MAKING THE MEDIEVAL ENGLISH MANUSCRIPT: THE TAKAMIYA COLLECTION IN THE BEINECKE LIBRARY

The most impressive collection of medieval English manuscripts previously in private hands will be on exhibition for the first time in the United States at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library from Friday, September 1, through Sunday, December 10. Four Chaucer manuscripts, numerous devotional rolls, and works as varied as Boethius’s *Consolation of Philosophy*, Langland’s *Piers the Plowman*, and a Middle English medical manuscript—all from the collection of Toshiyuki Takamiya, a generous scholar and collector—will be shown in the context of the Beinecke’s own rich holdings of English and Continental manuscripts.

With a rare combination of scholarly and antiquarian expertise, Professor Emeritus Takamiya of Keio University in Tokyo assembled an unrivaled collection of medieval manuscripts over four decades. Held privately in Japan, the collection had been relatively unstudied in the West, and Professor Takamiya’s generous deposit of these manuscripts at the Beinecke Library in 2013 made a significant contribution to medieval scholarship at Yale University and internationally.

The fall 2017 exhibition celebrates and showcases these medieval manuscripts, now permanently part of the Beinecke collections, and demonstrates how they combine with the library’s existing holdings to make the Beinecke a vital center for scholars, students, and the public to engage with medieval English literature, history, and manuscript culture.

Exhibition curators are Raymond Clemens, Diane Ducharme, Eric Ensley, Gina Hurley, Alexandra Reider, Joseph Stadolnik, and Emily Ulrich.

WALPOLOOZA—HORACE WALPOLE AT 300!

To mark the tercentenary of the birth of Horace Walpole (1717–1797), English author, antiquarian, collector, and politician, the Lewis Walpole Library is sponsoring programs throughout the year to commemorate the occasion.

A fall exhibition, *Global Encounters and the Archives: Britain’s Empire in the Age of Horace Walpole* (1717–1797), opening October 20, and a related conference in February will explore how current multi-disciplinary methodologies invite creative research and new perspectives on the library’s collections. A series of evening talks by exhibition curators is planned at the library in Farmington.
In addition, George Haggerty, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of English, University of California, Riverside, will present a public lecture on October 26 at the Yale Center for British Art on *The Many Lives of Horace Walpole*. On the 27th he will lead a round table discussion on *Queer Biography in the Archives* at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, together with Tim Young, Beinecke’s curator of modern books and manuscripts. In November, at the Lewis Walpole Library’s campus in Farmington, a mini-conference led by Jonathan Kramnick, Maynard Mack Professor of English and Director of the Lewis Walpole Library, will focus on Walpole’s *Castle of Otranto: A Gothic Story* and his other writings. Programming in the late spring of 2018 will look at Walpole’s controversial play, *The Mysterious Mother*. Finally, the library has begun a blog, *Horace Walpole at 300*, which focuses on items in the library’s collection connected to Walpole. For further information on these and other Walpole tercentenary activities, consult the library’s website http://walpole.library.yale.edu.

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

The new Gates Classroom in Manuscripts and Archives, formerly the Grand Exhibition Room. Photo: Fly on the Wall Productions.

**Manuscripts and Archives Renovation Continues Apace**

Progress on the renovation of Manuscripts and Archives continues at a rapid pace. Along Sterling Memorial Library’s Wall Street façade, windows and buttresses are being restored, rebuilt, and replaced. Inside, workers are cleaning the intricate stone walls and floors and making sensitive modifications to the red oak woodwork to accommodate new doors from the Linonia and Brothers Reading Room into the Gates Classroom (formerly the Grand Exhibition Room). The original chandeliers from the Reading Room and the Gates Classroom have been sent out for restoration and will be relamped, retaining their original appearance but significantly improving light levels for visiting researchers. Underground, preparations are being made for the installation of an elevator, replacing the department’s small and temperamental dumbwaiter. The entire project is still slated for completion by the end of 2017, with Manuscripts and Archives expected to be serving students, faculty, and visiting scholars back in their vastly improved space by early 2018.

