Yale University Library Receives Major Gift from Arcadia

Yale University Library has received a $5 million dollar gift from Arcadia, a United Kingdom-based grant-making fund established in 2001, to make the Library’s important collections of international materials more available through cataloguing and digitization.

Yale University Librarian Alice Prochaska said “This important gift will allow us to make our rare non-English-language materials better known and available through cataloguing, description, and digitization. It will also allow us to continue other important work building and disseminating access to international collections. We are proud of our achievements in supporting the growth of knowledge on international affairs, and deeply grateful for the support and recognition that Arcadia has given us.”

The Yale Library supports teaching and learning in all academic disciplines, with a strong emphasis on area studies including Africa; East Asia; Judaica; Latin America; the Near East; Russia and Eastern Europe; and South and Southeast Asia. It actively collects material from around the world and has one of the largest collections of unique non-English-language materials available anywhere. The Library also supports the work of a number of projects documenting human rights tragedies, most notably the Fortunoff Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies and the Cambodian genocide collection.

Arcadia is a charitable foundation established in 2001. Since its inception, Arcadia has committed more than $181 million in funding to works that protect endangered treasures of culture and nature. These include international projects to digitize endangered languages, archives and artifacts, as well as the protection of ecosystems and environments threatened with extinction. Arcadia seeks to ensure that the scholarly resources created are widely available, both to researchers and more generally. For more information, visit www.arcadiafund.org.uk. –GL, AJP
notes from the university librarian’s blog

Inaugural Africana

Inauguration Day was a day of terrific excitement everywhere, and Yale University Library was no exception. We broadcast the events on a large screen in Sterling Memorial Library, the Beinecke, Haas Family Arts Library, and the Science and Social Science Libraries: not without mishap, because the CNN web site was overloaded and kept breaking up. In the end the BBC saved the day, at least in Sterling. We provided cake frosted in red, white and blue, as well as popcorn, but there was no need of any artificial aids to create a sense of jubilation. When the ceremony reached the point where Yale’s Elizabeth Alexander read her inaugural poem, a special cheer went up.

People were watching the inauguration all over the Yale campus, but the Library’s special contribution was a display of material gathered from Kenya in tribute to our new President. Our African Collection Curator, Dorothy Woodson, and her staff set out a wonderful array of stuff including two t-shirts, a rear-view mirror hanger, a baseball cap, a bottle of “President” beer (it used to be called “Senator” beer), an Obama bumper sticker and badges, a colorful kanga cloth with the new President’s portrait, a DVD entitled “Obama by thy name,” and an assortment of CDs with numerous praise songs to Obama in various African languages such as Luo, Kamba, and Kiswahili. We also displayed a dozen or so newspapers from throughout Africa which celebrated Obama’s election.

It may be a challenge to preserve and catalog the t-shirts, baseball cap and rear-view mirror hanger among the Library’s archival collections, but they will be joining other rare African material that has come into the Library over the years, some very recently, including photographs, postcards, and publications in several hundred African languages that are currently being cataloged with the aid of a special gift from Arcadia, a United Kingdom-based grant-making fund. I suspect these items will not be the last to enter the Library’s African Collections under the subject heading of “Obama, Barack.”—AP

Undergraduate Book Collector Donates $500 to Yale Library

Basie Bales Gitlin, Class of 2010, is the youngest person to win a prize in the annual Collegiate Book-Collecting Championship sponsored by Fine Books & Collections magazine. Gitlin won the second prize of $1000, with an additional $500 being awarded to the Yale University Library. To highlight undergraduate involvement in the Library, the funds will be used to support digitization of the Yale Daily News.

