“Voices of American Music” puts OHAM in the Spotlight

Perlis Awarded Sanford Medal

A unique multi-media concert, “Voices of American Music: A Tribute to OHAM,” was presented by the Yale School of Music on April 6 and 8 in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Oral History of American Music. At the April 6 performance in Sprague Hall, Dean Robert Blocker of the School of Music awarded the Sanford Medal, the School’s highest honor, to OHAM’s Founder and Director Vivian Perlis for her four decades of pioneering work in collecting, archiving, and sharing oral histories of American composers. An audience of Chamber Music Society series subscribers, members of the Yale community, and OHAM interviewees, friends, and supporters warmly honored Perlis with a standing ovation. Previous recipients of the Sanford Medal include composer Aaron Copland, whose biography Perlis co-authored, and clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, who was featured in the evening’s performance.

Two nights later, as part of the Yale in New York series, the same program was performed in Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall. The audience included composers Steve Reich and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, whose work was performed during the concert, as well as other luminaries from the composition world and many young composers, all eager to honor the legacy of those who have shaped and defined modern American music.

The New York concert was favorably reviewed by Anthony Tomasin of the New York Times, as well as by blogger and critic George Grella, who, on his blog The Big City, called the performance “part concert, part celebration … a great program of music and memories.” “Voices of American Music” also garnered the attention of National Public Radio; on April 12 NPR aired a feature story by Lara Pellegrinelli, who visited OHAM days before the concerts, interviewing Perlis, and touring the collection. Sedgwick Clark of www.musicalamerica.com noted that, while the concerts were a tribute to OHAM, “we all know who is most deserving of our tribute.” Referring to Perlis, Sedgwick wrote, “She has been, and remains, simply, the American composer’s best friend.” –AR

Nota Bene Goes Digital

After 24 printed issues, Nota Bene has transitioned to an online publication and will be available to readers via its new web site: www.library.yale.edu/notabene. To receive an automatic update when new issues are published, visit the web site and register for the RSS feed. –GL
Frank Turner Appointed Interim University Librarian

Frank M. Turner, the John Hay Whitney Professor of History and Director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library since 2003, has been appointed Interim University Librarian. Turner, a former Provost of the University, took up this acting role in January 2010. In announcing the appointment in October 2009, President Richard C. Levin noted that Turner has been an “effective leader of the Beinecke, building collections and launching numerous initiatives.” A search for a new University Librarian is underway and a committee, chaired by Professor Pericles Lewis of the Departments of English and Comparative Literature, has been formed to advise the President. –GL

Yale University Library Celebrates 150 Years as a Government Documents Depository

Yale University Library is celebrating its 150th anniversary as a depository for United States federal government documents. John Woodruff (1826–1868), U.S. Representative from Connecticut, designated Yale College a repository for public documents in 1859 and the records of the second session of the 35th Congress of the United States were sent to New Haven in July, 1860.

Over the succeeding fifteen decades, Yale has continued to build its collection of federal government documents by participating in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP), which is administered by the U.S. Government Printing Office. FDLP provides government documents at no cost to designated depository libraries across the country and in American territories, as well as to selected libraries overseas. In turn, these libraries provide free public access to their depository collections.

The Library is marking this anniversary year with a major accomplishment: the cataloging of the entire federal depository collection in Orbis, the Library’s online catalog. Until now, only documents from 1976 onwards were cataloged, meaning that much of the collection was accessible only through complicated print indexes. “Yale’s U.S. federal depository collection is used by students and faculty studying a wide range of subjects including history, political science, art and architecture, science, and medicine,” said Frank M. Turner, the John Hay Whitney Professor of History and Interim University Librarian. “The completion of an ambitious project to catalog the entire collection has made many thousands of items available to researchers and will greatly enhance access and benefit scholarship.”

All items in the depository collection, which number nearly a half-million volumes, can now be found in the online catalog and requested for delivery to libraries across the campus. Yale will also share these online records with other libraries so that they can identify and catalog items in their own collections. Senior essays based on research done in the federal depository collection are also eligible for consideration for the Harvey M. Applebaum ’59 Award, which has been given since 2008.

