Brideshead First Visited

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE ASSOCIATES THE LIBRARY WAS able this summer to purchase a collection of 80 autograph letters and cards and a brief typed manuscript written by Evelyn Waugh to or for his dear friend Lady Mary Lygon. Introduced to the family at Madresfield Court by Lady Mary's brothers William (Viscount Elmley) and Hugh, Waugh's lasting relationships were with Lady Mary ("Blondy") and her sister, familiarly known as "Poll." The Lygon parents, Lord and Lady Beauchamp, were both gone, father in self-exile in Italy following the revelation of his homosexuality and a subsequent scandal in 1931, mother to live in retirement with her brother. The situation at "Mad," as the estate was known to family and friends, fueled Waugh’s imagination and found a fictional outlet in Brideshead Revisited, in which Lady Mary always thought the character of Sebastian Flyte was modeled on her brother Hugh.

The majority of the correspondence dates from the 1930s, a particularly rich literary period for Waugh, and it reveals his mordant sense of humor and unique perspective on life both literary and familial. A characteristic letter announcing the birth of his son in 1938 reads in part: “Laura has had a son. Will you be its god-mother? I know you won’t be able to come for christening on account there’s a war, but I could have a proxy for you. It is to be called Auberon Alexander. It is quite big and handsome! Laura is quite pleased with it.” A letter from the late 1950s asks: “Will . . . you come to dine with a cousin of Little Laura’s named Mrs. Fleming? Her husband [novelist Ian Fleming] writes common books but, as you would expect from a cousin of L. L. she is a lady of the utmost refinement.” Given the quality of the letters, it is much to be regretted that a sizable additional number of letters was left behind, and thus lost, in a London taxi in the 1980s.

The letters to Lady Mary join in the library’s collections several short Waugh manuscripts as well as some hundreds of letters and cards to Handasyde Buchanan, Graham Greene, Leonard Russell, Christopher Sykes (his biographer), Douglas Woodruff, and others.
FROM OIL CREEK TO GEORGETOWN

On August 27, 1859, Colonel Edwin Laurentine Drake, after 19 months of difficulties, brought in the first gusher at Oil Creek, near Titusville, Pennsylvania, tapping into a natural reservoir of petroleum at a depth of 69 feet below the earth's surface. Over the past 140 years oil has become not only a lubricant and a source of power, but the raw material for a host of synthetic products, and the international trade in crude oil plays an important role in global politics. The history of that development is chronicled in detail in a recent gift to the library, the Bernard J. Picchi Petroleum Collection, donated by its creator, a 1971 graduate of the School of Foreign Service, longtime member and former chairman of the Library Advisory Council.

Among the approximately 700 books, journals, and other items in the collection are a number of items of outstanding interest and importance, ranging from J. H. A. Bone's self-explanatorily titled *Petroleum and Petroleum Wells. What Petroleum Is, Where It is Found, and What is Used For; Where to Sink Petroleum Wells, and How to Sink them*, Philadelphia, 1865 (second edition, much enlarged), to Cone and Johns' *Petrolia: A Brief History of the Pennsylvania Petroleum Region, Its Development, Growth, Resources, etc., from 1859 to 1869*, New York, 1870, an indispensable and reliable source on the early oil industry, to the massive *The Derricks Handbook of Petroleum*, Oil City, 1898, a 1,062-page compendium edited by Peter C. Boyle, to the first edition of the definitive work on the early period of the science of petroleum, *The Science of Petroleum*, London, 1938, four volumes written by A. E. Dunstan and others.

The collection includes a great deal on the development of the oil industry world-wide, as well as in this country, the earliest foreign contribution being Alphonse Reys' *L'Huile de pétrole*, Geneva, 1865, only one copy of which is recorded in an American library. The illustration on this page shows the collection's only excursus into fiction, the rare first printing in the first printing dust jacket of the account of Tom Swift's invention of a new drilling method and his thwarting of the schemes of a trio of shady oil speculators. Ephemeral items in the collection include a variety of pamphlets including oil company prospectuses, advertising brochures, and the anonymous *Petrolina Family Recipe Book*, New York, ca. 1884, not a cookbook but a paean to Binghamton Oil Refining Company's line of patent medicine products. Of more purely visual interest are a group of early stereoviews of the Pennsylvania oil region and a small collection of early and handsome oil company stock certificates.
Some years ago debate raged over whether the library in the future might be one of traditional books and journals or one of electronic databases. We now know that the answer is that the library has to be both. We add more than 30,000 printed items each year, and we are now in the process of adding substantially each year to our electronic resources. This past year we added about 40 databases, some very large indeed, and we now provide local or remote access to over 150 databases in almost any imaginable subject. All of these are available to Library Associates when they visit either Lauinger Library or the Blommer Science Library.