The library is able to complete this exciting and imperative renovation thanks only to the outstanding support of its many friends. All of us at Yale University Library are deeply grateful for, and humbled by, their generosity and vision. In our next annual report issue of *Nota Bene*, we will share more information on the donors whose gifts are making this project possible. BBG

The new Gates Classroom in Manuscripts and Archives, formerly the Grand Exhibition Room. Photo: Fly on the Wall Productions.
RENOSVATIONS AT CSSSI OFFER EXPANDED STUDY SPACE AND SERVICES

This summer, staff and stalwart researchers had to pass through two major construction projects—the new residential colleges and the Yale Science Building—to get to the Center for Science and Social Science Information (CSSSI) at 219 Prospect Street. Meanwhile, on the CSSSI’s lower level, another transformation was in progress. From May through August, it underwent a renovation to create additional study space and provide new services.

Beginning in the fall semester, there will be sixty seats in a variety of configurations and a selection of high-use books in the sciences and social sciences. A seminar room will enable librarians to offer instruction sessions requested by faculty, as well as workshops on research strategies, citation management, resources for entrepreneurship, and other topics. An audiovisual studio will give librarians, specialists, and faculty the tools they need to create videos, tutorials, and other online learning objects; and a map room will accommodate the library’s collection of contemporary maps, while providing equipment for scanning and conducting geospatial analysis.

This year also marks the fifth anniversary of the CSSSI, so there will be an event in the fall to celebrate both milestones—stay tuned! Mam

FILM STUDY CENTER JOINS YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

After a multi-year planning process, Yale’s Film Study Center (FSC) became part of the library’s Arts & Humanities department service group this summer. Joining the Arts, Divinity, and Music Libraries, and the Department of Area Studies and Humanities Research Support, the FSC’s collection of film and video further enhances the library’s ability to support students in the 24-hour space in CSSSI.

The Film Study Center is located on the lower level of the Whitney Humanities Center and can be accessed through this entrance on Wall Street.

Editorial Information
University Librarian
Susan Gibbons

Editor
Amanda Patrick
Director of Communications

Copy Editor
Christa Sammons

Publication Design
Rebecca Martz, Anton Sovetov
Office of the University Printer

Contributors
Anna Arays (AA)
Michael Cummings (Mc)
Catherine DeRose (CDR)
Molly Dotson (MD)
John Gallagher (JG)
Basic Bales Gitlin (BBG)
Melissa Grafe (MG)
Emily Horning (EH)
Brian Kiss (BK)
Melanie A. Maksin (MM)

Jonathan Manton (JM)
Michael Morand (MM)
Stephen Naron (SN)
Jae Rossman (JJR)
Allen Townsend (AT)
Erin Wachowicz (EW)
Susan Walker (SW)
Susan Wheeler (SEW)
Michael Widener (MW)

Nota Bene is published during the academic year to acquaint the Yale community and others with the resources of the Yale Library.

Please direct comments and questions to Amanda Patrick, Editor, Yale University Library (203-432-4484, amanda.patrick@yale.edu)

Copyright ©2017 Yale University Library ISSN 0894-1331
a broad spectrum of Arts & Sciences interdisciplinary research and teaching needs.

While the FSC will continue to operate from its current location on the lower level of the Whitney Humanities Center, preparations for the move of the video collection to Sterling Memorial Library are already well underway. The move will coincide with the relocation of the Department of Film & Media Studies to the renovated Hall of Graduate Studies at 320 York Street, the future home of several humanities academic departments.

During the 2017–18 academic year the FSC’s online catalog will be integrated into ORBIS, further facilitating access to the collection. Film Study Center staff members Michael Kerbel, Brian Meacham, and Archer Nielson have all been involved from the early stages of planning, and are excited about joining the library staff. For more information about FSC collections and services, please visit the newly redesigned website at: http://web.library.yale.edu/film.

JOHN ASHERBY’S NEST: AN AMERICAN POET’S VICTORIAN HOME

Over the summer, the Digital Humanities Lab (DHLab) was delighted to launch John Ashbery’s Nest, a website and virtual tour of the esteemed American poet’s Victorian home, which is located in Hudson, New York. Beginning with an in-depth look at the home’s Center Hall, the site provides a unique opportunity to see the art, objects, books, and furniture in the house, and also to hear clips from Ashbery himself, as he reads from related poems and discusses the provenance and resonance that these items have played in his creative life.

