A PORTRAIT RESTORED

One of the most prominent portraits in the Art Collection is restored to Gilded Age splendor and soon will be hanging in Carroll Parlor. Elizabeth Drexel Dahlgren, by Adolfo Felice Müller-Ury, depicts the Georgetown University benefactress in life size, full length, in a formal, fur-trimmed satin gown. The imposing 79 by 46-inch painting hung in the foyer outside Riggs Library for many years. Unfortunately, the lower part of the canvas and its original antique frame suffered damage, but are now repaired and restored.

Elizabeth (“Bessie”) Drexel, of the prominent Philadelphia family, married Georgetown alumnus John Vinton Dahlgren (B.A. 1889; M.A. 1891; L.L.B. 1891; L.L.M. 1892) of New York in 1889. She donated the funds for Dahlgren Chapel, or the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, at the University’s physical epicenter in the quadrangle bounded by Healy Hall, “Old North”, and the former Jesuit residences. The chapel was a memorial to the Dahlgrens’ first son, who died in infancy. The Dahlgrens commissioned Müller-Ury to paint her portrait in 1894, and gave it to the University in 1898, shortly after its completion.

Müller-Ury (1862-1947), a Swiss immigrant, studied in Germany, Rome, and Paris; after coming to the United States in 1887, he pursued his considerable talents as a portraitist in a circle of socially and politically prominent citizens. He was one of many portrait artists catering to the increasingly wealthy population created by the industrial and economic expansion during the decades following the Civil War. Virtuoso portraitists such as John Singer Sargent and Cecilia Beaux are among the most famous names in the field.

Müller-Ury’s portrait of the Dahlgrens’ close friend James Cardinal Gibbons, archbishop of the diocese in Baltimore, probably brought him to their attention. Müller-Ury’s painting of the cardinal is one of three by the artist in the collection of The Catholic University of America; the National Portrait Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the White House also hold examples of his work. A biography of the artist is being written by an art historian in Britain, who recently contacted us for information on and photographs of the portrait.

Notice of Elizabeth Drexel Dahlgren’s installation in Carroll Parlor will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the Library Associates Newsletter. The portrait can be viewed online at www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/guac/muller-ury_1894.htm.
Illustrator John E. Sheridan, a student at Georgetown College in the late 1890s, created a series of posters to promote his alma mater’s athletics in the years after his departure. The posters are a charming evocation of the Victorian era and the reproduction prints have been popular items for purchase during Reunion and Homecoming weekends at the University. According to his obituary in the New York Times (July 5, 1948), Sheridan “was credited with the idea of using posters to advertise college sports.”

The Special Collections Department of Lauinger Library, home to the originals of these prints, recently received another Sheridan entitled “Hey, Fellows!,” thanks to a gift from Georgetown University Library Board member Richard Hanley, C’68. Our new Sheridan is an important addition to our collection, not only as part of the artist’s oeuvre but also because the poster is representative of a larger movement in U.S. history during World War I. It is especially relevant to us because it shows the American Library Association’s active involvement in the war effort.

In 1917 George Creel, head of the U.S. government’s Committee on Public Information, asked the well-known artist Charles Dana Gibson to appoint a commission to produce artwork that would assist in the war effort. [Rawls, Walton, Wake Up, America! World War I and The American Poster. New York: Abbeyville Press, 1988, p. 149-50.]

Gibson formed the Division of Pictorial Publicity and over 300 artists and cartoonists, some of whom made their names through their work for this Division, contributed their talents. The print depicted here provides a number of powerful messages very relevant today—including the continuing need for money to buy books!

Readers of The New Yorker will have seen the June 12, 2006 Summer Fiction issue: “Life during Wartime.” In addition to the stories, the issue features a compelling cover by artist Owen Smith called “Foxhole Fiction,” showing three soldiers entrenched away from the firestorm of combat. Two soldiers are resting, but the third is engrossed in a book he is reading by flashlight. The retro-style print seems to represent the generic soldier in no identifiable time, place or service branch. But what emerges for me as a universal message is that a book is as vital now as it was in World War I and the printed word—physical or virtual—is a powerful means of getting us through the toughest of times.

Postscript: Another Sheridan print commissioned during the Division of Pictorial Publicity era was included in a Lauinger Library exhibit of World War I posters in 1999-2000. To view this exhibit online go to: www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/amposter.htm.
Welcome to Krisellen Maloney, who has joined the Library as the new Associate University Librarian for Digital Services and Technology Planning. Kris will provide the Library with leadership and vision in planning, implementing, and evaluating its systems and services. At the campus level, she will be actively working to integrate library information systems seamlessly into the broader University context. At the national level, she is a primary contributor to the Digital Library Federation Services Frameworks Group (www.diglib.org) to describe a common architectural framework for libraries.

