LIVES OF THE (WOMEN) SAINTS

The Library’s Special Collections Research Center has acquired the John Thatcher Collection of lives of women saints and women religious. Over 1,000 volumes printed between 1521 and the mid-20th century, many written by Jesuits, highlight Georgetown’s Jesuit heritage and shed light on an important facet of women’s history.

John Thatcher started this collection in the United States more than 40 years ago when, as a recent Roman Catholic convert, he was studying the history of the Church and could find little information about women. Over time, he discovered that much had in fact been written about these often colorful figures. Intellectual curiosity led him to acquire book after out-of-print book, and to study Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and French in order to read them. He often purchased directly from European auction houses or dealers.

“There are things here to keep me busy the rest of my life,” said Professor of Spanish Barbara Mujica, an expert on Teresa of Avila and the history of women’s spirituality. “My students haven’t been able to stop talking about things they’ve seen in previous class visits to Special Collections. I can hardly wait to introduce them to this collection.”

Many of the books could until now be found only in European libraries. In some cases the Thatcher copy may be the only surviving copy. Several volumes have Latin American connections: the collection includes 18th-century imprints from Mexico and Peru and several early biographies of St. Rose of Lima, including two rare examples published prior to her canonization in 1671 as the first saint of the New World. The collection preserves a fascinating window into the popular cultural reception of women saints in each of the eras it covers.

The Thatcher collection complements Georgetown’s existing holdings,

Continued on page 3
PEARLS BEFORE H1N1

from the University Librarian

“...neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet...”

So states the phrase from the Gospel of Matthew. At the time of this writing the country is dealing with outbreaks of the pandemic known colloquially as “swine flu.” The title of this article is tongue-in-cheek, but the way the University is dealing with a potentially damaging illness is very serious.

Colleges and universities have always made preparations in anticipation of flu outbreaks, but the H1N1 virus is particularly worrisome because it appears to afflict student populations most heavily and very quickly. At Georgetown, planning has been underway for months. Departments and individuals have been working to mitigate the spread of illness by offering health guidelines, widely distributing sanitizing supplies, preparing for medical emergencies and developing policies in case of absences in the classroom and workplace. We also have contingencies for the continuation of instruction and the work of the academy.

To the extent possible, we hope to continue with “business as usual,” in a situation that is anything but “usual.” Fortunately, faculty have long been using technologies to enhance their teaching, but in an emergency like a flu outbreak, technology becomes more important than ever. Email, texting, video conferencing, course management pages, social networking systems and podcasts are viable means for instructors to provide content for students impacted by illness. If faculty are ill, those same technologies can provide temporary “virtual” instruction.

The Library, for its part, is doing everything possible to make certain that its rich resources remain available to everyone during this flu season. We anticipate that faculty will require more items to be placed on reserve, and have a plan to deal with the increased workload if necessary. Many of our “back office” staff are cross-trained to keep Library public service desks open as a priority. The building remains open 24 hours a day and access to our physical resources is constant. Our website maintains an H1N1 alert page, not only to keep the community informed about our status and hours, but also to remind our users that we have hundreds of thousands of items available electronically. The gems of our collections may be found in print, in multimedia, in rare and special sources, on our shelves or over cyberspace. Are we casting “pearls before swine?” Yes indeed, knowing that our University community will use these pearls to their advantage, and at their convenience, during and after this health crisis.

--AGK
The Georgetown University Library released its entirely reorganized and redesigned website this August. You are invited to explore the new site at www.library.georgetown.edu.

The new website is built upon Drupal, an open-source platform for managing websites that will allow the website's look and feel to be rapidly and uniformly updated. Drupal has been used, to give just a few examples, by Popular Science magazine, Amnesty International, Mattel, The Emmy Awards, Bob Dylan, the New York State Senate, and most notably recovery.gov which details the government’s Recovery Act spending. Drupal has a vibrant worldwide group of programmers who are constantly adding new features. Its modular basis will allow the Library to add new functionality to the website as needed without the extensive and time-consuming programming that would previously have been required.

Do you have comments about the new site? We welcome your feedback at www.library.georgetown.edu/contact. --SF

(WOMEN) SAINTS, continued

including such rarities as the first editions of the works (1588) of St. Teresa of Avila and the Memoirs (1817) of U.S-born St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The collection is supplemented by the strong secondary literature in hagiography and martyrology in the Woodstock Theological Center Library. With the Thatcher purchase, the Library can provide world-class support for the advanced research needs of faculty and graduate students in an area of key interest.

The acquisition was made possible in part by a generous grant from the B. H. Breslauer Foundation. A legacy of legendary antiquarian bookseller Bernard H. Breslauer (1918-2004), the foundation’s mission is to help institutional libraries fund major acquisitions of rare books and manuscripts. The Library would like to thank Herbert W. Gstalder (C’65) for his contributions to this endeavor.

And of course if any of our donors have rare volumes of saints’ lives on their shelves, we would be delighted to add them to the collection. --JB
This semester’s first Friday Music Series performance, co-sponsored by the Library Associates and the Department of Performing Arts, celebrated the opening of a new exhibition in Lauinger Library’s Leon Robbin Gallery entitled Composers, Performers & Their Critics.