Among the databases added in the humanities, Literature Online, Grove Dictionary of Art Online, and HarpWeek have proven to be of immediate interest. Literature Online is a fully searchable library containing more than 260,000 full-text works of English and American poetry, drama, and fiction, as well as general reference works and links to literature-related websites. The Grove Dictionary of Art Online is a comprehensive reference resource for all aspects of the visual arts worldwide from prehistory to the 1990s. Historians interested in the Reconstruction will be especially happy to see the addition of HarpWeek, which provides access to all issues of Harpers Weekly, including all illustrations and advertisements, from the first issue in 1857 to 1871.

Several other databases popular with library users are Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe, Computer Database, and the Economist Intelligence Units Country Reports. Lexis/Nexis Academic Universe provides the full text of magazines and newspapers, including international publications, wire service reports, and broadcast transcripts. In addition to general news, it also features company news, industry and market news, government and political news, legal news, and medical and health topics. For legal research it provides access to law reviews, federal case law, the United States Code, the Code of Federal Regulations, and state-level legal resources. Those shopping for a new computer, digital camera, printer, or any other computer-related product can use the Computer Database to find computer-related product introductions, news, and reviews in such areas as hardware, software,

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A CYCLE OF GIVING

We reported in the Newsletter in August, 1994, on the gift of approximately 1,000 volumes in the fields of literature and English Catholic history made by Maurice Adelman, Jr. (L'58). Rich in works by such writers as Willa Cather, Ronald Knox, and author/illustrator Clare Leighton, Maurice’s library also greatly strengthened our holdings in the history of Roman Catholicism in England, particularly in the period when Catholics were either persecuted for their faith or barely tolerated.

Long before he gave us his books, Adelman had established a library endowment fund in the name of Blessed Margaret Pole, the mother of Cardinal Reginald Pole who refused to follow Henry VIII in his establishment of the Church of England and became a Papal diplomat on the continent. Several times a year one could expect letters or phone calls from Maurice pointing our attention to items which might appeal to “Blessed Meg,” items which we would generally add to the collections in due course if Blessed Meg’s purse was sufficiently full. In recent years Maurice’s continued donations to the endowment ensured that her purse could sustain our buying on a somewhat grander scale, and the calls and letters became more frequent. When he visited Georgetown for the meetings of the Library Advisory Council there were almost always new acquisitions for him to see.

After his retirement from full-time legal practice Maurice took the step of establishing a charitable remainder trust to benefit Blessed Meg and the library. Using highly appreciated stock to fund the trust permitted its sale without exposing either Maurice or the trust to capital gains taxes, and the proceeds, invested in a more diversified portfolio, provided dependable income during the remainder of Maurice’s life. He also supplemented his gifts to the Blessed Margaret Pole endowment fund with additions to the trust.

We noted briefly in the most recent issue of the Newsletter that Maurice had specified a bequest to the library in his will. That bequest has now been received, and Blessed Margaret Pole’s purse has profited from it, as well as from the proceeds of the charitable remainder trust. One of the last significant acquisitions Maurice lived to see is illustrated here, the first printing of Bishop Challoner’s revision of the New Testament in English, published discreetly in Dublin (though the place is not named) in 1749, the progenitor of the standard English editions for more than two centuries, and the first copy we had seen on the market in nearly 30 years. Blessed Meg was very pleased.

For more information about a gift to Lauinger Library that can provide lifetime income, please contact Jeff Comfort or Mary Todd Hardeman in the Office of Planned Giving at (800) 347-8067 or (202) 687-3697; or call Marji Bayers, Director of Development for the library, at (202) 687-5666. You incur no obligation by inquiring, and all inquiries are handled in confidence.

More than 59,000 hits were recorded on Special Collections web pages during the month of July. The Maryland Province Archives and the Harry Hopkins Papers were especially popular with researchers, and the catalog of British posters of WWI drew a respectable 1,200 hits. But even the relatively tiny Charles Guiteau Collection, a handful of printed and manuscript items by or related to the assassin of President Garfield, drew more than 200 hits.