Led by Yale lecturer and DHLab project grant recipient Karin Roffman (and author of the first comprehensive book about Ashbery’s early life), Ashbery’s Nest brings together work by teams from the DHLab, YaleSites, and VRH Solutions, Inc. Using new virtual reality technologies to showcase objects in the Center Hall, this site enables users to experience the intimacy of being in “the middle of things,” a reality that echoes in Ashbery’s greatest poems.

Ashbery’s Nest represents one of many student, faculty, and staff-driven projects the DHLab will be contributing to this academic year. To visit Ashbery’s Nest, please go to: http://vr.ashberyhouse.yale.edu.

1. A view of the Center Hall in John Ashbery’s home. Arrow and i symbols indicate clickable icons that, once clicked, will provide more information about a specific object in the hall.

2. A fisheye view of the exterior of John Ashbery’s house.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PRESS TO HOST ARTIST TALKS IN THE FALL

This fall the Bibliographic Press will host two artists who approach the book as a work of art in very different ways as part of its ongoing program emphasizing the history, practice, and significance of printing and the book arts.

On September 28, Jesse Marsolais, letterpress printer and stone carver, will talk about his work and give a stone carving demonstration at the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library. He will also meet with students from the Art of the Printed Word freshman seminar. Marsolais’s work is included in the fall exhibition at the Haas Arts Library, which explores resources on letterforms in Arts Library Special Collections.

On November 9, Avner Moriah MFA ’83, painter and book artist, will give a talk about his ongoing project illuminating the first five books of the Bible. In the last thirteen years, Moriah has completed editions of the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus. In this talk, he will share his process to visualize the texts in a meaningful way and contribute to the ancient tradition of illuminated texts. This talk will be co-sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program. Moriah’s work can be viewed at the Arts Library Special Collections reading room. Details will be published on the library’s website nearer the time.

MD & JJR

“MEDICAL RECONSTRUCTION”: RENOVATIONS AT THE CUSHING/WHITNEY MEDICAL LIBRARY

Beginning in December the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library will undergo some exciting and significant renovations. The changes are driven by the need for additional classroom space to support the Yale School of Medicine (YSM) undergraduate curriculum.

Since August 2015, YSM has used the flipped classroom curricular model for many of its courses. This model encourages students to acquire and process content and information prior to class by viewing videos on specific topics created by faculty and studying related reading materials. Rather than traditional lectures, class time is dedicated to guided group discussion and application of the knowledge to specific cases. This method of teaching requires spaces designed specifically to align with this fluid and flexible education model.

The Medical Library’s sky-lit Information Room will be repurposed to accommodate a 126-seat team-based learning classroom. Six 16-person classrooms will replace under-utilized stack space on the lower
level. Two additional classrooms, several small group study rooms, and an Information Commons equipped with 30 dual-monitor workstations will round out the changes on the lower level. When finished, these classrooms will be used for the bulk of YSM I and YSM II classes. When not in use for teaching, the rooms will provide much needed space for a range of group purposes.

The schedule for the project is still somewhat fluid, but construction is expected to begin May 2018, and be completed sometime during spring 2019. In preparation for this work library staff have transferred thousands of journal volumes to the Library Shelving Facility. Ensuring the safety of the unique materials in the Cushing Center is also a priority.

While every effort will be made to minimize disruptions, a construction project of this scale will pose occasional inconvenience for library users and staff alike. A special renovation page has been created to keep users of the library fully informed about progress: http://library.medicine.yale.edu/blog/renovation-news.

**YALE COLLEGE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

In the fall of 2007, the Yale University Library began an experiment: match a small group of first- and second-year undergraduates with a “Personal Librarian,” a senior staff member who would provide advice about research strategies, answer questions about the library’s collections and services, and help new students become adept at using a large (and for some, intimidating) academic library.

