Twentieth Anniversary Commemorated

Well over 300 people gathered in the University's Leavey Center on the evening of December 4, 1990 to mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of Lauinger Library. To celebrate the occasion, University President Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J. hosted a reception for the members of the Lauinger staff, the University community, Library Associates and other friends.

Philip C. Lauinger, Jr. (C'58), brother of Joseph Mark Lauinger for whom the library is named and member of the Associates' Board of Trustees, was able to come for the occasion from his home in Tulsa. Mr. Lauinger thanked his fellow Associates and assured them that their support of Lauinger Library "makes a significant impact."

In welcoming the guests, Father O'Donovan recalled that Georgetown University had taken "a major step forward in the area of information services" when it dedicated Lauinger Library twenty years ago. "Testing the limits of our own knowledge is the goal of all true learners," he said.

University Librarian Susan K. Martin paid tribute to the Lauinger family who "cared about the need of a flourishing university for an excellent intellectual center," to the University administration for its strong backing and to the Library Associates whose support and guidance enable the library to meet the needs of its users. Dr. Martin remarked that "libraries are dynamic organizations" and added that Lauinger will change in the coming years.
Welcome, New Associates

Aziza Abulhum-Alaini
James E. Alatis
Michael Baker
Peter Benedict
William C. Chapman
Michael J. Collins
Thomas A. Dean
Muriel Franc
Philip Gold
Elizabeth Grantham
John R. Guardi
Mrs. John Herbert
Daniel James
Robert B. Lawton, S.J.
Amos Levitt
Terri O'Lear
Robert S. Parker
Marguerite S. Quinn
Robert B. Raphael
David L. Schindler
Richard B. Schwartz
Samuel Schwartz
Herbert F. Thompson
Anne Graffam Walker
Earl J. Wilson
Thomas Wilson

Felix G. Robinson Papers

The papers of the historian, liturgist and musician, Felix G. Robinson, were recently given to Georgetown by his children, Ariel Robinson of Derwood, Maryland and Muriel Franc of Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The library is greatly indebted for this unique collection about the history of the Allegheny tableland region of western Maryland and West Virginia.

Robinson is well remembered as a pioneer in the field of Maryland local history. Beginning in 1953 he published over a period of ten years a journal now quite rare, "Tableland Trails," which preserved much of the local lore and oral history of the region. A significant portion of the Robinson archives contains genealogical notes about the original families of western Maryland to which are added the research papers of another local historian, Captain Charles H. Hoye (1876-1951), longtime editor of the Garrett County Historical Society's Glades Star.

Maryland history was only one of Robinson's passions: two others were religion and music. Born in 1898 in Oakland, Maryland, he received degrees from Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and did graduate work at the University of Chicago and the Union Theological Seminary. Halfway through his training at the seminary he went to work with Loudon Charlton, impresario of Carnegie Hall and co-founder of Columbia Artists, Inc. During this period Robinson became associated with many of the noted musicians of the day, but when offered a junior partnership he decided to finish his theological training.

As a Lutheran minister, for nearly ten years he remained in the New York area at various churches. In 1934 he became the pastor of a church in Keyser, West Virginia, and at the same time founded the Mountain Choir Festival, perhaps one of his greatest achievements. The festival was held for eight seasons in mid-summer at the old resort village of Mountain Lake Park, Maryland. Its purpose was to further the ecumenical movement through cultivation of the Christian musical heritage and church liturgy. This ecumenical work ultimately led to Robinson's conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1949. He died at Oakland in 1967.

The Robinson papers trace all aspects of his life and career. There are extensive correspondence, manuscripts, research notes, clipping files and photographs. Among the correspondents are Goetz Briefs, Bruce Catton, Archbishop Michael Curley, John Dos Passos, Rev. John Tracy Ellis, T. S. Eliot, Robert W. Garrett, Rev. John Courtney Murray, S.J., Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Schumann-Heink, Leopold Stokowski and Volkmar Wentzel.