For more information about the U.S. federal documents depository collection at Yale, contact Julie Linden, Government Information Librarian, at julie.linden@yale.edu or (203) 432-3310. –JL

How to Make a Penny at the Denver Mint (Washington, DC: GPO, 1971) from the collection of the GDIC.
Cataloguing Project Successfully Completed

In December 2009 the Donohue Group, Inc. (DGI) of Windsor, Connecticut, a provider of contract services to libraries, museums, and archives, completed a project started in October 2008 to catalog and barcode the government documents collection in the Government Documents & Information Center (GDIC) at the Seeley G. Mudd Library, processing a total of 633,175 items.

To facilitate the project, the GDIC reading room was refitted to accommodate thirty computer workstations for DGI staff to process the material. Catalog records were either created or upgraded for all titles in the collection and holdings information was reconciled. Library staff provided their expertise to answer questions and resolve problems, making invaluable contributions in helping to facilitate the project.

While the majority of the materials in the GDIC were accessible through preliminary catalog records and various finding aids, the completeness of the records needed to be upgraded to meet the requirements for eventual transfer out of the Mudd Library building. More importantly, enhanced records improve access and open up the resources in this rich collection to researchers at Yale and beyond. These enhancements were illustrated by the increased number of requests for government documents which jumped nearly 70% in November 2009 from that of the previous November as additional documents became available in Orbis, the Library’s online catalog.

Though the collection is comprised primarily of United States documents disseminated through the Federal Depository Library Program, it also includes material issued from the depository programs of the Canadian federal government, the European Union, and the United Nations. In addition, collections issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency were also cataloged. Much of this material had never been adequately represented in Orbis or in the Online Computer Library Center database (OCLC), the central storehouse of bibliographic holdings information that serves some 71,000 libraries in the U.S. and internationally. –rs

Sue Roberts: An Appreciation

Susanne F. Roberts, Librarian for Western European, Ancient, and Commonwealth History, Coordinator of Humanities Collections, and the founding editor of Nota Bene, retired at the end of March after nearly 32 years of extraordinary service to the Library and University. Sue came to the Library in 1978 with a PhD in History from Harvard University. Her doctoral work in French medieval history coupled with a strong background in European history quickly helped her become an excellent bibliographer and selector as well as an outstanding liaison to the History Department and Medieval Studies Program.

Sue’s commitment and energy are legendary. She developed one of the best Western European history collections in the country, notably in the area of primary resources. Her knowledge of collection development policies and practices, especially in the humanities, made her an indispensable source of information for colleagues throughout the Library. In fact, Sue served as a mentor to many of the Library’s humanities selectors, past and present, and she parlayed her prodigious knowledge of Yale’s collections into a number of Library exhibitions while also skillfully editing Nota Bene for 20 years. She has also been active in the professional and scholarly communities, notably in the Western European Specialists Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries and the Medieval Academy of America, and she has served as a panelist and grants reviewer for several divisions within the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sue’s most important achievement — and the one she is most proud of — is her work with students and faculty. She possesses an inexhaustible intellectual curiosity about research materials in all formats and the tools needed to conduct excellent research. Paul Kennedy, the J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History, recently noted: “I have interacted with Sue for the past 27 years, and I cannot measure how great my debt is to her for her collegiality, cheerfulness, and professional advice. During those years I have sent hundreds and hundreds of my History juniors, seniors and graduate students to Sue, to get advice, to be introduced to the magnificent resources of Sterling, sometimes even to ask her to order microfilms of new materials. She has been an incredible contributor to Yale’s scholarly achievements and, on behalf of all my advisees, I salute her.”

Sue was — and remains — the epitome of what a subject specialist librarian should be: a scholar, an excellent selector, a research partner for students and faculty, and a great colleague. –rs

THE LIBRARY tomorrow

For information about funding opportunities at the Library, please visit the new library development web site at www.library.yale.edu/development.
Yale Acquires Photographer Lee Friedlander’s Archive and Master Prints

The Yale University Art Gallery and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library together have acquired the Lee Friedlander Archive, which includes 2,000 of the photographer’s master prints as well as negatives, working prints, letters, books and other articles cataloging his creative process and output.

