in JCB

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

FALL 2012
This newsletter brings a great deal of happy news about our beloved library, including the details of our watershed 50th reunion conference for the fellows in June. But it also brings the news that I have accepted a position as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. I believe deeply in public service, but it is difficult all the same to leave this special place. I can’t say enough good things about the Library and the friends who sustain it—all of you, in other words. I have been grateful for the chance to get to know you these past six years. We have come a long way, seeing the plan for a residential house to completion, raising $1.5 million for the Parker Curatorship of Maps and $1 million for the Hodson Trust Fellowship, launching the Watts Program in the History of the Book, starting a publishing series with Oxford University Press, and taking a strong leadership role in digital scholarship. Since we started putting the collection online, in a way consistent with the JCB’s traditional emphasis on quality, we have seen extraordinary evidence of what this Library means to the world. All around the planet, people are reading our books, and from many far-flung places, scholars have written to thank me for what we are doing to bring the JCB and its riches to them. The reunion conference elicited great enthusiasm along these lines, and reminded me what an important daily resource the JCB is, not only to those of us lucky enough to live within walking distance, but to friends of the Library everywhere. It was the great achievement of John Carter Brown to unite in one place a magnificent collection of books and maps celebrating the discovery of a new world. Increasingly, we are now able to approach the grandeur of his vision, by assembling a global community of readers.

I wanted to thank all of you for your help toward these achievements. It would be too obvious a cliche to say that it takes a village, but the success of this Library depends on many constituencies, and I am grateful to all of them. The JCB is much more than a Library—it is a genuine community, uniting people of the book in a way that obliterates the boundaries between nations and even between centuries. For the Great Subject continues, and American history will never end. I hope we can stay in touch, and continue to give new life to a Library we love.

Warmly,

Edward L. Widmer
Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian

2012-13 Board of Governors
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The John Carter Brown Library is an independently funded and administered institution for advanced research in history and the humanities founded in 1846 and located at Brown University since 1901.


Early American lottery schemes could be quite complex, and as in the case of the Market House lottery, tickets were often sold in multiple “classes” corresponding to separate drawings. In general, a purchaser received one copy of a ticket; on the drawing date, another copy would be removed and placed in a wheel for the drawing; a third copy or stub would remain in the ticket book in case of complaints or disagreements after the drawing. The tickets and ticket book shown here reveal the printing and cutting techniques used to prevent fraud; the curved edges of the tickets must match those of the tickets remaining in the book.
Over four beautiful days in June, the JCB celebrated the 50th anniversary of its fellows program with a reunion conference, and what a homecoming it was. Close to 100 fellows from many generations returned to Providence from all points of the compass. Our senior-most fellow in attendance, Charles Clark, came to the JCB in 1964; our youngest fellows were not yet born then (or even close to then). All mixed freely and contributed meaningfully to the sessions, which covered a wide variety of topics near and dear to our collection: cartography, maritime studies, natural history, the comparative history of the Americas, indigenous languages, and a nod to the impending anniversary of the 1763 Treaty of Paris. Bernard Bailyn opened the proceedings with an eloquent keynote that delved deeply into the Library’s early history. Rolena Adorno answered with a second keynote that represented her own generation’s admiration for the JCB and the expanded fellowship program built by Norman Fiering in the 1980s. David Rumsey delivered a third and final keynote that took an appreciative audience well into the 21st century, and left the room buzzing about the power and reach of the digital realm to reshape the writing of history. In between were hundreds of excited conversations about the JCB, ranging from the new Oxford University Press/JCB imprint, specific digital projects (we launched “Sources of Peru,” with the help of the US Ambassador to Lima, Rose M. Likins, via web conference), and new ways in which former fellows can stay in touch with the Library and each other. During one panel, on Haiti, we had people speaking to the conference from around the world, live, and on camera. A final business meeting wrapped up these threads into a set of recommendations going forward, ranging from follow-up conferences at regular intervals, to support for collaborative projects, to new chairs for the Reading Room. In between these serious deliberations, we also had a lot of fun, with a clambake on the Green, a musical exploration into early African-American history, and excursions to Newport and South County on Sunday morning. The selection of photos that follows provides a sense of the jubilant mood as the fellows program turned a very spry fifty. More images can be linked to from the event website: http://blogs.brown.edu/jcbfellows50th/. From there you can also link to videos of all the conference sessions, and relive what was truly a watershed moment for the JCB. Ted Widmer
THE JCB FELLOWS’ 50TH, JUNE 7–10, 2012

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

Clockwise from Top Left:

Bernard Bailyn delivers the opening keynote, “On the Life Cycle of the JCB, with a Discourse on Anomalies.”


