GELARDIN NEW MEDIA CENTER FUNDED

A RECENT MAJOR GIFT TO THE LIBRARY BY JACQUES P. GELARDIN (B'69) will fund the creation of the Jacques P. Gelardin New Media Center for Collaborative Learning and Research in Lauinger Library. The Gelardin Center will enable researchers to convert into digital format any material collected by the Library and then use the converted material to present their research findings in many different ways.

No longer do students—or for that matter, faculty—just “write papers.” Instead, they are expected to make presentations in class and at conferences, often using video demonstrations or computer presentation software such as PowerPoint, and the Internet to present their research worldwide. Using tools of the new millennium, then, the Gelardin gift will advance scholarship in an all new way.

The Library currently collects information in various formats: books, periodicals, manuscripts, computer files, multimedia CD-ROMs, photographs and slides, videotapes, sound recordings, microforms, and artwork. The Gelardin Center will manage the convergence of these media. Any ordinary two-dimensional materials can be converted to digital form, either by direct scanning or through photography. Similarly, videotapes and sound recordings can be digitized and then edited or altered using a variety of software and hardware. In addition to the Library’s thousands of videotapes, audio CDs and cassettes and hundreds of multimedia CD-ROMs, the Gelardin Center will house more than 60 computer workstations. Part of the Picchi Electronic Information and Research Center, these workstations will be available for general purpose research and computing, with an additional 10 computers fitted with specialized peripherals such as flatbed scanners, slide scanners, CD-ROM recording devices, and audio and video equipment for creating high quality multimedia.

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The Georgetown University Library Associates Newsletter is issued four times a year. It is distributed to all Library Associates, members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), members of the Georgetown University Board of Directors, Board of Regents, Board of Governors, and selected others.

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MORE PRIZE WINNERS

In the Fall 1998 issue of the Newsletter we announced a gift of current use funds as well as an endowed fund to allow the library to collect the books that have won Britain’s prestigious Booker Prize and subsequently other books and manuscripts by writers who have won the prize or who have been short-listed for it. Thomas J. Healey (C’64), together with the Healey Family Foundation, who provided those funds, has now established a parallel source of funding for the collection of National Book Award winners.

The Booker Prize collection, to which the library could contribute very little in terms of holdings already on hand, now numbers about 400 volumes, including first editions of all but one of the winning volumes. British and American first editions are supplemented in many cases by advance proof copies (including the very rare proof of Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*, the book that was named “the Booker of Bookers” by three former chairmen of judges in connection with the prize’s 25th anniversary in 1993). Paul Scott, the 1977 winner, is represented by a substantial collection of printed books and a number of original letters.

*The Booker of Bookers*

The National Book Awards, first presented in 1950, honor American works in fiction, poetry, and, at various times, a host of other fields and sub-fields. The initial goals of the collection will be to bring together first editions and advance proof copies of the fiction and poetry winners, supplemented by winning entries in other categories and, as occasion offers, manuscripts by award-winning authors; the library already has a small number of letters and manuscripts by John Cheever, Walker Percy, J. F. Powers, and John Updike, all winners in fiction. The ultimate goal of these paired collections is to create a research collection that supports work in what has been thought to be the best in recent English language literature.
THE MAIN MAN OF LIBERTY

During the 1930s, popular weekly magazines such as Collier’s, Liberty, and The Saturday Evening Post waged a hot and profitable war in the quest for the reading public’s weekly five-cent pieces and undying allegiance. The Post had most of the advantages, offering better pay to its writers and locking up most of the first-class illustrators, including Norman Rockwell. But Liberty kept pace, and for a brief time even chalked up a larger circulation. The secret weapon was its editor (and under a host of pseudonyms, a prolific writer), a journalist of real genius: Fulton Oursler. The library has long been the repository for the extensive body of Oursler’s papers donated by his son, Fulton Oursler, Jr., and the Yale University Library some years ago gave us the original manuscript of Oursler’s religious bestseller, The Greatest Story Ever Told. Recently the Fordham University Library agreed to transfer to Georgetown the extensive collection of scrapbooks kept by Oursler and his wife, Grace Perkins Oursler herself an accomplished and prolific writer for more than three decades.