On the model of a similar program at the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, a small group of students was divided between two librarians. During the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters, email messages were sent, including tips for navigating the SML stacks, strategies for finding primary sources, and ways to identify peer-reviewed journal articles, and the students were encouraged to get in touch when they wanted help with research papers or assignments. In a survey at the end of that academic year, the students who contacted their Personal Librarian expressed their gratitude: “You were so helpful!” And, “I loved getting these messages.” As word spread among students, and as more librarians expressed an interest in participating, the decision was made to support the entire first- and second-year classes. Today, ten years after that experiment, nearly 50 librarians serve in the Personal Librarian program, each of them working with approximately 60 students. The program complements the library’s long-established research education programs for junior and senior majors, ensuring that Yale College students have readily available research advisors throughout their four years here. More information about the Personal Librarian program can be found at https://web.library.yale.edu/pl.
LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS AT YALE

As entrepreneurship continues to gain momentum on college and university campuses, academic libraries are faced with the challenge of developing programs and providing scalable support for an audience that crosses traditional boundaries of disciplines and departments. A group of librarians has found that using a team-based approach has been successful for supporting the complex entrepreneurial landscape at Yale. The Yale University Library Entrepreneurship Support Team comprises subject librarians and liaisons to departments and professional schools that are hubs for innovation and startup activity. Team members include Erin Wachowicz, Research Support Librarian for Business and Management; Andy Shimp, Librarian for Engineering & Applied Science, Chemistry and Mathematics; Carla Heister, Forestry and Environmental Studies Librarian; Kate Nyhan, Research and Education Librarian for the School of Public Health; and Miriam Olivares, GIS Librarian.

What began as a single instruction session on locating market research sources in the spring semester of 2015 has evolved into a research support and outreach program that leverages the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the individual group members. This has included involvement in the Yale Entrepreneurship Bazaar, offering library workshops on searching for patents, market research, and demographic information, and delivering Introduction to Research for Entrepreneurship presentations at Yale Entrepreneurial Institute and the Yale Center for Engineering Innovation and Design. The librarians have discovered several benefits to their team-based approach. Students gain exposure to library resources and services that they might not have otherwise discovered, and participating librarians have found a valuable opportunity to engage with students, faculty, and staff while supporting President Salovey’s goal, “to provide an unsurpassed campus learning environment that cultivates innovators, leaders, pioneers, creators, and entrepreneurs in all fields and for all sectors of society.”

PLANTING THE ELM TREES ON NEW HAVEN GREEN

James Hillhouse was responsible for the planting of elm trees on the New Haven Green, which, along with its many tree-lined streets, earned his adopted home the nickname “The Elm City.” This stained-glass window resides directly across from the circulation desk in the Sterling Memorial Library nave. Photo: Brian Kiss, Yale University Library.
MUSIC LIBRARY RECEIVES GRAMMY MUSEUM GRANT TO PRESERVE CHARLES IVES MATERIALS

The Irving S. Gilmore Music Library is the delighted recipient of a grant from the Grammy Museum. Generously funded by The Recording Academy, the Grant Program provides funding annually to organizations and individuals to support efforts that advance the archiving and preservation of the recorded sound heritage of the Americas for future generations, in addition to research projects related to the impact of music on the human condition.

The Music Library will use its portion of the grant to preserve approximately 335 hours of unique non-commercial audio, predominantly from 1937–1956, featuring music by Charles Ives. Most recordings are on at-risk formats, notably instantaneous disc. All recordings will be digitized following International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives guidelines. Digitized content will be ingested into the library’s digital preservation system and made available via one of its mediated streaming tools. JM

YALE LIBRARY RECEIVES DIPLOMA OF PHILIP DAGGETT, 1762 B.A.

In 1947, when he was a Yale undergraduate, Bronson B. T. Eden ’49 B.A. came to Sterling Memorial Library with a family heirloom: the Yale diploma of his great-great-great grandfather, Philip Daggett 1762 B.A. Daggett was the youngest brother of Naphtali Daggett 1748 B.A., who was appointed Livingstonian Professor of Divinity in 1756 and served as president pro tempore of Yale College from 1766 to 1777. The librarian with whom Bronson Eden spoke in 1947 said that Yale would be delighted to have the diploma if the family should ever consider donating it.

