinction of the Yale Library collections. This is a demanding and complicated task, requiring the efforts of a substantial number of library staff supported by a network of faculty, students, visitors, vendors, collectors and donors. We are engaged in assessing the usefulness of the collections in relation to academic programs; we are formulating models to guide our collection building and related fund-raising activities. Many of you have contributed to this effort by identifying new directions in teaching and research, by assessing strengths and weaknesses in the library collections, and by helping to locate important collections for acquisition. Our collection development officers are likewise engaged in considering how we might best continue to satisfy Yale’s appetite for ideas, information and cultural expression.

Adding to these magnificent collections is not our only concern. We are faced with the responsibility of preserving this important national and international cultural resource. The late nineteenth- and twentieth-century books, the bulk of the collections, are subject to especially rapid decay due to paper-making techniques which have left destructive acids in the paper. While Yale has been working in the field of library preservation for a long time, there is still much to be done. One of the biggest problems is environmental. New Haven’s climate is especially hard on books. Fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity combine with the action of acids and other pollutants in the air to hasten the deterioration of the library’s books.

To slow the process of decay while we and others around the world develop more effective means to cope with the paper problems, we must better control the environment within our library units. We must also engage in extensive reproduction in order to preserve the intellectual content of enormous segments of the collection.

Another set of issues which concerns the entire community is the maintenance, refurbishment and construction of facilities. Several of our distinguished school and department libraries occupy spaces which are too small for the collections, spaces which in some cases were never intended to serve as libraries, and which present us with severe problems in maintaining the integrity of our collections and services. For example, the collections of the Jackson Music Library are spread among several buildings at Yale. This distribution has caused hardship for the scholars, teachers and performers in the Department and School of Music. The Art and Architecture Library occupies space constructed more recently than that of the Music Library. However, it too is unable to accommodate its collections and users. Solutions must be found. These two libraries are the Yale collections of record in their disciplines and are of national importance.

As a major part of the Yale scholarly communication system, the library is engaged in bringing an automated

Photograph by T. Charles Erikson

Millicent D. Abell, University Librarian
"integrated library system" to Yale; it will provide bibliographic access to all of the Yale University Library collections across the campus. One of our objectives is to develop an online library catalog at Yale, available eventually to the scholar working at home on a personal computer, to the student in college rooms and to those who come in person to any unit of the Yale Library. We are investigating as well the possibility of using electronic "gateways" to allow users to interrogate other important library catalogs or remote sources of information through the same system. Numerous library committees, some of which include library users, have been formed to work on the implementation of this system.

These are the major initiatives we have undertaken. From my many conversations with faculty members and with others of the Yale community, I am especially aware of the role the Yale Library has had in shaping and supporting Yale scholarship. I am frequently struck by the symbiotic relationships among the library, the faculty and graduate students, and the Yale College members, past and present, in developing our great library resources and our systems of scholarly communication. In establishing Nota Bene, I mean to continue and to enlarge upon this tradition, drawing advice, support and inspiration from the Yale community as we plan for the next century of scholarship.

Millicent D. Abell

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**Canadiana in the Library**

Yale and Canada have long-standing ties which have helped build the library's outstanding Canadian collection. So significant is that collection that it serves to encourage close Yale-Canada connections. These began in the early years of the eighteenth century. The class of 1745 included a man who later became Chief Justice of Canada, and large numbers of the United Empire Loyalists (émigrés to Canada at the time of the American Revolution) were Yale graduates. The mutual Yale-Canada attraction continues to this day with the number of Canadian students averaging 100 per year. Canada-centered and Canada-related courses are regularly listed in departments ranging from French and History to Political Science and Forestry. The imposing presence of Sterling-Sheffield-Strathcona Hall, named in part for Lord Strathcona, the Canadian business and political leader, dominates a major campus intersection. This enduring interest takes less visible forms in the Strathcona fellowship in transportation economics and senior essays on the harp-sealing community of Labrador and Canada as a paradigm of middle power status.

One of the anomalies of the Canada-U.S. relationship is that, despite long-standing friendship and massive trade, neither country understands the other as well as their closeness would seem to suppose. As part of the remedy for this mutual incomprehension, Yale is seeking to fund an expanded Canadian Studies program; envisioned are a visiting professorship, conferences, graduate fellowships and library support.

The foundations for Canadian Studies at Yale have been laid in part with the aid of the Canadian Government. In honor of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, it gave to Yale a five-year visiting professorship in Canadian Studies which has revolved through several departments. Since 1976 the government has given Yale annual funds for Canadian acquisitions, and in some years its generosity has included considerable runs of newspaper microfilms.

The Yale Canadian collection, believed to be among the two or three best in the United States, owes much of its early growth to William Inglis Morse. A Nova Scotian and historian of the Maritime Provinces, Dr. Morse donated to Yale substantial collections of scarce books and maps centering on his native province. In 1946, he endowed a fund for the purchase of Canadian materials for Yale libraries, which annually supplements the much larger amount the library spends on the subject from general appropriations.