With this acquisition, Yale University becomes home to the largest archive of material produced by one of America’s most celebrated and prolific photographers.

“We have been particularly pleased to work so closely with the Beinecke Library to secure this monumental acquisition,” noted Jock Reynolds, the Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Yale University Art Gallery. “Together, the Friedlander Archive and master prints form an unmatched resource for those interested in the life and work of one of photography’s most ambitious masters.”

Selected from Friedlander’s past two decades of work, the master prints — 1,800 of which will reside at the Yale Art Gallery — include examples of every image published in Friedlander’s monographs of new work since 1996. The archive, housed at the Beinecke along with a smaller group of master prints of Western landscapes, includes all of the photographer’s negatives, contact sheets, journals, monographs, correspondence, books featuring his images and preliminary work prints corresponding to Yale’s master prints.

Born in 1934 in Aberdeen, Washington, Friedlander began his deep engagement with photography as a teenager. He studied photography at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and moved to New York in the mid-1950s to begin his career taking portraits of jazz musicians for record covers. In the 1960s, he emerged as one of the leading “street” photographers of his time, influenced by such pioneers of the genre as Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Eugene Arget and Garry Winogrand. His signature black-and-white images from this period often explore social and cultural subjects through their reflection on shiny surfaces — storefront windows, rear-view car mirrors and TV screens, among them — and helped to broaden public appreciation of the compelling power of photography as an art form.

Since 1970, Friedlander has also directed his creative energies to the printed page, conceiving and supervising the production of over 30 distinct monographs to date.

Among other honors, he has been the recipient of multiple Guggenheim Fellowships, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography. Friedlander received an honorary doctorate from Yale in 2004, and his work was the subject of a major traveling retrospective organized by the Museum of Modern Art in 2005.

“Friedlander’s pictures from the past two decades playfully exploit the medium’s still-thrilling ability to create fresh and unexpected relationships out of the things we see every day,” observes Joshua Chuang, the Yale Art Gallery’s Assistant Curator of Photographs. “Even if you think you’ve seen it all, they make it easy to become ecstatic about the possibilities of photography all over again.”

At the core of the Beinecke’s Friedlander Archive are more than 40,000 rolls of film and associated contact sheets representing the artist’s creative output since the mid-1950s, including his wide-ranging portrait, landscape and still-life work. Also included are a vast array of the photographer’s preliminary explorations in the darkroom, materials that demonstrate the artist’s rigorous editing and proofing process from negative to finished print.

“We are excited that Friedlander’s work will join the library’s extensive collections of works by American photographers, including Carleton Watkins, Timothy O’Sullivan, Alfred Stieglitz, Carl Van Vechten, David Plowden, Carl Mydans, and Eve Arnold, and pleased that we could collaborate with the gallery to create an unprecedented resource for scholarship about one of America’s foremost visual artists,” notes George Miles, the William Robertson Coe Curator of the Collection of Western Americana at the Beinecke Library.

Founded in 1832, the Yale University Art Gallery has more than 185,000 objects in its collections, spanning the globe and ranging in date from ancient times to the present. In addition to its celebrated collections of American paintings and decorative arts, the gallery is noted for its important holdings of Greek and Roman art, early Italian paintings, later European art, Asian art, African art, art of the ancient Americas, Impressionist, modern and contemporary works.

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is Yale University’s principal repository for literary papers and for early manuscripts and rare books in the fields of literature, theology, history and the natural sciences. In addition to its general collection of rare books and manuscripts, the library houses the Yale Collection of American Literature, the Yale Collection of German Literature, the Yale Collection of Western Americana, and the Osborn Collection. –DB

Library Helps Yale Mark 40 Years of Coeducation

A small exhibition in the Sterling Memorial Library’s Memorabilia Room helped mark the fortieth anniversary of coeducation at Yale. Drawn from the collections in Manuscripts and Archives, the exhibition explored the timeline leading up to coeducation, the first day on campus for female undergraduates, residential and social life, women’s athletics, and the impact of coeducation four decades later.

