THE NOISY PLANET OF THOMAS MERTON

THE LIBRARY HAS STRENGTHENED ITS CATHOLIC LITERARY COLLECTIONS WITH A MAGNIFICENT SERIES OF LETTERS BY THOMAS MERTON, THE CELEBRATED MONK, POET, AND AUTHOR OF THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN. THE MERTON LETTERS CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE GREAT SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCES OF THIS CENTURY; ITS ONLY PEER AT GEORGETOWN IS THE SERIES FROM CARDINAL NEWMAN TO HENRY WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, PURCHASE OF BOTH COLLECTIONS WAS MADE FINANCIALLY POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS ALUMNI: THE NEWMAN MATERIAL WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY BISHOP JEREMIAH F. MINIHAN (C’25) IN 1954; THE MERTON LETTERS WITH A GENEROUS DONATION FROM JAMES V. KIMSEY (C’61).

With this help the library was able to secure more than one hundred letters from Merton to his Columbia classmate and lifelong friend, the writer and photographer Edward Rice. The letters begin in 1940, the year before Merton entered the Trappist monastery of Gethsemani, Kentucky, and continue until his death in Bangkok in 1968. They bear eloquent witness to Merton’s extraordinary personal growth, and in them all manner of things are discussed. His writing, his reading, his contemplative experiences, his friends, war, peace, and Eastern religions are only a few of the more frequently mentioned subjects.

(continues on page 6)
The Georgetown University Library Associates Newsletter is issued four times a year. It is distributed to all Library Associates, members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), members of the Georgetown University Board of Directors, Board of Regents, Board of Governors, and selected others.

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JESUIT MILESTONES

The culmination of a year of remarkable acquisitions of Jesuit materials came in June, when we were able, in the space of a few weeks, to acquire first printings of three notable rarities. These were the first formal codification of the rules of the Society of Jesus, the Regulae (Rome, 1580) and the pair of papal briefs issued in 1773 which formally suppressed the Society and provided for the enforcement of that suppression: the Dominus, ac Redemptor of July 21, and the Gravissimis ex causis of August 13. In fact, Clement XIV did little more than give his blessing to the actions of the European sovereigns who had expelled the Society from their lands over the previous two decades.

A READ DOWN UNDER


Like most personal libraries, the Russo collection reflects its creator's interests, a principal strength of the 500-volume collection being Australian history and in particular the history of western Australia and the history of the Catholic Church in Australia. A secondary strength is Australian literature, with runs of first editions by such authors as Dame Mary Durack, Thomas Keneally, and Elizabeth Jolley spiced by a number of inscribed copies and personal letters. The Russo collection makes an auspicious addition to library support for Georgetown's newly founded Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies.

First printing of the brief of suppression, 1773
ASSOCIATES SPRING EVENTS

APRIL 23RD IN NEW YORK CITY

Nearly a hundred New York area Library Associates and supporters gathered at the Knickerbocker Club to hear a lecture entitled "The Mystery of Vermeer" on April 23rd. The featured speaker was Cynthia P. Schneider, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art, Music, and Theater at Georgetown. The event was hosted through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Gstalder (C'65). Mr. Gstalder is a member of the Library Advisory Council.

APRIL 24TH IN BOSTON

The Union Club was the venue for an April 24th lecture entitled, "Religion, Politics, and U.S. Foreign Policy." The featured speaker was Reverend J. Bryan Hehir, from the Harvard Divinity School. The event was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William D. Benjes, Jr. (C'60) and Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Moynihan (C'61). Both Mr. Benjes and Mr. Moynihan are members of the Library Advisory Council.

APRIL 26TH IN ATLANTA

At the John Carroll Awards Weekend in Atlanta, Georgia, alumni and friends of the Library were treated to a multimedia presentation about Georgetown Olympians derived from information in the Georgetown University Archives. Jon Reynolds (C'65), University Archivist, was the featured speaker. Michael Moran, Director of Public Information and Media Relations for the United States Olympic Committee, showed a short film about the Olympians and spoke about the upcoming events in Atlanta.

MAY 21ST IN WASHINGTON, DC

On May 21st, Library Associates and friends gathered in the Copley Formal Lounge on Georgetown's campus to learn about "John James Audubon: An American Genius." The featured speaker was William R. Stott, Jr. (C'57). Mr. Stott currently teaches at Georgetown University, leads natural history tours around the world, and lectures extensively on wildlife and environmental issues. The event was hosted through the generosity of Mr. Thomas E. Caestecker (C'53).

For more information about joining the Library Associates, or about the library in general, please contact Ms. Melanie Savage at (202) 687-7446, or via e-mail at savagem@gunet.georgetown.edu, or fax her at (202) 687-7501.
ALERT READERS

WELCOME, NEW ASSOCIATES

We owe a debt of thanks to the two eagle-eyed members of the Associates who brought attention to the unfortunate error in the caption of the photo on page 5 of the most recent Newsletter. It was the Duke of Kent, and not the future George VI, who posed with his brother and President Alfar0 of Panama in 1931.

AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW ASSOCIATES FROM GU'S CLASS OF '96

The library frequently receives gifts of books from people who wish to remain anonymous. We do owe particular thanks, however, to the member of the Associates who in recent months has left several shopping bags of modern literature and works on current affairs at our back door. We really appreciate his generosity, and we want him to know that many of the books are already cataloged!

ANONYMOUS DONORS

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NEW RESEARCH LIBRARY ALLIANCE

Georgetown has joined with five other research institutions in the Chesapeake Bay region to form the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA). Library directors of the six institutions met earlier this year at Johns Hopkins to formalize the new consortium and to launch a planning process for cooperative action. The overall goal of CIRLA is to enhance education and research at member institutions through collaborative development of library collections and service programs as well as through expanding use of information technology.

The founding members of CIRLA are, besides Georgetown, the University of Delaware, Howard University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland/College Park, and the Smithsonian Institution. All are members of the Association of Research Libraries. Officers of the new alliance are James Neal (Johns Hopkins), president; Susan Martin, vice president/president-elect; and Barbara Smith (Smithsonian Institution), secretary-treasurer.

SOME THINGS WE'D LIKE

Georgetown, like other libraries, must provide the host of services and just plain things that make using its resources possible. Funding for these “other direct” expenses is even more limited than that for acquisitions of books and other library materials, and we're always just a little behind on what we can get for our available dollars. Put off this year, for example, are the following admittedly mundane, but nonetheless necessary, articles:

- **Bookends**: to use the top shelves on our stacks we need specially designed bookends which we don’t have, and we need about 2,200 of them, so that even at about $4.00 each the total cost is large.

- **Booktrucks**: no library seems ever to have enough, and we're short five of the number we'd currently like, at about $160.00 apiece.

- **De-sensitizer**: we'd get borrowers through circulation faster if we had another one of these devices that deactivates the magnetic security tapes in our books, but it costs about $1,850.00.

Needless to say, we'd be delighted if a Library Associate or any other generous friend would help us out of this pinch. If you'd like to help, contact Phyllis Barrow at (202) 687-7454.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sadness the death of Library Associate Jane Engert, generous donor and friend.

THE YEAR OF THE LIBRARY

What a year! Associates and friends made sure 1995-96, *The Year of the Library,* was all we could have hoped for and more, with the library receiving more than $3,000,000 in cash gifts and pledges as well as more than $500,000 in gifts in kind.

Previous issues of the Newsletter have given details on some of these gifts, and the next issue will have more information on the largest and most recent ones.

Our sincere thanks to one and all!
JOIN THE ASSOCIATES

Readers of this Newsletter who are NOT already members of the LIBRARY ASSOCIATES can receive information on how to join by contacting Melanie Savage. Write her at the library address, or call her at (202)687-7446, or fax her at (202) 687-7501.

Programs are always STIMULATING, and the benefits are GREAT! Why not join us and find out for yourself?

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

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

- **Timothy W. Childs**  
  First editions of works in 18th century English literature

- **Joseph G. E. Hopkins**  
  Personal papers and books, including a number written by him, in memory of Vincent Hopkins, S.J.

- **Henry L. Nowik**  
  Additional first editions of works by Patrick White

- **Leon Robbin**  
  Musical manuscripts and letters by Franz Liszt, Felix Mendelssohn, Johann Strauss, and others

- **Paul Rohon**  
  A 19th century folio illustrated edition of Goethe’s Faust

- **Patrick J. Sheehy**  
  First editions of works in 19th and 20th century English and American literature

- **Eric M. Smith**  
  More than 200 original editorial cartoons and drawings

- **Connie and Mayo Stuntz**  
  Books on intelligence activities in the southwest Pacific during World War II

THE NOISY PLANET... (continued from page 1)

Rice, whose own generosity also helped in making this great acquisition possible, founded and edited the Catholic journal *Jubilee*, for which Merton occasionally wrote. In a letter of November, 1960, Merton discussed censorship problems with his superiors on an issue that has great relevance to Georgetown and its collections:

Well, I now have the final supreme decision about the Teilhard de Chardin article. It is that this must not make the appearance. It must not put forth the snout. It must remain in the hole or warren. It must go the way of all other well meaning attempts to say T de C is all right. The Jesuits have not bless T de C. Nobody has bless T de C. Rather they have muttered at him, nay, mumbled. It has been handed down by the Magisterium, says a prof in Rome, Lord only knows who, but he made the decision, it has been handed down he says that the Catholic reviews should make the silence with regard to T de C. Hence you being a Catholic review must make the profound silence with regard to this article. We are in profound silence, and I for my own part in most profound silence being more profoundly silent than anybody else on the face of this rather noisy planet.