
The author knows her subject well. She began researching the Bonawit windows at Yale and in many other locations for a masters thesis at Wesleyan University. In addition while working in the library as Head of the Preservation Department (1972–1990), Curator of the Arts of the Book and Bookplate Collections (1978–1990), and Exhibits Officer, she occupied desks in front of wonderful Bonawit windows in six different locations and came to love them.

Ms. Walker’s discussion of the architectural background of the window decorations illuminates why Yale and numerous other American universities chose the Collegiate Gothic style for building programs during the 1920s and 1930s, an era when functionalism and clean lines characterized contemporary architecture. Though modeled on the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, Collegiate Gothic was perceived to be a uniquely American style. Architects and administrators of major universities alike found in the height, elaborate decoration, and scale a suitable expression of their educational mission. The American stained-glass tradition merged with this style, and Bonawit’s works, according to Walker, were “among the best of a creative American development.”

The book focuses primarily on the windows of Sterling Memorial Library, the program for their decoration, and its implementation. According to architect James Gamble Rogers, the ornamentation was intended to illustrate the purpose of the building and the history of the Yale Library as well as “the history and universality of the libraries of the world” and the entire universe of learning.

In designing and fabricating some 3,300 window decorations, Bonawit and his firm confronted significant challenges. In spite of the Gothic style, the decorations were to adorn a library not a cathedral. Most were to be viewed at eye level. More important, they had to admit adequate light for reading. In addition, most designs were based on a wide array of sources eclectic in both style and subject. The techniques used to create decorations that filled cathedral-like spaces while admitting enough light for a library included dark outlines combined with translucent staining, the use of clear glass, and the restriction of full color designs to small areas of window. The sources of the majority of designs were illustrations taken from library holdings, representing a great array of subjects, styles, and media. While preserving the variety and liveliness of these images, Bonawit nevertheless achieved a sense of coherence in the decorative program by controlling the placement and composition of the images and using uniform painting techniques. The designs that were left to the imagination of the artist show the influence of the Art Deco movement on his personal style.

Walker’s discussion of the selection, sources, and treatment of the window decorations gives fascinating insight into the genesis of the library’s iconography as a whole. Then, as now, there was a committee. Library staff and other members of the Yale community took part in choosing subjects for decorations that individually represented the purpose of each room and together symbolized the world of learning. The Committee on Decoration met for several years beginning in 1928;
it commenced with decorations for the stonework and other media and treated the windows last. Members compiled lists of subjects, tracked down illustrations in books, and gave photostats to Bonawit. The sources for many designs came from a wide array of illustrators and illustrations in many media such as manuscript and printed books, sales catalogs, murals, bookplates, and objects. Only a few, such as the Gutenberg Bible and Jost Amman, were represented more than once. Faithful to the material provided, Bonawit nevertheless made some changes in many illustrations for technical or aesthetic reasons, often to simplify the design or increase its interest. Some of the painted quarries or sections of the windows were deliberately mended or stained to create the illusion of weathering.

The production of Yale's stained-glass windows is best appreciated in the context of the European tradition, which the author sketches from the middle ages to its revival in the nineteenth century. The late medieval secular tradition emphasized the pictorial and used more clear glass and was thus a direct ancestor to Bonawit's method and designs. Production of windows also followed the late medieval practice of painting scenes on glass set in leaded windows; the production of heraldic shields remained closer to an older mosaic tradition.

Walker follows a review of Bonawit's life (1891–1971) and work at Yale and elsewhere with an appendix of some fifty-two locations, including eight at Yale, of Bonawit Windows and a selected bibliography. Splendid color illustrations adorn and illuminate the text. –SFR

Visitors to the library's Web site will see great improvements to the design and functionality of its main pages at www.library.yale.edu. The redesigned site organizes the library's resources and services into four distinctive sections: Research Tools, About the Library, Libraries and Collections, and Library Services. In addition, searching in Orbis, the online catalog, is possible from the main page. An eye-catching list of “Quick Links” on the right enables fast access to borrower account information and frequently used services such as renewing books and requesting materials from other libraries. A portion of the page contains library-related news.

Designed by the New Haven firm AHDesign, the new Web site incorporates thematic colors with images from the beautiful leaded glass windows in Sterling Memorial Library. The organization of the site was developed over the course of nine months by a library task force using surveys, usability tests, and open meetings to determine the needs of students, staff, faculty, and visitors. The new site brings more information to the fore and combines the functions of the old “Front Door,” designed for visitors and novice users, and the “Research Workstation,” where the electronic databases and other research tools were collected.

The new site made its debut on June 5, 2001. Conversion of hundreds of library Web pages to the new design will follow over the summer. Feedback will help improve this critical service, and visitors to the site are invited to send comments to Holly Nardini (holly.nardini@yale.edu).

