Creating a woodblock book is a grueling task; words are carved letter by letter onto wood blocks and printed by hand-rubbing damp sheets onto the inked blocks. The woodblock technique developed in China, likely by the sixth century. The assumption might be made that woodblock books influenced the development of mechanically-produced books in Europe, and were printed and published in that region prior to the invention of printing with movable type. In fact, extant evidence points to technological concurrency in the West. No Western block book has yet to emerge that can be dated prior to the 1450s and Gutenberg’s printing press, and as mechanically-produced books became more affordable the popularity of block books waned. However, a Sino-European tradition for the production of woodblock works did continue into the 18th century—which leads us to the Jesuit missionary Gaspar Castner, S.J., and this one book.

Castner (d.1709) entered the Jesuit order in 1681. In 1697 he journeyed to China, 145 years after St. Francis Xavier died on the island of Shangchuan. Castner was especially noted as a mathematician and cartographer, and in 1700 he directed the construction of a special monument at Francis Xavier’s original burial site. The description of the monument and of the island, including excellent maps of Shangchuan (Sancian) Island and Canton, are contained in the small block book that Castner wrote and published, also in 1700. In accordance with tradition, the book was printed on extremely thin paper which was folded into double pages for strength.

Owing to a less-than-ideal 19th-century rebinding, Georgetown University Library's copy of this rare book fell into disrepair. The fore-edge folds were split, either by a page-trimming process during the book’s rebinding or by a reader who tried to “open” the pages, not understanding the book’s structure. Its condition was too fragile to make it available to researchers. This book needed help.

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A few years ago several prominent baby boomers attained the age of 60, and headlines proclaimed that “Sixty is the New Forty!” A New York Times article from January 7, 2010, entitled “Seeing Old Age as a Never-Ending Adventure,” provides wonderful examples of octogenarians and nonagenarians who climb mountains, travel to exotic climes and even perform daredevil feats. Age, we surmise, is relative, and sixty is the new milestone—at least, for people.

But for a Library building to achieve the age of Forty is quite a feat. In this year of 2010, the Joseph Mark Lauinger Memorial Library at Georgetown University turns Forty, and we are planning a series of commemorative events to mark that milestone. The Library staff and the Georgetown University Library Board continue to keep our focus on the future, but here are some highlights from the Lauinger Library building’s history, with thanks to the many friends of the Library who made them possible. In the next issue of this Newsletter I’ll recall other highlights related to what the building holds and makes available for its students, faculty, and larger community, now and for future generations, and thank those who turned their time, talent and treasure to supporting those milestones.

The 1970s—The building was dedicated on April 25th, 1970 and named, through the generosity of the Lauinger families, both in memory of alumnus Joseph Mark Lauinger (C’67) and as a memorial to all Georgetown graduates killed in war, through the generosity of the Lauinger families. The Georgetown Library Associates were formed and continue to be active Friends to this day. The Woodstock Theological Center Library was relocated to Lauinger Library. The John Carl Wamecke-designed building won an Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects.

The 1980s—The Fairchild family established an endowment to collect 20th-century American art prints. The Charles Marvin Fairchild Memorial Gallery was constructed on the 5th floor of Lauinger. The Library celebrated the acquisition of its one-millionth volume, a 1669 first edition of John Milton’s Paradise Lost.

The 1990s—Library Board president and Chimes member David J. Walsh (C’58) established the Chimes Endowment Fund. Alumnus and music appreciator Leon Robbin established an endowment to sustain his music collection, purchase materials to add to it, and build Lauinger’s Leon Robbin Gallery on the fifth floor. The John
TRANSIT OF MOON AND STARS

The Library's holiday card this year celebrated the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first observations with his telescope. The inside of the card featured the Library's copy of the first edition of Galileo's Discourses (Discorsi e dimostrazioni matematiche, intorno à due nuove scienze Attenti à alla Mecanica & i Movimenti Locali), the Italian scientist's foundational work on mechanics and dynamics, published in 1638. The front of the card illustrated a page of astronomical calculations dated March 10, 1846 from a notebook belonging to 19th-century Georgetown University student Edmund L. Smith. While the main purpose of the notebook page was to note the transit of moon and stars at Georgetown and at Greenwich, Smith apparently found time between his observations to richly embellish the page.

