Boswell Reveals Eighteenth Century

The Yale Editions of the Private Papers of James Boswell (1740–1795) continues its march through the unpublished writings of the eighteenth-century Scottish lawyer, diarist, and biographer of Samuel Johnson. The materials for these volumes have been selected from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library's great Boswell collection, which runs some 15,000 items and includes Boswell's private journals, letters (more to him than by him), most of the manuscript leaves of the Life of Johnson, legal records, account books, and family estate papers spanning five centuries.

The remarkable recovery of these papers in the earlier part of this century and their acquisition by the American collector, Lt.-Col. Ralph Heyward Isham (1890–1955) constituted one of the most striking historical and literary finds of this or any other age. With the help of a large grant from Paul Mellon ’29 and his Old Dominion Foundation, and with an offer from the McGraw-Hill Book Co. for publication rights, Yale purchased the papers in 1949, when the Yale Boswell project was established under the direction of Frederick A. Pottle (1897–1987). The final transfer was made in July 1950.

Publication of the papers has not only enriched our knowledge of Boswell and his profoundly original and influential contribution to the course of Western biography (the Life of Johnson), it has opened up an unrivaled window on the world just before our own. The papers have served as sources for the study of the law, jurisprudence, crime, sexuality, education, Anglo-Scottish politics, economic history, and a host of other fields.

Under the principles established by Pottle, the Boswell Editions won and still commands a reputation for scholarly excellence, thoroughness, and authority. The acclaimed fourteen-volume reading (or “trade”) edition of Boswell’s journal was completed in 1989, and work now proceeds on the parallel Research Series, the first volume of which appeared in 1966. The research volumes are co-published by Edinburgh University Press and Yale University Press. They are prepared on computer in the Boswell project’s offices on the third floor of Sterling Memorial Library and sent to EUP on disk in publication-ready form.


The project is served by a General Editor Gordon Turnbull and an Associate Editor Nancy E. Johnson, assisted by Administrative Associate Irene Adams and a team of dedicated graduate students. The Editorial Committee is chaired by Claude Rawson, Maynard Mack Professor of English.

From 1975 until last year, grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and gifts from foundations and individual donors helped fund the research for the editions. The project continues now with an assurance of Yale’s institutional support while it seeks other funding sources. For more information consult http://pantheon.yale.edu/~bosedit/. -GT
Boswell Imaging Project

Over the course of a week in the summer of 1997, the Beinecke Library staff scanned 958 pages of manuscripts in the Boswell Collection. These documents constitute the principal source materials for James Boswell's autobiographical account of his tour to Scotland in the company of Dr. Samuel Johnson, *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*. Beinecke librarians undertook this project in part to assist the Boswell Project editors, who are working on a scholarly edition of the *Tour*. They hope that ready access to high-quality digital surrogates for manuscripts which can only be consulted in the Beinecke Library will expedite the editorial process.

This project also allowed Beinecke staff to gain valuable experience in making digital images of older historical manuscripts. When the Beinecke Digital Library becomes a reality later this year, staff will create hypertext links between the digital files and the electronic finding aid for the Boswell Collection (see related article above). The library will also use the digital files to produce microfilm of the manuscripts for preservation purposes. Indeed, the Boswell project in its many facets will help the library to determine in what way—and at what cost—digital imaging technology can be best applied in a special collections library to support its mission of acquiring, preserving, and providing access to rare and unique primary source material. One of the most interesting questions that this project explores is whether the ability to study these manuscripts in digital form will reveal textual and physical details not otherwise apparent to the human eye and thus modify our understanding of these documents and of Boswell's literary enterprise.

