Beinecke Acquires Papers of Caribbean Novelist

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is pleased to announce that it has acquired the papers of the novelist Caryl Phillips. He is the first Caribbean author to join the library’s extensive holdings in the papers of contemporary writers.

Born in 1958 on the island of St. Kitts in the West Indies, Mr. Phillips grew up in England, where he was educated at Oxford University. His first publications were plays (Strange Fruit, 1981; Where There Is Darkness, 1982; The Shelter, 1984) which were performed in London and Sheffield.

The author of six novels, two volumes of nonfiction and many film and radio scripts, he is also a frequent contributor to British and American newspapers and to such periodicals as The New Republic. Mr. Phillips’s fiction draws on his experience in two cultures to describe the roots of racial prejudice in diverse historical settings.

Mr. Phillips’s archive includes holograph and typed drafts, notes, and research materials relating to seven published books. In addition to his most recent novel, The Nature of Blood (1997), his archive includes extensive files for the travelogue The European Tribe (1987) and the novels Final Passage (1985), A State of Independence (1986), Higher Ground (1989), Cambridge (1991), and Crossing the River (a Booker Prize nominee of 1993). The collection includes similar materials relating to Mr. Phillips’s stage, film, and radio projects, as well as manuscripts of selected short fiction and articles. Substantial correspondences with such writers as Jamaica Kincaid and the Jamaican novelist Joan Riley are present in the archive as well as exchanges with Toni Morrison, Michael Ondaatje, Salman Rushdie, and Derek Walcott. –CAS

The EIKON Image Database for Biblical Studies

The Yale Divinity School and Yale Divinity Library are cooperating to develop an online resource that will assist both YDS students and the general public in understanding the Bible in its immediate historical contexts and in the context of the history of Christianity. The EIKON Image Database for Biblical Studies was initiated during the 1998–1999 academic year with a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. The goal of the project has been to create and gather together digital resources to support instruction in Biblical studies. The project is built on experience with an earlier Yale database and Website, AdHoc: Resources Related to Teaching and Research on the History of Christianity (http://www.yale.edu/adhoc/).

The EIKON database (http://eikon.divinity.yale.edu) now contains more than 1,000 images, many of which have come from the personal slide collections of faculty members. Internet links relevant to Biblical studies further enhance the usefulness of EIKON’s searchable database.

While developers hope that the number of images in the EIKON database will increase rapidly, their desire to describe the images as fully as possible has tempered the desire for quantity. The number and variety of descriptive terms assigned to each image enables users to find what they need. Each image has several subject and object-type designations; links to relevant images and narrative commentary accompany many images. An image depicting the ruins of a synagogue at Masada, for example, has three associated subject or object terms, a link to a related image in the database, and a brief commentary that illuminates the context of the object. Researchers can find this image by expanding the categories as follows: Geographical Location: Israel: Masada, or by entering “Masada synagogue” in the Search box. In the same way they can locate the image The EIKON database includes this picture of the western wall with its Torah Shrine in the House of Assembly of the Synagogue at Dura-Europos.
of a fresco depicting “The Ark and the Philistines” by expanding the categories: Geographical Location: Syria: Dura Europos: Synagogue Frescoes. Alternately they can enter “Dura Europos” in the Search box to view all the images related to Dura Europos in the database. While not all images possess this level of commentary at present, these examples represent the eventual goal of the project.

Participants in the Eikon project are Harold Attridge, Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament, as Project Director, Research Services Librarian Martha Lund Smalley as library consultant and Website coordinator, Yale graduate student David Clough, and YDS student Leann Pace-Mahoney. –MLS

Sholem Asch Reconsidered

In May, the Yale University Library hosted an international conference, “Sholem Asch Reconsidered,” analyzing the life and work of controversial Yiddish author Sholem Asch (1880–1957). In conjunction with the conference, the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library exhibited manuscripts from the Sholem Asch Collection, and a selection of rare Judaica manuscripts and books from his personal collection were displayed in the Sterling Memorial Library.

Sholem Asch was a major figure in two literary worlds—Yiddish and American. Born in Poland in 1880, he divided his time between Europe and America. He wrote in Yiddish but, because of their great popularity, his novels and plays were translated into English and other languages from an early date. At the height of his fame he was a household word in the Yiddish-speaking world, but he also crossed over to become a major figure on the world literary stage. His audience expanded vastly with his trilogy of “Christological” novels (1939–1949); at the same time these cost him his standing with his original readership and resulted in a rapid loss of critical interest.