Thanks to help received from the American Studies program, our first web page offering digitized versions of manuscript records, while not by any means complete, is now up, and Associates who want to sample the flavor of Catholic sermons from the colonial era can do so at http://gulib.lausun.georgetown.edu/sermons/
A UNIQUE COLLECTION GOES ONLINE

The collection of 18th century American Catholic manuscript sermons at Georgetown provides a unique resource for students of colonial Catholic life as well as those of homiletics in general. Only four Catholic sermons appeared in America in printed form before 1801; to these the sermon collection adds another 456 in manuscript. The four authors who appeared in print are supplemented by works by another 40, most of them Jesuits (or, after 1773, ex-Jesuits), all but one, the author of a single sermon, identified by comparison of the handwriting of the manuscripts with signed examples in the Maryland Province Archives and elsewhere. At the instigation of the American Studies Program, an initial group of 25 of the manuscript sermons are being scanned and made available on their own web page (gulib.lausun.georgetown.edu/sermons/), where students will have the texts available in both low and high resolution formats to facilitate reading and transcription.

It should come as no surprise that a significant proportion of the sermons are catechetical in nature, explaining the meaning of familiar prayers or of the articles of the Creed, subjects that in later years would be the province of Sunday schools or similar avenues of instruction. The Catholic populations of Maryland and Pennsylvania, where these sermons were delivered, were both small and in some measure uneducated. But there are quite different examples, too, formal expositions of Biblical texts, sometimes at great length, and sometimes based quite consciously, even to the point of direct translation of passages, on examples provided by the great French Jesuit preachers of the late 17th and early 18th centuries such as Claude de La Colombière and Louis Bourdaloue. Very few of the sermons take up the theological differences dividing the tiny Catholic minority from the Protestants among whom they lived; a surprising exception is a sermon by Bennet Neale, S. J., a 45-page examination entitled “Upon Faith & Good Works,” based on the text from Acts 16, ‘What must I do to be saved,” and probably delivered in two parts on successive Sundays, in the course of which Calvin and Luther and their adherents come in for some fairly rough handling. One of the serious disappointments in the manuscript sermons is their apparent indifference to political affairs; it is impossible to discover in them so much as a passing notice of the American Revolution, for example. On the other hand, they are not entirely devoid of worldly references, and a sermon delivered in 1768 provides the earliest discovered usage of the word “barbecue” in its modern sense, but raised as an example of a social affair in which the joint participation of the two sexes might give rise to an occasion for sin.

The sermons were initially pulled together, identified, and cataloged in 1984. Since then, scholars have made significant use of the collection and a number of the sermons have been transcribed and published. We hope their availability via the World Wide Web will lead to increased use of the collection, not only by Georgetown students, and increased awareness of this central facet of colonial Catholic life. 

INVITE A FRIEND

The library has received an initial shipment of new, re-designed Library Associates brochures which explain the benefits of becoming a member. Associates dues and donations fund a number of activities, not least the acquisition of such remarkable collections as the correspondence of Evelyn Waugh to Lady Mary Lygon featured in this issue of the Newsletter.

If you have friends you’d like to invite to join the group, why not give them a brochure? Copies can be obtained by contacting Marianne Green at (202) 687-7446 or via e-mail at libassoc@gunet.georgetown.edu.

WHAT IT MEANS

" Promise, large promise, is the soul of an advertisement."

– Samuel Johnson
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:

- **Helen King Boyer**
  A number of personal diaries to be added to her family’s papers

- **Robert Girardi**
  Manuscripts and other pre-publication versions of his published fiction

- **Mrs. Parker T. Hart**
  A substantial collection of papers of her ambassador husband

- **Julia Heflin**
  More than 100 books and prints, principally on Russian theater

- **Rev. Paul F. Liston**
  A superb English townscape etching by John Taylor Arms

- **Roderick S. Quiroz**
  Developmental proofs for lithographs by Prentiss Taylor

- **Clea Rameh**
  Ten Brazilian paintings of spirits in the folk religion of Bahia

- **Nicholas B. Scheetz**
  A 55-volume set of Charles Dickens, published in an edition of 100 copies only

- **Washington Print Club**
  Three additional prints for their ongoing collection

- **Clifford Young**
  23 early printed books and works in German literature

ENHANCED ELECTRONIC RESOURCES (continued from page 3)

electronics, engineering, communications, and technological applications. Given Georgetown’s emphasis on international topics, it is hardly surprising that the Economist Intelligence Units Country Reports has achieved instant popularity. EIU reports give quarterly analyses of major trends in the economies of over 180 countries, including forecasts for the upcoming year, evaluations of foreign trade data, and background data on political developments in each country.

A major challenge for Lauinger librarians has been how to organize our electronic resources so that users can quickly and easily find what they need. Getting valuable input from our users themselves, we came up with a subject screen that points the way generally, but which also offers a traditional alphabetical-order list of all databases as well as a listing of those which provide full-text access to indexed articles. Recently acquired databases are displayed prominently on the main pages; both brief and comprehensive descriptions of the databases are available, and the longer descriptions include links to the database vendors’ help screens.