Associates Hold Boston Reception

In October, Cornelius J. Moynihan, Jr. (C'61), President of the Georgetown University Library Associates, and William D. Benjes (C'60), member of the Board of Trustees of the Associates, held a reception in Boston to welcome Susan Martin as the new university librarian of the Joseph Mark Lauinger Library at Georgetown.

Nearly 30 Associates and Georgetown friends and alumni gathered in the elegant Union Club on Park Street for an evening of conversation and conviviality. Introduced by Mr. Moynihan to the group, Dr. Martin spoke about the intense and rapid growth of the Georgetown libraries in the decades since World War II, noting that in the late 1940s the total library budget was around $6,000, and as recently as 1960 the collection size was only just over 200,000 volumes (it is now more than 1.3 million volumes).

The growth of the library, together with the explosion of information as well as of information technologies, allows the university to take advantage of the strong collections and to build on these collections, as well as to implement a system which allows library users to access information in electronic form, residing anywhere in the country or even worldwide, she emphasized. This very successful event will be followed by similar events in other parts of the country, during the coming months.

Felix G. Robinson with Jean Thomas, Appalachian folklorist, at the first folk festival in West Virginia, summer 1947.
A Washington Tragedy Remembered

Hundreds of Washingtonians, including a number of Georgetown students, braved a heavy continuing snowfall on the evening of January 28, 1922, to see the comic adventures of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" on the screen of Crandall's Knickerbocker Theater at Columbia Road and 18th Street, N.W. At 9 pm, as the theater orchestra played to fill up the intermission during a change of reels, the Knickerbocker's roof, unable to handle the weight of 26 inches of snow, caved in. Among the 98 who died were five Georgetown men; another four were part of the 150 seriously injured. Virtually the entire Medical School took part in caring for the survivors.

Rescue work lasted all night and into the following day. The Sunday Star for January 29 characterized the rescue scene as frightful beyond description:

The moving lanterns, the shouts of the rescue workers and the cries and shrieks of the wounded made a picture which must be left to the imagination. A description would only serve to weaken the awfulness of the scene.

Shortly after the disaster Scripps-Howard Newspapers, publishers of the Washington News, commissioned 24-year-old artist Rico Tomaso, a former student of the well-known Dean Cornwell, to paint a depiction of the disaster. His canvas (rather brutally cropped in reproduction) was ultimately featured in an advertisement created by Scripps-Howard to drum up readers and advertisers. The gift of Gene Basset, editorial cartoonist and longtime member of the Associates, Tomaso's original 26x46-inch oil, with its compelling and poignant Washington and Georgetown associations, is now part of the library's special collections.

William Everson / Brother Antoninus: A Wish List

In a career as a poet/printer now spanning 55 years, William Everson has made for himself a secure place among the great and truly American Catholic poets of this century. For those attempting to collect his work, however, the wealth of "slender volumes of verse," of broadsides, of contributions to the works of others and of work simply printed by Everson makes a rather daunting obstacle. The purchase of a large institutional rare book collection in 1985 gave us the groundwork for a fine collection of Everson's work; mercifully, we thought, it included two of the almost unfindable Everson rarities: his broadside poem "At the Edge," which he printed in 1952, and one of the 48 copies of his projected new Latin psalter, publication of which was funded by the late Estelle Doheny in 1955.

Persistent ordering from dealers' catalogs has brought us a great deal more in the last five years, but we are still very, very far from a complete - whatever that is - collection. Nonetheless, we want to build up as strong a collection of Everson's work as we can, and so we ask for your help.

We tend to doubt that many of the following items (the dozen or so most glaring of our lacunae) will be readily available on your shelves, but if they are we'd be very glad to add them.


