Blommer Information Center is Dedicated

On May 10, five members of the Blommer family joined the Board of Trustees of the Library Associates, faculty, and staff for the dedication of the information center made possible by the generosity of Henry J. (C'26) and Viola Blommer, Sr., for whom the Blommer Science Library is also named.

We are truly grateful to the Blommer family for their support. At the dedication were Henry and Viola Blommer, Sr.; Henry and Judy Blommer, Jr.; and Stephen Blommer, a student at the Medical Center. About 50 people crowded into the Blommer Science Library for refreshments and a brief ceremony featuring a blessing by Father Robert Lawton, S.J., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and remarks by Dr. Richard Blanquet, professor of biology and member of the Main Campus Library Committee; Dr. Marie-Helene Gibney, associate provost; and Dr. Susan K. Martin, university librarian.

The Blommer Information Center allows the library to use the same technology as that used to produce audio compact disks to provide library users with a host of data bases in a wide variety of fields. The “center” is actually decentralized; it consists of a computer and disk drives in the Library Systems Office, six computer workstations in the Lauinger Reference Department, four in the Blommer Science Library, two in Government Documents, and one in the Woodstock Theological Library.

Anyone doing research can go to any of these work stations and gain access to indexes and files such as Dissertation Abstracts, General Science Index, ABI/Inform (a business literature data base), Religion Index, and eleven other products that are published on CD-ROM (compact disk-read only memory) by various commercial publishers.

Since this technology became widely available in the mid-1980s, reference tools that used to be available in print form only have rapidly moved to CD-ROM format. Each CD-ROM disk can store 550 million characters of information, or the amount of information in 250 normal-sized volumes. With the Blommer Information Center, we have networked the user stations together so that two or more persons can use a data base simultaneously, and so that a person in any area of the library can have access to the data bases stored on the network.
Welcome, New Associates

Graham Greene

On April 3rd Graham Greene died in Vevey, Switzerland at 86. In a moving obituary in the Independent his biographer, Norman Sherry, wrote of the novelist’s greatness:

Graham Greene’s achievement is reflected in the variety of his professional life — publisher, editor, film and book reviewer, intelligence agent, travel writer, critic, essayist, biographer, playwright, poet, compulsive writer of letters to the newspapers. But these activities were ancillary to his prodigious work as a novelist.

In that field he created seedy, sometimes pathetic, often tenuous survivors in a hostile world. What was it that led him to write of those deeply divided creatures who never seem to be rescued except on the wrong side of the grave? . . . Raven (A Gun for Sale), Pinkie (Brighton Rock), the whiskey priest (The Power and the Glory), Scobie (The Heart of the Matter), Harry Lime (The Third Man), Sarah (The End of the Affair) . . . Their creation is a wonderful accomplishment, never likely to be matched in our time.

Greene could also be a good friend. Indeed for the last years of his life he was a very good friend to the library. This came about in 1979 when Joseph E. Jeffs, then university librarian, approached him about the possibility of his archives coming to Georgetown. He was intrigued, and through correspondence and meetings with Jeffs, and over a period of years, the library acquired such literary treasures as his travel diaries; lengthy series of letters from Edith Sitwell, Evelyn Waugh, and Antonia White; the manuscripts of Monsignor Quixote, Getting to Know the General, The Tenth Man and The Captain and the Enemy; and a wide variety of manuscript plays, short stories, and other correspondence.

Perhaps the greatest mark of Greene’s affection for Joe Jeffs and the library was when he agreed to a rare public appearance at Georgetown. One of the most memorable events ever sponsored by the Library Associates, this question-and-answer program took place on October 7, 1985 in a crowded Gaston Hall. On the same occasion, and with characteristic generosity, he donated to the library his diaries and commonplace book for 1936, together with the manuscript of “Waiting for a War.”

He also encouraged his family and friends to consider Georgetown a repository for their own Greene material. From his brother Sir Hugh Greene came an important correspondence of 250 letters; his nephew James Greene sent some 50 letters; and Mrs. Helen Redway contributed the valuable papers of the late Alan Redway, the Greene bibliographer. More recently he suggested to Lord Walston that Georgetown would be an appropriate institution for his own unrivaled Greene collection. In 1990 that too arrived: more than a thousand letters; manuscripts of scores of works, published and unpublished, including the original of The End of the Affair; his Mexico diary of 1938; and a vast array of printed ephemera and photographs. Lord Walston, alas, died the month following Graham Greene on May 29th. Both will be remembered, each in his own way, by their friends at Georgetown.

