New Yiddish Book Endowment

Yale University is pleased to announce the creation of a significant new book endowment, "The Rosalyn and Joseph Newman Collection of Yiddish Literature of the Yale University Library." The endowment is a gift of Rosalyn and Joseph Newman of New York City and combines their long-time support of Yiddish programs with their tie to Yale established through their daughter Elisa, who graduated from Yale in 1978 with a bachelor of arts degree in architecture.

This endowment will provide for major retrospective acquisitions and processing of Yiddish materials by Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library. As a condition of the gift, the endowment will initially provide for the acquisition and processing of 10,000 titles over a three-year period from the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, where the Newmans are active members.

Yale Librarian Millicent D. Abell says the Newman gift "is a very generous and timely gift coinciding with strong support and growth in the University's Judaic Studies program." Since the early 18th century, the University has supported teaching and research in various aspects of Jewish civilization.

While the commitment to a broadly based Judaic Studies Program at Yale is rather recent, it is a strong one. The timeliness of the Newman Endowment will spur the acquisition of important resources for scholarship. According to Paula E. Hyman, professor of modern Jewish history and chair of the interdisciplinary Judaic Studies program, the Newman gift "is a major contribution to Yale's resources for the entire field of modern Jewish history and culture. Yiddish is an essential tool for the study of the modern Jewish experience."

Yiddish was the principal language of histories, literary works and criticism, and social and political discourse of East European Jewry from the 16th century to the mid-20th century. Published Yiddish books and serials are essential for a truly comprehensive Judaica collection. Presently Yale's collection of Yiddish books consists mostly of prominent literary authors. The Newman Endowment will allow Yale to triple its holdings within three years, filling major gaps in literature, criticism and history.

The Library's Judaica holdings have grown slowly but steadily since the University's founding in 1701. The earliest published catalog of the Library collection in 1743 included Hebrew grammars, biblical and talmudic lexica, Jewish histories, Bibles and biblical commentaries. Following the receipt of two major gifts in the early part of this century, the Merrill Josephus Collection and the Alexander Kohut Collection, Yale Library established a Judaica Collection which has grown steadily and systematically since that time.

The Judaica Collection at Sterling Memorial Library is now one of the major repositories of Judaica in this country. The focus of the 85,000 volume collection is the biblical, classical, medieval, and modern periods of Jewish literature and history. It supports many of the research needs of the faculty and students of the University's Judaic Studies program and those of the broader academic community.

Linda P. Lerman, Yale's first full-time Judaica bibliographer, will select the appropriate titles and oversee the processing of the materials. The gift will also provide necessary support staff to assist in the acquisition and cataloging of the Yiddish titles in the vernacular and in romanized alphabets.—L.P.L
The Crawford Theater Collection

In December 1918 Jack Crawford, professor of English at Yale, donated to the library his collection of theater-related programs, playbills and printed and pictorial material. He saw his collection as a resource for students and scholars of the theater and hoped that it would serve as the core of a growing collection.

Until his retirement in 1946, Jack Crawford developed, maintained and publicized the collection. His involvement in the theater community of New Haven (he and his wife founded the first Little Theater in New Haven in 1921) and in the academic community provided him with opportunities to advertise his collection and solicit donations of theater memorabilia. Early donors of material were alumnus Walter Pforzheimer and the Undergraduate Library Associates.

After Crawford’s retirement, his wife Dorothy assumed the responsibilities of curatorship. Following her retirement in 1969, at the age of eighty-three, the collection was maintained by part-time clerical assistants who made a dedicated attempt to answer reference queries, integrate incoming material, and schedule appointments for researchers.

Originally housed in a small room in the old University Library, the collection was moved in 1930 to a specially designed room in the new Sterling Memorial Library. The collection expanded rapidly over the years, and was moved several times within the Library to accommodate its growth. In 1984, the 500-linear-foot Crawford Theater Collection was moved to Manuscripts and Archives, where it complements a number of existing theater-related collections, including the papers of George Pierce Baker and other drama faculty members and the records of the Drama School.