The Masculine Dead. Prairie City, IL: James A. Decker [1942]

The Residual Years. [Waldport, OR] Untide Press [1944]


Triptych for the Living. [Berkeley] Seraphim Press, 1951

The Tong of Jeopardy. Oakland: Privately printed [1963]

The Poet Is Dead. San Francisco: Auerhahn Press, 1964

The Dominican Brother. San Francisco [ca. 1965] (anonymous)


For Immediate Release. Berkeley: Oyez, 1969

Rattlesnake August. Northridge: Santa Susana, 1978

Eastward the Armies. Aptos: Labyrinth Editions, 1980

And two printed by Everson:


A Baronet and a Priest

Two small but choice collections have recently been donated, both important additions to the library's holdings relating to literature and Roman Catholicism.

Shane Leslie
Lady Leslie of Hove, England, generously presented additional papers of her late husband, Sir Shane Leslie (1885-1971), the noted man of letters. The Leslie archives at Georgetown ably document his long and distinguished career as poet, lecturer, biographer, critic and novelist. This latest acquisition consists largely of correspondence, including material by the writer Anita Leslie as well as by Seymour Leslie, Mia Woodruff, Shirley Eshelby, and an extensive group of letters by Lady Leslie herself.

Of particular interest is a copy of Leslie's early book of poetry, Verses in Peace and War, published by Burns and Oates in 1916. Laid into the volume is an autograph letter, dated June 28, 1916, by one of the publishers, the noted typographer Francis Meynell, founder of the None-such Press. He writes in part:

Father (Wilfrid Meynell) wants to have a photograph of yourself in the front of the book of poems . . . I shall add nothing in the shape of a letter, for every word that I should wish to write would be censored out. But in this land of freedom, my house has been spied upon and searched, and I await, in company with two score thousand others, arrest, headbeating, irons, solitary confinement, long terms of imprisonment, and quite possibly the death sentence, for refusing to obey military orders.

During World War I Meynell was a conscientious objector.

Bruno Scott James
The surviving papers of that remarkable English Catholic priest, Mgr. Bruno Scott James (1906-1984), were donated by his nephew, Richard Wells of Little Witley, England. James as a young man decided not to attend Oxford and instead joined a monastery of Anglican Benedictines at Pershore. Later, he was received into the Catholic Church and upon ordination was assigned to restore the medieval shrine of the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham in Norfolk. His close friend, Bishop William Gordon Wheeler, has described him in this period:

This rather eccentric priest, enveloped in a black cloak, his head shorn, and with a Siamese cat perched on his shoulder, squatting on the steps of the Slipper Chapel as he poured out pearls of patristic wisdom, was an inspiration to many. He had a great gift of prayer himself and was able to communicate this to others.

Greatly moved by Morris West's depiction of the slums of Naples in Children of the Sun, Father Bruno moved to Italy. Besides ministering to the poor there, he founded in Naples the John Henry Newman College, a residence hall for students. Perhaps his most enduring monument is his published work, including The Letters of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1953), The Life of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1955), Seeking God (1960), and a fascinating autobiography, Asking for Trouble (1961).
In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent deaths of the following Library Associates:
Fitzhugh Green
O. B. Hardison
Joseph Jones
John E. Steiner

Profile of the Science Library

The Blommer Science Library on Georgetown's main campus opened on September 20, 1962, eight years before Lauinger Library was completed. It bears the name of Henry J. Blommer (C'26), who continues to be most generous in his gifts to the facility. Administratively a part of Lauinger, the Blommer Library is physically housed across campus in the Reiss Science Building.

When it opened, Blommer had nearly 18,000 books on its shelves, a book budget of $2733, and a science librarian with two part-time assistants. Jean Durham, the first science librarian, arrived at Georgetown with just two weeks to prepare for this event in which collections from science and mathematics departments and the Riggs Library were combined in a central facility. Her early reports make fascinating reading, and it is interesting to note that some of the early concerns remain today, such as water leaks from the science labs and inadequate facilities to house the collection.

