A Lavish Literary Gift

Over the past twenty-five years a series of generous gifts and a few judicious purchases have combined to endow the library's Special Collections Division with a relatively strong collection in the fields of nineteenth and twentieth century English and American literature.

The most recent boost for these collections has recently arrived in the large collection of modern literary first editions formed by the late Gerard Previn Meyer, in all numbering almost 3,000 volumes, the gift of his children, Eugene Meyer and Deborah Meyer DeWan.

While the collection includes works by more than a hundred different authors, there are, nonetheless, areas of focus: nearly 700 volumes document Meyer's lasting interest in a "short list" of eighteen writers, evenly divided by nationality between Britons and Americans. The two largest sub-collections are devoted to two writers not previously held by Georgetown in any considerable strength at all: D. H. Lawrence and Robert Louis Stevenson. In each case, more than 100 titles by and about the writer go far beyond the two dozen titles by each already held in the rare book stacks.

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**FIVE YEARS LATER...**

"Just five years ago I came to Georgetown, following in the footsteps of Joe Jeffs, who had been University Librarian for thirty years, and who had built the collection, the building, and a support structure (the Library Associates) for Lauinger Library. I arrived on the Monday following the Friday retirement of not only Joe Jeffs, but also Jim DeLancey, his associate and the person to whom all the library departments reported.

With a staff of 103 full-time employees and a book collection of about 1.3 million volumes, the library was relatively well cared-for, although much remained to be done to improve the collections so that they appropriately reflected the academic ambitions of the university. But there was much in addition that required attention. The computer system used by the library was outdated and insufficient to accommodate the needs of the university community. The building was flexible and well-built, but looked more like an undergraduate library than a research library. The library’s organizational structure was not as effective as it might have been; when I arrived at the university, fourteen people reported directly to me—far more than the traditional proper span of control might suggest.

**What has happened in the intervening five years?** A great deal! Some outward signs, and their underlying causes, are:

- there is no longer a card catalog in sight—actually, there’s no longer a card catalog at all. The contents of the catalog were converted to computer-readable form, and access to the library’s holdings, with the exception of a few thousand volumes in Special Collections (in the process of conversion), is now entirely through the library’s online system, installed in 1993;

(continues on page 5)
THE MANY SELVES OF JOHN L. BROWN

Author, scholar, translator, editor, professor, diplomat, foreign correspondent: whatever the role, John L. Brown's life has been linked inextricably with literature. Among his own publications are eight volumes of poetry, and his Panorama de la littérature contemporaine aux Etats-Unis (Gallimard, 1954) won him the prestigious Grand Prix de la Critique. His published works have appeared in more than a half dozen languages.

A graduate of Hamilton College, Brown pursued graduate work in medieval studies and comparative literature at the Ecole des Chartes and the Sorbonne before taking his doctorate at Catholic University in 1939. After service with the OSS in World War II, he worked in Paris as European editor for Houghton Mifflin and then as director of information for the Marshall Plan. In 1949 he entered the Foreign Service and was posted as our cultural attaché in Paris, Brussels, Rome, and, finally, Mexico City. In 1968 Brown became professor of comparative literature at Catholic University.

Recently Professor Brown donated to the library his papers, including a rich trove of letters from Sylvia Beach, Kay Boyle, John Dos Passos, Julian Green, Paul Horgan, Jacques Maritain, Marianne Moore, Katherine Anne Porter, James Purdy, Allen Tate, Virgil Thomson, and Giuseppe Ungaretti. There are over 40 letters from Alice B. Toklas which vividly document the last decade of her life without Gertrude. While writing her Clock Without Hands, Carson McCullers lived with the Browns outside Paris. In a spirited letter she discusses the French translations of her books:

First, I feel that it is of the utmost importance to have a really good translator. I rather think that Reflections in a Golden Eye is a "natural" in French. But both The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter and The Member of the Wedding will take the most understanding and painstaking work, if the translation is to be adequate. For instance there are four different styles of writing, with a contrapuntal voice of their own, in The Heart--; for the book to have its own character will be the devil of a job. And The Member of the Wedding is even harder. This book has a language of its own; every word was weighed and chosen, and there could be no approximation.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sadness the recent deaths of two Library Associates:
Agnes M. Russell, who died on July 16, 1994 and Victoria Kuhn, who died on March 26, 1995.

F.Y.I.

Silver prize medal awarded by GU to Samuel Mulledy in 1830 (gift of Laura Joost)

QUOTABLE

Unless a person feels a definite urge to collect books as books, he had better collect something else. He should not collect books as merchandise. There are so many less wieldy things to gamble with, and will be while Wall Street endures and fifty-two cards constitute a deck.

- John T. Winterich

Photograph (inscribed) by Brassai, from the John L. Brown Papers
SPRING ASSOCIATES’ EVENTS

IN SEARCH OF GRAHAM GREENE

On March 2, 1995, the Library Associates welcomed for a second time Dr. Norman Sherry, for a lecture entitled “In Search of Graham Greene.” Professor Sherry is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and Mitchell Distinguished Professor of Literature at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. Sherry’s latest book, The Life of Graham Greene Volume 2: 1939-1955, was recently published to great acclaim. In fact, the review it received in The New York Times ended with the word “WOW!” And many members of the audience had that same reaction to Dr. Sherry’s lecture!