—NLB

Stenzel Gift Enriches Western Art

The Yale Collection of Western Americana has received a major gift of original art, prints, manuscripts, and rare books from Dr. Franz R. and Mrs. Kathryn M. Stenzel of Portland, Oregon. Containing more than 1600 volumes, several hundred watercolors, drawings, and prints, as well as several dozen oil paintings, the Stenzel Collection greatly enhances Yale's already important collections on the art and history of the Far West. The Stenzels, who began studying and acquiring Northwest art in 1956, owned the largest private collection of early Pacific Northwest paintings. The Western Americana Collection has never received such a large, comprehensive collection of original art.

The Stenzel gift includes 79 watercolors by James Madison Alden, a naval officer who worked for the U.S. Coast Survey in California and the Pacific Northwest.
during the 1850s. His depictions of San Francisco Bay, of Yosemite, and of the Columbia River valley are among the earliest of those regions. The Stenzels also donated an archive of books, manuscripts, and art concerning James G. Swan, an important pioneer in the Pacific Northwest and one of the area’s earliest ethnographers. In addition, the Stenzels collected works by regional artists including Johnny Kit Elswa, Gutzon Borglum, T. Mower Martin, Luke Pease, and Daniel Winter. Their gift also includes their extensive research collection that contains information on over 1000 artists who worked in the West during the 19th and early 20th centuries as well as many art exhibition and sale catalogs. Together the books, original art, and research files will support research in virtually any area of Northwestern art history.

Married in 1951, Dr. and Mrs. Stenzel began their study of Western art and history five years later and soon gained renown for their knowledge and energy. They eventually assembled over 2500 paintings, watercolors, sketches, and prints. Their collection was exhibited at museums throughout the United States, and in 1973, four of their paintings traveled with a United States Information Agency exhibit behind the Iron Curtain. Dr. Stenzel wrote two books based on his collections and research. *Cleveland Rockwell, Scientist and Artist, 1837-1907* (1972) received an award from the American Association for State and Local History. *James Madison Alden: Yankee Artist of the Pacific Coast, 1854-1860* (1975) accompanied an exhibition of the Stenzels’ collection of Alden paintings at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Stenzel passed away March 29th as this notice was being prepared. —GAM

Retrospective Conversion

The library has embarked on an eight-year effort to convert to machine-readable form approximately 4.5 million card catalog records representing monographs and serials held in all library locations. The resulting electronic records will be integrated into Orbis, the library’s online catalog. Yale’s comprehensive retrospective conversion, or “Recon,” project in reality consists of several separate projects.

Approximately 150,000 records from the first of these, the Arts project, were recently loaded into Orbis. These records represent monographs and serials held in the Art & Architecture Library, the Drama Library, and Sterling Memorial Library; they include auction catalogs, exhibition catalogs, scripts, and theses.

Other projects underway include the conversion of approximately 126,000 records representing monographs and serials held in the Divinity Library; 200,000 catalog records for monographs and serials in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean; and 30,000 records for monographs in the classified collection of the Lewis Walpole Library. The retrospective conversion of records for approximately 122,000 monographs and serials held in the Medical Library will be undertaken later this year. The bulk of retrospective conversion will occur in subsequent years and will incorporate into Orbis records for all titles held in other campus libraries, including the Science libraries, Classics, Social Science, Mudd, and Sterling.

Retrospective conversion is typically accomplished by one or two basic methods, often in combination: matching and extracting machine-readable records from a large bibliographic database external to Yale or keying records directly into a local database. Both of these can be performed by library staff or contracted to vendors
specializing in such work. Though Yale libraries contract with experienced vendors for as much of the retrospective conversion process as possible, there is considerable in-house effort associated with each project. Yale librarians are responsible for preparing technical specifications for the vendor detailing all aspects of the project; making sure that all of the records produced by the vendor are successfully loaded into Orbis; and undertaking quality control and problem resolution activities to ensure that the records are as complete and accurate as possible.