Six subject areas are taught in the Reiss Science Building where the Blommer Library occupies 8622 square feet. Blommer supports those subjects - biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, general science and computer science. Books and periodicals in the sciences are among the most costly items on a library's acquisitions budget. In periodicals, for example, less than 10% of the total number of subscriptions are in the sciences, yet they absorb more than 50% of the periodicals budget. The need is evident for increased endowment funds dedicated to science acquisitions.

The shelves in Blommer hold about 65,000 volumes, and the remaining 55,000 science volumes will soon be consolidated into one additional location, the lower level of Lauinger Library (see article on Lauinger lower level renovation in this issue). Locating science materials in two sites will be a decided improvement over the current four sites. In the present situation, many of the science books are in storage, and must be retrieved by messengers in response to patrons' calls. Once the remaining science materials are located on the lower level of Lauinger in addition to Blommer, they will be accessible for browsing by the patrons.

Blommer's patrons are a relatively stable number of faculty and students, primarily the 72 faculty, 20 post-doctoral fellows, 388 undergraduate majors and 100 graduate students who work in the Reiss Science Building. The Chemistry and Biology Departments support graduate and post-graduate research programs, and Chemistry is one of five graduate programs which the University has targeted for excellence. In addition to these, Blommer Library supports the undergraduate Nursing majors and gives indirect support to students and faculty of the Medical Center. The Medical Center patrons use the Blommer Library to supplement the Dahlgren Medical Library resources which are often clinically based, by virtue of its mission.

In 1990 two professional librarians, three support staff and eight student assistants comprise the Blommer Science Library staff. Margaret O'Rourke, Science Librarian, has headed the staff since 1981. Adding the second professional librarian in 1989 represented a major commitment to improve and broaden information services for the library's patrons. Part of the strategic plan under development for the '90s is to expand the ways in which access is provided to scientific and technical information.

What does the future hold for the Blommer Science Library? There have been recent studies on campus - one on the sciences from the research level perspective, and one currently underway to recommend how sciences might be incorporated into the degree programs for all undergraduates. If this proposal becomes a reality, it will necessitate an expanded collection in the sciences. Other studies have assessed the need for a new science library facility. A proposed academic building is identified in the main campus master plan, and the science library could conceivably be housed in a wing or tower of this new building.

These plans are still years into the future. In the meantime, the staff at Blommer Science Library provide yeoman service to their patrons under difficult circumstances.

A Fund for Foreign Languages

Mr. and Mrs. J. Spencer Overholser of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, have established an endowment fund in the library in honor of their daughter who is an alumna of the School of Languages and Linguistics. Income from the Josephine Overholser Helleskov Book Endowment Fund will be used for the purchase of books in foreign Languages.
Fitzhugh Green Papers

The late Fitzhugh Green was a man of service, not only to his country which he served well as an administrator in the United States Information Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency, but also to Georgetown University, where for many years he advised the Foreign Service School on its graduate admissions. Moreover, he ardently supported Lauinger Library, and not long before his untimely death in September 1990 he donated his personal archives.

Fitz, as he was known to many, joined the USIA in 1954 and remained until 1970. His foreign postings included Laos, Israel, and Zaire, and for two years he held the position of deputy director for Far East operations. The United Nations in New York was another assignment. In 1971 he went to work at the EPA, an association which would last on and off until 1987. The author of several books, his writing career began at the age of 14 when he published Fitz Jr. with the Fleet (1931), an account of his experiences while on a naval exercise with his father, Fitzhugh Green, the famed arctic explorer, writer and naval officer. Later books included A Change in the Weather (1977), American Propaganda Abroad (1988) and George Bush: An Intimate Portrait (1989).

The papers, consisting of correspondence, manuscripts and research files, document all aspects of Green's eventful life. There are letters from a variety of politicians, diplomats and writers, among them Howard Baker, John Brademas, George Bush, John H. Chafee, William E. Colby, Richard Nixon, Claiborne Pell, Charles Percy and William Ruckelshaus. Perhaps one of the most interesting correspondences is with his own cousin, Julien Green, the noted American-French author.