Since receiving the Crawford Collection, the archivists of Manuscripts and Archives have addressed the access and preservation problems created by years of accumulated, uncatalogued additions and unsatisfactory environmental conditions. After a survey of the materials was conducted, they created a finding aid which describes the type, dates, and extent of most of the materials within the collection. A phased processing plan has begun to rehouse the material in acid-free folders and boxes and to sort and integrate numerous unprocessed additions.

Jack Crawford’s hope that his personal collection would form the nucleus of a much larger research collection has been fulfilled. The collection now contains printed and pictorial material relating to a wide range of performing arts activity of the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries, with emphasis on the nineteenth century. Theatrical, musical, cinematic, and variety performances presented in America and Europe are represented by over 40,000 programs and playbills. Fifty-six linear feet of pictorial material including photographic portraits of actors, dancers, circus and vaudeville performers, and motion picture film stills from the 1930s and 40s, document over one hundred years of performing arts activity. There are over 100 linear feet of clippings from 19th and 20th century newspapers and periodicals (many of which are not indexed in published reference sources) that contain information on both well-known and minor figures. Numerous scrapbooks in the collection contain memorabilia collected by individuals active or interested in the professional theater.

The Crawford Theater Collection aids scholars in a wide range of disciplines, including the performing arts,
graphic arts, and social history. Yale undergraduate and graduate students, as well as researchers from throughout the United States and abroad, have taken advantage of its special holdings. With its additional related collections, the Department of Manuscripts and Archives serves as an important resource for the study of the performing arts.—SB

Yale Science Libraries Expand Services

The Yale Science Libraries located in the Kline Biology Tower and nearby science buildings contain specialized collections as well as services designed to make available the world’s scientific literature. This body of knowledge and research appears primarily in journals. Over 60,000 scientific and technical periodicals are currently published world-wide, and this number doubles every fifteen years. Many of the new services in the science libraries are designed to help scientists gain access to this burgeoning scientific literature.

Students and scientists can use a new CD-ROM (compact disk) database called Life Sciences Collection located in Kline Science Library to search electronically for citations to articles in biochemistry, ecology, genetics, microbiology and entomology journals. Acquired in the fall of 1988, the Life Sciences Collection indexes over 5,000 internationally published journals. It permits searches using various combinations of key words, author names, or institutional affiliations. Once appropriate references are located, users can transfer, or download, them to their own diskettes. There is no charge for using this database.

For some years Yale researchers have had access to international databases through the services of the Kline Reference Librarian. Using special equipment, software and telephone lines, she frequently searches for patrons such databases as Biological Abstracts (BIOSIS), Chemical Abstracts, Georef, Mathematical Reviews (MathSci), INSPEC (which incorporates Physics Abstracts, Electrical and Electronic Abstracts and Computer and Control Abstracts), Engineering Index (Compendex), Pollution Abstracts, Environline and Science Citation Index. Because many of these are updated biweekly, they give access to very recent literature. Typical subject searches cost between $15.00 and $40.00, depending on the amount of time connected to the computer. Recent subject searches have ranged from seed dispersal, robot sensors, and zero knowledge proofs to lemming population cycles and bacterial transformation.

At the Forestry Library users can consult at no charge the Forestry and Environmental Studies Record, a microcomputer database of journal citations, technical reports, and books on forestry and the environment at no charge. In addition, the Forestry Library maintains another computer database of citations to 27,000 Food and Agriculture Organization documents housed in the Government Documents Center in the Mudd Library. This database supports the Tropical Research Institute within the School of Forestry but is available for use by any interested researcher or student.

Getting copies of current journal articles quickly is essential to Yale scientists. Recently Kline Library installed a Fujitsu 7800 telefacsimile machine which has the capability of rapidly transmitting very high quality reproductions of journal articles. Thus far, the machine has been used primarily to transmit articles and table of contents pages between the Kline Science Library and the Yale Medical Library. The science libraries are in the preliminary stages of using telefacsimile to receive articles rapidly from libraries outside Yale.

