Cutting the ceremonial ribbon to dedicate the Bass Library, Thain Family Café, and Wright Reading Room. Left to right: Alice Prochaska, John and Carmen Thain, Yale President Richard C. Levin, and William H. Wright, II.

Dedication of the Bass Library and Thain Family Café

A dedication ceremony for the new Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Library was held on November 30, 2007. Hosted by President Richard C. Levin and University Librarian, Alice Prochaska, the ceremony was attended by numerous special guests — including John and Carmen Thain, donors of the Thain Family Café, and William H. Wright, 11 ’82, for whom the Wright Reading Room is named — and featured a speech by Claire Halloran, a cherished and long-time member of the Library’s Access Services staff. Halloran, who was one of the first employees to work in the Cross Campus Library when it opened in 1970, shared her memories of the old CCL and spoke of the ways the Library has transformed people’s lives. “From this very ground,” she said, “magnificent people have gone out to care for our world.”

In conjunction with the dedication, the Library hosted “Creating Today’s Library,” a daylong symposium of lectures, panels, and events that featured over a dozen speakers. Topics ranged from the decorative arts program in the Bass Library to library instructional programs to Yale’s efforts to promote sustainable food. One session, “Library Architecture at Yale,” featured the current and former Deans of the Yale School of Architecture, Robert A.M. Stern, Thomas H. Beeby (architect of the Bass Library), and Cesar Pelli, and will soon be available as a Podcast from Yale’s iTunes collection. —AP

Microsoft Strikes a Deal to Digitize Yale Library Books

Yale University Library and Microsoft have entered into an agreement to digitize 100,000 books from Yale’s collections. The books, when digitized, will appear on Microsoft’s Live Books Search and be linked from ORBIS, the Yale University Library catalog. These can be viewed as images, downloaded and searched, with terms being highlighted on the pages. The project will enable the library to experiment with preserving and providing public access to a large amount of digital material. Readers increasingly demand digital materials and are themselves experimenting with new ways of teaching, research, and scholarship in the digital age.

Yale and Microsoft will work together to identify which of the approximately thirteen million volumes held by Yale’s twenty-two libraries will be digitized. According to initial selection criteria, the books must be in English and published before 1923 (and thus free from copyright restrictions). Current selections have come from the subject areas of art and art history, history, history, religion, and travel.

During the digitization process, an image is made from each page in the book. The text in the image is then processed and stored, allowing the full text of the book to be keyword searchable. The Yale Library and Microsoft have established rigorous standards for the quality and usability of the digital content, as well as for the handling of the physical books. Books selected for the project will remain available for use by students and researchers in their physical form and can be recalled when sent for digitization. Digital copies of the books will also be preserved by the Yale Library for use in future academic initiatives and collaborative scholarly ventures.

The books are being digitized by Kirtas Technologies, which is opening a facility in Wallingford, Connecticut. Many Yale Library staff members are also engaged in activities related to this project. The Digital Production and Integration Program, which is managing the project, has worked closely with the departments of Access Services, Preservation, Catalog and Metadata Services, the Library Shelves Facility, Mudd Library, Acquisitions, and Integrated Library and Technology Services.

Books are expected to be available online later this spring. For more information about the project, see http://www.library.yale.edu/dpip/massdig/. Microsoft’s Live Books Search can be found at http://books.live.com. —jw
Notes from the University Librarian’s Blog: The Bass Library Midnight Opening

October 18th was a banner day for Yale University Library. After nearly eighteen months of building work, preceded by years of planning and much preparation on the part of Library staff from almost all departments, the new two-story, underground Bass Library was finally ready to open for business.