For the past three years, Gitlin has worked as a purchaser for Whitlock’s Book Barn in Bethany, Connecticut, and he credits Mr. Whitlock and Elaine Sargeant (who has worked at the store for more than twenty years) with giving him his book-collecting education. He has also had experience working at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and for the William Reese Company, based in New Haven. However, Gitlin’s passion for books runs in his family. His father, Jay Gitlin, is a lecturer in the History Department at Yale and Associate Director of the Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders. Estimating that his family owns around 25,000 books, Basie recalls family vacations that would involve visits to fifty bookstores in a single week. Says FB&C championship judge Claudia Skelton, the Yale junior “already exhibits many of the characteristics of a knowledgeable collector and bookseller.”—JVV
Yale Libraries Celebrate the Darwin Bicentenary

With a series of special events, Yale has been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (February 12, 1809) and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Sponsored by the Yale Library, along with the Peabody Museum, the Yale Center for British Art, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the Whitney Humanities Center, this year-long commemoration highlights Darwin’s work through lectures, films, exhibitions, and performances.

At Sterling Memorial Library, cases in the nave displayed Darwin’s letters to James Dwight Dana, Silliman Professor of Natural History and Geology at Yale College from 1850 to 1892. These two giants of nineteenth-century science never met, but they maintained a rich correspondence for nearly fifteen years. The exhibition featured thirteen of twenty-three letters written by Darwin to Dana that are held by SML’s Division of Manuscripts and Archives.

Yale’s other libraries are also participating in the Darwin commemoration. The Music Library features an exhibition on Darwin’s ideas about music and its relation to evolution; the Divinity Library explores Christian responses to Darwin; the Kline Science Library showcases books written by Darwin as well as recent scholarship influenced by his work; and the Medical Library surveys Darwin’s career with the exhibition “From Natural Theology to Natural Selection: Celebrating the Darwin Bicentenary.” For more information, please see the Year of Darwin at Yale Web site: http://opa.yale.edu/sp/darwin/. –LS

Post-Doctoral Fellow Studies Epitaphs Beyond the Tomb

Scott Newstok, an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Yale from 2005 to 2007, has authored a book on epitaphs in Renaissance England, much of which was shaped by his time working in the Library’s Special Collections. Newstok’s innovative study, *Quoting Death in Early Modern England: The Poetics of Epitaphs Beyond the Tomb* (Palgrave, 2009), argues that the post-Reformation preoccupation with textual remembrance led to a remarkable proliferation of epitaphs beyond the gravestone. The epitaph was incorporated into other genres by major early modern writers, including Tudor and Stuart monarchs; the dramatists Shakespeare, Marlowe, Kyd, and Tourneur; the historians Holinshed, Stow, Camden, and Weever; and the poets Skelton, More, Jonson, and Donne. By analyzing the sophisticated ways in which these authors used epitaphs, *Quoting Death* contributes to the growing field of historical formalism. During his time at Yale, Newstok worked on the book while also teaching in the English department. –SN

The Library on YouTube

Yale University recently launched its own channel on YouTube and two Library videos are now available through the site. *The Librarians’ Parade* is an engaging black-and-white silent film from July 1930 showing Yale’s librarians ceremonially moving the 1742 Collection from the old library (Dwight Chapel and Linsley-Chittenden Hall) to the recently completed Sterling Memorial Library. Additional footage reveals fascinating glimpses of Sterling as it appeared when it first opened.

*Reading History and Writing Fiction*, a lecture by David McCullough and Penelope Lively, was recorded in May 2008 and is also available as a netcast via iTunes U.

We look forward to adding more Library content soon. For more information: http://www.youtube.com/yaleuniversity –GL
Engineers without Borders Maps a New Water System in Cameroon

Using equipment from the Yale Map Department in Sterling Memorial Library, and Geographic Information Systems/gps training provided by staff in the map department, the Yale Chapter of Engineers without Borders has been helping to design and build water distribution systems in remote areas of Cameroon and Honduras. Most recently, the group brought a 6th and 7th public water facility online in Kikoo Village, Cameroon. gps and gis mapping were used to determine elevations and design gravity-fed systems that depend upon topography to provide safe, clean and dependable water sources for villagers.