-MO’HC

**Detailed Access to Microform Sets**

In early March another milestone in making research easier and more efficient was achieved: the Library Systems Office loaded into the online catalog (Orbis) 22,378 records reflecting the contents of seven microform sets:

- **Black Biographical Dictionaries, 1790–1890** (280 records)
- **Confederate Imprints, 1861–65** (5,963 records)
- **French Revolutionary Pamphlets** (5,082 records)
- **The Nineteenth Century** (8,516 records)
- **Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations, 1677–1865** (279 records)
- **Trade Catalogues at Winterthur** (1,355 records)
- **Underground Newspaper Collection** (903 records)

As the titles and numbers reveal, these collections are large and important resources for many academic disciplines. Before the records were loaded into Orbis, however, locating particular works held in these collections required readers to know first that such a collection existed. A brief catalog description in Orbis of a collection containing hundreds or thousands of titles could only give a general idea of the contents. Detailed records of the single works could not be included. So researchers had to struggle with the printed finding aids and title lists. Now, to discover the contents or find an item, one can search by author, title, subject, or keyword and discover an individual work and its location within the larger microform set. Or, for more information about one of these collections, a researcher can simply search Orbis by the set title (i.e., t = underground newspaper collection). With full records for all their titles in Orbis, these collections are far easier to mine for their rich research potential and less likely to be overlooked by scholars. -NMG

**Linguistic Research in JSTOR**

Yale University has received a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to investigate the capabilities of the JSTOR electronic journal archive for linguistic research. I am the principal investigator for the project.

Originally a project of the Mellon Foundation, JSTOR provides electronic access to complete backfiles of scholarly journals in many fields (see *Nota Bene* Vol. X, No. 2, Spring 1996). Its database contains high-resolution images of each page linked to a searchable text file created with optical character recognition software and hand-checked for accuracy. JSTOR includes journals in the following disciplines: Asian studies, ecology, economics, education, finance, history, mathematics, philosophy, political science, population studies, and sociology. Anthropology and literature are forthcoming. JSTOR is accessible to Yale University affiliates via the Library Research Workstation or directly at [http://www.jstor.org/](http://www.jstor.org/).

Because it encompasses crucial journals in many fields, with substantial chronological depth (some journals go back to the 1800s) and with the ability to search the full text of those journals, JSTOR makes it possible to uncover early occurrences of terms from scholarship, science, economics, politics, philosophy, and education. Using the Mellon grant, I am checking the earliest uses of certain terms in JSTOR journals against the earliest uses of the terms in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, which is also searchable in electronic form at [http://jeees.library.yale.edu/oed/](http://jeees.library.yale.edu/oed/).
In hundreds of instances, occurrences of important terms in scholarly journals antedate the earliest evidence recorded by the OED. To give only a few examples, JSTOR improves the historical record for the words “racism” and “Marxism” and the term “Native American.” Even beyond the realm of scholarly disciplines, use in JSTOR journals antedates Oxford. There is, for example, a reference to “Ivy League” in the Journal of Higher Education three years earlier than the OED’s first use. My research in JSTOR has also been able to establish that the most controversial word-usage of the late twentieth century, the employment of “hopefully” as a sentence adverb, was in common use thirty years before the time it had been thought to have emerged.

-Fred R. Shapiro, Associate Librarian for Public Services and Lecturer in Legal Research, Yale Law School

Internet Access to Primary Sources

The Yale Finding Aid Project is a collaborative endeavor of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Divinity Library, Sterling Library’s Manuscripts and Archives Department, and the Library Systems Office to publish on the World Wide Web full-text versions of finding aids for archival and manuscript collections at Yale. By making finding aids available over the Internet, the library can provide unprecedented access to information about the extraordinary range of primary source materials at Yale to researchers everywhere. Moreover, researchers can follow electronic links from finding aids to digital copies of the source material described, as well as from the catalog record for the collection to its finding aid via the Web version of the library’s on-line catalog (http://webpac.library.yale.edu).