We staged an event on the Cross Campus lawn starting at 11:00 p.m. in front of the beautiful new entrance pavilion which is almost the only above-ground evidence of the extraordinary work by architects Hammond Beeby Rupert Ainge, and then counted down to opening time just before midnight. Well over a thousand people flocked on to Cross Campus, outrunning by far the kettle corn and hot chocolate provided by the Yale Sustainable Food Service, and excited chants competed with the Elm City Brass Quintet. The reaction of Yale students and faculty members to the really beautiful new Library made all the work worthwhile. And the lovely new furnishings, chosen and designed by the architects in classic style, survived their baptism of fire when students stood and jumped on leather sofas and marble-topped tables to watch the procession that continued a Yale Library tradition, to place the first books on the shelves.

Now, with most of the books back on the shelves and calm restored, the Library is populated by scores of students working hard for their finals, using the group study rooms and individual study rooms and all the new computer terminals and soft chairs and sofas, as though this splendid environment had been there for years.

Mike Morand, from the Office of New Haven and State Affairs, presided over the opening celebration with panache, and William H. Wright ’11, one of our major donors, expressed his own pleasure at being there and at seeing so many Yale students so excited about the Library. My own remarks for the occasion conveyed just a fraction of the delight and admiration I felt personally for the extraordinary achievement of the architects, Library staff, contractors, and all the many Yale personnel who have been involved. –AP

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For information about funding opportunities at the Library, please visit the new library development Web site at www.library.yale.edu/development.
Survey of Yale Faculty Reveals High Satisfaction with Library

In a new survey of Yale University’s Arts and Sciences Faculty, 88 percent of respondents expressed high satisfaction with the University Library and its resources, the highest satisfaction ranking of all resources at Yale. The mean satisfaction score for Library resources was 4.5 out of 5. The survey, released in January 2008 and undertaken between October 2006 and January 2008, asked faculty to rate their overall satisfaction with working at Yale, as well as with access to resources and job satisfaction.

“This very high level of faculty satisfaction with the Yale University Library and its resources is incredibly exciting and invigorating and gives us increased confidence as we expand our physical spaces and increase access to our digital and print collections,” said Yale University Librarian Alice Prochaska. “It is also extremely rewarding for our 600 staff members to see that faculty value the Library above everything else at Yale. We work closely with faculty to ensure that our collections and services support their research and teaching. Our goal now is to continue to meet and exceed the high expectations of Yale faculty members in all disciplines, something we look forward to doing.”

The survey, commissioned by the Yale University Provost’s Office and undertaken by the Office of Institutional Research, was sent to all 567 Faculty of Arts and Sciences ladder faculty who had been appointed as of July 1, 2006. Seventy-six percent of those eligible (428 individuals) responded. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences is composed of faculty holding academic appointments in both Yale College and the Yale Graduate School. –gl

Garden Honors Noted Japanese Scholar

A campus garden has been created in honor of Kan’ichi Asakawa (1873–1948), a Yale alumnus and professor who is considered the founder of East Asian Studies in the United States.

Asakawa earned his Ph.D. in History from Yale in 1902. He later became a faculty member and served as the first curator of the East Asia Collection in Sterling Memorial Library. At Yale for thirty-six years, he was the first Japanese professor to teach at a major American university. His efforts were also instrumental in bringing Japanese materials to the Yale libraries and the Library of Congress. Asakawa’s grave in Grove Street Cemetery is visited every year by busloads of travelers from Japan.

The Japanese-style garden, designed by Shin’ichiro Abe of Zen Associates of Boston, is located within Killingworth Courtyard of Saybrook College, where Asakawa was a resident faculty fellow in the 1930s. In October, a dedication ceremony featured remarks by Ryozo Kato, Japan’s ambassador to the United States. Edward Kamens, the Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies, chaired the garden planning committee. –opa
Yale Library Launches Yale Daily News Historical Archive

Yale’s history will now be more accessible to scholars and students through the Yale University Library’s Yale Daily News Historical Archive at http://images.library.yale.edu/ydn. The Library has digitized key periods from the YDN’s 130-year history, including its first year of publication, January 1878 to June 1879; World War I; civil unrest, coeducation, and the Black Panther trials from 1967 to 1970; and the early years of President Barlett A. Giamatti’s administration, 1978 to 1981. The ultimate goal is to digitize the entire run of the YDN. Currently underway is the digitization of the World War II years, thanks to a generous gift from the Class of 1945. Content from October 2000 to the present is already available online at the YDN Web site (http://www.yaledailynews.com/).