YOUR THOUGHTS

Last summer the Library sent a survey to all of you who support the Library Associates, asking for your thoughts on various aspects of our program. We were delighted that 25% of our membership responded, and your answers to our questions will influence our programming going forward.

We asked you about demographics, benefits of membership, this Newsletter, our events, and communication media. We found out that most of you who responded had been loyal Associates for more than five years. Not surprisingly, a large percentage of you are also Georgetown alumni, but many of you are our neighbors. Your primary reason by far for membership is to support the Library—thank you! Your second reasons for supporting us were more varied: attending our events, receiving this Newsletter, and taking advantage of borrowing privileges. Many of you are history buffs; your expressed topic of greatest interest in both the Newsletter and events was history (Georgetown history and general history). Literature and author events came in as next choices. And apparently most of you prefer Newsletters on paper, and other communications via paper or email; social networking sites are not your first—or second—choice.

We'll be taking all your opinions into account as we plan our future events and communications. If you haven't taken our survey and would like to, we'd love to hear your thoughts as well! Email us at libraryassociates@georgetown.edu and we'll send it to you.

CULTURAL IMAGININGS

Rare Middle Eastern and North African works will be made available online through a federally-funded project launched in December by The George Washington University, Kirtas Technologies and Georgetown University. The state-of-the-art project, Cultural Imaginings: the Creation of the Arab World in the Western Mind, will evaluate automatic book digitization systems by electronically scanning selected rare works.

The project was made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), awarded to George Washington University's Gelman Library to evaluate digitizing technology made by Kirtas Technologies. As part of the evaluation process, Gelman Library, along with Georgetown's Joseph Mark Lauinger Library, will digitize more than 2,500 books and items from special collections from both universities. Georgetown University has a particularly rich collection of rare and specialized materials on the Middle East.

Watch this space for updates on the progress of this endeavor.
E-BOOKS IN THE CLASSROOM

The Georgetown University Libraries presented the Ninth Scholarly Communication Symposium, E-Books in the Classroom: Implications for Teaching, Learning, and Research in October. Panelists discussed the increasing viability of and emerging issues surrounding electronic textbooks, e-book readers such as Amazon’s Kindle and Sony’s E-book Reader, and online teaching tools that embrace collaboration and interactivity. Panelists included:

Ted Striphas, Assistant Professor of Media & Cultural Studies and Director of Film & Media, Indiana University Department of Communication and Culture;
Robin Schulze, Professor of English, Penn State University; and
Diana Donahoe, Professor of Legal Research and Writing, Georgetown University Law Center.

You can watch the entire symposium online at http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=47447 or at Georgetown’s iTunesU channel in the Science, Mathematics and Technology section.

THE MYTH OF THE RATIONAL VOTER

In late October George Mason University Professor of Economics Bryan Caplan came to campus to give the Tenth Annual Casey-McIlvane Lecture and talk about the issues raised in his book, The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies, published by Princeton University Press. In conversation with Georgetown University McDonough School of Business Professor Dennis Quinn, Professor Caplan challenged the proposal that elections result in rational choices. He rebuts the notion of the “miracle” of aggregation that suggests that uninformed voters at each end of the spectrum cancel each other out, leaving a rational result of those in the middle.

Professor Caplan argues that voters at times cast ballots based on “systematically biased beliefs,” for instance anger or party loyalty, rather than on purely rational criteria. This irrationality can lead to poor choices. Professor Quinn countered this gloomy view of democracy with examples of increasingly democratic societies that experienced a similar improvement in economic output and success.

The Casey-McIlvane Endowed Lecture Fund was established in memory of Francis L. Casey, Jr., C’50, L’53, and in honor of the Reverend Donald W. McIlvane, F’46 through the generous joint gift of Nancy McIlvane Del Genio, F’82 and the late Roseanne McIlvane Casey, S’79.--MJ

POSTERS OF THE WORLD WARS

The Library Associates travelled to New York City in early November to present Call to Common Cause: Posters of the World Wars at the Union League Club. The event featured Mary Ellen Meehan, owner of Meehan Military Posters and a frequent lecturer on poster history. Inspired by the many World War I recruitment posters adorning the walls of the popular Georgetown rathskeller The Tombs, Ms. Meehan highlighted posters that would be familiar to Georgetown alumni.