The Renovation Continues

The library’s major summer project involves unpacking and sorting about 40,000 uncataloged volumes which were sent to Virginia for storage when the renovation of the lower level began late last summer. The books themselves are almost all unprocessed gift volumes received over the past few years; the problem is that even with a large gift storage room with compact stacks we do not have space to store them all. The solution developed by Betty Smith, gifts librarian and the project’s coordinator and boss, is to hire additional student help and to encourage volunteer efforts by other librarians and staff to help us determine which of the volumes will
In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent deaths of the following Library Associates:

George L. McConville
Francis I. McGarraghy

Associates Hold Spring Programs

Three standing-room only programs were sponsored by the Library Associates during the spring semester of 1991.

Fascinating Maps

In late January the library was privileged to host an exhibit of reproductions of *Portugallae Monumenta Cartographica*. The major exhibition, "Portugal-Brazil: The Age of Atlantic Discoveries" had been shown at the New York Public Library during the summer of 1990 and then moved to Lisbon. Thanks to the cooperation of the Embassy of Portugal and the Portuguese Department at Georgetown, the reproductions were loaned to the library for two weeks. To mark the event, on January 27th Wilcomb E. Washburn, director of the American Studies Program at the Smithsonian, spoke to the assembled audience on "Portuguese Cartography in the Age of Discoveries." Other books relating to the topic, a gift to the library from the Commission for the Commemoration of the Portuguese Discoveries, were also on display.

Gender Difference

One month later the Library Associates were privileged to be able to listen to one of Georgetown's own faculty who has made the best seller lists. Deborah Tannen, on February 28th, spoke on "Women and Men in Conversation," a takeoff on her book, *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*. Dr. Tannen established excellent rapport with her listeners, and prompted a lot of response. Members of the university community mingled with Library Associates to fill the auditorium in the Inter cultural Center for the occasion.

Jesuits in Story

To commemorate the Ignatian year, on April 17th Father Royden B. Davis, S.J., dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences, pleased the Associates with a talk on "Fictional Jesuits I Have Known." Much loved during his tenure as dean, Father Davis drew a crowd of friends who enjoyed his recollections of these imaginary characters. Father also had prepared a list of titles which he distributed to those who wanted to pursue fictional Jesuits on their own. Since this program, word has come that Father Davis has been appointed rector of the Jesuit community and the high school in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He will be much missed on the Georgetown campus.

Trustees Assemble

To top off the year, the meeting of the Library Associates Board of Trustees was held on May 10-11. Beginning on a Friday afternoon, the trustees were welcomed by University President Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J. After an hour devoted to business, they had the opportunity to tour Lauinger and Woodstock libraries at a time of full occupation in regard to both staff and patrons. Members of the board said it was an enlightening experience. Following the tour the trustees attended the dedication of the Blommer Information Center (see article on page 1). Father J. Donald Freeze, S.J., provost, and Dr. Marie-Helene Gibney, associate provost, joined the Blommers and the trustees at a reception and dinner in the Riggs Library. The trustees held the final session of their meeting from 9 a.m. till noon on Saturday.

Under the leadership of Chairman Cornelius J. Moynihan (C’61), the board considered such items as terms of trustees, additional committees which would involve all board members in activities supporting the library, as well as the review and discussion of the library's mission statement and the strategic planning process in which it is engaged. While the matters of the board terms and committee structures are still under consideration, the board decided to hold semiannual meetings in the future. In accord with this decision, a meeting is planned for fall 1991, date yet to be determined.
New Rare Books: William Everson and Others

The William Everson "wish list" that we published in the February issue of the Newsletter proved fruitful beyond our expectations. Associates' trustee Judith McCabe donated a copy of Kenneth Rexroth's *Eastward the Armies*, a book printed by Everson, and Georgetown professor Victor Ferkiss presented us with the copy of Everson's *Triptych for the Living* which he and his wife had bought when the volume was first published. Mrs. Ferkiss's friendship with Everson is further documented by an extraordinary letter from the poet recounting his experience in combining poetry with the seclusion of monastic life. As if this were not enough, however, when a copy of the list fell into the hands of a California book dealer, we were offered (and promptly purchased) three more of our Everson desiderata. Would that all wish lists were so productive!