Readers using the Yale Daily News Historical Archive will find full page views of the original newspaper and will also be able to zoom in on details, to conduct word, phrase, or name searches, to select articles or photographs on a page, and to print or download copies of articles. Financial support for this initial phase of the project was provided by the Oldest College Daily Foundation, Yale University Library, and the Class of 1945. The Library development office is seeking ongoing support for this project.

The oldest daily college newspaper in the United States, the YDN has nurtured the talents of many prominent journalists and public figures, including William F. Buckley, Garry Trudeau, Calvin Trillin, Joseph Lieberman, and Sargent Shriver.

“The Yale Daily News is an essential primary resource for any study of Yale University and its history and culture,” said University Librarian Alice Prochaska.

–FM and GL

Christine Weideman Appointed as Director of Manuscripts and Archives

Christine Weideman has been appointed as the Carrie S. Beinecke Director of Manuscripts and Archives at the University Library. Weideman has been Interim Director of the department for the past sixteen months. She came to Yale in 1993 as Assistant Head of Manuscripts and Archives and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2005. Prior to joining the University Library, Weideman worked at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, where she trained as an archivist following doctoral-level graduate studies in History.

Weideman has chaired the Manuscripts Repository Section of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), authored a highly disseminated brochure on deeds of gifts, co-developed a series of basic information technology courses for practicing archivists, and published and presented numerous articles and papers. Most recently, she was named a Distinguished Fellow of the SAA, the highest professional honor for an archivist. Weideman has also been an active member of the Yale community, providing leadership on numerous committees while mentoring staff.

–GL

Lewis Walpole Library Hosts Seminar on Digitizing Art Prints

On January 25, 2008, the Lewis Walpole Library hosted a seminar on metadata for art prints in association with a Mellon Foundation Collections Collaborative re-grant project at Yale. Günter Waibel, Program Officer at the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), began the seminar with a talk on the challenges of providing access to digital collections in a networked age. Speakers elaborated on this theme throughout the day. Elizabeth O’Keefe, Director of Collection Information Systems at the Morgan Library, discussed the Morgan’s experience with applying a variety of data content standards and vocabularies within its MARC-format integrated library system. Tanya Szrajber, Head of Documentation in the Department of Conservation, Documentation and Science at the British Museum, spoke on cataloguing prints in the British Museum Collection Database (and concluded with a live demonstration of the database now available online).

Following the presentations, Matthew Beacom moderated discussion among the two dozen invitees and presenters. PowerPoint presentations for these talks can be found at www.library.yale.edu/walpole/metadata.html. –CR
World War I Posters Go Digital

Before the era of televised media, images justifying the cause of war were presented to the home front through such visual media as posters. Yale’s World War I Poster Collection is a treasure trove of evocative images from nearly all of the countries involved in the war from its beginning in August 1914 to Armistice Day in November 1918. However, library patrons have had limited use of the collection due to the absence of an online guide and the posters’ fragility and size. To increase access to these materials, funds from the Mellon Foundation-supported Collections Collaborative initiative have been used to scan over 100 posters from the collection and to create a searchable database. Staff from Manuscripts and Archives, Research Services and Collections, the Preservation Department, and the Library’s Digital Production and Integration Program have worked together to make the project a success. The posters are currently being scanned at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (www.nedcc.org) in Andover, Massachusetts. The resulting images will be available for viewing by the end of this summer. –DEW

Metaphor Taking Shape: Poetry, Art, and the Book

In mid-March, Yale University hosted a gathering of historians, literary scholars, poets, artists, publishers, and book arts enthusiasts who came to campus to participate in a symposium entitled Metaphor Taking Shape: Poetry, Art, and the Book. Sponsored by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Arts of the Book Collection, the symposium highlighted the Beinecke’s Modern European and American collections as well as materials from Arts of the Book, housed in Sterling Memorial Library.