The exhibition was organized by Kelly Barrick, Coordinator of Reference and Instruction and Librarian for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Psychology at the Social Science Library, in conjunction with the WGSS & LGBT Studies Anniversaries Conference. –GL
The Bloodroot Collective grew out of a women’s cooperative exchange hosted by Miriam in her Westport, Connecticut, home in the mid-1970s. The collective opened Bloodroot, a vegetarian restaurant and feminist bookstore, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in March 1977. In the 1970s and 1980s the restaurant was a hub for feminists and lesbians and hosted many performers and writers including Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Mary Daly, Kay Gardner, Chrystos, and Dorothy Allison. In 1980 the Collective organized a feminist press, Sanguinaria, to publish The Political Palate, one of the first cookbooks to advocate seasonal recipes and cuisine. Today, Bloodroot is an iconic bookstore, vegetarian restaurant, and feminist space.

The records include correspondence, writings, and creative works by Collective members and other feminist thinkers; oral histories of Selma and Noel; photographs by Noel documenting Bloodroot activities; and legal, financial, and promotional records and ephemera of the bookstore and restaurant.

The Bloodroot Collective records are part of a growing collection of primary source material in Manuscripts and Archives documenting gender and sexuality at the local, national, and international levels. A description of the Bloodroot Collective Records is available at: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fal/mssa.ms.1955.

--MC

Chopin, Schumann Honored at Gilmore Music Library

Frédéric Chopin was born on March 1, 1810, and the Gilmore Music Library is celebrating his birthday with an exhibition entitled “Hats Off, Gentlemen, a Genius”: Chopin at 200. The son of a French father and a Polish mother, Chopin was a native of Poland, but left Warsaw shortly before the unsuccessful revolution of 1830, and he spent most of his adult life in France, where he performed, taught, and composed a long series of masterpieces, nearly all of them for solo piano. On view from March through May, 2010, the exhibition features the manuscript of the F Minor Polonaise (Op. 71, no. 3), a letter Chopin wrote a few months before his untimely death in 1849, and a set of his piano exercises in the hand of his sister. It includes a variety of other treasures, such as early printed editions, engravings, a concert program of Hans von Bülow performing Chopin in New Haven in 1875, and even a postage stamp bearing Chopin’s likeness. In the century and half since Chopin’s death, his melodies have been repurposed in many ways, and several of them are seen in the exhibition: a sentimental Victorian song in manuscript, the colorful sheet music of the Tin Pan Alley hit “I’m Always Chasing Rainbows,” Eddie Sauter’s arrangement of that song for Benny Goodman’s big band, and a ballet (choreographed by Jerome Robbins) that used Hershy Kay’s orchestral versions of a dozen pieces by Chopin. The exhibition’s title is drawn from the famous article in which Robert Schumann introduced the young Polish composer to a German audience in 1831; that review is also on display. “Hats Off, Gentlemen, a Genius” can also be viewed online at: http://www.library.yale.edu/musiclib/exhibits/chopin.

Born just three months after Chopin, Robert Schumann (1810–1856) naturally follows Chopin on the Music Library’s calendar as well, with an exhibition called Robert Schumann: Composer, Critic, and Correspondent. A central figure in the romantic movement in Germany, Schumann concentrated on piano music in the early phase of his career, but eventually came to excel in genres ranging from the song to the symphony. Perhaps the most important music journalist of his era, Schumann edited an influential journal and wrote reviews heralding the arrival of not only Chopin, but also the 20-year-old Johannes Brahms. Clara Wieck Schumann (1819–1896), Robert’s wife, was one of the greatest pianists of the century, and a notable composer as well. The exhibition will include music manuscripts and letters by both Robert and Clara Schumann, early printed editions and engravings, and Robert’s most famous reviews. It also features the manuscript of a piano piece by Brahms, given to Clara on her wedding anniversary. The exhibition will be on display from June through August, and will also be available online, at http://www.library.yale.edu/musiclib/exhibits/schumann.

--RB

Records of Bloodroot Collective Donated to Manuscripts and Archives

The records of the Bloodroot Collective, an important feminist work collective formed in Connecticut in 1977, have been donated to the University Library’s Department of Manuscripts and Archives by collective members Selma Miriam and Noel Furie. Miriam and Furie have also donated their personal papers to the Library.


