WORLDS OF KNOWLEDGE ONCE UNIMAGINABLE

December's Annual Holiday Party for Library Associates in the Riggs Library was indeed memorable for the brief address given by Scott Pilarz, S.J., a member of Georgetown's English Department. Thinking that Associates who were not present of that occasion might also enjoy Fr. Pilarz's remarks, we reproduce a substantial portion of them here.

"I am in my second incarnation at Georgetown. I graduated from the College close to twenty years ago. And now I'm three years into an academic career. So I know Lauinger Library as few do: both as an undergraduate and as a professor. I got my start here as a student, cutting my intellectual teeth and then some. I can't begin to tell you all the things I did in the library—and there are some wouldn't want to know. But looking back is not merely an exercise in nostalgia. More than any other place on this campus, it was in Lauinger that my imagination took shape, so much so that the library is sacred space for me. It was on the library's first floor where, as a shy and awkward sophomore, I first read about the Society of Jesus. I'd sneak between the shelves, lest my friends see me, and pore over books about Jesuit priests. So I owe my vocation more to the library than I do to the chapel—and there may be something characteristically Jesuit about that debt. I remember getting lost in Lauinger for long hours, admittedly not always reading what had been assigned, but browsing through the stacks. Like Shakespeare's Prospero, the library was for me dukedom large enough.

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One of my greatest pleasures as a Georgetown professor is seeing my students work with the very same library books that I once did. But the books are just the start. When I left here in 1981, what did we know from World Wide Webs or learning on line? Cutting edge technology meant borrowing your roommate's electric typewriter. But thanks to your generosity, I can now learn along with my students. Georgetown faculty and students can now point and click our way into worlds of knowledge once

(continues on page 6)
EINE KLEINE MUPPET-MUSIK

Joe Raposo taught America’s children how to sing... Charles Kuralt

Last year marked the thirtieth anniversary of one of the most distinguished of all television programs, Sesame Street. The Muppet characters created for the show by Jim Henson have become familiar far beyond their original sphere, and there’s hardly an incoming Georgetown freshman in whose childhood Sesame Street has not been important. Now, thanks to the generosity of Pat Collins Sarnoff, the library’s music collection is enhanced by a collection of original manuscripts for 56 songs by one of the show’s creators and first music director, Joe Raposo.

After studying in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, Raposo returned to New York to begin a career that led ultimately, before his untimely death in 1989, to five Grammys and an Oscar nomination (for music written for the film The Great Muppet Caper) as well as numerous gold and platinum recordings. At various times he wrote for such diverse talents as Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Ray Charles, Woody Allen, and, of course, Kermit the Frog. In 1986 Raggedy Ann, the Broadway musical for which Raposo composed the score, was selected by the State Department and Soviet agencies to revive the cultural exchange program between the two countries. A great critical and popular success upon its Moscow debut (under the title Rag Dolly), the musical was translated and included as a part of the permanent repertoire of the Moscow state musical theater. The recipient of three honorary degrees, Raposo was a frequent lecturer at MIT, Yale, and a host of other colleges and universities.

The donated manuscripts are original in the fullest sense of the word, being Raposo’s lead sheets for each of the songs. A lead sheet consists of the melody notated on normal music paper with a suggested harmonic accompaniment given in shorthand form. From these derive the various arrangements that might be needed for performance with a given soloist or with various accompanimental combinations. With few exceptions, Raposo wrote the lyrics as well, and in some cases separate manuscripts of the lyrics accompany the musical manuscripts. Besides the theme for Sesame Street the collection includes lead sheets for seven songs from The Great Muppet Caper and such well-known tunes as “Sing,” “It’s Not Easy Bein’ Green,” and “You Will Be My Music.”
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 1997–1998

Lauinger Library offers sincere thanks to all who supported the Library during this year with their gifts of time and treasure to the Library Associates, the Honor with Books program, or to special endowed and current-use funds. Recognized by name below are individuals, foundations, and corporations who gave $250 or more; to these, and to all our supporters, we extend our deepest thanks and appreciation.

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LYND WARD AND THE PRAISE OF FOLLY

The library's collection of works by American printmaker and illustrator Lynd Ward, already by far the strongest in any institution, was recently further reinforced by a pair of splendid gifts from the artist's daughters, Nanda Ward and Robin Ward Savage. We already had the original engraved wood blocks for two of Ward's pictorial narratives, Madman's Drum and Song Without Words. To these have been added the blocks for Ward's first novel in woodcuts, Gods' Man, published in 1929.