–HGN
The publication in April of Nicholson Baker's *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* (New York: Random House, 2001) caused a great commotion in academic libraries. The title of the book refers to a common test for paper brittleness that involves repeatedly folding and creasing a paper sample until it breaks. Paper is described as brittle when it can endure only one or two back-and-forth folds without breaking. In an avowedly polemical manner, Mr. Baker challenges the view of brittle paper commonly taken in the library community. He is highly critical of librarians for preserving newspapers on microfilm and then discarding the originals. Mr. Baker also focuses his attention on the past, and sometimes present, practice of discarding brittle books and serials after microfilming or digital conversion.

*Double Fold* has received a lot of attention, including the lead review in the April 15th issue of the *New York Times Book Review* and a lengthy review essay by Robert Darnton in the *New York Review of Books* (26 April 2001). The Yale University Library features prominently in Mr. Baker's book. The index lists at least forty-three references to library staff or to research, projects, and practices carried out by the Preservation Department over a nearly twenty-year period. Mr. Baker cites the extensive published record of the department as well as interviews he conducted during the course of his research.

Yale University Library has been a pioneer in the use of microfilm for preservation purposes and in the development of procedures for microfilming collections of books, journals, and newspapers on a large scale. Yale first microfilmed portions of its collections in 1931, shortly after moving into the Sterling Memorial Library. Founded in 1971, the Preservation Department developed a comprehensive approach to preserving Yale's collections, including conservation treatment, preservation microfilming, environmental controls in library stack areas, and active engagement with library staff and readers on appropriate care and handling routines. In the early 1980s, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, department head Gay Walker conducted the first large-scale assessment of collection condition in the United States. Ms. Walker surveyed the brittleness of the paper as well as other problems, including broken bindings, damaged text blocks, and missing pages, in over 35,000 volumes.

The Yale survey identified a genuine and massive preservation challenge for the library. One outcome of the study, but by no means the only important outcome, was the development of a grant-funded microfilming program that targeted the library's most damaged, most heavily used, and therefore most endangered collections. Beginning in 1983 and proceeding nearly to the present time, the Preservation Department has preserved on microfilm at least 5,000 volumes from the library's collections every year. Until 1993, the common practice in the Preservation Department was to cut brittle volumes apart so that the pages could be placed flat under the microfilm camera. Books that could be opened nearly flat or that could bear the pressure of flattening under glass were not cut apart. A disbound brittle book rarely can be restored to usable condition. At least fifty percent of all books preserved on microfilm until 1993 were disbound and then withdrawn from the collections after staff inspected the microfilm for quality and completeness.

Since 1993, the practice of disbinding books prior to microfilm preservation has been drastically curtailed, but it has not ceased altogether. Working with the Preservation Department, subject specialists target a brittle or broken book for microfilm because the book is unusable in its present state, cannot be repaired, and has seen little or no circulation in the past decade. Even with these selection criteria in place, preservation staff and the commercial microfilm vendors with whom they work make every effort to create a preservation microfilm copy without destroying the book. Books that are unusable after microfilming are withdrawn from the collection and discarded. Last year, the library's selectors authorized the withdrawal of about 600 of the 21,000 volumes that the Preservation Department handled.

The Preservation Department is deeply committed to protecting the artifactual value of Yale's collections. In
the past seven years, this commitment has taken the form of a three-fold increase in the department’s capability to maintain printed books and journals in fit condition for use by readers. The Conservation Program, responsible for the treatment of the library’s rare and special collections, has grown from three to eight staff. The Collections Care Program, created in 1994, now consists of seven staff dedicated to the care of the library’s general circulating collection.

The publication of Nicholson Baker’s Double Fold is an opportunity to remind us of the value of Yale’s library collections. It should also stimulate a conversation on the importance of choosing the right preservation strategies, including preservation microfilm, to address the very real preservation challenges that are with us for the foreseeable future. In preservation, as with other aspects of the library program, staff are learning, revising, and improving how they work to benefit the collections and the readers they serve. —PLC

Editor’s note: The Association of Research Libraries is tracking the debate over Baker’s book on its Web site (http://newswire.arl.org/preserv/baker.html). A version of this article first appeared there.

Pforzheimer Gift to the Beinecke

The Beinecke Library was recently the recipient of an extraordinary gift of more than 15,000 books and some 46 linear feet of manuscript material from a long-term supporter. Walter L. Pforzheimer ’35, ’38 JD began collecting in earnest during his student years and was the first undergraduate member of the newly formed Yale Library Associates. Elected to the governing board of that organization after his graduation from Yale, he is its longest-serving trustee.

