JESUIT GENERALS’ ARCHIVES ARRIVE AT GEORGETOWN

JUST BEFORE THANKSGIVING, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST JON Reynolds completed the library’s most significant acquisition of Jesuit records in two decades with the transfer to Georgetown of more than 300 bound volumes of photographic prints of records in the main Jesuit archives in Rome dating from the beginning of the Society to its suppression in 1773. The records were photographed about 1930, and until the transfer this set of prints was in Baltimore in the care of the Maryland Province Archives, most of which have been housed in Lauinger since 1975.

The Roman archives are accompanied by a number of fairly detailed index volumes; these will permit research “the old-fashioned way” until such time as a modern database and finding aid can be put together. The record series for Japan, China, and the Far East is by far the most extensive for any area outside of Italy. The English records (which contain, of course, documents relating to Jesuit activities in colonial Maryland) were made available to Fr. Thomas Hughes during his research for The History of the Society of Jesus in North America (1907-17), but records for a number of other areas offer rich possibilities for research.

The photographic prints, however, constitute little more than the tip of the iceberg in terms of the total holdings of the Roman archives. An earlier transfer brought to Lauinger just over 4,000 spools of negative microfilm reproducing the entirety of the Roman archives from the beginning through about 1945. The film, however, needs extensive work before it can profitably be used by researchers. If an Associate has the ability to make a major contribution towards this end, he or she is urged to talk to Marty Barringer at (202) 687-7475 or Susan K. Martin at (202) 687-7425 about requirements for the project. 

For further information on all Associates events or any questions regarding your Associates membership, please contact Melanie Savage at (202) 687-7446.
The computer is one of only a few technologies which have revolutionized civilization. The first computers, built just prior to World War II, were used primarily for numerical calculations. They were large, slow, and expensive, requiring special expertise to operate. Today computers control our automobiles, our VCRs, our telephones, the banking system and much more.

In 1901 Melvil Dewey (developer of the Dewey Decimal System) wrote, “Probably no other question in library administration is more practically important to most libraries..., than that of reducing costs of cataloguing and increasing utility of catalogues...”. Librarians realized in the early 1960s that libraries’ large record keeping operations lent themselves to automation. In 1965 the Library of Congress developed the MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging) format, which provided a standard for recording library cataloging information usable interchangeably by computers. Using the MARC format as a basis, in 1971 OCLC (initially the Ohio College Library Center but now a non-profit membership organization) began the first online shared cataloging system, reducing redundancy by eliminating the need for each library to catalog originally materials held in common. Today the OCLC database contains 31 million unique records for books, serials, audio-visual items, and other library materials contributed by 20,000 libraries in 60 countries and territories worldwide.

Traditionally, libraries served as warehouses for books, the containers of the world's knowledge. This has changed dramatically following widespread application of computing technology to information resources. Integrated online library information systems became commonplace in the 1980s. These systems kept track of library orders, maintained check-in records for control of periodicals, created databases of cataloged materials, and provided the user with powerful and easy-to-use searching capabilities in the online catalog. The personal computer enabled the development of ways of providing and analyzing information that could not have been contemplated earlier. The development of the CD-ROM, which permits the storage of up to 250,000 pages of text on one disc, has made online searching of periodical literature affordable and practical. More recently, the INTERNET has been the technology transforming the

(continues on page 5)
FROM VILNA TO GEORGETOWN

The collapse of the former Soviet Union has led to many surprises, not least among them finding large numbers of “old books,” and particularly old Catholic books, suddenly coming on the market in this country. The library has recently been able to acquire three different lots of material of a type not often available in this country in past years.

Two sales at a New York auction gallery yielded two sizable lots of early books, lumped together for purposes of sale as “Jesuitica” and “Church History and Theology.” A third, smaller, group of Jesuit works printed in Poland was acquired privately following a referral by the same auction house. Altogether, the three purchases have added more than 90 titles ranging in date from the early sixteenth through the early nineteenth century, with the bulk dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The range of subject matter is wide, and many of the books are quite scarce. The 11 Polish Jesuit imprints are, so far as we can determine, the only copies of these titles recorded in this country. The flavor of these acquisitions can best be gained, however, by considering a few of the titles in question:

- Filleau, Jean. *Relation juridique, De ce qui s’est passé à Poitiers touchant la nouvelle doctrine des Jansenistes.* Poitiers: Thoreau et Fleuriau [1654]

A little discreet detective work elicited the information that the most recent home of all of these books was in Russia. Many of them, however, like the one illustrated, show early provenance markings of the former Jesuit college in Vilna. After their no-doubt adventurous travels, it’s good to have them at Georgetown.
FALL ASSOCIATES’ EVENTS

“The Year of the Library” started with a large number of events involving members of the Library Associates both around the United States and overseas.