In 1943 Ward accepted a commission from George Macy's Limited Editions Club to illustrate Erasmus's The Praise of Folly. He prevailed upon Macy to go to the trouble of printing the illustrations from mezzotint plates, a process rarely used in commercial printing because of the difficulty of pulling a lengthy run of prints from the fragile matrices. We already owned more than 90 of Ward's original drawings for the marginal mini-illustrations; now we have all 10 of the original mezzotint plates for the main illustrations as well as a sizable group of final proofs, working proofs, and original sketches, completing the archive of original art for one of this century's most idiosyncratic pieces of American fine printing and illustration.

THE LIBRARY 160 YEARS AGO

A recent gift from Willis Van Devanter included a copy of the first volume of The Baltimore Literary Monument, which in its number for February, 1839, included a two-page account of Georgetown by an unnamed author. Part of that account deals with the library; its dated style and wording notwithstanding, the sentiments are such as might do us proud today.

"But the system of this university keeps pace with the development, and spirit and genius of our age and country. It embraces all modern literature, comprises all modern inventions, and cherishes the principles of liberty and republicanism. The library, which contains 15,000 volumes, is open to the curiosity of the pupils, and is deficient in very few of the works of modern writers that are worth preserving: reviews, periodicals, pamphlets, papers, and every variety of miscellaneous effusions, selected with scrupulous caution by the Faculty, are offered to the perusal of the students."  

LAUINGER MEDALS DISPLAYED

Thanks to the generosity of members of the Lauinger family, the library's entrance lobby now houses a vitrine in which are displayed the Vietnam service medals of Joseph Mark Lauinger, for whom the building is named.

Lt. Lauinger was killed in combat on January 8, 1970. He was awarded posthumously the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

ON EDITING

One should fight like the devil the temptation to think well of editors. They are all, without exception—at least some of the time—incompetent or crazy. By nature of their profession they read too much, with the result they grow jaded and cannot recognize talent though it dances in front of their eyes.

--John Gardner
WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE?

We’ll try to make it easy! If you have books, manuscripts, prints, or other items the library might be able to use, contact Marty Barringer, head of Special Collections, at (202) 687-7475, or Betty Smith, head of the Gifts unit, at (202) 687-7458. If you are considering a contribution in the form of cash, or appreciated securities, or some other form, please call University Librarian Susan Martin, at (202) 687-7425, or the Library Associates’ coordinator at (202) 687-7446.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We thank all those friends of the library who have donated books, manuscripts, or other library materials since October, 1998. Among them are:

- **Elizabeth Bancroft**  
  More than 100 additional books and journals on intelligence and related matters

- **Paul F. Betz**  
  Phillipps ms 3956 (seventeenth century notes on British history), and early printed books

- **Syd Cassyd**  
  A collection of books on television history and personalities

- **John C. Hirsh**  
  A collection of books on various aspects of American history and literature

- **Joseph E. Jeffs**  
  A collection of first editions of works by Wallace Stegner

- **Laura Joost**  
  A group of 29 engravings by Mexican artist José María Montes de Oca

- **Frederick and Nicholas Scheetz**  
  Partially autograph letterbook kept by Washington Irving in Madrid

- **Mr. and Mrs. Volkmar Wentzel**  
  Early (partial first) edition of Tocqueville’s De la démocratie en Amérique

WORLDS OF KNOWLEDGE ONCE UNIMAGINABLE

unimaginable or at least inaccessible. Research that ten years ago would have required a trip to Rome can now be done at my desk in New North. (I love and hate you for that!) And while Lauinger more than keeps up with what’s passing bright, it also keeps faith with the past. Last summer I was working on literary texts that kept referring to a collection of prints published at the Jesuit English College in Rome in 1609. I was convinced that I’d finally found my ticket to a European vacation, but before calling the travel agent, I ran a search on GEORGE. There it was in Special Collections: *Ecclesiae Anglicanae Trophaea*.

Sometimes on a Friday or Saturday night, late, I’ll walk past Pierce Reading Room. The lights are on and lots of people are home. It’s a stirring sight: so much energy and enthusiasm for learning. In a handbook written for Jacobean courtiers Henry Peacham writes, *Affect not, as somedo, that bookish ambition to be stored with books and have well furnished libraries, yet keep their heads empty of knowledge. To desire books and never to use them, is like a child that will have a candle burning while he is sleeping.* Peacham’s worry is so very far from Georgetown’s reality. This faculty and our students are kept wide awake by a love for knowledge, and we see that knowledge by the light of your generosity."