Not unexpectedly, many posters encouraged enlistment by appealing to the viewer’s patriotism. However, Howard Chandler Christy, one of the best known artists of WWI posters, frequently featured “saucy, outdoorsy” girls to lure young men to enlist. The posters serve as remarkable cultural documents, providing a window into the values of their times. The US Army Builds Men features a soldier standing in

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front of three figures that are labeled Craft, Physique, and Character. Another won-
derful poster, produced by the American Library Association and entitled Knowledge
Wins, shows a soldier climbing out of a trench on a staircase of books labeled with
topics such as Drafting, Building, Machine Shop Work, and Business.

Completing the link to The Tombs, attending alumni of The Chimes (from the
1950’s through graduates of the past few years), Georgetown’s oldest a cappella
group, ended the evening with a round of song.

Many original posters are still available, as they were printed in large numbers.
The Library holds a significant collection of such posters. Several have been fea-
tured in past exhibitions and can be revisited online, most notably the 1999 exhibi-
tion First Call: American Posters of World War I and the 1998 exhibition Take up the
Sword of Justice British Posters of World War I.

The Library would like to thank Library Board member Richard L. Hanley
(C’68) for sponsoring this event.—MJ

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Library Associates celebrated at the annual Holiday Party in Riggs Library in
December.

Photo by David Hagen

> Carole Sargent, Ph.D.,
Director of Scholarly and
Literary Publications at
Georgetown University,
talked about Honoring
Holy Days: Whims,
Oddities, and a Vision of
Long-Vanished Worlds.

Photo by David Hagen

> The Chimes serenaded
the audience from one of
the Riggs balconies.

Photo by David Hagen

> University Librarian Artemis G. Kirk and GU
Library Board member David J. Walsh (C’58) with
the Chimes.

Photo by David Hagen

> Fred Schade (L.L.B.
1898, L.L.M. 1899).
Captain of the
Georgetown College
Cycle Team, Champion
of the South and
Intercollegiate
Champion of America.
From the Georgetown
University Archives; on
display in the current
Gunlocke Room
exhibition.

CURRENT AND
UPCOMING
EXHIBITIONS

GUNLOCKE ROOM
February-April
Amusement in the Archives: A
Sampling of Student
Diversions

FAIRCHILD GALLERY
November-February
Collecting to Teach: The
Extraordinary Legacy of
Joseph Haller, S.J.

March-June
Views of Georgetown

KERBS EXHIBIT AREA
February
Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J.: 
Priest, Educator and
Diplomat

March-April
Lannan Annual Symposium

LEON ROBBIN
GALLERY
October-April
Composers, Performers and
Critics
To conserve Gaspar Castner’s Relatio sepulturæ, the Library contracted with Etherington Conservation Services in North Carolina to make this book safe again for handling and allow it to function as originally intended. ECS washed and repaired the fragile pages, neutralizing over 300 years of acidity and wear. They created new folio page folds of Japanese kozo paper to support and strengthen the reconstructed pages of the book. Even after the 19th-century rebind, evidence of the original four-hole stab-sewn binding remained. This provided ECS with enough information to create a Chinese-style binding with a four-hole stitching pattern. Lastly, ECS digitized the book. The conserved historical artifact and a printed facsimile are now accessible in the Library’s Special Collections Research Center; the digital book will soon be available on the Library’s website for researchers around the world to access.

Much can be learned from historical cultural connections. The Latin text of Castner’s book seamlessly blends with Chinese foliation markings and a Chinese-style binding; in short, with a traditionally Eastern presentation. This one book demonstrates the integration of an Eastern tradition of book production with a Western text; and thus memorializes the life of a Western man in the East.--KO'C

Forsgren Reference Center, the Bernard and Nancy Picchi Electronic Information Resource Center, and the Wilbert B. Dubin Memorial Classroom were opened. The Stephen Richard Kerbs Exhibit Area and the donor wall on Lauinger’s third floor were added. The Rita and Matthew Murray Reading Lounge was renovated and the Blommer Information Center was dedicated. The Library’s two-millionth volume, a 1789 broadside proclaiming the first national day of Thanksgiving by President George Washington, was presented by Dr. Marshall Coyne (H’90).