The scrapbooks contain a wealth of personal memorabilia including extensive documentation of Fulton’s interests in magic and the occult, but more importantly they provide a running history of both the Ourslers’ literary careers as occasional writers, playwrights, and novelists (Fulton wrote a series of successful mysteries under the pseudonym “Anthony Abbot;” Grace wrote, also under a pseudonym, the novel that was the basis for Barbara Stanwyck’s first Hollywood starring vehicle, among many others). Contracts, typescripts, magazine tear-sheets, photographs, and correspondence all contribute parts of a fascinating story that reaches its peak with Fulton’s editorship of Liberty. Working in a style we can easily understand today though it was a great novelty in his, Oursler rarely went to New York, choosing instead to remain at Sandalwood, his home in West Falmouth, Massachusetts, and editing 11 of the magazines of which Liberty was one in Bernard MacFadden’s publishing empire. He communicated through the medium of teletype messages to the office staffs in New York. To date several hundred scrapbooks have been transferred; when the shipments are completed the library will have the basis for a long-overdue biographical study of one of the 20th century’s truly great journalists and writers.
**HEALY RENOVATION BEGINS**

Work began in May on renovating the spaces in the Healy Building occupied by the University Collection, now part of the Special Collections Division. Initial efforts involved clearing and repainting the reception area in Healy Basement and moving there from Carroll Parlor a number of the display cases that stood in the center of that room as well as a number of smaller pieces of furniture.

Estimates are being gathered for costs involved in upgrading the lighting, heating and cooling, and security in Carroll Parlor, and we hope that a Library Associate or other friend of the library might be willing to make a donation to cover the costs of these further, and much needed, efforts.

**SPRING 2000 LIBRARY ASSOCIATES EVENTS**

**A “LIVELY” EVENT**

Booker Prize award winner Penelope Lively stirred the imaginations of some 80 Georgetown alumni, parents, and current undergraduates with her lecture on Tuesday, March 7, at the Reform Club in London. “The Writer as Reader” was a wry and witty presentation in which the speaker reflected on the operation of memory and on the relationship between public history and personal collection.

**AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE**

More than a hundred friends of the University Library attended the lecture by Professor Ronald Hoffman at the Embassy of Ireland on Thursday, April 27, in Washington. Professor Hoffman’s talk, “Mythic Chords of Memory: The Carrolls in Ireland and Maryland,” offered insight into the prolific family that included Georgetown’s founder John Carroll. Guests were also much taken with the beauty and charm of the embassy itself, and the opportunity to chat with Ambassador O’Huiginn.

**NEW OLD BOOKS**

It’s been almost a quarter century since the Alumni Association published *Georgetown University: A Pictorial Review*, a history of the university in more than 150 photographs and other images co-authored by Jon Reynolds and Marty Barringer. Now that a copy of the book has sold for more than $56.00 at auction on eBay, it seems high time to alert Library Associates and others to the fact that the library still has quite a few copies, available postage-free at $25 each. Checks should be made payable to the Georgetown University Library and requests for copies directed to Marty Barringer at the library address. Proceeds from sales will be used to enhance the programs of the University Archives.
AN ARTIST IN LOVE

The artist was Rockwell Kent; the object of his affections was the wife of American diplomat William Bullitt, to whom Kent wrote, in his exquisite hand, of his overwhelming attraction and the fierce intensity of his desire. The letters which leave us wondering what finally happened to these star-crossed lovers come to Georgetown.

Remarkable as the Kent letters are, however, they represent only one facet of what amounts to an important addition to the library’s holdings of literary letters and manuscripts. Letters and typescripts of poems and essays by writers such as Martha Gellhorn, Graham Greene, Walker Percy, J. F. Powers, and John Updike are supplemented by material by and about a host of artists, politicians, photographers, and other notables from the 18th century up to our own times.