Graham Greene spoke to the Library Associates in 1985, one of his rare public appearances, and it was a privilege for the 150 Library Associates in attendance to have his authorized biographer present to address the Associates on the tenth anniversary of that event. A reception followed as many Associates eagerly lined up to have Dr. Sherry sign their copy of his book.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Almost 200 Library Associates filled Georgetown’s Intercultural Center Auditorium on a beautiful spring day in May for the final event until the fall. The Library Associates welcomed Mr. Earl A. Powell, III, Director of Washington’s National Gallery of Art. Father Leo O’Donovan welcomed Associates and friends, expressing pleasure in having Mr. Powell here as a most appropriate ending to the Library Associates’ year, since the name of the Fine Arts Department was recently changed to the Department of Art, Music, and Theater. Mr. Powell explored new directions the National Gallery would be taking in technology as it applies to education and conservation. He also gave Associates a “behind-the-scenes” look at some of the inner workings of the museum, from art installation to the re-framing of some of its great works of art, and a preview of some upcoming gallery events, including major exhibitions on Winslow Homer and Johannes Vermeer.
FIVE YEARS LATER... (continued from page 2)

✓ the main floor looks, well, new—in that same year, 1993, a deferred maintenance project intended to ameliorate problems with the library's climate control system contained the added benefit of allowing us to perform a full architectural renovation of the main floor, with less comprehensive but equally aesthetic changes throughout the rest of the building;

✓ where is the bookstore, and what are those strange-looking shelves on wheels?—with the construction of the Leavey Center, the bookstore moved to that new building, and the library building was for the first time occupied entirely by library departments and functions. The very large area formerly occupied by the bookstore now contains movable compact shelving, which allows us to shelve many more books in that area than would be possible with traditional shelving. In order to accomplish this without inconveniencing users, we had to identify parts of the collection that are relatively less often used (dissertations, older science books, and other similar categories);

✓ computer terminals and workstations abound—the reach of the computer now extends far beyond the library's catalog. When checking the catalog, a user can do a search of the Library of Congress catalog, or the Law Library catalog. Or check the holdings of any of the 10,000 libraries that use the national OCLC data base. The Electronic Information Resource Center and the Bernard and Nancy Picchi Multimedia Room provide access on 35 workstations to the World Wide Web, full text documents, and multimedia playing and authoring software. The Blommer Information Center allows users to search 76 CD-ROM databases covering all subject areas.

The library's relationship to the world outside is also changing. The current political climate is about to eliminate or severely reduce federal funding for libraries; these programs have been of some assistance to Lauinger in the past, and clearly will not be sources of support for special projects in the future. The copyright law of 1976 may be revised, and with it comes the prospect of severe limitations on the library and its users in using any material within copyright. Our hopes are that reason will prevail, and that such important rights as that of "fair use" will continue.

Meanwhile, next year will be the Year of the Library! In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Lauinger Library and the 200th anniversary of any library at Georgetown, the library and the Library Associates are planning a year of special events and festivities in recognition of these important milestones. The Library Associates, currently about 800 in number, will grow, we hope, to over one thousand alumni and friends of the library.

My first five years at Georgetown have been graced by superb colleagues and a wonderful group of friends of the library. The coming years will present us with challenges at least as great as those we have faced since 1990; I am delighted that the library has such an excellent group of friends and staff to work together to meet and surmount these challenges."


Pedro Saenz-Arce
Elizabeth N. Saunders
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Seiden
Norman Sherry
Maria Gabriela Sierra
Robert W. Stieg, Jr.
Louise Waller Stoppelli
Chih-Hsiung Sung
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Taney
Robert A. Thomas
Philip M. Vaughn
Linda Weiss
Eric von Zinkernagel
Catalina Baron Zorc

AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW ASSOCIATES FROM GU'S CLASS OF '95

Joanna Angelides
Allison Bothell
Maura Colleary
Leisa Contreras
Stephen DeMetrick
John Galloway
Gita Gidwani
Kate Gutierrez
Yukani Iwatani
Krystal Jordan
Suzanne Kelley
Ashish Lakanpal
Anne Marie Lynch
Andre Mander
Aimen Mir
Kristin Reineck
Stephen Sandis
Nigel Scott
Lauren Stelljes
Liam Sullivan
Edings Thibault
Edward Torpoco
John Van Dyck
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 March, 1995. Among them are:

- **Kenneth J. Atchity**
  Additional personal records and papers

- **Frank Kurt Cylke**
  Books and journals concerning Arthur Ransome

- **Laurie L. England**
  Fine and commercial paper ephemera

- **Mary V. Gilbert**
  Publications and related items by or about Teilhard de Chardin

- **Laura Joost**
  Additional personal papers of Nicholas Joost and an early Georgetown silver prize medal

- **John Blair Mitchell**
  Two original prints, including a self-portrait

- **Louise Reisman**
  50 original copper plates for prints by Philip Reisman

- **Eric McAllister Smith**
  80 of his original editorial cartoons

- **Louise Waller Stoppelli**
  Books relating to the Waller family and genealogical studies

A LAVISH LITERARY GIFT (continued from page 1)

Besides Lawrence and Stevenson, other British writers whose works Meyer accumulated in significant numbers include W. H. Auden, Max Beerbohm, Joseph Conrad, T. S. Eliot, Rudyard Kipling, Stephen Spender, and Virginia Woolf, including in the latter case a fine copy of her first novel, *The Voyage Out* (1915). The American authors most extensively collected by Meyer, and thus best represented here, include Erskine Caldwell, e. e. cummings, William Faulkner, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Henry James, John Steinbeck, Mark Twain, and William Carlos Williams.

Some of the finest individual items in the collection, however, are by other authors such as Herman Melville, represented by a first edition of *Typee* (1846); Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the first edition of *The Valley of Fear* (1914), in dust jacket; James Joyce, the first American edition of *Dubliners* (1916); and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, whose eleven-volume collected works of 1886 are embellished with an 1852 autograph fair copy of his memorable final stanza of “The Day Is Done”:

The Night shall be filled with music
And the cares, that infest the Day,
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.