The time for a dispassionate reappraisal has been overdue for several reasons, not least the revival of his most famous play, “God of Vengeance,” in New York, Seattle, New Haven, and elsewhere. In addition, the ecumenism for which he was so reviled in the earlier part of the twentieth century by so many of his Yiddish readers is very much in tune with present-day attitudes among lay and religious leaders, both Jewish and Christian, in the United States and elsewhere.

The conference dealt with Asch’s entire oeuvre under five headings: his relationship to the Yiddish theater, his standing as a novelist, his Christological novels and their motivation, the related role of his political activism, and his particular relationship to the American scene. The keynote address by Dan Miron of Columbia University and Hebrew University tied many of these aspects together in connection with “Sholem Asch’s East River—a major Jewish-American novel.”

Yale is the repository of the two major collections of Asch memorabilia, both at the Beinecke Library: his papers and the collection of Jewish art and ephemera that he amassed during his lifetime. In addition the Manuscripts and Archives Department of Sterling Memorial Library holds the papers of Harry Weinberger, the attorney for the defense in the obscenity trial against “God of Vengeance” in 1923. –NS

Abe Fortas Papers Open for Research

The Manuscripts and Archives Department is pleased to announce that the Abe Fortas Papers are now open for research. Fortas graduated from the Yale Law School in 1933 and in 1965 was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. He was nominated to be Chief Justice in 1968 but, in the face of strong opposition, asked
that his name be withdrawn. Fortas eventually resigned from the Supreme Court in 1969. The papers, comprising 200 boxes, consist of Supreme Court materials, correspondence, writings, and photographs that document the various aspects of Abe Fortas's career as a law school professor, government official, lawyer in private practice, presidential advisor, patron and practitioner of the arts, public figure, and Supreme Court justice.

The documentation from Fortas's four terms on the Supreme Court is extensive and clearly documents the public and internal workings of the Court. Also of note are the subject and correspondence files devoted to Lyndon B. Johnson that demonstrate the role that Fortas played as a close and highly trusted legal and political advisor. Materials from Fortas's post-Supreme Court years show his extensive involvement in cultural institutions such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

-AJC and NFL

Online Help for Researchers

Students enter Yale with widely varying levels of experience in doing research and using libraries. Few have encountered a library system of the complexity and comprehensiveness they find here. The Yale Library's Instruction Program seeks to prepare students to use information sources and systems effectively, to support the faculty in providing students with skills needed to complete their course work, and to facilitate the Yale community's productivity through awareness of information resources and their use.

Instruction of any sort is most effective when people need to learn how to do something. Recognizing this aspect of human nature, the Yale Library Instruction Group has developed a series of Web-based tutorials and guides that are available to Yale students, faculty, and the wider public twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

New library users may wish to begin with the library's basic guide to doing research at Yale: "Researching a Topic in Four Easy Steps" (http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/topic.htm). This guide provides information about research strategies, available resources, and some of the idiosyncrasies of an institution as venerable as Yale.

In "Four Easy Steps" students learn to: 1. Define a topic; 2. Find out what has already been written on the topic; 3. Consider other types of materials that might be relevant to the research; 4. Locate materials at Yale and beyond. Each step actually has multiple subdivisions. For example, to investigate what has been written, students can follow links to indexes for books and periodical articles.

In an era when students increasingly strive to do all their research from the comfort of their rooms, the "Four Easy Steps" guide draws attention to both electronic and print resources. The nocturnal student can at 2:00 AM learn how to locate maps, manuscripts, statistical information and more at Yale—though the actual finding may need to wait until the libraries open the next morning.