OPENING RECEPTION, JUNE 7, 2012, MACMILLAN READING ROOM

Clockwise from Top Left:

Steve Mentz and Chris Pastore.


Kenneth Mills, Regina Harrison, Rolena Adorno, and George Lovell.


JCB Board Members David Rumsey and William Twadell.

Charles Clark, John (Jack) Crowley, and Jack P. Greene.
COMPARING, CONTRASTING, AND INTEGRATING THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS, PANEL DISCUSSION, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012

Clockwise from Top Left:
Panelists Carina Johnson and Ralph Bauer.
Session Chair Wim Klooster.
Paul Cohen, Mary Baine Campbell, Neil Safier, Jack Crowley, and Jim Maldoon enjoying the Q & A.

THE CLAMBAKE ON THE GREEN AND A MUSICAL INTERLUDE, JUNE 8, 2012

Clockwise from Top Left:
Karen Kupperman introduces the evening’s entertainment.
Juan M. Vitulli, Domingo Ledezna, José de la Puente-Brunke and Rafael Sánchez-Concha Barrios.
JCB Associate Bernie Bell and Judith Laikin Elkin.
JCB staffers Kim Nusco, Margot Nishimura, and John Minichiello.
Carla Lois.
Walter W. Woodward leads the crowd in his version of a Micmac song recorded by Marc Lescarbot in Histoire de la Nouvelle-France (1609).
Now in the Reading Room
Mind Your Business: Records of Early American Commerce at the John Carter Brown Library

Rags make paper
Paper makes money
Money makes banks
Banks make loans
Loans make beggars
Beggars make rags

In our increasingly paperless society, this traditional verse may lack some of its original resonance. But while most paper is no longer made from rags and many financial transactions are conducted electronically, recent history suggests that the lines about banks and loans may still carry meaning. And the statement that “paper makes money” has multiple layers of significance for the collections featured in the latest exhibition at the JCB.

Among its resources for the study of early American history, the Library holds archival records for companies founded by three prominent Providence families—the Browns, the Arnolds, and the Tillinghasts. Spanning the 18th to the early 20th centuries, the documents and account books in these collections shed light on nearly every aspect of the developing American economy—from maritime trade to rum distilling to the textile industry. Perhaps most importantly for researchers, the unusual completeness of these business archives provides the opportunity to examine how early American firms managed their progressively more complex activities.

The exhibition traces not only the specific business ventures of each of these important Rhode Island families, but the systems employed to manage their adventures and investments. This includes an examination of the training that prepared young men for careers in business and the accounting methods they used to manage business affairs. Also on display are the “tools of

Forming the Man of Business

Learning to write in an efficient, legible manner by no means meant not indulging in decorative flourishes. As this copybook used by Nicholas Brown shows, “command of hand”—the masterful use of the pen—was a valued skill which could elevate the activity of writing into a form of art as well as a channel for business.

Copybooks were used in a variety of educational settings, and handwriting practice generally consisted of copying sentences or phrases considered valuable either to trade (in the case of clerk education) or to moral development. Nicholas Brown proceeded through his handwriting practice alphabetically—each letter begins a different maxim, reflecting the advice deemed most valuable to a young man entering the wide world (Art is perfected by Practice; Beauty without Virtue is like a painted Sepulchre... Misery attends Debts and Law Suits...). The pithy sentences contrast dramatically with the fanciful fish, dragons, and birds that adorn the pages.
trade”—examples of the means by which exchange was transacted, including bills, promissory notes, and currency, as well as the forms in which business information circulated: prices current, printed circular letters, and individual correspondence. Specialized forms of record keeping for different business activities—maritime ventures, industry, investments—reflect how these management systems functioned in a variety of settings. The mix of handwritten and printed forms on display attests to the development of a market for job printing that increased the efficiency and consistency of record keeping.

In addition to these documents of New England commerce, the exhibition features examples of financial record keeping from Spanish colonial entities, selected by Ken Ward, Curator of Latin American Books. Items such as the division of Atahualpa’s ransom by Pizarro’s conquistadors and an example of double entry bookkeeping used by the Royal Mint of Mexico reflect the diversity of the JCB’s holdings for the study of economic history.


A record of transactions arranged by date, this day book shows a number of contributions made by Welcome Arnold and others to the construction of the College building (now University Hall, Brown University).

