Alumni Support Preservation

Preservation of Yale’s extraordinary research collections is at the heart of the Library’s mission. Over the years, a number of alumni have supported this endeavor. Recent gifts and pledges earmarked for program development now make it possible to address the enormous preservation challenge in a predictable fashion. Protecting and enhancing access to books, journals, manuscripts, maps, and other special collections will sustain the University’s teaching and research programs and continue to attract scholars from all over the world. In the last calendar year alone, Yale alumni and other supporters have given nearly $1.2 million to support preservation initiatives.

Yale University Library has long been a pioneer in developing innovative approaches to preservation and conservation. Over the past twenty years, the Preservation Department has identified methods for assessing systematically the preservation needs of Yale’s research collections and assigning priorities for action. Yale was among the first group of research libraries to launch large-scale preservation microfilming projects and continues to lead the field in their creative management. Yale is now exploring ways to leverage this significant investment in preservation microfilm by using digital imaging technology to increase access to a large portion of its holdings.

To assure continuing support for core preservation services, the Library has sought to augment significantly its preservation endowment. Thanks to a recent pledge of $1 million by the Frances and Benjamin Benenson Foundation, Inc., the library is now making notable progress in strengthening this foundation of preservation activity. Charles B. Benenson ’33 is president of the Foundation.

The Library’s Preservation Department is launching several preservation initiatives under the coordination of its newly organized management team. A new collections care facility will provide for the ongoing maintenance and repair of circulating collections housed in the Sterling Memorial Library. Yale is reinforcing its commitment to the cooperative efforts of research libraries to build a national collection of books and serials preserved on microfilm. With the assistance of a library-wide preservation support group, the scope of preservation activities on campus will broaden in the coming years to encompass other scholarly resources at Yale.

In the past year, new gifts and pledges of support for Yale Library’s preservation efforts are helping to move the program forward. The generous gifts of Marie and Edward Swenson ’40, The Gaylord Donnelley 1983 Gift Trust, and Anthony T. Dean ’57 have made it possible to conceive of a truly comprehensive preservation program on campus.

Yale’s reputation as a research institution is based in large part upon the scope, size, and uniqueness of its library holdings. When browsing the shelves of any library on campus, students, faculty, and visiting scholars may well find the rare and the commonplace side by side—wondrous ideas juxtaposed across centuries of printing technology. Creative strategies now being implemented at Yale will help preserve the integrity of Yale’s collections for today’s library patrons, as well as for future generations of scholars.—PLC

Kruidenier Gift to Sterling

A recent gift to Sterling Memorial Library will greatly advance the university’s efforts to preserve its priceless collections. Thanks to a $1 million gift from David Kruidenier ’44 of Des Moines, Iowa, the Library has just moved closer to the installation of a climate control system designed to arrest the deterioration of the books in the stacks.

“I would hope,” Mr. Kruidenier stated, “that my gift would serve as a model for future donors toward this
preservation project. Time is of the essence, and I hope that many other Yale friends and alumni will heed the call.”

Yale University Librarian Millicent D. Abell expressed her gratitude, “Mr. Kruidenier’s gift comes at a critical time for the fragile Sterling collections. All of us in the Library feel buoyed up by his leadership and commitment as we seek additional funds to make the climate control system a reality.”

About 80% of Sterling’s holdings are printed on acidic paper, which becomes brittle unless it is kept under relatively constant levels of temperature and humidity. The Sterling stacks do not currently provide such conditions; the sixty-three year old building has never had an air-conditioning or humidity control system, and its obsolete heating system runs uncontrolled.

Mr. Kruidenier, an executive with Cowles Media Company, explained that he decided to make his gift after a tour of Sterling Memorial Library. “I feel fortunate,” he said, “to be able to do something for a university that has done so much for me and the civilized world. What better purpose could one have than to help preserve the book collection of one of the world’s great universities.”

In thanking Mr. Kruidenier, Acting President Howard R. Lamar reiterated “Yale’s responsibility to preserve our share of cultural history for the students of today and for generations to come. Yale is turning to its friends and supporters for assistance in fulfilling this responsibility.”—KHS

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

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Millicent D. Abell, University Librarian

Susanne F. Roberts, Editor

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*An apothecary preparing a draught, from Hieronymus Brunschwig, Buch der Vergift der Pestilenz, Strassburg, 1500.*

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**Chemistry Collections Online**

Given the size of the Yale University Library’s collections, the conversion of all catalog cards for pre-1977 books into machine-readable form in Orbis will be time-consuming and expensive. Several large, grant-funded projects in this retrospective conversion process are completed or underway and have been described in this newsletter. In addition, library staff undertake small scale efforts without outside support to improve the availability of materials through Orbis. One such project at the Sterling Chemistry Library will achieve a milestone by adding to Orbis the majority of Yale catalog records for the field of chemistry.

In June of 1992, the staff of the Chemistry Library began converting its catalog cards into machine-readable records; nine months later all of the books shelved in the Chemistry Library can be found in Orbis. In addition, the project has added to the Orbis database complete information on journal volumes shelved in the Chemistry Library. Library staff are now working on adding records to Orbis for the small collection of books which were transferred to the Mudd Library from Chemistry. When this portion of the project is completed this fall, all of the records for materials owned by the Sterling Chemistry Library will be in Orbis.