The equipment ranged from from basic, consumer-grade gps Handhelds to Window’s Mobile-based high accuracy units, capable of capturing complex spatial datasets. For more information contact GIS Assistant, Stacey Maples, at stacey.maples@yale.edu. –sm

Kikoo villagers with members of Yale’s Engineers without Borders, Kikoo Village, Cameroon.

Music Library — new web presence

At the beginning of January 2009, the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library launched its new website. Webmaster Remi Castonguay modelled the new look on the Digital Collections website which, through its infrastructure based on cascading style sheets, reflects contemporary web development practices. The home page highlights treasures from the Music Library’s collections. Notably, one of the rotating images shows Marshall Bartholomew conducting a “Community Sing” on the Cross Campus Green, Yale University, 1943. The website can be accessed at: http://www.library.yale.edu/musiclib/. Comments and enquiries can be directed to remi.castonguay@yale.edu. –rc

ArtsLink Links Yale and Georgia

In the fall of 2008, the Library hosted a visiting fellow from the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia (NPLG) in Tbilisi. Maia Simonishvili, Leading Specialist in the NPLG’s PR and Cultural Program Department, spent five weeks at Yale under the auspices of CEC ArtsLink, a New York-based organization that supports exchanges of artists and cultural managers between the United States and Eastern and Central Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

CEC was founded in 1962 to enable citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union to accomplish what their governments could not: opening doors, sharing ideas, and building mutual trust. ArtsLink, the United States’ first large-scale program of exchange for artists and arts managers from the former communist countries, was created in 1992 and is funded through public and private sources, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, and the Kettering Fund.

A graduate of Tbilisi State University, where she studied Georgian philology and cultural resource management, Maia worked for ten years as a newspaper and radio journalist, both in her native Georgia and in Germany. At Yale, her main fellowship goal was to find ways for the NPLG to promote its rich holdings through cultural programs and outreach initiatives within Georgia and beyond. Based in the Slavic Reading Room, she familiarized herself with all aspects of library organization and management, particularly in such areas as development of international programs, cooperation with other educational and cultural organizations, digitization of art materials, professional development opportunities for librarians, and grant writing and fundraising. While at Yale, Maia also had the opportunity to attend a Global Resources Network (GRN) forum on Electronic Media and the Preservation of News, held at the New York Public Library. –gk
Iron-gall ink corrosion or decomposition is a significant problem recognized by conservators, curators, archivists and researchers that work with paper-based collections from the late middle ages through the early 20th century. The chemical degradation that causes the characteristic “burning” effect on paper objects has been the subject of considerable conservation research over the last ten to fifteen years. In December of 2008, the Library’s Preservation Department and the Conservation Department of the Yale Center for British Art co-sponsored a master’s study workshop, “The Conservation of Iron-Gall Ink on Paper.”

The three-day workshop brought Julie L. Biggs, Senior Paper Conservator at the Library of Congress, to the Yale campus to lead YUL and YCBA conservators through a series of lectures and practical exercises focused on the history, composition, degradation, examination, and treatment of iron-gall ink on paper. The lectures and practicum offered a unique chance for the conservators from both institutions to compare results, evaluate the efficacy of all treatment options, and share their experiences.

The workshop was an excellent example of the ongoing collaboration between the preservation and conservation staff working to preserve Yale’s rich cultural heritage collections and offered a glimpse of what will be possible in the future with the creation of a shared preservation-conservation facility at West Campus. –CM

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The Library supports Yale’s teaching and learning programs by providing energetic and focused leadership for collaborations among faculty, the Library, and campus experts. These collaborations integrate instructional technologies and the rich collections of information assembled by the Yale University Library. As a part of these efforts, the Library Research Education Program supports the development of information and technology fluency in Yale undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and staff. The program provides over 1,700 group instructional sessions and nearly 90,000 individual consultations every year, and it continually seeks to improve the ways that faculty teach and students learn to navigate information resources. At present, over 70 librarians, curators, archivists, and other library staff are engaged in research education activities across the Library. In order to provide strategic direction for these activities, the Library recently developed a three-year research education program plan. To learn more about the plan and the Library Research Education Program, please visit http://www.library.yale.edu/researcheducation. –BR

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In October 2007, a group of archivists from Manuscripts and Archives and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library launched the Family and Community Archives Project (FCAP) at Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School, a creative and performing arts magnet school in New Haven. Part of Yale’s efforts to reach out to its community, the project introduced 113 juniors to the archives profession by training them to be archivists of their own families or local organizations.