Special collections within the science libraries include an extensive collection of USGS topographical maps in the Geology Library and Yale scientific theses and dissertations housed in the relevant libraries. A small rare book collection is housed in the Kline Science Library. Its holdings include works by Darwin, accounts of scientific expeditions such as the HMS Challenger and Beagle, and works with rare botanical plates.—KAB

Note about “Summer Interns in the Library” in Nota Bene III:1: Jonathan Warren did not draft a grant proposal for preservation. He did some work on a new survey of stack materials to help determine the rate of deterioration over time.
Approximately half of the volumes in this collection may be new additions to Yale's holdings. Processing will require some time before all new books will be available for general use. Since the majority of the volumes were printed between 1830 and 1930, many are in need of preservation work. Researchers with special interest in this material should contact the Bibliography Department, SML, (432-1763) until the volumes are fully catalogued.—AIK

**Beinecke Exhibits Ancient Papyri**

A manuscript dating from almost three millennia ago is among the religious, literary, and historical documents from Egypt, Syria, and Italy on display in the Beinecke Library's new exhibit, "Antiquity in Fragments: 100 Years of Collecting Papyri at Yale." The exhibition, which celebrates the centenary of the Yale Papyrus Collection, also includes photographs that show how papyri are restored and conserved.

Papyrus, the paper of the ancient Mediterranean world, was manufactured from the fibrous stalk of a plant that grew in Egypt. The earliest surviving specimen of papyrus is 5,000 years old, reaching back to the dawn of Egyptian civilization. It was with the aid of Egyptian papyrus that the ancient Greeks and Romans developed their literatures and ruled their empires. After paper was introduced from the Far East around the 7th century A.D., papyrus books and documents became increasingly rare.

By the 18th century, Europeans had begun to recognize the historical and literary value of papyrus manuscripts preserved for millennia by the dry Egyptian climate. The slow trickle of Egyptian antiquities into the hands of European travellers and collectors became a torrent after Napoleon conquered Egypt in 1798. Two types of artifact came to be regarded as particularly characteristic of ancient Egypt: mummies and papyri. In the 1830s, for instance, an American entrepreneur named Michael H. Chandler staged a travelling exhibition of mummies and papyri, which he eventually sold to Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church. When Smith published his Book of Abraham, he described it as a translation of some of these papyri.

At the same time, European scholars were pioneering the discipline now known as papyrology. The scientific basis for papyrology was enlarged around the turn of the century by William Matthew Flinders Petrie, Bernard P. Grenfell, and Arthur S. Hunt, who excavated papyri from the Fayyum region of Egypt and especially at the central Egyptian town of Oxyrhynchus. Several papyri recovered by these early archeologists are on display.
A fragment from the Nag Hammadi Codex III, a 4th-century Coptic gnostic book, containing "The Dialog of the Savior," currently on display in the Beinecke Library.

Yale's interest in collecting papyri increased dramatically after 1925, when Russian-born Michael Ivanovich Rostovtzeff joined the faculty as Sterling Professor of Ancient History and Archeology. Rostovtzeff initiated Yale’s excavations at Dura-Europus, a Roman outpost on the Euphrates River in Syria and an important source of papyrus documents. He also bought large numbers of papyri for Yale. Over the next five decades, the Yale Papyrus Collection grew steadily, thanks to the generosity of Horatio McLeod Reynolds, Edward Stephen Harkness, Edwin J. Beinecke, the book dealer Hans P. Kraus, and others. Today the collection includes about 3,000 items, which are housed in the Beinecke Library.