Several other online guides and tutorials focus on specific types of material or specific research tools. One can reach them from the "Subject Guides and Online Tutorials" section of the Research Education Website (http://www.library.yale.edu/instruction/tutorials.html); they include:

- Navigating the Research Workstation
- News Resources
- Overview of Primary Source Materials for Humanities Research at Yale
- The World @ Your Fingertips—Finding Research through WorldCat and the RLG Union Catalog
- EndNote Help Pages

Of interest particularly to graduate students is "Know Before You Go: Doing Research Abroad," a guide alerting students about special issues that might arise while using libraries outside of the United States. Subject Guides prepared by subject specialists at the Yale libraries are the foundation for a number of the Websites prepared by the Instruction Group. These Websites and guides represent the library's continuing efforts to help users understand and utilize the constantly expanding universe of available resources. -MLS
Science Navigator

The Yale University Science Libraries have implemented an expert system called the Navigator. An expert system is one in which the knowledge of expert librarians becomes a part of an online tool that helps library users determine the most appropriate sources for their information needs in the sciences. In many cases they can then connect directly to these sources.

The Navigator begins with the type of information desired: a definition, a short description, an annual review, the latest information; then it moves on to determine the subject of the query and subsequently the right source. Assuming that users have no idea of the plethora of resources available to them, it identifies the best sources for a particular need along with additional relevant resources.

The “expert” aspect of the Navigator system comprises several features. The logical series of questions that determine what type of information source is required (for example, an encyclopedia or journal article) emulates the accumulated knowledge of a good reference librarian. The selection from many options of databases draws on the expertise of subject specialists. The redirections that help move the user from poor choices or mistakes to more appropriate tools for their queries simulate intervention from experienced searchers or librarians. For example, Navigator recommends searching for words in the titles of journal articles instead of in the titles of journals themselves. Finally, Navigator presents customized views for different users in different disciplines. Options on the geology page, for instance, differ from those on the physics page.

David Stern, Director of Science Libraries and Information, designed the Navigator, and other science librarians developed the content.

The Navigator is available from the Science Libraries’ homepage or directly at: http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/help/sources.html. -DS

Faster Interlibrary Loan on Trial

In November 1999, the library launched the Borrow Direct service. This pilot project is exploring ways of improving the services and reducing the costs of borrowing and lending books among research libraries. Through this service Yale faculty, students and staff can request a book electronically from selected libraries at Columbia University or the University of Pennsylvania if the title is not owned by Yale libraries or is checked out or otherwise unavailable.

More responsive service is one of the project’s main goals. Participating libraries make a special effort to have the requested books delivered within four working days to a choice of Yale libraries and thus far have consistently met this goal. Besides more rapid delivery, Borrow Direct offers other services not possible with traditional interlibrary loans. Readers are notified by e-mail each time their loan request is acted upon, and they can check online the status of their request.

Another significant goal of the Borrow Direct project is lowering the cost to libraries of processing interlibrary loan requests. Librarians anticipate saving through Borrow Direct because researchers can discover themselves whether a title they need is available and submit their requests electronically directly to the lending library, eliminating the need for activities such as verifying sources and searching for locations that are usually done by library staff.

Response to the service has been enthusiastic. Yale researchers have requested over 300 loans through the Borrow Direct system and have made many positive comments. To our borrowing partners, the libraries of Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania, Yale has lent approximately 400 books. If needed, Yale researchers may recall these loaned books as though they were checked out to other Yale readers, with a return time that has been on average cut in half through the Borrow Direct system.

The library will continue making Borrow Direct available as a pilot service through the end of the Fall semester. In addition to comments from borrowers, the library will assess Borrow Direct through statistics being kept on the amount of time staff spend on Borrow Direct-related activities and through a system log detailing response time and overall use.

In the future, users of the service may be able to renew borrowed books. In addition, data from the service logs may also be used to notify library selectors of books requested in their area of selection, as an aid to collection development activities. Librarians invite Yale faculty, students, and staff to try the service and send their comments through the website: http://borrowdirect.library.yale.edu/. -LB and DAN
**Holocaust Documentary Broadcast Nationally**

*Witness: Voices from the Holocaust,* a documentary produced from testimonies recorded by the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, was nationally broadcast by PBS on May 1, 2000. Stories to Remember produced the documentary in association with Yale’s Video Archive.

*Witness* contains excerpts from nineteen testimonies that include survivors, Jews in hiding, resistance fighters, a Jesuit priest, an American prisoner of war, and a member of the Hitler Youth. Documentary footage, personal photographs and documents supplied by the witnesses, and archival photographs are included as well. The documentary has won top prizes at film festivals in New York, Texas, and Arizona.