Edward Hatton. The merchant’s magazine; or, Trades-man’s treasury. London, 1697.

Edward Hatton’s Merchant’s Magazine supplements its instruction in arithmetic and bookkeeping with copper-plate engravings that reveal the emphasis placed on writing instruction in preparation for a business career. This page displays flourishes and figures similar to those assiduously made by Nicholas Brown in his handwriting practice book.
This exhibition explores what it took to “mind” one’s business in the early Americas. As literacy and numeracy became critical skills for merchants and traders, sophisticated methods of recording and analyzing transactions and investments enabled companies to more efficiently strategize their use of capital. Beyond being a boon to historical research, these accumulations of paper generated by clerks, bookkeepers and accountants did, indeed, make money.  

Kim Nusco

Mind your Business: Records of Early American Commerce at the John Carter Brown Library will be on display in the Duncan MacMillan Reading Room through December 2012. The exhibition was prepared by Kim Nusco, Reference and Manuscript Librarian. An online version, designed by Leslie Tobias-Olsen, Manager of Computing and Digital Imaging, is available at www.jcbl.org/business.

A lecture by Brown University History Professor Seth Rockman on “Paper Technologies of Capitalism” marked the opening of the exhibition on September 13, followed the next day by an academic symposium of the same title, co-organized by Seth Rockman and Jeremy Mumford, Academic Projects Associate at the JCB and Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Brown. For a video of Professor Rockman’s lecture, please visit the JCB’s online “Multimedia” page: www.brown.edu/academics/libraries/john-carter-brown/multimedia.

WATTS MEANS BUSINESS THIS FALL: BOOKS OF BUSINESS // BUSINESS OF BOOKS

The Charles H. Watts II History and Culture of the Book Program is tallying up the events in its Fall 2012 program ledger, starting with a ‘behind-the-scenes’ exhibit and archives tour of the JCB’s fall exhibition, Mind your Business: Records of Early American Commerce at the John Carter Brown Library, on view through December 2012.

Through the semester’s theme of “Books of Business // Business of Books,” JCB staff, guest speakers, and visiting artists will connect Brown and RISD undergraduates to the world of the business archive and the history of the business of books—selling, collecting, and publishing.

Our account book of events includes the following entries: A student seminar on Abraham Lincoln’s campaign biographies with Tom Horrocks, Director of Special Collections and the John Hay Library; a public lecture with Alexander Gourlay, Professor of RISD Literary Arts + Studies, on “Two Lost Leaves from John Boydell’s Account Book: An Old Hand and a New Man;” and a hands-on Copperplate Calligraphy workshop with Maryanne Grebenstein of the Abbey Studio. Watts will also host a visit with book artist Maureen Cummins, whose work includes archival research and the use of historical account books and business papers.

Abby Saunders

The Charles H. Watts II Program in the History and Culture of the Book supports lectures, events, seminars, workshops and field trips for Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design undergraduates to further the study and appreciation of the codex book as a crafted, practical, historical object.

For schedule and program information: www.jcbl.org/watts.
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INDIGENOUS LITERACY IN COLONIAL MESOAMERICA AT THE JCB

On June 15 to 17, noted US and international scholars gathered at the JCB to debate ideas about history and the role of literacy in Mexico and Central America. It was a workshop that achieved many firsts. It was the first time specialists in pre-Columbian and colonial writing from many different parts of Mesoamerica met in one place for an extended exchange of ideas. Ken Ward, the Maury A. Bromsen Curator of Latin American Books, arranged a spectacular showing of some of the greatest JCB treasures from Mesoamerica, including the Boban Calendar Wheel; the Coyoacan Codex, a central Mexican pictorial manuscript; Alonso de Molina’s dictionaries of Nahuatl; and the first Spanish-Mayan dictionary, the Motul Dictionary. Even though many of these scholars had studied these texts through publications and online reproductions, it was the first time for most to touch and examine them in person. Another first was research time scheduled as part of the workshop, and in one case, a long-lost system of counting in the Mayan language of Kaqchikel was rediscovered. Ajpub’ Pablo García Ixmata’ works closely with developing the Mayan language curriculum in regional schools in Guatemala, and he will bring this knowledge encountered as part of the workshop back to the communities that will restore it to a living part of the language once again.

Kathryn Sampeck
Organized by Kathryn Sampeck (Saunders/Mellon Fellow 2008–2009), the workshop was funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and co-sponsored by the JCB and Illinois State University.