The exhibition, on display through early February, features a collection of handwritten letters and manuscripts drawn from the Special Collections Research Center’s Leon Robbin Collection, designed to demonstrate the collaborative quality of the music business in the 19th century, a process which included composers, performers, friends, critics, and audiences. Examples include Franz Liszt’s piano transcription of the Anton Rubinstein ballad “Der Asra,” including Liszt’s handwritten notes; an 1863 letter from pianist, composer, and conductor Hans von Bülow regarding his arrival in Dresden for a concert and asking his correspondent whether musicians can be arranged to perform Anton Rubinstein’s Piano Quartet; and an 1890 postcard from music critic Eduard Hanslick giving a friendly reminder to an unnamed acquaintance about borrowing a score (piano reduction) of Hector Berlioz’s comic opera Béatrice et Bénédict. These and other manuscripts from the Robbin Collection were featured in the Friday Music Series Program in narrative by Anna Celenza, Chair of the Georgetown Department of Performing Arts and Thomas E. Caestecker Associate Professor of Music, and Anthony DelDonna, Georgetown Assistant Professor of Music; with performances by Vasily Popov on cello and Ralitza Patcheva on piano.

An online version of the exhibition is available at library.georgetown.edu/exhibitions-events. The free Friday Music Series concerts continue through the semester and a calendar is available at the Department of Performing Arts website.

In late September the Library Associates and the Georgetown University Press welcomed speaker Steven Ward (MA’92), senior intelligence analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency and author of Immortal: A Military History of Iran and Its Armed Forces.

In his presentation, entitled Persian Praetorians: Iran’s Military Heritage and the Rise of the Revolutionary Guard, Ward proposed that valuable insight can be gained into today’s Iran and its military through the lens of the Persian empire’s long history of surprising military victories, exceptional individual fortitude, and sometimes defeat brought about by overconfidence. He sees Iran’s current Revolutionary Guard, the elite of the Iranian military, as a principal protector of the Islamic revolution in Iran, deeply enmeshed in the Iranian government, and having considerable say in who holds power. The Guard has extended its influence into every corner of Iranian society and retains a
A BIT MORE GREENE

The Special Collections Research Center has acquired the remaining manuscripts and typescripts from the Clinton Ives Smullyan, Jr. Collection of Graham Greene. The acquisition was made possible in part by the generous contributions of a member of the GU Library Board and by a fund established by the late Robert M. Callagy (C’60).

Most significant is the substantial run of 40 letters from Greene to journalist and friend Gloria Emerson, with much commentary on matters of interest to Greene. Also present are five letters to Greene from Robert Graves, revealing glimpses of Greene’s relationship with one of the great writers of the preceding generation.

The collection is rich in typescripts, playscripts, and filmscripts, often with corrections in Greene’s hand, revealing the stages in the publication and reception of Greene’s work. These include corrected typescripts for *Loser Takes All* and *For Whom the Bell Chimes*, an early state of the filmscript of *Our Man in Havana*, an actor’s copy of the playscript for *The Return of A. J. Raffles*, corrected galleys and page proofs for *Doctor Fischer of Geneva*, and others.

There are several books from Greene’s library and books inscribed by Greene to others, including Catherine Walston, whose extensive correspondence with Greene is already at Georgetown. Some of Greene’s books, such as his copy of Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex*, include annotations and reader’s marks.

The Smullyan collection joins one of the strongest Graham Greene collections in the world. --JB

PRAETORIANS, continued

revolutionary outlook, as well as many of the characteristics of its military ancestors. He says in the introduction of *Immortal*: “Since the sixteenth century, Iran has been the largest and most significant Islamic state following the Shia creed, and the Iranians’ rejection of many Sunni beliefs isolates them from much of the wider Islamic community. In the coming century, this uniqueness and the historical memory of the greatness of past Persian empires could feed the Islamic Republic’s ambitions for regional preeminence and a more strategically significant revival of Iran’s armed forces.” The entire talk can be viewed online at: http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/ID=45563.

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CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

GUNLOCKE ROOM: October-January
A Swinburne Gallimaufry: Selections from the John S. Mayfield Papers

FAIRCHILD GALLERY: July-November
Etched by the Sea: Marine Views of Nelson Dawson November-February
Collecting to Teach: The Extraordinary Legacy of Joseph Haller, S.J.

KERBS EXHIBIT AREA: October-December
New Acquisitions in Special Collections

LEON ROBBIN GALLERY: October-February
Composers, Performers and Critics

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Georgetown’s First-Year Student Academic Workshop jumpstarts freshmen’s academic careers even before they arrive on campus, by asking them to read a work by a major international author during the summer before they matriculate. As the fall semester begins, the author of the selected book speaks to students and faculty, who then form discussion groups to study questions and issues raised by the book. This year’s workshop selection, 2008 Man Booker Prize finalist *The Secret Scripture* by Irish author Sebastian Barry, was accompanied by an exhibition in Lauinger Library’s Kerbs Exhibit Area on the third floor.

