MAJOR ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT MUSIC COLLECTION

A MILLION DOLLAR ENDOWMENT FUND DONATED TO Lauinger Library by Leon Robbin will enable the library to support, to expand, and to provide wide access to the Leon Robbin Collection of Musical Manuscripts and Letters of Composers. Robbin, a native Washingtonian now living in Key Biscayne, Florida, graduated from the Georgetown Law School in 1922.

The Robbin Collection, part of which is already housed in the Special Collections Division, includes letters by Charles Gounod, Franz Liszt, and Felix Mendelssohn, and manuscripts by each of the foregoing as well as examples of the work of Charles Wakefield Cadman, Gaetano Donizetti, Jacques Offenbach, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Giaocchino Rossetti, Johann Strauss (the younger), Franz von Suppé, and Ambroise Thomas. Robbin has bequeathed the remainder of his collection of more than 700 manuscripts and letters to the library, including strong groups of material by Ignaz Moscheles and Gabriel Fauré as well as examples by such standout composers as Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Verdi, and Wagner.

(continues on page 6)
LIBRARY ASSOCIATES EVENTS

FEBRUARY 20TH

Stanley S. Bedlington, former foreign policy analyst at the State Department and CIA, addressed about 100 Associates and other friends of the library in Copley Formal Lounge. The topic of his lecture was “Religious Terrorism: The Roots of Islamic Extremism.” Dr. Bedlington is currently an advisor on Middle East affairs with Argus International and a frequent consultant on terrorism for television, radio, and the print media.

MARCH 4TH IN LONDON

Author and biographer Michael Holroyd spoke to about 50 Associates and friends on “The World of Augustus John,” the subject of his recent biography. A reception and book signing followed the lecture at the home of Jacques P. Gelardin, B’69 (who lives in the house built by and for the artist). Gelardin has been a collector of John’s work for many years, and his collection was on display during the event which he so graciously hosted.

MARCH 19TH IN LOS ANGELES

Judge Paul Flynn (C’61) spoke to 25 Library Associates and friends at the home of University leaders PJ (F’70) and Jim Clark (C’70), who kindly hosted this event. The topic of Judge Flynn’s lecture was “Justice in the Los Angeles Superior Courts.” Since his appointment to the Superior Court in March, 1989, he has heard his share of high-profile cases, including the murder case against rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg. He was also among the judges who were considered to preside over the media-saturated double murder trial of O.J. Simpson. “Criminal cases,” says Flynn, “are intellectually challenging, and you feel like you’re doing more for the system. I’m more satisfied at the end of the day.”

100 YEARS AGO

Notes on the library, from the Georgetown catalog for 1897-98:

The alcoves are designed to afford shelf room for 104,000 volumes; those on the floor are furnished with comfortable appliances for study and consultation. Work on the card catalogue has been continued and the completion is in prospect. The collection of books is estimated at more than 75,000. ...Through the liberality of friends, the past year has been memorable for the number and importance of the books added to the shelves. The patristic department, for instance, has been brought up to date by the acquisition of Migne, Hurter, and the English Translations. The foundation of a Biological collection has been laid, separate from the branches of this science already provided... The addition amounts to some 2,300.

Only the names and numbers change.
Larry Collins’s decision to choose Lauinger Library as the repository for his archives brings the papers of a well-known and respected writer and novelist to increase the library’s research potential in American literature and other fields as well. A meticulous researcher himself, Collins writes about controversial historical issues, and in the course of a 25-year collaboration with French author Dominique Lapierre, he examined a variety of the important events of our century. The French and American bestseller Is Paris Burning? (1965) recounts day-by-day incidents prior to the liberation of the city in 1944; O Jerusalem! (1972) presents an unbiased account of the battle for that city in 1948; Freedom at Midnight (1975) chronicles the violent separation of India and Pakistan. In their first novel together, The Fifth Horseman (1980), Collins and Lapierre describe a fictional terrorist attack on New York with nuclear weapons—today as then a disquieting subject. Collins has gone on to publish such novels as Fall from Grace (1985), Maze (1989), and Black Eagles (1993).

In addition to manuscripts and typescripts, comprehensive research files, photographs, and correspondence, the collection includes scores of interviews with participants in historic events, transcripts of interviews with the late Lord Mountbatten being among the most extensive. The collection is currently being processed and will be available to researchers in the near future.

The library staff would like to thank the Chimes for all their support over the years, with a special thank you to David Walsh who has made so much of this possible. So far this fiscal year, 87 donors have contributed $41,505.00 to the endowment fund.

**Library Wisdom**

Madam, a circulating library in a town is as an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge! It blossoms through the year! And depend on it, Mrs. Malaprop, that they who are so fond of handling the leaves, will long for the fruit at last.

Sheridan, The Rivals

22 acknowledged concubines, and a library of 62,000 volumes attested the variety of his inclinations; and from the productions which he left behind him, it appears that both the one and the other were designed for use rather than for ostentation.

[Emperor Gordian the Younger]

Gibbon, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
A SILVER FORK AND SPOON

A recently acquired rarity of some interest is an 1814 prospectus for Ampleforth College, a school established near York, England, by the Benedictines in 1802, and thus more than a little comparable to Georgetown. Two sections of the text bear quoting at length, since they reveal a good deal about the value system under which Ampleforth operated:

It is wished that parents would avoid, as much as possible, taking their children home; and, on this account, there will be no additional charge for those who leave them at the College during the vacation.