Before her extensive experience in libraries, Kris worked in the area of digital imaging in medicine, where she gained extensive experience in the research, development and integration of systems that seamlessly and reliably integrate image information with the electronic patient record.

Kris holds Master's degrees in Information Systems (M.S.) and Library Science (M.A.) and a Ph.D. in Information Science/Cognitive Science from the University of Arizona.

Would you pick up a book whose jacket promised to tell you how to:

- Increase your income for life?
- Decrease your taxes?
- Create a living legacy in your name or that of a loved one?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, Georgetown and the Main Campus Libraries have some easy reading for you. Just take a minute to complete, clip and return the reply coupon below. We will send you the text on how to accomplish each of these goals through a variety of simple arrangements.

Would a gift that returned annual income at 7.3% to 11.3% be of interest? Perhaps you would like to permanently honor your parents or another individual who helped you become the success that you are today.

Would you like to help a talented student gain the education that will allow him or her to make a significant medical discovery or start a business that will transform the lives of thousands or millions of people? Perhaps you would like to put in the hands of a local child a book that will open a new world of possibilities.

Whatever your objective, Georgetown and the Main Campus Libraries have a wonderful story to share with you and the vehicles to help you accomplish your goals.

To get started on a new chapter, simply complete and return the coupon above. Happy reading!
Ongoing and Upcoming Exhibits

Margaret Atwood's The Blind Assassin, the featured work for this year's First-Year Academic Workshop.

Gunlocke Room:
September - October
James Ord and His Family: 200 Years in America

Fairchild Gallery:
July - October
Summertime Selections from Historic Harper's Weekly
October - December
John DePol (1913-2004): A Retrospective Exhibition

Kerbs Exhibit Area:
May - August
British Council Books

September
The Blind Assassin: First-Year Academic Workshop

Leon Robbin Gallery:
February - September
And They Lynched Him to a Tree: William Grant Still (1895-1978) and Katherine Biddle (1890-1977)

In celebration of the summer season, the Art Collection presents Summertime Selections from Historic Harper's Weekly, an exhibition of nineteenth-century wood engravings from summer issues of the historic literary and news journal. These vivid illustrations provide a fascinating glimpse of life in the nineteenth century, and a visual panorama of American culture and society less and less familiar as the years unfold.

A New York publication, Harper's Weekly was issued first in 1857, and gained wide circulation during the Civil War. It continued to flourish as one of the preeminent illustrated journals until the 1920s, when it no longer could compete with the Sunday supplements published by rival newspapers. This was the grand era of American commercial wood engraving; in the years to follow, the growing availability of and improvements in photography and photo-mechanical reproduction ensured the art form's inevitable decline.

Our exhibition features several wood engravings by Winslow Homer, one of the most popular artist-journalists of the nineteenth century, including his very first submission to Harper's in 1857. The "Match Between the Sophs and Freshmen—The Opening" depicts Harvard sophomores challenging the incoming freshmen boys to an impromptu game of football.

Summertime Selections is augmented with a comparable illustration from and a bound volume of Appleton's Journal, a contemporaneous New York magazine published between 1869 and 1881, which employed several of the same artists and craftsmen as Harper's.

Georgetown students, faculty and staff can peruse the complete articles and illustrations from Harper's Weekly 1857-1912 online at www.harpweek.com, a subscription service provided by the Library. Georgetown's exhibition is on view at www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/guac/harpers_06.
Did the Edmund A. Walsh Memorial Building once contain the largest rotating globe in the world?

Yes, when the Walsh Building opened in 1958 to house the Foreign Service School, there was a globe of bluish-green Plexiglas in its lobby. Ten feet in diameter, the globe was illuminated from within, and made a complete rotation every three minutes. Its designer and builder, French sculptor Pierre Bourdelle, described it as the largest globe of its type in existence. The globe remained in Walsh until the building was renovated in 1983. At that time, according to a *Washington Post* article of September 21, 1984, the contractor in charge of the renovation was told to dispose of the globe, which had not aged well. Then Dean of the School of Foreign Service, Peter Krogh, is quoted in the article as saying: “The names of countries and continents kept falling off, and it just wasn’t maintained to its original splendor.” However, a Virginia businessman, whose janitorial, cleaning and supply company serviced Georgetown, saw its potential and paid almost $4,000 to hoist the globe out of the building and transport it to his Springfield, Virginia home, where he placed it in his backyard to rotate “at parties or on special occasions.”

President Charles visited campus in November 2005. Have any other members of the British royal family come to the University?

No, it appears not – unless you count James Ord, a student here from 1800 to 1806 who was reputed to have been the child of the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) and Maria Fitzherbert. Ord joined the Jesuit Order in 1806 and went on to teach at Georgetown. Leaving the Order in 1811, he joined first the U.S. Navy, then the U.S. Army. Three of his sons, James Lycurgus, James Placidus, and John Stephen, also attended Georgetown. In 1895, another son, Judge Pacificus Ord, presented the University with an 1804 portrait of John Carroll by the noted American painter Gilbert Stuart. This portrait now graces the office of the University President.