The Free Press has published a book with the same title that includes additional excerpts from the nineteen witnesses and those of eight others, as well as an introduction by Holocaust scholar Lawrence L. Langer, and personal photographs of the witnesses. Chaim Potok notes, “*Witness* brings us vividly, searingly, the interwoven voices of individuals, who lived through the Holocaust and now recount events burned into memory. It is a work of extraordinary power.”

The Fortunoff Video Archive contains more than 4,000 witness accounts of the Holocaust recorded from 1979 to the present in more than thirty locations in North and South America, Europe, and Israel. Additional information is available at: [http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/](http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/). —JWR

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**Portuguese Discoveries**

“Portuguese Discoveries, World Cultures,” an exhibit on view in Sterling Memorial Library, celebrates the activities at Yale of the Commission on the Portuguese Discoveries, in particular its generous donation of publications to the library.

Established in 1986, the Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos Portugueses was charged by the Portuguese government with organizing and coordinating the official events commemorating Portugal’s maritime achievements and explorations in the last decades of the fifteenth century. While many commemorative ventures focus on one epoch-making event, the commission has celebrated for more than a decade the multiple milestones of Portuguese expansion.

In fulfilling its mandate, which expires in 2001, the commission launched an extensive program of publications and support for scholarship and teaching about the discoveries. In addition it has supported a truly breathtaking series of events: conferences, summer institutes, concerts, exhibits, films, sports contests, and even a trip by a replica of a sixteenth-century sailing ship. The materials on exhibit suggest the range of its audiences, of scholarly and popular activities sponsored, and of topics covered, events sponsored, publications supported. These publications include monographs, monographic series, journals, dictionaries, reference works, exhibit catalogs, facsimiles, electronic publications, and educational computer games. Noteworthy too are the commission’s numerous collaborations with educational and cultural institutions, governments, and publishers around the world.

Portuguese explorations, commercial ventures, and religious missions landed them in every corner of the globe and brought them into contact with many other lands and cultures. The commission’s gift of over eighty volumes enables the library to support study of the extensive Portuguese encounters in the early modern world and the survival of Portuguese cultures worldwide. Furthermore, it documents the activities of this extraordinary commission itself and its responsiveness to the new internationalism of the late twentieth century.

A companion exhibit entitled “Portuguese Macao, 1557–1999,” on view in Sterling Memorial Library through July, displays the gifts to the library of the Instituto Cultural de Macau. Created in 1982, the institute helped define and implement the Portuguese Territory’s cultural policy and scholarly research agenda. Macau was a Portuguese commercial entrepôt and territory until December 1999 when administration was transferred to the People’s Republic of China.
This stone representation of a Portuguese ship on the facade of a building in Lisbon decorated the cover of *Oceanos* in 1992; the magazine was included in the gift of the Portuguese Commission on the Discoveries.

Like the Portuguese Commission on the Discoveries, the institute has worked for over a decade to reinforce the special identity of Portuguese overseas culture through Sino-Portuguese exchanges and by encouraging the diffusion of Portuguese language and culture in Asia. The publications exhibited include: research tools such as archival inventories, bibliographies, and genealogies; primary sources including texts, facsimiles of maps, and drawings; monographs and multi-volume histories; photography and poetry; exhibit catalogs; and translations of Portuguese works into Chinese and Japanese.

Many of the works were published in conjunction with the commemorations of Portuguese explorations. Others manifest the institute's efforts to invigorate the cultural heritage of Europe's oldest settlement in Asia. In addition to contributing to materials available about Macau, these works illuminate the history of a cultural institution at a critical moment in its existence, as it simultaneously celebrated the history of Portuguese presence in Asia and prepared for its passing. -SFR

**History of New Haven's Hospitals**

An historical exhibit, "New Haven's Hospitals," is on display in the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library through June. It features photographs and ephemera related to the origins, early years, and complex interactions of the city's many hospitals and their relations to Yale University.

Yale-New Haven Hospital, one of the earliest general hospitals in the United States, was founded as the General Hospital Society of Connecticut in 1826. It opened its doors in 1833 as the State Hospital and was known later as New Haven Hospital. During the Civil War, it became a military hospital named for Jonathan Knight, one of its founders. In 1945, it merged with Grace Hospital, chartered in 1889 as a homeopathic hospital, to become Grace-New Haven Community Hospital. In 1965, an agreement with Yale University and its School of Medicine officially created Yale-New Haven Hospital.