The Terms for the same, Fifty Guineas per annum...Clothes, Books and Paper, Medical Attendance, &c. also Music, Drawing, and Dancing, are extra charges. . . . Each young gentleman to bring with him a silver fork and spoon.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS JOINS CIRLA

At its March meeting the board of the Chesapeake Information Resource Library Alliance (of which Georgetown is a member) agreed to the request of the Library of Congress to become a member, raising the total number of CIRLA institutions to eight. Members now include, besides Georgetown, the University of Delaware, Johns Hopkins University, Howard University, the Library of Congress, the University of Maryland, the National Agricultural Library, and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

The Library of Congress, like the other members of CIRLA, will give on-site privileges to faculty members from other CIRLA institutions. In addition, the group voted to accept reciprocal borrowing privileges for graduate students, who will be able to take advantage of resources at other institutions depending on local conditions. The Library of Congress will provide interlibrary lending for other CIRLA institutions on a peer basis; with other libraries, LC acts as a “library of last resort,” only lending material when no other source is available. The CIRLA arrangement will place Georgetown faculty in an unusually advantageous position, although the intention of Lauinger Library is to provide materials needed on a day-to-day basis from within Georgetown holdings.

CIRLA membership also provides Georgetown with the capability of working with peer institutions to attain access to full-text data bases, almost 200 of which are being made available this semester as a pilot project.
HONOR WITH BOOKS

A BOOK IS A MONUMENT TO THE SPIRIT OF INQUIRY AND KNOWLEDGE

Lauinger Library invites you to celebrate a special occasion, acknowledge an accomplishment, or provide a memorial tribute by participating in *Honor with Books*. Your contribution will allow the library to purchase one or more books for its collections. A bookplate bearing your name and the name of the person you are honoring will be placed in the book. An acknowledgment of your thoughtfulness will be sent to the honoree or to the family.

To participate in this meaningful program, please return the completed form below with your check made payable to *Lauinger Library HWB* to:


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**REMEMBER HONOR WITH BOOKS FOR:**
Memorial Tributes...Anniversaries...Professional Honors...Graduations...Get Well Wishes...Personal Achievements...Birthdays...Weddings...Retirements

**BOOK IN MEMORY OF / IN HONOR OF:**

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**BOOKPLATES ARE $50 EACH:**
I have enclosed a check in the amount of $________

☐ My employer matches gifts to higher education and I have enclosed the appropriate form. All contributions to Georgetown University are deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

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The Newsletter is not a vehicle for book reviews, and this is not one. Rather, it is a shameless plug for one of the finest contributions in recent years to the literature of book collecting and the enjoyment of books. While technology marches swiftly onward, those whose pleasures include reading—and especially reading about books and book collectors—should hasten to add to their repertoires Nicholas A. Basbanes’s euphoniously entitled:


Copies are available to visitors in the Special Collections Division and the main Lauinger stacks, the latter shelved on the lower level at Z992.B34 1995.
A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We thank all those friends of the library who have donated books, manuscripts, or other library materials since December, 1996. Among them are:

- Mr. and Mrs. Edmund R. Biddle
  Letters to Katherine G. C. Biddle from such writers as Max Eastman, Robert Graves, St. John Perse, and Edmund Wilson

- Jack Deedy
  Letters to him from Irish revolutionary Dan Breen

- Grace M. Haller
  Art books, including a large paper copy of Hamerton's Man in Art, 1892

- Joseph G. E. Hopkins
  First editions of Sir Walter Scott and others, and a small group of colonial American manuscript documents

- Mr. and Mrs. Murray Lebwohl
  A small group of fine prints including examples by Misch Kohn and Louis Morin

- Charles E. J. Nester
  Three lithotint prints from Beyer's Album of Virginia, 1858, including a view of the armory in Harper's Ferry

- John B. Rackham
  A group of 122 French fine prints, including examples by Charles François Daubigny and Félicien Rops, among many others

- James E. Sale
  A group of 61 American, British, and French fine prints, including examples by Joseph Pennell and Jules Chérét

- Nicholas B. Scheetz
  A group of 135 volumes principally relating to intelligence, literature, and history

- Sidney D. Spencer
  Diary kept by his mother while an Episcopalian missionary in China in the 1920s and related books

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The endowment will be used in part to support the creation of a World Wide Web page which will make available images of many of the manuscripts and letters as well as full cataloging data for items in the collection, thus enabling scholars at a distance from Georgetown to use materials in the collection in the development of their individual research projects. Rotating exhibitions of items from the collection will be mounted in Lauinger Library.

Reflecting upon his decades of collecting, Robbin said “I began collecting manuscripts not only because of my interest in the great composers, but also because it gives me a wonderful feeling to have in front of me the very piece of paper that one of these immortal geniuses wrote on.” The breadth and depth of the collection are such that University Librarian Sue Martin added: “With an academic program that increasingly emphasizes the fine arts, the Leon Robbin Collection will add significantly to Georgetown's curricular opportunities and also to its contribution to the world of scholarship.”