The Yale archivists developed lesson plans for eight weeks of classes (available at http://fcap.pbwiki.com) on such topics as conducting oral histories, understanding the uses of archival material, and basic preservation techniques. As they put their lessons into practice, the students discovered extraordinary stories and materials. Some could trace their lineage back to the Mayflower; others documented more recent journeys from Laos, Peru, and Russia. FCAP became a generational — continued next page
Yale Librarians Honored for Contributions to the Profession

Two Yale librarians have recently been honored by their peers by election to office in an international professional organization and inclusion in a list of innovative librarians.

Ann Okerson, Associate University Librarian for Collections and International Programs, has been elected Chair of Division II (Library Collections) of the (www.ifla.org) the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. Division II focuses on specific types of information and materials such as rare books, serials, newspapers, and government publications, as well as services such as reference and interlibrary loan.

IFLA's five division chairs also serve as members of the Governing Board, the elected body responsible for the Association's managerial and professional direction. Founded in 1927, IFLA is the global voice of the library and information profession. Okerson came to Yale in 1996 following a career in academic library management, the commercial sector, and as Senior Program Officer at the (www.arl.org).

Joe Murphy, Science Librarian and Coordinator of Instruction & Technology at the Kline Science Library, has been named one of Library Journal's 2009 Movers and Shakers. Movers and Shakers is an annual Library Journal feature that identifies "librarians, vendors, and others who are shaping the future of libraries." A self-identifying "Millennial and digital native who lives in online social networks," Murphy was identified as a trend spotter who has developed and promoted Web 2.0 services and technologies in Yale's Science Libraries, including an iPhone-based text messaging reference service. This is the first time that a Yale librarian has been included in the Movers and Shakers feature. Murphy has been at the University since 2007 and completed his master's degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Publicizing Project AMEEL

Yale University Library and the American Association of Teachers of Arabic co-sponsored a five-day digitalization workshop at the annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) in Washington, DC, on November 23, 2008. Supported by funding from the Library and the U.S. Department of Education, the workshop represented one of the goals of Project AMEEL (Arabic and Middle Eastern Electronic Library).

The workshop gave attendees essential information about the digitization of Arabic text materials. Simon Samoeil, curator of the Near East Collection, and Elizabeth Beaudin, AMEEL Project Manager, gave presentations that covered such topics as text selection, copyright concerns, and staffing. Attendees also learned about the conversion of scanned images to searchable Arabic text and saw a demonstration of the AMEEL repository, which holds full-text digital copies of scholarly journals from the Middle East.

Additionally, the team organized a panel at the MESA conference to discuss the AMEEL project from various professional perspectives. Professor Ahmad Dallal, Chair of the Arabic Department at Georgetown University, chaired the panel; Simon Samoeil offered a curatorial perspective; Steve Schlosser of NovoDynamics Inc. presented technical and commercial topics; Joed Elich, an acquisitions editor at Brill Publishers, commented on the publishing aspects of the project; and Elizabeth Beaudin discussed technical and management issues.

Getting Ready for Census 2010

As part of the preparations for the 2010 U.S. Census, Stacey Maples, GIS Assistant in the Yale Map Department at Sterling Memorial Library, has just completed the 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program. Using new Census Bureau guidelines, Stacey has performed a review of all census tracts, block groups and census designated places (CDPs) for New Haven County, Connecticut. All boundary entities were evaluated for conformance to minimum and maximum population and housing thresholds, as well as the geometric properties of their shape. Those boundary entities not conforming to new guidelines have been split or merged (and in some cases, reapportioned, altogether) to create new entries that fall within the new criteria.