The Yale project is part of a national initiative to develop standards for making guides, registers, and other forms of finding aids for archival and manuscript collections available on the World Wide Web. The Yale Library was one of several institutions, including Berkeley, Harvard, Duke, and the Library of Congress, that volunteered to test and refine an encoding standard using Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) developed at Berkeley for finding aids and to provide Web access to encoded files.

The Yale finding aid site currently contains over 760 guides to archives and manuscript collections at Yale, including virtually all finding aids in the Beinecke and Divinity libraries and a sampling of guides for collections in Manuscripts and Archives. In addition, there are descriptive records for several hundred medieval and Renaissance codex manuscripts in the Beinecke Library. Both the Music Library and the research library of the Yale Center for British Art are working to add their finding aids to the Yale site.

One can search the full text of all the finding aids or limit the search to the guides from a single repository. All of the finding aids are available in HTML and can be viewed using a standard Web browser, such as Netscape. In addition, a large number of finding aids also are encoded using the SGML-based Encoded Archival Description standard, or EAD. These EAD-encoded files allow for more advanced search queries and enhanced navigation within the files; however viewing them requires an SGML browser, such as SoftQuad’s Panorama. The Panorama browser is installed on public terminals in Beinecke, Divinity, Manuscripts and Archives, and various other locations in Sterling.

For further information about the Yale Finding Aid Project, and for detailed instructions on searching and displaying finding aids, consult the Yale Finding Aid Project site at http://webtext.library.yale.edu. —NLB
Map Collection Renovated

Users of the Map Collection in Sterling Memorial Library can now enjoy a spacious new reading room named in memory of Jonathan T. Lanman, M.D., ’40. This room, which greatly increases the research and study space in the seventh-floor Map Collection, was created as part of the Phase I renovation of Sterling. Improvements throughout the collection include the restoration of the original leaded glass windows, the introduction of new heating and cooling systems, new lighting, and new carpeting. Special features of the new Lanman Reading Room include custom woodwork surrounding the map cases, built-in shelving, and new furnishings.

Recent support of the Map Collection from the Lanman family continues a relationship begun years ago by Dr. Lanman. His outstanding collection of rare maps and globes was donated to Yale by his family at the time of his death in 1988, and an endowment for the continuing support of the Map Collection was created in his memory by gifts from family and friends (see Nota Bene Vol. IV, No. 2, Spring 1990). Among the globes in the Lanman collection are a magnificent matched set of eighteen-inch terrestrial and celestial globes created in 1699 by Vincenzo Coronelli, as well as a tiny three-inch pocket celestial globe produced in 1818 by James Newton. The sixteen globes, in storage for several years because of lack of space, are now on permanent exhibit in the new Lanman Reading Room.

The Lanman family has also helped fund the digitization of many items in the Collection. Images of all the globes and many of the maps from the Lanman and other collections can be viewed at the Map Collection’s Web site (http://www.library.yale.edu/MapColl). More images will soon be added as part of the library’s efforts at making many of its non-print collections accessible electronically. -FWM

Archives 300: Documenting Yale University

Archival records are vital for understanding the evolution and activities of an organization. The Yale University Archives select, preserve, and provide access to the records of the university and related materials of enduring significance. The archives exist as Yale’s institutional memory, providing the larger community with information on Yale’s history and role in the world.

In 2001, Yale University will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its founding. As the tercentennial approaches, activities drawing on the history and traditions of Yale and its community will proliferate. Since 1701, members of the Yale community have saved important materials relating to the history of the university, but the collecting of archival materials was sporadic and, until 1939, unofficial. In 1997, with an eye to both the tercentennial and the future, the Yale Corporation approved a five-year project enabling the University Archives to establish comprehensive procedures to appraise, process, and provide access to Yale’s documentary record.

The Archives 300 project was established to carry out this effort, and two project archivists were hired last fall. Over the next five years, the project staff will establish procedures for the selection and preservation of university records, develop effective tools for description of and access to them, and implement programs to promote the study and appreciation of the history, accomplishments, and contributions of the university and the Yale community.