Mr. Pforzheimer comes from a family of bookmen. His uncle Carl Pforzheimer collected Shelley and his circle. His father Walter amassed two extraordinary groups of books: a virtually complete collection of Molière covering the 300-year publication history of the great French playwright, and a collection of French armorial bindings, books specially bound for the private libraries of kings, nobles, and churchmen. Each armorial volume is an exquisite artifact that brings text, provenance, and craftsmanship into a unique historical relationship. The collection’s finest treasure is one of the bindings from the library of the renowned sixteenth-century bibliophile Jean Grolier. Walter Pforzheimer the son inherited his father’s library, conserved and augmented it, added to it two outstanding collections of his own, and donated it, including the above-mentioned collections, to Yale.

While still in secondary school, Walter Pforzheimer began collecting the Philadelphia-born novelist, short-story writer, and humorist Frank Stockton (1834–1902). He pursued this interest at Yale and over the years developed an exhaustive gathering of materials that cover Stockton’s work as an illustrator, author, and editor. Soon after his graduation from Yale Law School, he helped organize various OSS operations, which led to work in Air Force Intelligence and then to a distinguished career with the CIA. The collection kept pace. During this period Mr. Pforzheimer began to form his great collection on intelligence service. This definitive assemblage of materials contains not only manuscripts, official documents, and historical materials, but also fiction and biography relating to intelligence and espionage, ranging chronologically from the American Revolution to the Cold War. Included are a letter by George Washington citing the need for intelligence, documents relating to the British spy Major John André, and materials concerning the Dreyfus Affair. Walter Pforzheimer is the author of Bibliography of Intelligence Literature (1972). —CAS

Crossing International Boundaries

Manuscripts and Archives and the Area Studies Curators are pleased to present a year-long centennial exhibit and lecture series, Yale: Crossing International Boundaries—A Centennial Retrospective.

Drawing from the library’s rich and diverse area studies and manuscript and archival holdings, each exhibit explores the interconnections between international events and area studies scholarship at Yale. The library’s area studies and its holdings of primary sources reflect the evolving interests of faculty and students and
This stone head of Buddha found in 1905 at Khadaluck, east of Khuran, is currently on display in the Memorabilia Room in Sterling Memorial Library.

provide the historical context for understanding how Yale has taught, studied, and influenced countries and cultures outside of the United States.

The first exhibit series, Yale’s East European, Slavic & Southeast Asian Studies Collections: Archival Development and Collecting during Times of Turmoil, Transition & Peace, explored the correlation between revolutionary and peace-time events which have occurred in two diverse geographic regions in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia during the past 100 years. Professor Paul Bushkovitch lectured on “Russian Revolution and its Consequences” on January 19, 2001, and on February 13 Professor Ben Kiernan spoke on genocide in “The Khmer Rouge, Indonesia and East Timor, and the Australian Aborigines.”

The second exhibit series, The Near East, Africa and Yale: Archival Collections from Cairo to Cape Town, featured a variety of materials and artifacts, including the skull of an Egyptian princess and Apartheid ephemera. In March Professor Ben Foster lectured on “Yankees in Eden: Yale and the Beginnings of Arabic Study in the United States,” and Professor David Apter presented “Perspectives on Africa.”

On May 18, Professor Valerie Hansen’s lecture on “Ellsworth Huntington: Yale’s Own Silk Road Explorer” opened the third exhibit series, Archival Collections from China and Japan: Selected Papers of Famous Statesmen and East Asian Scholars. Scheduled for the fall, the fourth series will feature Judaica and Latin American studies. The final exhibit will explore Yale’s connections with the world of international affairs and diplomacy. It will coincide with the Yale Center for International & Area Studies symposia, “Envisioning the World in the Next Century: Challenges to Internationalizing Yale,” in September. —DMG

Sporting Books from Paul Mellon

Most of the books that were in Paul Mellon’s possession at the time of his death in February 1999 were bequeathed to Yale University, with the majority specifically given to the Yale Center for British Art. The final bequest to the Center of just over 5,000 titles, comprising nearly 7,500 volumes, reflects the wide range of his interests. It includes many illustrated and color-plate books on a variety of subjects including Americana; a select group of about eighty rare maps and atlases, most dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; and examples of British fine printing, including a complete set of books published by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press.

Nearly 2,000 books and manuscripts in the bequest belong to Mr. Mellon’s important collection of sporting books. The works reflect his life-long interest in the thoroughbred horse, particularly the animal’s evolution under domestication, its character, physiology, and employment on the racecourse and in the field. The collection includes works on the anatomy, breeding, acquiring, care, and management of horses, as well as horsemanship (the learning and practice of riding a horse), horse racing, and the hunting of fox, hare,

“A griffon, a grehond, a hors, a hare” (leaf 28) from the Helmingham Herbal and Bestiary (England, ca. 1350). Pen and ink, watercolor and bodycolor on parchment. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection.
and stag. Although the focus is on the horse as an animal of noble recreation, the working horse is not neglected. There are wonderful, often humorous, books on coaching and early road transportation.