The newly delineated census boundaries will be inserted into the Master Address File (MAF)/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) Database, or MTDB. This participation continues a long history of Yale involvement in the development of computerized mechanisms for use in the census enumeration. In 1967, Yale graduate Don Cooke participated in the New Haven Census Use Project, which was created to explore ways to use digital technology to improve the Census and its product. The Dual Independent
Introducing the University Librarian’s Development Council

Formed in the spring of 2008, the University Librarian’s Development Council brings together a group of distinguished Yale alumni and friends of Yale who have a demonstrated commitment to the vision and goals of the Yale University Library system. William H. Wright (’82) a Managing Director of Morgan Stanley & Co, Inc. in New York City, is the Chair of the Council, working closely with University Librarian, Alice Prochaska. The aim of the Council is to provide support for the Yale Library through strategic introductions, networking with individuals and foundations and facilitating regional events in order to help the Library realize its full potential as one of the world’s leading research institutions. Council members are essentially at the core of the Library’s development efforts, serving as its ambassadors in their spheres of influence. The Council meet twice a year in the spring and fall.

Several of the council members have already hosted fundraising events for the Library in Boston, Washington DC and New York City. Events are being planned for this calendar year in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, PA and in London. —AJP

For information about funding opportunities at the Library, please visit the new library development web site at www.library.yale.edu/development.

THE LIBRARY today

trustee’s corner

Frederick Berg ’66, Yale Library Associate

Fred Berg (’66, Saybrook) arrived at Yale as a freshman in the fall of 1962. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, he had never before traveled east of Indiana. On his second day in New Haven, Fred took a tour of the Yale campus, including Sterling Memorial Library. When the student tour guide casually pointed out a glass case containing an original Gutenberg Bible, Fred realized that this was indeed a very special place.

Fred majored in history and also took German language and literature courses. As a senior, he worked as the part-time librarian of the Palmer-Schreiber German Library. He spent many hours studying in his hideaway on level 7–M in the Sterling stacks and in the more comfortable Linonia & Brothers room. His senior essay, “Slavery in Missouri and Why Secession Efforts Failed,” was largely researched and written in the Sterling stacks.

Today Fred is a lawyer in New York City, specializing in international business transactions. Reading and research continue to be an important part of his life. Fred became a Trustee of the Yale Library Associates in 2005, and his own library contains historical works, maps, and fiction, including a collection of mystery and espionage novels. —RM

The dime approach was the predecessor of all topologically integrated mapping systems, and makes service’s like Google’s address geocoding possible. —SM

Map Encoding (dime) system of encoding topology (directionality, adjacency, etc.) into digital representations of census geographies and street networks was a direct result of Cooke’s work.
no·ta be·ne  News from the Yale Library

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

calendar of exhibits

Sterling Memorial Library

Treasures: Beautiful and Surprising Finds from the Digitization Project at Yale
Through end of August, Opposite Starr Main Ref. Rm.

DIY: Instructions from the Archives
Through end of May, Memorabilia Room

The Art of the Ketubah: A Study in Jewish Diversity
Through end of June, Exhibits Corridor

Franco-Belgian Comics
May–July, Card Catalog Gallery

Arabic Lithography
April–June, Opposite Stack Elevators

The Utopian Impulse
June–August, Memorabilia Room

Islamic Architecture
July–August, Exhibits Corridor

Centennial of the Whiffenpoofs
July–October, Rotating Locations in SML

Charles Sheffey, Medical Missionary to the Congo, 1922–1942
June–September

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

Kline Science Library

Charles Robert Darwin, Feb 12, 1809–April 19, 1882
Through April 30

The Lewis Walpole Library

French Liberty, British Slavery, British Responses to the French Revolution
April through end of August

The Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library

See http://www.med.yale.edu/library/ for details of upcoming exhibits.

Divinity Library

Christian Responses to Darwin
Through end of April

Working for Freedom in Southern Africa
Through end of May

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