The project will continue with the conversion of catalog records for chemistry books in the Kline Science Library. Thanks to the hard work of library staff and student assistants, Yale library users will have on-line access to most of the Library’s chemistry holdings.—KJP
Donors Support Divinity Library

One century ago George Edward Day, professor emeritus of Hebrew language and literature, donated his collection of missions-related materials to the Yale Divinity School and became the catalyst for the formation of an “Historical Library of Foreign Missions” at Yale. In 1911 a building was constructed to house the Day Missions Collection, funded by generous bequests from Day and his wife, Olivia Hotchkiss Day. When the Divinity School moved to Prospect Street in 1931, the Day Library was merged with the Trowbridge Reference Library and the Sneath Library of Religious Education to form the core of the present Divinity School Library. The gracious decor of the present Day Missions Reading Room provides a memorial to the legacy of George Edward and Olivia Hotchkiss Day.

The generous support of the Divinity Library exemplified by the Days has become a tradition among Divinity School faculty and alumnīae. Endowed funds have been established in recent decades as memorials to Profs. Roland H. Bainton, Robert L. Calhoun, Kenneth Scott Latourette and Liston Pope, together with Raymond P. Morris, the first Divinity School Librarian, and Helen Uhrich, a long-term Divinity Library staff member. The Library’s collections owe much to gifts from faculty members, alumnīae and other friends.

To continue the support exemplified by these past benefactions, the George Edward and Olivia Hotchkiss Day Associates have formed to support the work of the Divinity School Library through the sponsorship of exhibitions, receptions, lectures, publications and other projects.

The inaugural event sponsored by the Day Associates was a reception to mark the opening of an exhibition entitled “The Legacy of John R. Mott,” held Feb. 9, 1993, in the Day Missions Reading Room. John R. Mott was a missions and ecumenical leader active in the first half of this century who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 in recognition of his many contributions. Mott’s personal papers, as well as the archives of a number of organizations he founded and led, are housed at the Divinity School Library.

Those who join the Day Associates in 1993 will receive a copy of two publications: The Day Missions Library Centennial Volume, which includes the Day centennial lecture by former Divinity Librarian Stephen L. Peterson, and The Legacy of John R. Mott, by Martha Smalley, the Curator of the Day Missions Library.—PFS

Yale Divinity School Library

Awarded Grant

Yale Divinity School Library has been awarded a grant of $185,400 to preserve 3,000 serials’ volumes from its Day Missions Collection over a two-year period. This project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Great Collections Microfilming Project, Phase IV (GCMP IV) of the Research Libraries Group (RLG). The grant continues a ten-year effort by RLG institutions to save disintegrating materials in the nation’s libraries.

The Day Missions Collection is named for George Edward Day, a professor of Hebrew language and literature at Yale who in 1892 donated to Yale his collection of materials documenting the history of Christian missions. This collection is generally considered to be the most extensive of its kind. While it focuses on the history of Christian missions, this collection is of vital importance for understanding the impact of Western culture on the non-Western world, since it provides primary documentation of the cultures to which the missionaries went. Volumes of the library’s serial publications on the development of Christianity, missions, and culture in the third world from the Day Missions Collection will be filmed by Micrographic Systems of Connecticut.

GCMP IV will extend over two years, March 1993 through February 1995, and result in the filming of 22,636 volumes from the collections of 15 RLG member institutions. All together NEH has approved $1,919,984 for GCMP IV. The collections were chosen because of their overall significance to humanities research. Catalog records for the microfilmed serials will be loaded into RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) and Yale’s on-line Orbis catalog so that institutions and individuals around the world may gain access to the information.—BKL

Bookplate from the Day Missions Library, by William F. Hopson.
Two Million Life Sciences Citations in Orbis

BIOSIS, a comprehensive life sciences database, was recently added to Orbis, the Yale University Library’s online information system. The database provides citations and abstracts to traditional areas of biology such as botany, zoology, genetics and microbiology, as well as interdisciplinary fields such as agriculture, biochemistry, pharmacology, and experimental and clinical medicine. The database covers journal articles published worldwide. It is indicative of the wealth of information available in BIOSIS that more than 500,000 records or citations are added to the database each year. BIOSIS contains records from 1988 to the present and will be updated monthly. During the next few months, citations to books, book chapters, conference papers, reviews, and technical reports will be added to the database.

There are also plans to include information on the availability of the cited publication within the Yale libraries.

If you have questions or comments about BIOSIS, please contact a reference librarian. –JN

Yale Crew: Celebrating 150 Years

Founded in 1843, Yale crew is the oldest college athletic team in America, and the first Yale-Harvard race in 1852 was the first intercollegiate competition. A major exhibit of manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia from the Manuscripts and Archives collection of Sterling Memorial Library marks the 150th anniversary celebrated this year.