The Bloodroot Collective records are part of a growing collection of primary source material in Manuscripts and Archives documenting gender and sexuality at the local, national, and international levels. A description of the Bloodroot Collective Records is available at: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fal/mssa.ms.1955.

--MC
Five hundred years after Johannes Gutenberg ushered in a technological revolution with the production of the first book using movable type, the Beinecke Library has adopted another transformative technology — cell phones and mobile devices — to inform and teach visitors about Yale University's copy of the Gutenberg Bible along with other library materials exhibited throughout the building.

Since the Beinecke opened in 1963, library treasures such as the Gutenberg Bible and John James Audubon’s oversize volumes of *Birds of America* have been on permanent public display. Additionally, the library’s rotating exhibition cases display hundreds of rare and unique books, manuscripts, and objects. But with only a small security staff on hand to guide the roughly 100,000 annual visitors, the modern mobile equivalent of the museum headphone audio tour turned out to be an ideal outreach solution for the library’s exhibition spaces.

To offer these cell phone tours, the Beinecke contracted with Guide By Cell, a San Francisco-based company that provides tours for over six hundred clients, including museums and universities. Other library customers include the Library of Congress, the Beinecke Library, and the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library.

### Divinity Library Acquisitions Document Christianity in Tibet and Nepal

The Yale Divinity Library recently acquired four substantial collections that document development work and religious activity in Nepal and Tibet: the archives of the United Mission to Nepal, Nepal Church History Project, International Nepal Fellowship, and Central Asia Fellowship. Online finding aids are now available for the first two of these collections.

The portfolio of forty posters for The United Mission to Nepal (UMN) has supported medical services, education, skills training, engineering, industry, hydro power development, agriculture, and rural development in Nepal from the mid-1950s, mainly in the central and western development regions of the country. Detailed records document initiatives such as the Rural Development Centre established in Pokhara in 1981. This center provided consultancy and training in animal health and husbandry, horticulture, forestry, drinking water systems, organizational development, and training of trainers. Another area of focus for the UMN has been specialized health programs related to mental health, nutrition, oral health, rehabilitation of the disabled, tuberculosis, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

The Nepal Church History Project began in 1985 as an initiative by local church leaders to research and collect materials relevant to the history of Christianity among the Nepali peoples. The objective of the Project was to preserve, maintain, and update a comprehensive, organized documentary record of the Nepali Church from its inception, and to make available documents and information as appropriate to researchers. Because of political disruptions in Nepal, it was considered wise to house the original archives in the West. Substantive portions of the documents and photographs in the archives have been digitized in order to make them more available to researchers worldwide. –ms

### New Group Study Space Opens in Medical Library

Given the transition from print to e-journals, use of the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library’s photocopy room has declined greatly over the past several years. When staff considered the need for more student study space, the centrally located photocopy room seemed like an ideal candidate for repurposing. A generous gift from Sara Wilford, Dr. Harvey Cushing’s granddaughter, provided the funding to renovate the room, which was divided into three study areas. Two small rooms have large tables and chairs, a 46˝ wall-mounted LCD monitor with Internet connection, sound, HDMI (High-Definition Multi-media Interface for transmitting digital data), and video. The larger room has ten comfortable chairs with laptop tableaux, and a fully connected 52˝ wall-mounted monitor. The rooms, which opened in February, are in constant use by second-year medical students who are studying for the Medical Licensure Examination which they take in the summer. –ls

### Mobile Technologies at the Beinecke

An example from the Beinecke Library’s new cell phone guided tour.
the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the Dartmouth College Library. In the past year, Yale faculty, alumni, and staff have contributed over twenty recordings related to topics as far ranging as Harry Potter, the Sex Pistols, Modernist architecture, and Sir Isaac Newton’s thoughts on alchemy. During this time, over 2,700 cell phone calls have been made overall, with over 1,200 to the Gutenberg Bible tour alone. And you certainly don’t need to have a cell phone to listen to the recordings. Simply dial (203) 672-4380 and enter the following numbers from your office or home:
1 #: Architecture of the Beinecke Library, Robert A.M. Stern, Dean of the Yale School of Architecture
2 #: Gutenberg Bible, Dr. William Whobrey, Lecturer in Germanic Languages and Literatures
3 #: Birds of America, Antiquarian bookseller William Reese, Yale Class of 1977