The 2000s--New areas reflecting new technologies were created, including the Millennium News Room and the Gelardin New Media Center. Celebrating community and collaboration, we opened “The Midnight Mug” and “Pete and Ann’s Place,” established through the generosity of Peter (C’60) and Ann Tanous in collaboration with The Students of Georgetown.

The 2010s--For people, Sixty may be the new Forty, and Forty the new Twenty, but for buildings, Forty remains Forty. The recently completed Lauinger Library Master Plan identifies the building’s infrastructure needs and anticipates glorious space vistas for the next decade and beyond. I’ve highlighted how the space in this forty-year-old building has grown and changed over the years; in my next column I’ll look at the growth of its collections and the many ways its services and outreach to the community have expanded and evolved to meet new technologies and the needs of its constituencies. Happy Fortieth Birthday, Lauinger: the best is yet to come!--AGK
During the fall semester, the Library paid tribute to donor and friend John S. Mayfield (1904-1983) with an exhibition of manuscripts and first editions by the Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909), whose works make up an important portion of Mayfield’s papers in the Library’s Special Collections Research Center. The exhibition, entitled A Swinburne Gallimaufry: Selections from the John S. Mayfield Papers, also marked the centenary of Swinburne’s death.

Recognized as one of the leading collectors of Swinburne, Mayfield amassed the largest known private collection of the poet’s works. His greatest achievement as a bibliophile was his collection of the first editions of Swinburne’s first critically acclaimed published poem, Atalanta in Calydon (1865). Goaded by a note by Thomas J. Wise in his bibliography of Swinburne’s works, which asserted that only 100 copies were issued of the first edition, Mayfield embarked on a more than 30-year quest, from 1943 to 1976, to collect all of them and disprove the original statement. In 1977, he received his 101st copy of the first edition as a gift from the Library’s manuscripts librarian, Nicholas Scheetz. The Library mounted an exhibition of the 101 copies in 1980, and a few of the first editions were displayed in the Gallimaufry exhibition.

Other exhibition highlights included a notebook kept by Swinburne, probably during his student days at Oxford; a beautiful crayon drawing by Swinburne’s friend, the artist Simeon Solomon (1840-1905), entitled, “A Venetian Study”; and numerous manuscripts of poems, such as “The Seaboard,” reflecting the poet’s lifelong obsession with the ocean, and “The Leper,” which appeared in Poems and Ballads (1866), the notorious volume of poetry that made Swinburne a contemporary household name. Arranged thematically, the exhibition focused on Swinburne’s major inspirations, drawn not only from his literary and political interests, but also from his personal relationships. Some unique items relating to Swinburne were also generously loaned to the exhibition by Mark Samuels Lasner from his collection at the University of Delaware Library.

The celebration of Mayfield and Swinburne would not have been complete without the presence of Dr. Terry Meyers, Chancellor Professor of English at the College of William and Mary, who visited Georgetown in November to deliver a fascinating lecture entitled Swinburne, Tennyson, and Matters Funereal. A recognized authority on Swinburne, he edited the three-volume Uncollected Letters of Algernon Charles Swinburne (2005), and is currently co-editing the four-volume Complete Poems of Swinburne.

Dr. Meyers’ lecture can be viewed online at http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=47858 or at Georgetown iTunesU channel in the Literature section. A link to the exhibition brochure is available from the Georgetown University Library website under Exhibitions.--LM
The Special Collections Research Center has purchased the archive of American songwriter Arthur Johnston (1898-1954), the composer of “Pennies from Heaven” and many other memorable melodies from the “Golden Age” of Hollywood. The collection includes manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, photographs, published scores, and memorabilia. Johnston’s scores were featured in some of the best-known films of the era, including the Marx Brothers’ Duck Soup, Belle of the Nineties with Mae West, and Bing Crosby’s Pennies from Heaven. “Pennies from Heaven” was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Johnston got his start working for Irving Berlin, and collaborated with many of the period’s greatest performers, lyricists, and film producers. The Johnston collection provides a unique glimpse into one of the most dynamic periods of American popular culture. The purchase was made possible by an endowment generously established by the late Leon Robbin, whose important collection forms the core of the Library’s music manuscripts holdings.--JB