Boating, as the sport was first called at Yale, began in 1843 when a group of juniors purchased the first boat, Pioneer Yale No. 1. Prior to that time, the only boating activities at Yale consisted of an occasional excursion sail on the harbor as far as Savin Rock. Eager for exercise and recreation, other clubs formed themselves in quick succession, pooled their resources to purchase boats, and began to hold intramural races. These sturdy craft, variously christened the Nautilus, the Halcyon, or the Centipede, bore little resemblance to the sleek racing shells which replaced them.

The first American college regattas were held in New Haven Harbor by Yale boat clubs. Six-oared boats rowed over a course of nearly three miles from the Steamboat Wharf in New Haven out to a buoy in the harbor and back. The changing tides rendered the determination of “time” or exact distance uncertain. High winds and waves washed water into the boats, sometimes filling and submerging them.

The organization of a Yale crew led to the adoption of Yale blue as the school color. Pioneer Yale No. 1 hoisted at the bow a blue flag bearing its name in white letters, and the Commodore’s flag of the first Yale Navy was described as “a blue silk burgee, heavily fringed with white silk, with a white star in the center, surrounded by six smaller ones (probably representing the number of boats in the navy.)” Harvard crimson also made its first appearance at a boat race, in June 1858, when six red handkerchiefs of China silk were arbitrarily purchased and tied around the team members’ heads.

Featured in the exhibit, which will continue through June, are special cases on the development of lightweight crew, women’s crew, the Yale crew in literature, and the spring celebration of Derby Day. Sheet music for crew songs includes one written by Cole Porter in 1914. The rudder of the gold-medal-winning shell at the 1924 Paris Olympics and the silk crew neck sweater and caps worn by the coxswain at Yale’s first Henley Regatta in 1896 are also on display, along with a pewter trophy awarded to outstanding oarsman John Hay Whitney, Class of 1926, who was associated with the introduction of the “crew” cult. –JAS

With Perry At Sea

In 1854 Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry negotiated the treaty that opened Japan to Western commerce and trade, initiating a process that still generates headlines today. In order to protect the integrity of its social and political systems, Japan had shut itself off from foreign trade in 1638, but Perry's diplomacy and show of naval power brought the reclusive island empire into the world community.

Perry's expedition to Japan is one focus of the exhibition With Perry At Sea: The United States Navy and American Expansion, which continues through July 10. The exhibition, which features original Japanese paintings depicting Perry's ships in Tokyo harbor, was arranged by George Miles, Curator of Western American Art at the Beinecke. Mark Russell Schulman of the Yale History Department gave the opening lecture on April 23.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a 10-meter-long Japanese scroll painting depicting Perry's ships, uniformed American officers, sailors, and equipment. Colored lithographs by the artist William Heine give the Western perspective on Perry's reception by the Japanese. Also included in the exhibition are four rare broadsides printed aboard Perry's ships in 1854. The broadsides cover matters such as the appointment of local pilots and additions to the treaty.

Matthew Perry came from a family of distinguished naval officers. His father, Captain Christopher Perry, fought in the American Revolution, and his brother, Oliver Hazard Perry in the War of 1812. Thomas Birch's painting of Oliver Hazard Perry, featured in the exhibition, shows him shifting command to a new flagship during the Battle of Lake Erie, a maneuver that helped defeat the British and secure the Old Northwest for American expansion.

The exhibition sets the careers of Matthew Perry and his brother Oliver in the context of 19th-century American expansion to the west. Under the leadership of naval officer Charles Wilkes, for instance, the United States Exploring Expedition (1838-42) circled the globe, mapping the South Seas, charting Antarctic shoreline, collecting specimens, studying volcanic and coral islands, and recording native languages. The activities of the Wilkes expedition are represented in the exhibition by documents, letters, manuscript journals, and original sketches.

As a result of the Mexican War (1846-48), the United States gained possession of Texas and California. Matthew Perry played an important role in this conflict as commander of the American amphibious offensive against Mexico's gulf coast. The exhibition includes original letters describing the events of the war, as well as colored lithographs depicting naval operations.-CAS

Yale University Library accepts requests for the purchase of new titles by electronic mail at the address: BOOKREQUESTS@QUICKMAIL.YALE.EDU. When submitting a request, please include as much bibliographic information as you have (including your source) about the book, periodical, microfilm, CD-ROM or whatever you are requesting. The Book Requests account will be received and monitored by the Collection Development Department in Sterling Memorial Library, and requests will be referred to appropriate selectors throughout the library system.
Calendar of Exhibits

BEINECKE RARE BOOK LIBRARY
With Perry at Sea: the United States Navy and American Expansion
April 23 through June 30

DIVINITY LIBRARY
Women’s History Project: Stories of Yale Divinity School Women
through July

MEDICAL LIBRARY
The Evolution of a Medical Specialty. Orthopedics and the Yale School of Medicine
through July

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Ancient Greek Coins from the L. Daniel Dannenbaum Collection
through June 15
Yale Crew: Celebrating 150 Years 1843–1993
through July 19
Materials from the Lewis Walpole Library
through October

Bookplate for Ellen Holder Babeak, by E. D. French.
From the Bookplate Collection.

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