Panelists discussed the processes, challenges, and rewards of working collaboratively on books that stimulate conversations about poetry and art. Discussion also focused on the various stages of producing books about poetry and art, from financing and design to publication and distribution. –JR

Lecture and Poster Exhibit Commemorate African Liberation Movements

While a snow storm pounded the streets of New Haven on a blustery evening in December, a lively crowd assembled in the Sterling Library Lecture Hall to hear the distinguished scholar Immanuel Wallerstein speak on the topic of “Yesteryear: The Glory Days of the African Liberation Movements.” The lecture was presented in conjunction with the opening of an exhibit entitled “AMANDLA! Southern African Liberation Posters from the Collection of Immanuel Wallerstein,” which appeared in SML’s Memorabilia Room through early February. The exhibit featured approximately thirty political posters, spanning the late 1960s to the 1980s, which Professor Wallerstein collected over the course of many years visiting, writing about, and teaching in Africa. The posters were given to Manuscripts and Archives’ African Collection in 2006, and complement an extraordinary collection of materials — dealing with Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa and Guinea-Bissau and amounting to twelve reels of microfilm — previously given to the African Collection by Professor Wallerstein. Donations such as these have helped to shape one of the finest Africana collections in North America and will benefit future generations of scholars. –DW
Remembering the Nanking Massacre

The Yale Divinity School Library recently digitized and created a Web site for more than 350 documents and photographs related to the Nanking Massacre. On December 13, 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army invaded Nanking, and the ensuing six weeks became known as the Nanking Massacre because of alleged atrocities during the occupation. Documents from Divinity Library collections provide firsthand accounts from westerners who remained in Nanking after the Japanese invasion. Selected and scanned with the financial support of the Japan International Christian University Foundation, these documents have already proven to be important resources to historians. They were featured in Iris Chang’s best-selling book *The Rape of Nanking* and the 2007 film documentary *Nanking*, which was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize (Documentary) and awarded honors for Documentary Editing at the Sundance Film Festival.

The Divinity Library’s Web site includes historical background on the Nanking Massacre, biographical sketches of the individuals whose letters, diaries, reports, and photographs are contained in the collection, descriptions of the documents and photographs, and links to facsimile images. To commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the invasion, David Vikner, president of the Japan ICU Foundation, presented a CD set of the documents to the University of Nanking on December 13, 2007. See www.library.yale.edu/div/Nanking.

Library Gifts — of a Different Kind

A slab of salt from Timbuktu, a sushi USB drive, a family of stuffed plush wombats, a silver dhow, a Lithuanian edition of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, a replica terracotta warrior from the tomb of Qin Shi Huang… These were only a few of the fifty-plus items in the exhibition “Travels With My Librarian: Professional Exchanges and Gift Culture,” which embellished the Sterling Memorial Library Cloister in January and February 2008. Part of the Library’s 2007–08 season of events, which focused on “Exploration and Adventure in the Yale Library,” the exhibition documented the intersection between gift exchange as a culturally-based practice and international professional exchanges involving Yale librarians and university administrators.

In our globalized age, librarians increasingly participate in projects and activities that take them far afield, or conversely that bring colleagues from overseas to their home institutions. Such international interactions often
begin with exchanges of gifts — to express gratitude, but also as a first, symbolic step towards collaboration. Gift-giving, an ancient cultural practice, remains very much alive today. Gifts fill the gaps of distance and difference — geographic, cultural or otherwise. The items on display spanned three decades and five continents. Visitors could see, side by side and in often enigmatic juxtaposition, African cotton dresses, Asian silk cloths, Chinese scroll paintings, Zulu beaded dolls, Russian commemorative medals, medallions and plaques, Baltic needlepoint bookmarks, books and facsimiles, and a variety of replicas and gadgets. —gk