Building on Morse's foundations, the library has broadened his intent to include all of Canada, developing rich and useful resources in a number of libraries and

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Bookplate dated 1516, of Conrad Peutinger (1465–1547), German humanist, book collector, editor, and publisher
collections. The largest collection is located in the stacks of Sterling Memorial Library. They hold an estimated 26,000 books in Canadian history, with special strengths in the history of the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, the study of Native Americans, local histories and studies of the many ethnic groups so important to the Canadian mosaic. Though smaller, Sterling’s Canadian literature collections, both English and French, are very strong and inclusive, with unusual holdings of small press publications, modern poetry and fiction, and French Canadian literature. Newspapers constitute another strength; sixteen major papers are received on current subscriptions, and four of these have complete historical backfiles on film. A group of lesser-known newspapers includes several published by blacks who fled to freedom in Canada from the United States. About 230 Canadian periodicals are received in the Periodical Reading Room, with several hundred more housed in Sterling’s stacks.

Other troves of Canadiana in specialized Sterling collections and in other libraries of the Yale system provide resources for students with many different interests. The Map Collection houses manuscript and printed maps ranging from the eighteenth century to the most recent publications of the National Topographic System. The Historical Sound Recordings Collection contains cassette recordings of Canadian writers and composers. Manuscripts and Archives houses two manuscript collections focused directly on Canada—the papers of Sir Wilfred Grenfell and those of William Inglis Morse. Parts of numerous others deal with Canada tangentially, particularly in the field of twentieth century diplomacy. Microfilm collections include extensive sets of U.S. consular dispatches for the nineteenth century and British Colonial Office records on Canada for the period 1700–1922, as well as the papers of Henri Bourassa, the politician and editor of Le Devoir, and William Lyon Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada. The Beinecke Library contains a number of early works on French Canada, eighteenth-century imprints in English on Canada, and scarce nineteenth-century items, with travelers’ accounts being especially notable. At Beinecke, the Western Americana Collection is especially useful for researchers on western Canada, since the “western” definition includes territory west of the Missouri River and north to the Arctic. There are especially valuable collections on the early history of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, with special strength in guidebooks and personal accounts of the gold strikes of the Fraser River and the Cariboo. There are also more than 400 volumes on the search for the northwest passage (with manuscript and cartographic materials of importance), on the fur trade and on the Hudson’s Bay Company.

For research with a more modern focus, the Government Documents Center at the Mudd Library houses Canadian government documents; some 4200 items were received in the past year as part of the Library’s “partial depository” relationship with the Canadian government. The Documents include complete parliamentary proceedings and publications, statistical publications and those of executive departments, with generous sampling of government publications in other fields. Other related collections exist in the Law Library (including environmental and native law) and also in the Forestry Library. The library’s collections are the centerpiece of Yale’s already exceptional resources relating to Canada. The current fund-raising efforts of the Canadian Studies Committee, part of the Yale Center for International Studies, give promise of further growth and enhanced usefulness. —sjs

New tools for business research at Social Science Library

Laser disc technology and up-to-the-minute online data retrieval have revolutionized business research. The Social Science Library invites patrons to explore Datext, Compact Disclosure and Dow Jones News/Retrieval, exciting databases with menu-driven retrieval systems that can help them create and transfer customized reports in minutes to discs for use with standard software packages in their own microcomputers.

The Datext Corporate Date Base, using optical disc technology, combines information from six online data sources to form a comprehensive database on 10,000 companies, 900 types of business, 50 industries and 9,000 executives. Just a few key strokes will retrieve investment analysts’ reports, recent articles on new products, mergers and acquisitions or marketing strategies, and stock price and volume data. One can query Datext for information about an individual company, a group of companies or an industry. Easy-to-use software allows users to integrate information from the six files into a customized report.

Compact Disclosure, also on optical disc, complements Datext by allowing for more sophisticated manipulation of extracts from the reports that over 10,000 companies file with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Using Compact Disclosure one can create customized reports by selecting from over 150 data elements, sort the results by selected variables, and transfer the report to a word processing package or spreadsheet. For example, one can easily compile a list of companies in the computer industry that includes data on dividends, earnings per share, net income to total assets for each
firm and sort the results by one of the chosen variables or by location.

*Dow Jones News/Retrieval*, one of the world's foremost electronic news services, provides up-to-the-minute subject access to the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*. In addition, with just a few commands one can create a company report that includes an up-to-the-minute stock quote, a financial and market overview, earnings estimates, company vs. industry data, quarterly balance sheets and income statements and extracts of selected recent S.E.C. filings.

All three versatile and sophisticated reference tools are presently available to Yale faculty, staff and students for research purposes at no charge. The assistance of the School of Organization and Management in funding *Compact Disclosure* and *Dow Jones News/Retrieval* is gratefully acknowledged. Please call Judith Carnes or JoAnn Dionne at the Social Science Library (432-3001) for further information. —JC

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**Preservation at Yale**

A major exhibit exploring preservation efforts at Yale is on display through May in Sterling Memorial Library. Coinciding with the library's search for major funding to preserve Yale's deteriorating collections, the exhibit endeavors to educate library users about the nature of preservation problems and some of the solutions that have been developed.