Of special note, too, are recent gifts from Patricia England, from Provost J. Donald Freeze, S.J., and from printmaker John DePol. From Mrs. England the library received a copy of August Heckscher's fine and monumental recent edition of *The Ship of Fools*, and Father Freeze donated the 1649 Elzevir edition of Vitruvius *De architectura*, a volume he had been given by the Marquesa Margaret Strong de Cuevas de Larain, whose Villa le Balze is now the headquarters for Georgetown in Fiesole. Mr. DePol's gift came totally unexpectedly. Through sources outside Georgetown he had learned of our purchase last fall of a large collection of his work, and his gift, comprising 33 prints, posters, and broadsides, was intended to supplement that collection with some of his more recent work.

Evelyn Waugh

The library has been collecting books, manuscripts, and letters by this major English writer for a number of years. We can be proud of our extensive holdings of Waugh letters, and despite very much a bull market, we have even managed to corral a few significant manuscript items. Somewhat disappointingly, however, we have not been able to put together a complete roster of this distinguished writer's first editions. We have 20 of the 36 first English editions; needless to say, we'd like to have them all. Encouraged by the success of our appeal for works by William Everson (noted elsewhere in this issue), we have to make known our modest needs to our Library Associates and friends. Place of publication in all instances is London.

**EVELYN WAUGH DESIDERATA**


Decline and Fall. *Duckworth*, 1928.

*Vile Bodies*. Chapman and Hall, 1930.


*Ninety-two Days, the Account of a Tropicall Journey*. *Duckworth*, 1934.


*Mr. Loveday's Little Outing and Other Sad Stories*. Chapman and Hall, 1936.

Robbery Under Law, the Mexican Object-Lesson. Chapman and Hall, 1939.


Wine in Peace and War. Saccone and Speed, 1947.


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Printmaker John DePol supplemented the library's collection with his more recent works.

Renovation from page 1

be added to the collections and which may be safely recycled by means of a fall book sale. We anticipate having about 10,000 volumes in hand when sale time comes, and Associates will receive timely notice about time and place.

As work begins on renovation of part of the fifth floor, staffs of the administrative office and Special Collections have been playing "musical office." Sue Martin and the administrative staff were relocated to the fifth floor lounge early in May. They had perforce to give up their splendid view to return to refinished and enlarged quarters in early June, but their place was happily taken by Special Collections staff, who anticipate being in a kind of pleasant exile until early August.

Barring further delays, the library will be settled with books all moved and people all rehoused by the opening of the fall semester. We will have gained space for nearly 200,000 additional volumes in the main stacks and for about 35,000 additional rare books, as well as generating much-needed student seating and even more necessary office and work space for staff.
Donations and Deductions in 1991

The Georgetown University Library receives many of its finest books, manuscripts and art work as gifts from Library Associates. Though these donations are tax deductible, Associates should bear in mind that a recent change in the tax law makes 1991 a particularly good year in which to donate such materials.

In the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Congress ruled that for one year only — 1991 — gifts of tangible personal property will be exempt as a preference item from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In addition, any carry-over of excess deductions to future years will also be treated as if made in 1991 and thus exempted from the AMT in the year actually deducted. Donors then are able to deduct the full market value of their 1991 gift subject only to the 30% adjusted gross income limitation. The tax benefits of this law are especially meaningful for those Associates who own material which has substantially appreciated in value.

Associates and other friends of the library should remember that in order to take advantage of the tax law, gifts must be received by the library within calendar year 1991. Those who are considering donations of books, manuscripts and art work, please contact Elizabeth Smith, gifts librarian, or Nicholas Scheetz, manuscripts librarian.

The Greatest Engineer That Ever Lived

George W. Goethals called him one of "the greatest engineers that ever lived" and when the building of the Panama Canal was in doubt Theodore Roosevelt turned to him for help. He was John F. Stevens (1853-1943), an explorer, a railroad executive, but first and foremost, a civil engineer. The papers of this remarkable American have recently been donated to Georgetown by his granddaughter, Mrs. John U. Hawks of Goshen, Indiana, and his great-grandson, Donald H. Stevens of Baltimore, Maryland.