SANTA MONICA

On September 13, Don (F ’68) and Marybeth Woods, parents of Darby, (B ’96), hosted a Library Associates event at their home in Santa Monica, featuring Ambassador William A. Wilson, the first U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. Ambassador Wilson gave a talk entitled “The Vatican in the World Today” to a group of alumni, parents, and friends.

PARIS

On October 4, the Associates, in conjunction with The Georgetown Club of France, presented a lecture entitled “Ethics in the Information Age” featuring University Librarian Susan K. Martin. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer session, mostly concerning modern French technology. Special thanks to Shéhérazade Semsar, (F ’89, G ’90) and Duncan MacElhone (B ’77) for organizing this event.

LONDON

Together with The Georgetown Club of the United Kingdom, on October 5 the Associates cosponsored a lecture in London by author Larry Collins entitled “A Marriage Made in Hell—Drugs, International Crime, and Terrorism.” Also a Georgetown University parent, Mr. Collins is author of the novels Fall from Grace, Maze, and Black Eagles, among others. Close to 30 Associates, alumni, parents, and friends were hosted for the event by Peter L. Donnelly (F ’69). Special thanks to Michael Sotirhos (C ’91, L ’94) for organizing the event and to Anne-Marie Barcia (F ’76) for acting as the library’s contact in England.

WASHINGTON

Over 100 Associates packed into the Murray Room of Lauinger Library on October 17 to hear a lecture entitled “Growing up in a House of Used Books.” Eugene Meyer (Washington Post staff writer) and his sister, Deborah DeWan (Senior Associate at the Catskill Center), kept the audience laughing as they told stories of their childhood. Brother and sister grew up together in a small three-bedroom rambler crammed with 25,000 volumes (mostly used) collected by their father, Gerard Previn Meyer, poet, educator, raconteur, and bookman. Their lavish gift to the library was reported in the Summer Newsletter.

SAVANNAH

On October 24, Library Advisory Council member Maurice Adelman, Jr. (L ’58) held a reception at his home in Savannah, Georgia, in honor of Susan K. Martin, University Librarian. Dr. Martin gave an update on the Lauinger Library and apprised the group of current University happenings. There was interest among the attendees to form an alumni club in Savannah. Readers interested in becoming involved should contact David Parson, regional alumni officer, at (202) 687-3625.

If you are interested in learning more about the Library Associates’ program, contact Melanie Savage at (202) 687-7446 or via e-mail at savagem@gunet.georgetown.edu.
ability of librarians to locate and provide information resources to their users. This far-reaching and rapid transformation of libraries is no one-time shift; it presages automation's introduction of continuous change as a way of library life.

So it has been in recent years in Lauinger Library. In 1993 the library migrated from an online catalog in use since 1985 to a new system with improved capabilities. Users can now search GEORGE, the online catalog, not only by author, title, and subject, but also by words found anywhere in the record, either singly or in combination. GEORGE also links to other computerized databases including the catalogs of other Georgetown libraries, the Library of Congress, and the OCLC database mentioned earlier. In 1989 the library acquired its first database on CD-ROM, usable by one person at a time at a single computer. In 1991 the library installed a LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) which permitted six users to search any one of fewer than 10 databases at the same time. Today scholars can search 76 CD-ROM databases on over 70 public workstations, and 100 staff computers also have direct access to the Blommer CD-ROM Network.

A year ago the library opened the Electronic Information Resource Center (EIRC) and the Bernard and Nancy Picchi Multimedia Room. The EIRC, with 30 computers connected to the Internet, provides students access to their e-mail accounts, WordPerfect, GEORGE, the Blommer CD-ROM Network, Gopher, and the World Wide Web. The last two are tools that make simple locating and retrieving information resources from the Internet. Symbolic of the speed of change in computing technology: Gopher was the primary Internet search tool a mere 18 months ago. Then MOSAIC, new software that integrated text, images, sound, and video available on the World Wide Web, was released. MOSAIC in turn was quickly supplanted by NETSCAPE, the current Web browser of choice. The Web has dramatically simplified both the creation and discovery of valuable information on the Internet.