The preservation of papyrus fragments requires great care and expertise, but it can lead to important discoveries. In 1980, thirteen fragments that had been purchased sixteen years before were recognized as missing pieces from two pages of Nag Hammadi Codex III, one of the 4th-century Coptic gnostic papyrus books found in Upper Egypt in 1943 and acquired by the Coptic Museum in Cairo. Rejoining the Yale fragments into a single piece made it possible to decipher an important passage from The Dialogue of the Savior, an ancient work that presents a conversation between Jesus and his disciples. This Coptic version of The Dialogue of the Savior, the only known copy of the work, provides valuable evidence about the transmission of the teachings of Jesus.

The exhibition also includes fragments from a variety of other religious and literary works, as well as magical spells, letters, receipts, governmental edicts, expense accounts, and similar documents, which give glimpses of everyday life in ancient times.—CAS

Visual Archives at Yale

Visual materials are primary resources for many scholars at Yale and the Library is building a substantial collection of them. These microform sets make major research collections from other institutions available in a small space at Yale and join materials in the Art and Architecture Library and Sterling Memorial Library.

The Conway Library, a microfiche of an extensive photographic archive, extends the scope of two of the largest visual archives on microfiche in the Art and Architecture Library: the Marburger Index and the Index photographique de l’art en France. The collection of materials located in the Conway Library of London’s Courtauld Institute of Art began with the gift in 1931 from Sir Martin Conway of his extensive collection of photographs of architecture, sculpture, and medieval art. Its wealth has grown steadily through additional gifts, purchases, and special campaigns planned by the Conway staff. The Art and Architecture Library has so far received fiche containing photographs of architecture, architectural drawings, sculpture, and metalwork. The collection is strongest in European arts from the 15th through the 19th centuries. According to Walter Cahn, Professor of Art History, the collection is a splendid resource for researching anything from topography to objects in museums.

Another major visual archive, The Historic American Buildings Survey, has been added to the microtext collection at Sterling Memorial Library. The Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS, was begun in 1933 as a W.P.A. program to employ architects, photographers, and draftsmen in the documentation of structures of historical significance in the United States. The architectural archive thus begun has become a major resource in the history of American architecture and culture. The documents, drawings, and photographs produced by HABS are stored and administered by the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The microfiche collection contains reproductions of all of the text and photographs received by the Library of Congress through 1979; approximately 20,000 structures are documented with 45,000 interior and exterior photographs and 35,000 pages of text. In 1983, the Library of Congress published a checklist of the HABS documentation in Historic America: Buildings, Structures, and Sites which serves as a guide to the contents of the microfiche set.—NSL.
Calendar of Exhibits

BEINECKE RARE BOOK LIBRARY

Antiquity in Fragments: 100 Years of Collecting Papyri at Yale. Through May

Florence in the Renaissance 1430-1545 (Spinelli Archive). April 28 through August 31

Bindings by Georges Leroux (from the library of Max Ernst). June through August

DIVINITY LIBRARY

Missionaries as Recorders of Indigenous Culture. June through November

INTERNATIONAL LAW LIBRARY

An Embarassment of Riches: The Dutch Thinking about International Law in the 16th and 17th Centuries. May 1 through September 1

Summer Pleasures: Diverting Books in the Foreign and International Law Collection. May 22 through September 1

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Peter Newell: American Artist, Humorist, and Creator. Through June 15

200th Anniversary of the French Revolution. June 15 through October 10

Nota Bene is published during the academic year to acquaint faculty, staff, and other users with the resources of the Yale libraries. Please direct comments and questions to Susanne Roberts, Editor, Bibliography Department, Sterling Memorial Library (432-1762).

Contributors to this issue include Susan Brady, Katherine A. Branch, Ake I. Koel, Nancy S. Lambert, Linda P. Lerman, and Christa A. Sammons. Special thanks are due Conrad J. Jacoby.

Millicent D. Abell, University Librarian
Susanne F. Roberts, Editor

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Bookplate of George Watson Cole (1850-1939), first Librarian of the Henry Huntington Library, New York City. He donated his personal library to Yale. Part of this gift comprises the core of the Arts of the Book Collection.

Yale University Library
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