Is it true that children as young as eight years of age were accepted as students in the 18th and 19th centuries?

Our original admission requirements, as set down by John Carroll, stipulated that children had to be at least eight years old and know how to read before they could be enrolled. However, records in the Archives reveal that boys as young as six were admitted, including one from Peru in 1858. By the late 1860s, however, the admissions policy was under review. In 1869, after nine-year-old Eugene Arnold ran away, the official Jesuit diarist expressed the hope that he would be “the last of the babies.” The following year, it was decided that no students younger than twelve could be accepted, twelve having been determined to be “an age at which one is capable of appreciating the advantages of college life.” (Note to readers concerned about Master Arnold’s fate: it is unclear whether he was ever returned to Georgetown; however, he lived at 1633 31st Street and so did not have far to travel after his escape. He entered Notre Dame in 1874 and appears to have dealt better with his second try at college life, as he graduated from there in 1878. It seems also that there was no lasting ill-will between Georgetown and young Eugene. He re-enrolled here in 1878, this time in the Law Department, and the following year earned the degree of Master of Laws. He has the distinction of being the first person to earn this degree from Georgetown.)
Library Associates enjoyed A Taste of Special Collections in May, when Special Collections staff gathered together and talked about some of the Library’s historical, literary and artistic treasures.

>Admiring the Special Collections displays.

>Art Collection Curator LuLen Walker discussing a wood engraving view of the Capitol, March 5, 1877, depicting the Inauguration of Rutherford B. Hayes-The Ceremony on the East Portico.

>Items on display included, clockwise from top right: first Georgetown student William Gaston’s tuition record, 1791-1792; Jesuit House Diary, 1853-1869, open to the entry on April 15-16, 1865, the account of Lincoln’s assassination; “Miss G Goes to Georgetown,’ 1964-1965, open to the chart specifying how coeds should dress and accessorize; Regulations for the Students of Georgetown College, 1829; and Proposals for Establishing an Academy, at George-town, Patowmack-River, Maryland.

>University Archivist Lynn Conway.

>Manuscripts Librarian Nicholas Scheetz.
The American Library Association held its annual conference in New Orleans from June 22-28, and the Library participated in two poster sessions at the event. The poster sessions provide a forum for librarians from around the world to highlight their libraries and to share their successful ideas with colleagues by presenting a research study, a practical problem-solving effort or an innovative library program. Poster sessions are displayed on bulletin boards, and pictures, graphs, data and text are used to illustrate the presentations.

Sandra Marroquin, Assistant to the Head of Access Services at Lauinger Library, with other CIRLA Fellows, presented The CIRLA Fellowship: A Recruitment Model for Promoting Diversity in Leadership. The poster session shared the efforts undertaken by the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA), a group of nine research libraries, to develop a unique recruitment and professional training program designed to solve two problems: recruiting for diversity and developing expertise within the functional areas of research librarianship. The session covered the genesis and actualization of the program, articulated its definition of diversity, and shared suggestions for ways in which libraries, academic and otherwise, might cooperate to meet challenges to the profession. More about the CIRLA Fellows program can be seen at http://cirlafellows.georgetown.edu/index.htm.

Mark Jacobs, Associate University Librarian for Access and Public Services, and Karl Debus-Lopez, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Technical Services, presented Creating An "Equivalent Experience" 7000 Miles From Home: Georgetown University Builds a Library in Qatar, outlining the steps necessary to create a new library in a foreign country and culture. Between May and August of 2005 the Georgetown University Library developed the collections, services, and space for a totally new library for its School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar. The new Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Library in Qatar is fully integrated into the collections and services of the D.C. campus and also serves as a stand-alone library for the Qatar patrons. Using information contained within a blog that was created to track the development of the library, the session presented information on creation of the physical structure, hiring of staff, development and integration of services with D.C. and the building of the initial start-up collection. Integration of the Qatar campus into the licensed and free electronic resources and web presence of the D.C. campus was discussed as well. The entire poster session can be seen online at www.library.georgetown.edu/ala/qatar.htm.
We thank all those friends of the library who have donated books, manuscripts, or other library materials in recent months. Among them are:

Mr. Francis C. Brown, Jr.
Two Persian manuscripts, 18th and 19th century.

Mr. and Mrs. James W. Coulter
Fine prints, signed letters, clippings and printer ephemera relating to the life and career of artist John DePol.

Mr. Willis Van Devanter
Signed and dated Stephen Gooden engraving of Satyrs.

Dr. Alan Gross
The Divine Comedy (suite of wood engravings) by Salvador Dali.

Mr. Christopher Rice
2700 photographic prints and negatives by author and photojournalist Edward Rice (1918-2001).

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Sale
18 fine prints and drawings.