The JCB’s two-volume Motul Dictionary, the most famous of extant Maya dictionaries, most likely copied from a lost original at the end of the 16th century. The page shown here is from the Spanish-Mayan section of the manuscript and includes entries for chocolate (in Maya, chacau haa). The Motul Dictionary is one of the treasures consulted by the participants in the Indigenous Literacy workshop; it is also one of the 560 plus items already included in the JCB’s new Indigenous Languages Collection in the Internet Archive (http://archive.org/details/jcbindigenous).

Group Photo to Left: Participants in the Indigenous Literacy in Colonial Mesoamerican Workshop on the front steps of the JCB.

JCB HELPING TO PRESERVE ENDANGERED LANGUAGES WITH GOOGLE AND INTERNET ARCHIVE

This past June the JCB became an originating contributor to the Endangered Languages Project (www.endangeredlanguages.com), a large-scale online initiative to preserve and protect global linguistic diversity, developed and launched by Google. Because experts believe that somewhere in the world a language becomes extinct every two weeks, the Endangered Languages Project was initiated to accelerate language documentation and encourage collaborative scholarship that will preserve both disappearing languages and their related cultures. The JCB, as one of 29 members of the Alliance for Linguistic Diversity, contributed images and metadata from 14 books containing examples of languages from Zoque and Maya (which are spoken today by significant populations) to languages such as Cumana and Lule (which are thought to be extinct or nearly so).

The opportunity to contribute to the Google initiative came at just the right time, since we were in the midst of scanning all books with indigenous American language content—from a one-page vocabulary list to entire text—for the JCB’s Internet Archive collection (http://archive.org/details/jcbindigenous). The digital facsimiles of indigenous language materials can be found by searching in the Internet Archive. Once all the scanning is done, it will also be possible to link to them directly from the JCB’s Indigenous Languages of the Americas online database (http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/ildb/index1.php), compiled by Daniel Slive and Jennifer Gage. Leslie Tobias-Olsen
 Given the rarity of documents relating to the nuts and bolts of the map trade in early modern Europe, we were delighted to acquire recently the only edition of a printed catalogue of maps available from the 17th-century Strasbourg shop of Simon Paulli. Not surprisingly, his inventory came largely from the great Dutch cartographers, Blaeu, Jansson, and Visscher and a full five pages are devoted just to maps of America. The JCB is lucky to own many of these already. Still, what fun it would be to place an order with Herr Paulli for those maps that we have yet to add to the JCB collection.

Susan Danforth

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Susan Danforth

Simon Paulli, Orbis terraqueus in tabulis geographicis et hydrographicis. Strasbourg, 1670.


A brief teaser:

THE MYSTERY OF THE SILKWORM: CONVERSATIONS IN THE READING ROOM AND BEYOND

It was a classic tale of “who done it”—someone had violated the pages of a seventeenth-century atlas at the John Carter Brown Library, and in July 2012 two scholars set out to discover who that “who” was. The suspects had recorded—and illustrated—what appears to be a conversation about silkworms in the margins of a 1635 edition of Gerhard Mercator’s Atlas; or, A geographicke description of the world. Upon further investigation it became clear that where one text ended, another began...

Gerhard Mercator, Atlas; or, A geographicke description of the world. London, 1635, p. 904 (with manuscript marginalia newly attributed to Virginia and John Ferrar).

IF ONLY WE HAD A TIME MACHINE...
The end of the historic presidency of Ruth Simmons at Brown marks also the end of her important eleven years’ service as Chair of the JCB Board of Governors. In wishing to express their gratitude, the Board looked to President Simmons’ academic specialty in French literature for inspiration. Dealers specializing in French books and manuscripts were consulted for assistance in selecting one or more important colonial manuscripts that could be purchased for the Library’s collections in her honor. At the end of this process, the Board, with Ted Widmer’s assistance chose two unique works, both drafted in the 1760s amid the fierce colonial conflicts of the Seven Years’ War.

Both works focus on the French West Indies, where France’s commercial stakes were highest. The first is an unpublished collection of dissertations on Martinique, by the Chevalier de Saint-Mauris, then Commandant General of the Leeward Islands. Two texts, “Idées générales du commerce et du gouvernement de la Martinique” and “Mémoire sur l’utilité d’une chaîne établie à la Martinique” (on the suppression of the Maroons), deal with the sociological aspects of the island: its organization, politics, agriculture and dependence on slavery. Three other texts (“Mémoire sur la défense des îles et des côtes,” “Mémoire et réflexions militaires sur la défense de l’île,” and “Observations sur les troupes qui sont et doivent aller dans les colonies”) focus on military concerns—especially interesting because of the intense Franco-British rivalry in the area, attested by two wars in the same century. The manuscript essays, 100 pages in length, were composed around 1765.