The library was very sorry to learn of Mr. Eden’s death this past March but honored to discover that, seventy years after this conversation at Sterling Memorial Library, he decided to bequeath the diploma to Yale. It is now happily ensconced in the library’s Department of Manuscripts and Archives, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Eden and his widow, Kathleen Eden. Mrs. Eden writes, “Mr. Eden would be glad that this historic diploma has been welcomed back to its most distinguished home!” BBG

LAW’S PICTURE BOOKS: THE YALE LAW LIBRARY COLLECTION

For the past decade, over a thousand illustrated law books spanning eight centuries and four continents have been assembled in the Yale Law Library by its rare book librarian, Michael Widener. A major exhibition of 133 volumes from the collection, entitled Law’s Picture Books: The Yale Law Library Collection, will be on display from September 13 until November 18, 2017, at the Grolier Club in New York City; curators of the exhibit are Widener and legal historian Mark S. Weiner. In challenging the stereotype of legal literature as a dreary expanse of dry text, Law’s Picture Books will surprise and delight both book lovers and the legal community. A companion exhibition, Around the World with Law’s Picture Books, will be on display from September 1 until December 15, 2017, in the Lillian Goldman Law Library; curators are Michael Widener and Emma Molina Widener. MW
SOVEXPO: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND ITS LEGACY AT YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

This year marks the centennial of the Russian Revolution, one of the most consequential events of the 20th century. Not only did the revolution irrevocably alter Russian national identity and cultural life, but its effects also continue to shape global affairs to the present day. With U.S.-Russian relations becoming front-page news once again, it is essential to reexamine and reassess what we think we know about Russia and its history.

To commemorate this monumental occasion, library staff are arranging a “Soviet exposition” called SovExpo: the Russian Revolution and its Legacy at Yale University Library. On September 27, from 4–6 p.m., temporary displays of library collection materials will be available for public view at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Sterling Memorial Library, Irving S. Gilmore Music Library, Haas Family Arts Library, csssi, and the Medical Historical Library. Each site will feature items from its unique collections that serve to contextualize the events of 1917 and their aftermath. Extraordinary avant-garde publications, archives of émigrés and other observers from abroad, materials relating to Soviet education and design, and United States government documents are just a few examples of collections that will be featured. The exposition will be followed by a reception in the nave of Sterling Memorial Library, where the Yale Russian Chorus will perform songs from the revolutionary period at 6:30 p.m.

The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library owns a set of 6 photo albums depicting the Romanov family between 1907 and 1915. The photographs offer a glimpse at the final years of Russia’s Imperial dynasty.

THE PIGEON LANDS AT BEINECKE, SUPPORTS NEW HAVEN READS

The North American Dreaming Depot Pigeon, an irascible species that inhabits the picture books of author and illustrator Mo Willems, nested this summer in a glass case at the Beinecke Library.

A whimsical rendering of Pigeon in the style of John J. Audubon’s Birds of America was on display alongside one of Yale’s double-elephant folios of that masterwork. The illustration — created at the library’s request by Willems in collaboration with artist and illustrator Scott Sosebee — complemented the library’s summer exhibits, Happiness: The Writer in the Garden and Bird Watching. In the illustration, Pigeon perched in a tree while feasting on his favorite prey: chocolate-chip cookies and hotdogs.

The idea for the illustration originated with Michael Rush, an assistant head of the library’s manuscript unit who enjoys Willems’s work with his three young sons. It came as library staff began discussing how to incorporate Pigeon materials from Willems’s papers, which the Beinecke acquired in 2014, into Happiness and Bird Watching. Rush proposed asking Willems to do a drawing of Pigeon in the style of Audubon to exhibit alongside one of the folios, which are on permanent display in the library’s exhibit space.

Timothy Young, the library’s curator of modern books and manuscripts, contacted Willems, who enthusiastically embraced the idea. Young had the thought to make the project into a fundraiser for New Haven Reads. Copies of the limited-edition poster were sold with net profits to the community literacy center.
Moral Judgement in Evaluating Disease: Some Pictures for Discussion

Moral Judgement in Evaluating Disease: Some Pictures for Discussion, currently on view at the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, was conceived by first-year medical students David Dupee and Melinda Wang. They aimed to explore implicit bias through the library’s extensive collection of prints.

In describing their exhibit, Wang and Dupee related, “We have organized a selection of prints that encourage the viewer to confront the cultural constructs that underlie moral evaluation. We aim to impress upon viewers that the association between health and morality is deeply ingrained within the very fabric of society.”