The Hospital of Saint Raphael was founded in 1907 when a group of predominantly Catholic physicians requested the Sisters of Charity of the Order of St. Elizabeth to come to New Haven to establish a hospital that would "open to all members of the medical profession an institution in which they could administer to their own patients." The VA Hospital in West Haven occupies the original site of William Wirt Winchester Hospital, established by New Haven Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.

Ephemera recall some now defunct health care establishments, such as the Newhope Private Sanitarium for "treatment by dry hot air, mechanical vibration, X-rays, the electrical currents, drugs, etc.," founded in 1900; its successor, the Elm City Private Hospital; and Dr. Skinner's Sanatorium.

**STATE HOSPITAL.**

PHOTO BY: MICHAEL MARS LAND

Detail of a window decoration in SML Room 335.

The exhibit was prepared jointly by Toby Appel, Historical Librarian of the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Shari Laist, Archivist of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System, and Allison Carboni, Archivist of Yale-New Haven Hospital, and highlights the wealth of material available for research in these collections. —TAA

Russian Literature at Yale

Pushkin to Nabokov: Russian Literature at Yale, on view at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, celebrates the bicentenary of Aleksandr Pushkin (1799–1837), Russia’s greatest writer, and the centenary of Vladimir Nabokov (1899–1977), the best-known exiled Russian writer of the twentieth century. The names Pushkin and Nabokov were permanently linked in 1964 when Nabokov published his controversial English version of Pushkin’s most famous work, the verse novel Eugene Onegin.

The exhibition begins with an array of Pushkin’s works in their first editions. During his short life, Pushkin wrote lyric poetry, narrative poems and tales (The Gypsies, Count Nulin), prose fiction (The Queen of Spades), and plays (Boris Godunov). These works established his reputation as Russia’s national poet.

During the “Golden Age,” from Pushkin’s death in 1837 to Chekhov’s in 1904, Russian authors continued to produce works that attained the status of world classics. Gogol’s novel Dead Souls (1842), Turgenev’s Fathers and Sons (1862), Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina (1878), and Dostoyevsky’s The Possessed (1873) are on display, as well as the 1897 edition of Chekhov’s Plays, which includes The Seagull and Uncle Vanya.

The twentieth-century section of the exhibition includes four volumes by the acclaimed poet Anna Akhmatova and four titles by Marina Tsvetaeva. Boris Pasternak, who won the Nobel Prize in 1958 for his novel Doctor Zhivago, is represented by an early volume of poems. Books written by Nina Berberova constitute an important part of the exhibition. Berberova’s papers are held by the Beinecke Library.

The author of Lolita is represented in the exhibition by books spanning four decades. Vladimir Nabokov, who grew up speaking French, English, and Russian, is one of a handful of authors who have written successfully in two languages. The exhibition includes five novels from the Russian phase of his career as well as his first novel in English, The Real Life of Sebastian Knight (1941), the first edition of Lolita (1955), the Eugene Onegin translation, and his autobiography.

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, Research Services and Collections Department, Sterling Memorial Library, (phone: 432-1762, e-mail: susanne.roberts@yale.edu).

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Susanne F. Roberts, Editor
Calendar of Exhibits

BECTON CENTER
History of the Sheffield Scientific School
together through summer
Materials from the Manuscripts and Archives Dept., SML
Sponsored by the Engineering Library

BEINECKE RARE BOOK LIBRARY
Pushkin to Nabokov: Russian Literature at Yale
through July 15
Botanical Illustrations from Banks' Florilegium
July 21 through October 14
Irish Manuscripts
July 21 through October 14

DIVINITY LIBRARY
Demagoguery and Discrimination in America
1940-1960: Selections from the Social Ethics
Pamphlet Collection
through September

MEDICAL LIBRARY
New Haven's Hospitals
through June

STERLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Portuguese Discoveries, World Cultures:
Celebrating the Gift of the Commission
on the Portuguese Discoveries
through July
Library Staff Art
through July
Portuguese Macao, 1557-1999
through July 10
The Amistad Affair
July 11 through August

MEMORABILIA ROOM
The Graphic Art of Paul Rand
through August

Please see our website:
http://www.library.yale.edu/notabenenebhome.htm
for a complete listing of exhibits.

Nota Bene News from the Yale Library