New York Times Sports Editor Visits Manuscripts and Archives

Do Nota Bene readers know that the Yale mascot got his name from taking a bath? Or, that Notre Dame once asked legendary Yale football coach, Walter Camp, for advice on how to play the game? Or that the legendary University of Chicago football coach, Amos Alonzo Stagg, was a “Yale man,” and had a hand in popularizing the game of basketball? On a recent visit to Manuscripts and Archives by Tom Jolly, Sports Editor for The New York Times and Ellen M. Iseman, ’76, a member of the University Librarian’s Development Council, Chief Research Archivist Judith Ann Schiff interpreted a treasure trove of sports history and memorabilia and shared many engaging facts and stories. The group also viewed a Tiffany trophy and dinner invitations in the shape of footballs, and a selection of early Yale football programs. Jolly’s visit to Yale also included a Master’s Tea at Davenport College.

Preservation Department In Newly Renovated Spaces

The Library’s Preservation Department has recently completed a successful renovation of its facilities and spaces in Sterling Memorial Library. Notable improvements in workflow and efficiencies are anticipated as a result of this project, undertaken over several months, to reorganize the workspaces, create new space for shared access to equipment, and upgrade lighting, electrical power, and data lines.

General Collections Conservation (GCC) moved from Room B-18 to Room B-5 to take advantage of an existing sink area, an improved layout, and brighter lighting. Special Collections Conservation (SCC) moved its housings and exhibit preparation work into Room B-5 and created larger space for photographic documentation work. SCC’s primary treatment laboratory on the 1MB stack floor was also renovated. This work centered on increasing work surfaces, improving object storage, and revamping the wet treatment facilities. Reformatting and Media Preservation reconfigured their layout to better reflect the nature of their current work and to anticipate new work streams such as audio format conversion.

Preservation Department staff have invited their Library colleagues to view the renovated space and learn more about the Department’s services through its regularly scheduled series of tours which will begin this July.

Library Implements Skills Inventory

The Library’s Staff Training and Organizational Development Committee (STOD), in partnership with Library Human Resources, recently launched a new skills inventory to help staff take advantage of growth opportunities and training and to ensure a flexible workforce and working environment. The inventory was introduced to the Library in January 2010 and will be used to capture information pertaining to each employee’s education, knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience. It will be administered on an annual basis and each time a new employee is hired. The data captured is modeled on that which Central Human Resources is beginning to compile as part of the University’s Talent Planning Process. This proactive approach to gathering information will facilitate the Library’s eventual inclusion in the University’s Talent Planning Process.

STOD designed the inventory with end users in mind, keeping the content simple and the time commitment to a minimum. The inventory consists of a combination of 35 forced choice and free text items in a Microsoft SharePoint environment.
trustee’s corner

Founded in 1930 by an eminent group of bibliophiles, the Yale Library Associates provide support and visibility for Yale’s libraries. Their forty-member Board of Trustees includes Ellen M. Iseman, the focus of this Trustee’s Corner.

Ellen M. Iseman ’76, Yale Library Associate and Member of the University Librarian’s Development Council

Ellen M. Iseman ’76, a Trustee of the Yale Library Associates and a member of the University Librarian’s Development Council, is an honors graduate of Yale College and recipient of Yale’s Bildner Prize in Spanish Language and Hispanic Literature. She received a master’s degree from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs in public administration, with a focus on international economic policy. She speaks French and Spanish; has studied Portuguese and Japanese; and worked in more than 15 countries as Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Communications at American Express Company and as president of Issues Management International, a New York-based communications consulting firm she founded. She has written more than 30 articles for publication, including two pieces this past year for The New York Times, as well as op-eds for the The Wall Street Journal, and is currently working on a number of her own projects relating to foreign policy issues.