Yale Library Curator Attends Conference in Kyrgyzstan

Herbert B. Landau, Donna McCool, Victoria Spain, Edward Warro, and Tatjana Lorković

There are close to sixty million people and 25,000 libraries in the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. To encourage cooperation among libraries in the region, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan recently hosted an international conference entitled “Issykkul’ 2007: Libraries and the Democratization of Society.” The eighth annual meeting of its kind, the conference was organized by the Kyrgyz Library Information Consortium and held at a former spa, built in the 1970s for high-ranking Soviet officials.

Tatjana Lorković, Curator for Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Collections at Yale Library, attended the conference. Papers were given in Russian, Kyrgyz, and English. Lorković’s presentation, delivered in Russian and entitled “Collecting Central Asian Materials in Large Academic Libraries in the United States,” explained the challenges faced by U.S. librarians as they seek to develop Central Asian collections.

The study of Central Asia is gaining importance at Yale, and the Library is assessing its Central Asian collections and its ability to support further research in this area. Yale had previously acquired a considerable number of titles in Central Asian languages through exchanges with a Soviet book dealership and the Academies of Sciences of former Soviet Republics. With the fall of the Soviet Union, however, these exchanges petered out, and the Library is now seeking to develop new networks for acquisitions of Central Asian materials in the vernacular, Russian, or English languages. Lorković’s trip and presentation significantly furthered this effort. —tl

The View from Down Under

Dr. Grace Saw, a visiting librarian from Australia, spent a month at Yale in November 2007. She was the sixth visiting librarian to come to Yale under the auspices of the International Associates Program, a pilot project funded by the University Librarian that aims to develop relationships between Yale librarians and archivists and their colleagues in other countries. The primary goal of Saw’s visit was to observe and learn about the Yale Library’s various international initiatives. She participated in a number of specific projects (such as a survey on “Serving Students’ Library Needs Abroad” and a proposal to create an “International Room” in Sterling) and prepared a final report with recommendations for the Library management.

Saw joined the University of Queensland Library’s senior management team in 2002 as the Executive Manager of the Dorothy Hill Physical Sciences and Engineering Library. In this position, she has sole responsibility for the Library’s international activities. Previously, she was University Librarian at the Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, Business Librarian at the University of Western Australia, and Campus Library Manager at the Queensland University of Technology. Saw holds a Doctorate in Political History (specializing in contemporary Southeast Asia), a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science, and an MBA from the University of Queensland. —gk

Ann Okerson, Associate University Librarian for Collections and International Programs, and Grace Saw, Visiting Librarian from Australia.
calendar of exhibits

Sterling Memorial Library

*Art Is Where You Find It*
Until April 30, Memorabilia Room

*Class of 1958 50th Reunion Exhibition*
Until July 2008, Memorabilia Room

*The Passover Haggadah*
Until June 26, SML, opposite elevators

*Ibn Khaldun*
Until end of May, Exhibits Corridor

*Joaquim Nabuco at Yale*
Until end of May, SML, opp. Starr Reference Room

*Manuscripts and Archives and New Haven Schools*
June to August, Exhibits Corridor

*Library Staff Association Art Show*
August to September, Exhibits Corridor

Divinity Library

*Missionary Journeys: Stories of Adventure and Peril from the Day Missions Collection*
Until end of July

For more information:
http://www.library.yale.edu/div/exhibits.html

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

There are no exhibitions on view through the summer of 2008, due to building construction. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Please see our Web site at: http://resources.library.yale.edu/online.news.asp for a complete listing of exhibits.

Updated Selector’s Directory

For requests for new materials as well as reference or instruction inquiries, please refer to the current list of the library’s subject specialists at:
http://resources.library.yale.edu/online/selectors.asp

Bookplate from the Irene Dwen Pace Collection, Arts of the Book bookplate collection.

no·ta be·ne  News from the Yale Library