A Fund for the Archives

Francis J. Heazel, Jr. (C'40), in appreciation for the Archives' help with the Class of 1940's golden reunion, established a restricted fund to help the University Archives preserve and promote appreciation of the history of the university. Archivist Jon Reynolds hopes to use the fund as seed money for more projects like Georgetown University: A Pictorial Review, and the popular reproductions of turn-of-the-century baseball posters.

The first project will be to provide computerized versions of the Georgetown line art available in the archives. The profit from this project should begin the process of building up the fund to endowment status. Eventually, we hope to take our popular illustrated lectures "on the road" or perhaps produce a video about Georgetown and the archives, in a style rather similar to Ken Burns' Civil War series on PBS. "I've tried to achieve that effect in my lectures ever since I've been here," says Reynolds.

Associates with a particular interest in the archives are invited to assist this project by sending a contribution to the Archives Fund in care of the Library Associates at the address on the newsletter.

Woodstock Theological Center Library

In 1990 Georgetown University and the two Jesuit provinces of Maryland and New York reached a milestone agreement. By the terms of this agreement the Woodstock Library will remain at Georgetown University in perpetuum.

The Woodstock Library originated and remained for 100 years at Woodstock College outside Baltimore, the site of the Jesuit seminary. In 1969 the library moved with the college to New York, but within five years the college was closed and the library came to Georgetown to be housed (under temporary agreement) in the Lauinger building.

It was the arrival of the Woodstock Library at Georgetown in 1974 which provided the immediate occasion of enclosing the lower level of Lauinger Library, which up to that time had been used for parking. Still housed in the southwest area of the lower level of Lauinger, Woodstock's area is being enlarged with the current renovation and it will gain an entrance from within the library, symbolizing its closer and permanent relationship with the University.

The advantage of this permanent agreement to the Woodstock Theological Center is obvious, namely, guaranteed preservation and expansion of this invaluable resource for its research and publication. At the same time, the library is a magnificent resource for the University. With its 180,000 volumes, it is one of the finest theological collections in the United States and in its Jesuitica – Jesuit spirituality, history, educational philosophy, documentation and so on – it is unparalleled. As the University continues to commit itself ever more deeply to a renewal of its Jesuit identity, concern for ethics and morals, and the development of its theology program, this library will be an indispensable assistance.
Renovation in Progress

The library staff is looking forward to the completion of the renovation of the former university bookstore space on Lauinger's lower level and of part of Special Collections and the Administrative Office suite on the fifth floor. After more than 20 years, the library will finally have the use of all available space in the building, and we anticipate that, besides creating more space for readers, adding more book storage space will enable us to house our growing collections for another five years.

On the lower level the main features will be storage rooms for the library's rare book collections, for rare books in the Woodstock Library and for incoming gifts, and open stacks which will alleviate overcrowding on the current stack floors. All of these areas will be furnished with movable compact shelving, so that in the area of roughly half a library floor, the final capacity will be in excess of 300,000 volumes. In addition, the Systems Office will gain needed new office and storage space, and provision has been made for new and more efficient supply and mail rooms as well.

On the fifth floor the changes will be less dramatic, though equally important. The current office of the Special Collections Librarian and a small part of the Gunlocke Room will be annexed to the Administrative Office suite, providing additional office space and a new conference room. The Gunlocke Room will be completely refurnished to augment measures for increasing the security of the collections as well as for making the work of researchers easier and more efficient. Space in the Special Collections stack area currently devoted to rare books will be furnished for the storage of archives, manuscripts, and graphic arts, and a network linking the division's personal computers and printers will be installed. Totally unseen is perhaps the best change of all: the air-handling unit providing heat and air conditioning for the Special Collections stack area will be replaced with an upgraded, more powerful unit with far better filtration and humidity control. This will go far toward assuring preservation of the library's collections of manuscripts as well as the essential records of the university itself.