Iseman serves on the boards of the New York Society Library, the Yale Club of New York City, CEC International Partners, Signature Theatre Company, and has been active in the Democratic Party, having attended five Conventions in official capacities. Upon graduation from Yale, Ellen worked on the National Security Council Transition staff in the Carter administration and in the State Department’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Ellen is a widow raising an 11-year-old son. Her late husband was a graduate of Yale Law School and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. –AP, KH

Exhibit Showcases Medieval Fragments Found in Law Books

Nearly one hundred and fifty early printed books in the Yale Law Library have bindings that incorporate visible pieces of medieval manuscript. A number of these are featured in the latest exhibit from the library’s Rare Book Collection, Reused, Rebound, Recovered: Medieval Manuscript Fragments in Law Book Bindings. The exhibit is on display through May in the Lillian Goldman Law Library.

“In 15th- and 16th-century Europe, recycling was second nature,” write the curators. “Bookbinders, for their part, cut apart discarded medieval manuscripts and reused the strong, flexible and expensive parchment in their bindings. These scraps reveal information about the distribution and popularity of medieval texts, the evolution of scripts, and the history of printing and binding. A precious few of them preserve the only surviving fragments of long-lost texts.”

The exhibit reflects the diversity of medieval material in the Law Library’s bindings. These include numerous Bible and liturgical manuscripts, some with early forms of musical notation. Four of the law books contain legal texts in their bindings. Other types of manuscripts include a sermon, a fragment of Cicero and two Hebrew manuscripts.

One of the fragments is the oldest item in the Law Library’s collection, dating from around 975–1075. “While most of the fragments are identified and tentatively dated, a couple remain mysteries,” note the organizers.

The exhibit coincided with the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, March 18-20 at Yale.

The exhibit was curated by Benjamin Youse-Hindes, a doctoral candidate at Stanford University, and Mike Widener, Rare Book Librarian at the Lillian Goldman Law Library.

The Rare Books Exhibition Gallery is located in the lower level of the Lillian Goldman Law Library (Level L2), directly in front of the Paskus-Danziger Rare Book Reading Room. For those unable to visit the exhibit in person, it will appear in installments on the Yale Law Library Rare Books Blog, at http://blogs.law.yale.edu/blog/rarebooks. –MW
The Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library has received a significant and generous gift of hand bookbindings from Sarah Valentine Nerber, daughter of bookbinder Mary Ellet Kendall Valentine and James A. Valentine. Ms. Nerber donated the collection in honor of her father, a member of the Yale Class of 1902.

Mary Ellet Kendall Valentine and her sister, Sarah Ellet Kendall, traveled to England in the early years of the twentieth century to study bookbinding with T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, proprietor of the Doves Press and Doves Bindery. Cobden-Sanderson founded the Doves Bindery in 1893 and it produced over one thousand bindings before closing in 1922. The bindings were mainly designed by Cobden-Sanderson and executed by professional binders. An early supporter of women’s rights, Cobden-Sanderson took a young American woman as his first pupil in 1895 at a time when it was unusual to find a woman working in the bookbinding trade. His political sympathies led him to train a series of female students and his only requirement was that they dedicate a year to learning the art and skill of bookbinding.

The Kendall sisters trained with Cobden-Sanderson from 1907 to 1909 and on returning to America they opened the Golden Bindery in the Fine Arts Building in Chicago. Sadly, Sarah Kendall died a few years later. Her sister Mary Ellet Kendall married James A. Valentine in 1910 and continued to produce bindings into the 1920s.

The Valentine Collection consists of full leather bindings with gold-stamped decorations that showcase both the technical and design skills of Mary Valentine and Sarah Kendall. The intricate patterns are influenced by their Arts and Crafts training, yet also show a tendency toward Art Deco and other modern influences. The collection includes bindings executed jointly by the sisters, as well as solo work by Mary Valentine. Many of the bound books were gifts to the sisters from Cobden-Sanderson and are inscribed. The 23 bindings in the collection are in exquisite condition and are the best examples of fine binding by a single artist in the Arts of the Book Collection, part of the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections.

For more information on the Valentine Collection or the Haas Family Arts Library Special Collections, contact Jae Rossman at jae.rossman@yale.edu or (203) 432-4439.

—JR

This bookbinding featuring gold-stamped decorations was executed by Mary Ellet Kendall Valentine.

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