Stevens' fame as a railroad engineer brought him work throughout the country and indeed the world. Starting in the mid-1870s he worked for a succession of American railroads: the Sabine Pass and Northwestern Railroad in Texas; the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in New Mexico; the Canadian Pacific Railroad and the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad. But it was while working with the Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad in 1889 that he became acquainted with James J. Hill, the energetic president of the Great Northern Railway. Hill was building a transcontinental railroad through the northernmost states and assigned Stevens to explore the route west of Havre, Montana. In the deep snow and bitter cold of winter Stevens discovered the now famous Marias Pass, the key passage across the Continental Divide. Other major discoveries were made in Washington state, most notably the pass near Lake Wenatchee which now bears his name, and in 1890 he completed the Cascade Tunnel through the Cascade mountains.

In early 1906 Stevens was appointed by President Roosevelt the chief engineer of the troubled Isthmian Canal Commission. The conditions in the Canal Zone were chaotic, but Stevens, drawing on his years of railroad experience, immediately reorganized the work force, the supply lines, and the engineering staff. He supported Col. William Gorgas in his fight for adequate health measures in the Zone, and most importantly he persuaded President Roosevelt to accept the view of a locked-canal rather than a sea-level canal. Construction was well under way when he resigned at the end of the year, frustrated by political maneuvering in Washington. His successor, George W. Goethals, made this estimation: "... the Panama Canal is his greatest monument... I found when I went to Panama that his organization was about as perfect as any could make it. The result was that more than one half of the work was done for me in advance."

The Stevens papers document all aspects of Stevens' colorful career. The archive includes considerable material on his work in Russia reorganizing the Trans-Siberia and Chinese Eastern railroads (1917-1923); a variety of maps and drawings; photographs; printed ephemera; medals and books owned by Stevens; diaries; an unpublished autobiography; and correspondence from various notables, among them William Howard Taft, Elihu Root, and Newton D. Baker.

Frederic J. Fuller, Jr., is Honored

On April 19, the Lauinger Library dedicated an audio-visual classroom which had been renovated and equipped through the generosity of Frederic J. Fuller, Jr. (C'39). Members of the library staff, the university administration, and faculty were on hand as Rev. Eugene Rooney, S.J., and Rev. Joseph Haller, S.J., dedicated the classroom with a prayer and reading, and University Librarian Susan K. Martin conveyed the gratitude of the university community to Mr. Fuller and his sister, Elizabeth Fuller.

The classroom is equipped to allow faculty to use various audio-visual materials in support of their lectures. Videotapes, computer-aided instruction, audio and overhead projection are only samples of the wide range of A-V formats which are easily selected for use in the classroom. Mark Cohen, head of the Audio-Visual Learning Resources Center, gave a demonstration of some of the equipment, with the able assistance of his staff.

The university and the library are pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the thoughtfulness of Mr. and Miss Fuller.
A Note of Appreciation

Many thanks are due to the following supporters of the library who have given books, manuscripts and other library materials during the first six months of 1991.

American Historical Association
Periodicals and books in the field of history
Paul Du Vivier
Books, pamphlets and maps
Robert M. Edmund
Scientific journals
Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.
60-volume set of Great Books of the Western World, 1990, with reader's guide
Laurie England
Fine printing ephemera
Richard Fafara
Academic books, some in Polish
Bruce Crane Fisher
Photographs and postcards for the Richard Crane collection
Holy Redeemer College
Rare books
K. A. Jagannathan
Books on the Soviet Union and politics, some in Russian
Joseph and Jeannine Jeffs
Additional books and Graham Greene letters
Jesuit community
Books on various topics
Korea Research Foundation
Books and journals
Korean Information Office
Books on art, culture, history, law and literature
Jesse A. Mann
Books in literature and philosophy
Wesley N. Matthews
Books and journals in physics
Edith Mayfield
Literary materials
William F. McDonald
Books in sociology
William McElroy
Journals and books in economics
William V. O'Brien
Books in religion and politics
Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J.
Books in various fields
Barbara Rhenish
Books and journals in various fields
Charles F. Quest
Fine prints by Werner Drewes
Richard J. Barber Associates, Inc.
Books, journals, government documents on labor
Eric McAllister Smith
Original political cartoons
August Velletri
Books and papers related to government and diplomacy, some in Italian
Webster University
Books from Gallery of Living Catholic Authors

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