Project archivists have already revised their system for cataloguing and arranging records and have conducted
some surveys of university offices. Staff are currently developing tools for accessing electronic collections, databases, and finding aids. Future projects include mounting exhibits, entering a comprehensive record of archival collections in Orbis, initiating a preservation program for media materials, and developing an interactive Web site that not only provides forms for records disposition and administrative use, but also highlights collection materials from Yale's archives.

For information about Archives 300, contact Richard Szary, University Archivist (richard.szary@yale.edu, 432-9657) or Kirsten Jensen (kirsten.jensen@yale.edu, 432-7382). –KJ

Electronic Text Center Supports Teaching

In the Winter 1994 issue of Nota Bene, former ETC Coordinator Paul Constantine wrote, “the databases located in the Electronic Text Center enable users easily to do...research in ways previously difficult, if not impossible.” Now a similar change is taking place in teaching, where Web technology is changing the way instructional materials and class assignments are presented. It provides teachers with the tools easily to create instructional aids designed for the specific needs of their courses and students.

The integration of technology and instruction is a natural addition to the work already done in the center. ETC staff have always facilitated the use of commercially available digital resources for research and teaching; now they provide tools and services necessary to help people develop their own digital resources. The ETC has acquired software for creating Web sites and has pledged to support Yale faculty and students interested in incorporating technology into their classes. Last fall the center began to offer introductory training sessions, and its staff collaborated with Working at Teaching (WAT), a teacher training program designed and run by graduate students. As a result, WAT has permanently incorporated a technology workshop into its six-week training session; in addition, WAT received a Faculty Support Grant to create a Web-page generator for Yale instructors.

Although training in the development of electronic technology for teaching is a new endeavor for ETC staff, some related projects have already used the center's equipment and support. In one case, an instructor required all seminar participants to author a Web page; these ranged from a hypertext bibliographic essay to a complex multi-media site. Staff trained and supported the instructor and students who used ETC resources to complete their assignment. In another project developed in the center, a graduate student created a Web site as a visual aid for a job talk; he incorporated maps, images, and text from the ETC's multi-media resources into an easily-portable digital slide show. In yet another project, a professor digitized his slides of medieval manuscripts using the center's slide scanner, supplemented the digital versions with transcriptions and glossaries, and made the resulting materials available to students over the Web.

The ETC staff look forward to future partnerships with faculty and students in similar projects and other areas using electronic technology in teaching and research. –DGH

News and Notes

The Sixth Annual Lewis Walpole Library Lecture was delivered on Thursday April 9, 1998, by Patricia Meyer Spacks, now Edgar F. Shannon Professor of Eighteenth-Century Literature at the University of Virginia, and formerly professor of English at Yale. Her topic was “Exposures: sex, privacy and sensibility.”

“Work for Doctors'-Commons,” a hand-colored etching after the design by Thomas Rowlandson (1792) in the collection of the Lewis Walpole Library, served as the poster for the Walpole Library Lecture.
Calendar of Exhibits

BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
Along his Way through June
Yankees in Eden July 9 through September
Treasures from Eden July 9 through September

DIVINITY LIBRARY
Theology at Yale through September 15

MEDICAL LIBRARY
Yale School of Nursing: 75 Years of Excellence, 1923–1998 through June

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Private Presses, Collaborative Books: Recent Acquisitions from the Arts of the Book Collection through mid-August
Cartographical Curiosities: Odd, Curious, and Fanciful Maps from the Holdings of the Map Collection, Yale University Library through June
Insular Visions 1898: the U.S. Imperial Imagination in Image and Text: Maps, Photographs, Views through June
Yale Scenes on China: 1830s–1930s through July

ARTS OF THE BOOK
An Iconography of Insects: Illustrated Bug Books from the Yale Collections through mid-August

Nota Bene News from the Yale Library