Specialized Gifts

Turkish Studies
Peter Benedict, author of several books on Turkey who is presently with the Agency for International Development, has chosen Georgetown as the repository for his comprehensive collection on Turkish village sociology. These works were published in the 1960s and '70s, some of them by the Village Affairs Ministry in Turkey.

Also included in Mr. Benedict's gift is material on local history, demography and literature. Most of the works are in the Turkish language, while a few in English are important standard works concentrating on Modern Turkey and its literature. This very hard to find, out-of-print material is of special interest to Georgetown in anticipation of a day when there will be a formal Turkish Studies Program. The library is delighted to acknowledge this gift which will greatly benefit scholarship on Turkey.

An Economist's Books
Georgetown is very pleased that Mrs. Arthur F. Burns has continued to give generously from her late husband's collections on economics and government. The noted economist had gathered many fine books which are valuable additions to an academic library. This continuing relationship is of much benefit to Georgetown's students and faculty.
Valued Gifts

A welcome flow of gifts-in-kind continues to strengthen the library's collections. Following are some of the gifts received during the last six months of 1990. Our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported the library in this way.

America magazine
- Additional editorial and correspondence files
- American Political Science Association
- Current books and journals in political science
- Lisa Marie Ball
- Annual reports from Bear Stearns
- Gene Basset
- Oil painting by Rico Tomaso
- Russell J. Bowen
- Additional volumes for the Bowen intelligence collection
- William C. Chapman
- Books on the Soviet Union
- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Current books in several academic fields
- Frank Kurt Cylke
- Files on Arthur Ransome
- Mrs. Herbert M. Denault
- Collection of books on various topics
- Paula Dobriansky
- Books on politics and other subjects
- Laurie England
- Collection of paper/printing ephemera
- Patricia G. England
- Books on fine printing and typography
- Sydney J. Freedberg
- Museum catalogs and other books
- Rev. J. Donald Freeze, S.J.
- Books in various fields
- Walter Friedenberg
- Books on foreign affairs
- David Ganz
- Auction catalogs
- Philip Gold
- Books on government, economics, and military affairs
- GU Senior Class in American Studies
- Books in American studies
- Mrs. John Herbert
- Books in various fields
- Homer Vaughan Hervey
- Collection of classical movies and videodisk player
- John C. Hirsh
- Rare books, chiefly literature and history
- Jochem Hoffmann
- German literature
- Daniel James
- Personal papers and files concerning Latin America
- Jesuit Community
- Manuscripts of Vincent Bellwoor, S.J.
- W. L. Kelly
- Books on psychology
- Majid Fakhry
- Books, journals and pamphlets in Arabic studies
- Mark Samuels Lasner
- Rare books in literature
- Murray Lebowitz
- Fine arts books and catalogs
- Wesley N. Mathews
- Books and journals on physics
- Michele Morris
- Swiss literature in French
- National Commission for the Commemoration of Portuguese Discoveries
- Books on the Portuguese discoveries
- Rev. Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J.
- Books on various topics
- Jack B. Pierson
- Two etchings by Brian Lynch
- Clea A. Rameh
- Literature and journals
- David Rivkin
- Books on government, foreign affairs and literature
- Rev. Patrick Samway, S.J.
- Additional files of America magazine
- George Streyskal
- Languages and linguistics
- Conrad Taeuber
- Demography and social sciences
- Through the Looking Glass Associates
- Janet Van Craatsken
- Current books on economics and politics
- Embassy of Venezuela
- Latin American Studies
- Washington Print Club
- Color lithograph by Prentiss Taylor
- Earl J. Wilson
- Papers on foreign affairs
- Thomas Wilson
- Large collection of literature
- Clifford Young
- Rare books, chiefly literature and history