Much of our cultural heritage is recorded on fragile, organic materials, which are inevitably subject to decay. Because of the growing awareness of rapid deterioration of library materials, their preservation is a high priority for major research libraries. Yale has long recognized the challenge and responsibility of preserving its collections for future generations. Established in 1971 the Preservation Department in Sterling Memorial Library has become a leader in innovative techniques, practical applications, education and training.

The magnitude of preservation problems is unfortunately well beyond the resources of any library; solving them will require outside funding and cooperation on a national scale. A survey of the stacks of Sterling indicates that the paper of forty-four percent of the collection is already so brittle that continued use threatens the very existence of these volumes. An additional forty-three percent of materials is printed on paper that will become brittle very soon. Thus, eighty-seven percent of the collection is at immediate or potential risk.

Most library materials contain the seeds of their own destruction. Preservation specialists have termed the unstable properties and structural weaknesses in these materials "inherent vice." The problem of inherent vice is exacerbated by poor environmental conditions: excessive relative humidity and atmospheric pollution, for example, promote chemical reactions, such as hydrolysis in acidic paper and leather, that cause deterioration. High temperatures and light act as catalysts to these reactions. Inadequate relative humidity desiccates and embrittles materials. Severe fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity strain the molecular structure of book materials.

The exhibit demonstrates with graphic detail the problems caused by these environmental factors as well as water and insect damage. It documents measures taken to conserve library materials and explores the process and options available for preserving their contents when conservation is impossible. —RGW

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The Advisory Committee on Library Policy, appointed by the Provost, meets as issues require to consult the University Librarian on policies relating to Library service. For the current year its members are the following:

Faculty: William Cronon (History), Paul Fry (English), Ingeborg Glier (German), Deborah Davis-Friedman (Sociology), Guy Orcutt (Economics), Michael McBride (Chemistry), Roderick Jensen (Physics).

Graduate Students: Janet MacMillan, Diana Moses.

Undergraduates: Scott Adams '88, Nicolas Checa-y-Martinez '89;

Alternates: Rebel Ely '87, John Gridley '87.

Library: Millicent D. Abell, Jack Siggins, Karin A. Trainer.

Administration: Charles Long
A. I. Kalashnikov (b. 1940) is perhaps the finest bookplate artist in the Soviet Union today. The first one-man show in the United States of his bookplates and wood engravings has been on display in the Arts of the Book Collection in Sterling Memorial Library. These works, all created since 1970, form part of Sterling's Bookplate Collection. One of Kalashnikov's most recent works is this wood engraving for the Yale University Library. It depicts Saint Basil, protector of books and libraries.

The Bookplate Collection

One of the finest collections of bookplates in the world resides in Sterling Memorial Library. It contains over one million plates representing a broad geographical range and a long chronological span. There are plates from nearly every country in Europe, and the earliest of these dates from the fifteenth century. The collection features many varieties of bookplates significant because of their creators, ownership, place of origin, artistry, rarity, subject or theme. The range of subjects is enormous, from erotica, sports and the dance of death to representations of libraries, museums, colleges and schools. An impressive array of artists are included from Dürer to Paul Revere and Aubrey Beardsley. Selected bookplates from this treasure will appear in Nota Bene on a regular basis.

The library has been accumulating bookplates for many years. Many are in books themselves, but there have been numerous donors of separate plates and collections of plates, especially since the late nineteenth century when bookplate collections became fashionable. Some of these donors were local residents like William Fowler Hopson (1849–1931), an important and prolific engraver and designer of bookplates in the early twentieth century. Donated collections were often quite sizable. In the mid-1950s the combined collections of British collector J. Sidney Pearson and Warren H. Lowenhaupt, who was also the Curator of Yale's bookplate collection, added over 100,000 plates to Yale's holdings. In the early 1960s Irene Andrews Pace, an internationally known collector, bequeathed her 150,000 bookplates to Yale.

The collection is located on the sixth floor of Sterling; it forms part of the Arts of the Book collection on the first floor which is open Monday through Friday from 2 – 5 p.m. For information or appointments call Gay Walker, Curator of the Arts of the Book Collection (432-1712).

Nota Bene is published three times during the academic year to acquaint faculty, staff, and other users with the resources of the Yale Libraries. Comments and questions may be directed to Susanne Roberts, Editor, Bibliography Department, Sterling Memorial Library (432-1762).

Contributors to this issue include Millicent D. Abell, Judith Carnes, Susanne F. Roberts, Susan J. Steinberg and R. Gay Walker. The assistance of Conrad Jacoby is gratefully acknowledged.
Calendar of Major Library Exhibits

BEINECKE RARE BOOK LIBRARY

Morals and Mayhem: An Exhibition of British Children's Books through mid-April
A Reprise of Exhibitions Prepared by Marjorie Wynne May–Summer

MEDICAL LIBRARY

English Forensic Medicine to 1878 through mid-May

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Preservation at Yale through May
Arts of the Book Collection, Twentieth Anniversary June–September

Carved corbels at the entrance to Sterling Memorial Library depict plants used to produce durable writing materials.

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