A PAIR OF BEQUESTS

“It’s rewarding to find that alumni perceive the library as the critically important resource that we also believe it is,” says University Librarian Sue Martin, and two alumni especially have offered concrete proof of their interest through a pair of magnificent bequests. Leon Robbin (L’22), a retired patent attorney, has already given the library a portion of his distinguished collection of musical manuscripts and letters by composers as well as funds for an endowment for the ongoing support of the collection. In addition, he has recently formalized a bequest that will ensure that the entirety of his collection will be housed at Georgetown, where the collection will attract interest from music scholars around the world.

Peter King (C’42), a natural gas pipeline industry executive, spent many of his college days in the library, usually not studying but manning the circulation desk and overseeing the reading room, earning spending money at the munificent rate of 35 cents an hour. “The library was practically moribund in those days,” King recalls. “Books weren’t checked out very much, and the reading room didn’t get much business.” And the then librarian, Phillips Temple, had the leisure to also teach Shakespeare. The much busier Lauinger Library, which records more than a million visits a year, will benefit from a generous provision in King’s will. “Next to my wife,” King says, “my passion in life has been reading and books.”

ON PUBLISHING

“It is easy to become a publisher but difficult to remain one.”
—Michael Joseph

“The balance sheets of our great publishing houses would not be materially affected if they ceased from tomorrow the publication of poetry and literary criticism, and most publishers would rejoice to be relieved of the unprofitable burden or vain solicitations which such publication encourages.”
—Herbert Read

“The fact is that the intrinsic worth of the book, play, or whatever the author is trying to sell is the least, last factor in the whole transaction. There is probably no other trade in which there is so little relationship between profits and actual value, or into which sheer chance so largely enters.”
—George Bernard Shaw

“Another illusion, seldom entertained by competent authors, is that the publisher’s readers and others are waiting to plagiarize their work. I think it may be said that the more worthless the manuscripts, the greater the fear of plagiarism.”
—Sir Stanley Unwin
WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE?

We'll try to make it easy! If you have books, manuscripts, prints, or other items the library might be able to use, please contact Marty Barringer, head of Special Collections, at (202) 687-7475, or Betty Smith, head of the Gifts unit, at (202) 687-7458. If you are considering a contribution in the form of cash, or appreciated securities, or some other form, please call Library Director of Development Marji Bayers at (202) 687-5666, or the Library Associates’ coordinator at (202) 687-7446.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

We thank all those friends of the library who have donated books, manuscripts, or other library materials in recent months. Among them are:

- **America**
  Additional editorial files relating to the magazine’s publication

- **Paul F. Betz**
  More than 100 printed books and journals, primarily of literary interest, and a manuscript account of experiences in Korea in the early 20th century

- **Donald A. Couvillon**
  A group of six letters from Graham Greene to Fr. Anthony Bischoff, S.J.

- **Frank Kurt Cylke**
  Two French translations of works by Arthur Ransome and files relating to the building of his Ransome collection

- **Joseph E. Jeffs**
  Additional first editions and related material by and about Wallace Stegner

- **Horace W. McKenna**
  Additional papers relating to the life and work of Fr. Horace McKenna, S.J.

- **George McLoone**
  A group of 22 typed letters by American author John Cheever

- **Nina Chieffo Peterson**
  A group of seven modern American fine prints

- **Mrs. Edward J. Pope**
  Papers and other items of Princess Niloufer (1916-1989), one of the last imperial Ottoman princesses

- **John Rackham**
  An additional group of 50 European fine prints from the 17th to 19th centuries

GELARDIN NEW MEDIA CENTER FUNDED (continued from page 1)

presentations. Seven soundproof booths will accommodate the recording and editing of audio and video works, to compose music and edit film.

Gelardin Center staff will support Georgetown University faculty and students in the use of these technologies in the Dubin Classroom, part of the Center. The Dubin Classroom, a memorial gift of the Dubin and Brown families, has 24 workstations for hands-on instruction and training.

Last June, Jacques Gelardin and his wife Romy were recognized for their generosity to the University by Father Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., at a special reception in London.