Through the generosity of Bernard and Nancy Picchi, we now have six computers for multimedia authoring. Students and faculty scan documents and pictures, capture video, and digitally record sound, combining these elements into presentations for their classes, departments, or World Wide Web homepages. Use of both the EIRC and the Picchi Multimedia Room has exploded as students discover their many resources, and as faculty increasingly require computerized presentations.

Local area networks, the Internet, and other communications links between computers have eliminated the distance between user and information. If the information exists on a computer attached to the Internet, anyone, anywhere can retrieve the document, anytime he needs it. The reverse is also true; libraries can now make their resources available to their users over the networks. New projects designed to improve the accessibility of Georgetown’s information resources are currently in the planning stages. Course reserve readings will be scanned into the computer and, using the Web, delivered to students in computer labs on campus. Unique collections in Special Collections will be scanned, annotated, and made available to the Internet. Library staff are currently investigating the feasibility of acquiring periodical index databases which can provide the complete text of cited articles as well.

Melvil Dewey, and librarians since, have dedicated their efforts to improving the utility of the catalog. Finding the right information has become increasingly difficult as the amount of information rises, but computers, network links between computers, and the efforts of librarians world wide continue to bring user and needed information closer together. Dewey would approve. 

Jill Junnola
Gregory Kearney
Edward Kerbs
Capt. Charles Koburger, Jr.
Alexis Korybut
E. Frank LaFranchise
Caren Yglesias Livengood
Charles Ludolph
Lynda Ludwigsen
Rufus Lusk, Jr.
Alejandro Maher
Andre Mander
Matthew Massaua
Osman Mayatepek
Roberta McCaffrey
Crystal McEachin
Joseph McHale
Thom Metzger
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Daniel Milton
Greg Monfils
Charles Montgomery
Molly O’Neal
William and Joyce O’Brien
Roger Orf
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Margaret Riva-Geoghegan
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Sherry Rusher
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Lisa Schaumann
Irmgard Scherer
Paul Schlegel
Judith Schroeter-Deegan
Jan Seigel
Xavier Slotkoff
Susan Carol Smith
Hughes Spalding, Jr.
Frederick Stock
Bonnie Tyler
Ivar Viehe-Naess
John Walker
Janet Warre
Kate Meenan-Waugh
Peter and Andrea Wearden
Colonel Arthur Whitley
Roger Williams

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WHAT IF I WANT 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 Sue Martin, at (202) 687-7425, or Associates' assistant Melanie Savage, 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 September, 1995. Among them are:

- Kenneth J. Atchity
  Additional personal papers and correspondence
- Katherine Bowie
  Collection of early printed editions of the classics
- William E. Colby
  Books on intelligence and other subjects
- Roderick M. Engert
  Additional diplomatic papers of Cornelius Engert
- Estate of Philip J. Herzbrun
  Several hundred works in modern English and American literature
- Bernard Kripkee and Roa Lynn
  Modern European fine prints and other graphics
- Mark Samuels Lasner
  First editions by A. C. Swinburne and others
- Leon Robbin
  Musical manuscripts and letters by Franz Liszt and others
- Robin Ward Savage and Nanda Ward
  Additional papers and artwork by Lynd Ward and May McNeer Ward

ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE

The library has recently received an extensive collection of books on Southwest Asian art and architecture, with emphasis on Islamic works. The generous gift was presented by Mrs. Lucy E. W. Hamilton from the library of her late husband, Robert Hamilton, whose frequent travels to the Middle East led him to graduate study and the formation of a serious collection.

The collection, which totals more than 1,300 items, presents many of the essential elements for scholarly study in the field. Among the noteworthy items are such things as the first 16 volumes, complete, of *Ars Islamica*; many works by noted Islamic scholar Oleg Grabar; and the monumental 1922 publication of the Musée de l'art arabe du Caire, *La Céramique égyptienne de l'époque Musulmane*. Both Lauinger's stacks and the university's villa at Alanya, in Turkey, will benefit greatly.