Most of the works in the sporting collection are British, but there are important Italian and French (even a few American) classic works as well; they range in date from the early fifteenth to the mid-twentieth century. A number of the rarest and most interesting books and manuscripts complemented the paintings in the exhibition *The Paul Mellon Bequest: Treasures of a Lifetime* (on view February through April, 2001). The selection included works on the horse and horsemanship; horse racing, hunting, fishing and shooting; and coaching and the working horse. -EF

**Microscopes at Medical Library**

Microscopes, from the primitive to the high-tech, were recently on display in a scientific exhibit in the Medical Library. *Microscopy—Tools of the Biomedical Sciences* was created in honor of Yale’s Tercentennial Celebration by Dr. Martin E. Gordon, clinical professor of medicine and chair of the board of trustees of the Associates of the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library. The exhibit featured rare historical microscopes as well as modern instruments on the cutting edge of technology. The latter included micro-imaging surgical dissecting equipment, computerized ophthalmic instruments, and a new Israeli-created video capsule which, when swallowed, transmits about 50,000 vivid micro images as it progresses through the gastrointestinal tract revealing hidden diseases. The exhibit also included a video with computerized interactive devices.

The lecture given on April 25 by Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D. entitled “The Evolution of Infectious Disease,” a video on the history of microscopy, diagnostic dilemmas, and a virtual tour of the exhibit is available on the Internet at [http://www.med.yale.edu/library/zeiss/](http://www.med.yale.edu/library/zeiss/). -LHS

**Improving the Climate for Books**

Yale University Library is one of 180 institutions in the US selected to field test a new set of environmental monitoring tools. Developed by the Image Permanence Institute of the Rochester Institute of Technology, these new tools are the Preservation Environmental Monitor (PEM) and its associated software, Climate Notebook. Grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services supported the creation of these tools.
Recently displayed in Sterling Memorial Library, this photograph shows Dr. Harvey Cushing (Yale class of 1891) performing his 2000th verified brain tumor operation in April 1931. Records, specimens, and histological slides of his operations are now in the Brain Tumor Registry, Yale School of Medicine. His papers are in the Manuscripts and Archives Department and the Medical Historical Library.

Unlike conventional climate monitors that simply record temperature and humidity over time, the PEM records temperature and humidity data and computes an index that predicts the useful life of books and paper stored under the recorded conditions. Known as the Time Weighted Preservation Index (TWPI), it results from an algorithm that factors the recorded environmental conditions with known data about the long-term effects of temperature and humidity on collections. Data from the PEM is downloaded into the Climate Notebook software. This program allows the temperature, humidity, and TWPI data to be graphed in a variety of ways that provide a clear image of how the storage environment is affecting the collection.

Though the storage environment in the Sterling Library stacks was greatly improved in 1999 with the installation of new climate controls, many special collections are housed in areas outside the stacks tower in environments that need additional improvement. As a test of the new PEM and the Climate Notebook software, the Preservation Department is monitoring the environment in the Arts of the Book Collection, one of the special collections not housed in an air-conditioned facility, for a period of 18 months. -DW

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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Contributors to this issue include Paul L. Conway, Elisabeth Fairman, Danielle Moon-Geraci, Holly Grossetta Nardini, Susanne F. Roberts, Christa A. Sammons, Lynn H. Sette, David Walls, and Jennifer S. Weintraub. Special thanks are due Shalane R. Hansen.

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Susanne F. Roberts, Editor
## Calendar of Exhibits

**Becton Center**  
*History of the Sheffield Scientific School*  
through summer  
Materials from the Manuscripts and Archives Dept., sml  
Sponsored by the Engineering Library

**Beinecke Rare Book Library**  
*From Heinrich Schütz to Henry Miller: Selections from the Frederick R. Koch Collection at the Beinecke Library*  
through July 14

**Divinity Library**  
*Missionary Impact on the Rights of Women*  
through July 15

**Medical Library**  
*Yale and Medicine 1951–2001*  
through July 31  
*History of Student Research: History of the Student Thesis at Yale*  
through mid-July

**Sterling Memorial Library**  
*A Decade of Scholarship: Recent Publications Based on Research in Manuscripts and Archives, Sterling Memorial Library*  
through July  
*Students at Work: A Photographic Chronicle of the Yale Library Student Assistants*  
through June  
*Memorabilia Room*  
*Archival Collections from China and Japan: Selected Papers of Famous Statesmen and East Asian Scholars*  
through summer  
*Arts of the Book*  
*John Eric Broaddus*  
through June 25

Please see our web site:  
[http://www.library.yale.edu/notabene/nbhome.htm](http://www.library.yale.edu/notabene/nbhome.htm)  
for a complete listing of exhibits.