*The Secret Scripture* is the sprawling life story of centenarian Roseanne McNulty, who as a patient at Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital decides to record the events of her life. Entries from Roseanne’s secret diary alternate with the observations and investigations of her physician Dr. Grene, who conducts his own research into Roseanne’s history—a life spanning almost the entire twentieth century in rural western Ireland.

Exhibition co-curators Karen O’Connell (Preservation and Rare Books Librarian) and Christen Runge (Assistant Curator, Art Collection) chose materials from the general and special collections of the Library to illustrate characters, themes and events from the novel. Each object was displayed alongside relevant quotations from the book. From the Art Collection, an engraved map of Ireland from 1796 sets the scene; Roseanne’s three books (among her only possessions at the hospital) are represented in volumes from the Library’s rare books collections. Libretti and sheet music from the early 20th century embody the important role of music in Roseanne’s childhood. From the manuscripts collections, a typed draft of an article by Shane Leslie describes Sinn Fein leader Eamon de Valera, an important figure in the book.

In all, nearly twenty objects from the Library’s diverse holdings interpreted aspects of *The Secret Scripture*. --CER

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**THE PARTY AT CLUB LAU**

For the third year in a row, the Party at Club Lau transformed Lauinger Library’s Pierce Reading Room from the “quietest place on campus” to a festive party zone. As part of Welcome Week, the party provides a safe, music- and dance-filled space for students to celebrate their first week back at Georgetown. The Party was again made possible in part by a generous donation from GU Library Board member Pat Collins Sarnoff (P’98).
Which Georgetown athlete has held the most world records?

That would probably be Alfred C. “Al” Blozis (C’1942), who held multiple world records for the shot put. At 6 feet 6½ inches and 248 pounds, Blozis’ size and strength earned him such nicknames as “Big Al” and the “Hoya Hercules.” Participating in 26 college track meets between 1939 and 1941, he never lost a shot put event and held five world records concurrently: the 16lb indoor shot, the 12lb indoor and outdoor shot, and the 8lb indoor and outdoor shot. Right tackle on the Georgetown football team that went undefeated for 23 games and made an appearance in the 1941 Orange Bowl, he played tackle for the New York Giants after graduation.

After the U.S. entered World War II, each of the three branches of the military refused to induct Blozis on the grounds that he was too tall. He finally succeeded in joining the Army in 1943, after the height requirement was waived. Last seen on January 31, 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge, when he set out in a snow storm to search for a missing patrol, Lt. Blozis was later declared killed in action. The Hoya said on May 11, 1945: “Some day his records may fall, some people may even forget him, but those who ever had contact with him, however little, will never forget him. For Al was too big. Maybe that is why God chose him.”

In March of this year, a simulated explosion was set off close to Key Bridge for the filming of a television program pilot, Washington Field. Have any films or TV programs actually been shot on campus?

The most famous movie shot on campus is probably The Exorcist in 1972. Its second sequel, The Exorcist III, was also filmed here in 1990. Scenes for The Pelican Brief, starring Denzel Washington and Julia Roberts, were shot at the Law Center in July 1993. Parts of Born Yesterday, a remake of a 1950 comedy of the same name, were shot in a Healy Hall classroom in August 1992. More recently, in April 2003, the TV show The West Wing shot scenes in front of Healy Hall for “Commencement,” an episode at the end of its fourth season. A mock commencement stage was built and over the course of eight hours a graduation sequence was filmed, incorporating Georgetown students as extras. On the show, the President’s daughter, Zoey Bartlett, attended Georgetown.

Is it true that the Jesuit Community cemetery was originally in a different location on campus?

Yes. The Jesuit cemetery was laid out in its present location, north of the Old North Building, in June 1854. However, this site is not its original location. The cemetery was actually established in 1808, close to what is now the southern end of Healy Hall. The first burial, that of Thomas Kelly, S.J., occurred on August 16th, 1808. Forty-six other Jesuits were buried in the original cemetery before it was moved north to its location today. The change came because Maguire Hall was being constructed to house students of the prep division and university administrators did not want the cemetery to be adjacent to the new building. --LC
The Library welcomes David Gewirtz, our new Head of Library Information Technology. David comes to us from Yale University, where for nearly three decades he worked at the intersection of technology, scholarship and libraries. His career focus has been to manage and build integrated digital information systems to serve teaching, learning and research in higher education.

While at Yale David contributed to a strategic technology policy for the development of cyber-infrastructure for the University Library. With other colleagues he developed a search tool that helps scholars discover and search content in disparate collections maintained by libraries, museums and galleries throughout the University. He led a technology team to develop a name resolution service that assigns persistent identifiers to digital objects, preventing broken web links.

David has also served on an International Peer Review Committee to build a digital preservation system for the National Library of New Zealand and on the PREMIS Working Group (PREervation Metadata: Implementation Strategies), supported by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

“David has already made an impact on our library,” says University Librarian Artemis G. Kirk, “by streamlining processes, organizing work plans, fitting projects into overall mission, and responding quickly to user needs. We look forward to working with David on a revitalized approach to our institutional repository, DigitalGeorgetown, which will present the University’s creative content to a global audience. Welcome, David!”