A hypothetical patient vignette was prepared by the curators for each print in order to further conversation about morality and the practice of clinical medicine. “It is our hope that viewers will see the chosen depictions of mental health, illness, and body image not as distant echoes of the past, but rather as preludes to forces that remain substantial in the modern era.”

The exhibit opened with a reception sponsored by the Program for Humanities in Medicine. Among the works exhibited are George Bellows, Dance in a Madhouse, 1917; Robert Riggs, Ward Rounds, c.1941, and Psychopathic Ward, 1940; Honoré Daumier, Le malade imaginaire, 1833; and Thomas Rowlandson, The Glutton, 1813. The exhibit will be on display in the Medical Library until September 25 and will be preserved online for future viewers.

fortunoff archive receives Delmas grant to transcribe earliest testimonies

The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies is delighted to be the recipient of a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, established to promote “the advancement and perpetuation of humanistic inquiry and artistic creativity.” The grant will help the archive to transcribe the oldest testimonies in its collection, which were recorded between 1979 and 1981 by the archive’s predecessor organization, the Holocaust Survivors Film Project.

The project, Voice to Print: Transcribing the Early Years of the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, will produce high-quality, verbatim transcripts for over 300 hours of video testimony. The transcripts will be ingested into the Fortunoff Archive’s digital access system and made available to researchers, as well as serve as a test bed for digital humanities research by the archive’s incoming Fortunoff Archive/Digital Humanities Lab postdoctoral assistant.

This project is designed as a pilot to help the archive plan a future effort to transcribe the entire collection, which consists of approximately 2,000 hours of testimony in over a dozen different languages.

Medical library exhibit highlights research with historical specimens

In New Lives for Old Specimens, the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library features current medical research using historical specimens from Yale’s collections. Multiple curators drawn from inside and outside the School of Medicine, including a Yale medical student, Yale faculty, and Connecticut and international research teams, describe projects involving historical specimens. From tumors in the Cushing brain tumor registry and fetal skulls within the Kier/Conlogue collection, to 1970s dissection videos featuring the late Yale Professor of Anatomy Edmund Crelin Jr., old specimens are finding new ways into current research and medical education. The exhibit will be on display through November 3.

Simple of images from the exhibit, including photographs of a DNA sampled brain, Edmund Crelin teaching anatomy to Yale Medical Students, and an image of a fetal skull.
Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
121 Wall Street
Making the Medieval English Manuscript: The Takamiya Collection in the Beinecke Library
September 1–December 10

Center for Science & Social Science Information (CSSSI)
219 Prospect Street
Shedding Light on the Dark Universe
Through October 6

Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
“The Promotion of True Piety and Virtue”: Celebrating the History and Special Collections of Andover Newton Theological School at Yale
November 13–April 30

Missionary Journeys—Stories of Adventure and Peril from the Day Missions Collection
Through October 31

Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library
180 York Street
The Artist and the Garden
Through September 15

Learning from Letterforms, Past & Present
September 25–December 15

The Lewis Walpole Library
154 Main Street, Farmington, CT
The Land without Music: Satirizing Song in Eighteenth-Century England
Through September 29

Global Encounters and the Archives: Britain’s Empire in the Age of Horace Walpole (1717–1797)
October 20–March 2, 2018

The Lillian Goldman Law Library
127 Wall Street, Reading Room (L3)
Through December 15

Around the World with Law’s Picture Books
September 1–November 18

Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library
333 Cedar Street
Moral Judgement in Evaluating Disease: Some Pictures for Discussion
Through September 5

New Lives for Old Specimens
Through November 3

Sterling Memorial Library
120 High Street
Exhibition Corridor
Constructing A Pictorial Identity: Bookplates in the Golden Age of Collecting
Through October 6

Student Research at Yale University Library
October 16–April, 2018

Irving S. Gilmore Music Library
“Tomorrow’s Overture is Always Best”: The Music of Kay Swift
Through mid-September

In the foreground of this sunlit landscape, a scroll bears the motto Fiat lux cadant umbrae, or “Let there be light though shadows fall.” The owner of this bookplate, Elmer Willis ([1864?]–1902), was a photographer and gallery owner based in Lawrence, KS.