The second purchase in President Simmons’ honor is the remarkable “Projet d’établissement d’une Ecole Civile et Militaire sous le Titre d’Ecole Royale des Colonies,” prepared by Guillaume de la Mardelle, Procureur général de la Conseil supérieur in Port au Prince, Haiti, in 1768. The detailed plan, elaborated in 172 pages, yields important insights into French ideas about an institution to be founded in Haiti for the education of the new class of colonial civic and military leaders in the French Caribbean. The school was never built, and Haitian history would proceed quite differently than anticipated by the French ruling class at the end of the Seven Years’ War. Dennis Landis
During the JCB Fellows’ 50th Conference, a display of recent publications by fellows more than fully occupied one of the tables in the MacMillan Reading Room. The books were contributed by the fellows themselves or by their publishers. Along with the display copies, order forms—many offering discounts—were made available. At the end of the conference, 64 of the books were cataloged and added to the JCB reference collection, and 13 duplicates are now located at the library in Fiering House. Wherever they ended up, all 77 books now sport handsome JCB Fellows’ 50th bookplates. Presented here is a small selection of the exhibited titles. Susan Newbury

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FORMER JCB FELLOWS

Louise M. Burkhart, editor/translator
Barry D. Sell and Stafford Poole, translators
AZTECS ON STAGE: RELIGIOUS THEATER IN COLONIAL MEXICO
University of Oklahoma Press, 2011

English translations of six seventeenth- and eighteenth-century plays. Louise M. Burkhart is professor of Anthropology at the State University of New York, Albany, and was a JCB Fellow (NEH) in 1987–88. Translator Barry D. Sell also held JCB Fellowships in 1994–95, 2003–04, and 2007–08.

Nahuatl drama merges medieval European religious theater with the languages and performance traditions of the Aztec (Nahua) people of central Mexico. Franciscan missionaries, seeking effective tools for evangelization, fostered this new form of theater after observing the Nahua’s enthusiasm for elaborate performances. Aztecs on Stage presents accessible

Rebecca Earle
Cambridge University Press, 2012

This fascinating history explores the dynamic relationship between overseas colonization and the bodily experience of eating. Settlers wondered whether Europeans could eat New World food, whether Indians could eat European food, and what would happen to each if they did. The Body of the Conquistador reveals that anxieties about food were fundamental to Spanish understandings of the new environment they inhabited and their interactions with the native populations of the New World. Rebecca Earle is a professor of History at the University of Warwick, England and was a JCB Fellow (Ruth and Lincoln Ekstrom) in 2008–09.
Malick W. Ghachem
THE OLD REGIME AND THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION
Cambridge University Press, 2012

The Haitian Revolution (1789–1804) was an epochal event that galvanized slaves and terrified planters throughout the Atlantic world. Rather than view this tumultuous period solely as a radical rupture with slavery, this innovative study shows that emancipation in Haiti was also a long-term product of its colonial legal history. Malick W. Ghachem is a professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law, Portland, and was a JCB Fellow (Center for New World Comparative Studies) in 1998–99.

Margarette Lincoln
NAVAL WIVES & MISTRESSES
History Press, Gloucestershire, in association with the National Maritime Museum, 2011 (paperback edition)

This innovative study concerns naval women who stayed home while their men went to sea. Focusing on the second half of the eighteenth century, it exposes the personal cost of warfare, and also reveals the opportunities for greater self-determination that some women were able to grasp, as the responsibility for maintaining the home and bringing up the children fell squarely on their shoulders. Margarette Lincoln is Deputy Director at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and was a JCB Fellow (Alexander O. Vietor Memorial) in 1997–98.

Lyman L. Johnson
WORKSHOP OF REVOLUTION: PLEBEIAN BUENOS AIRES AND THE ATLANTIC WORLD, 1776–1810
Duke University Press, 2011

The plebeians of Buenos Aires were crucial to the success of the revolutionary junta of May 1810, widely considered the start of the Argentine war of independence. Workshop of the Revolution is a historic account of the economic and political forces that propelled the artisans, free laborers, and slaves of Buenos Aires into the struggle for independence. Lyman L. Johnson is a professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and was a JCB Fellow (NEH) in 2006–07.

Julie Winch
THE CLAMORGANS: ONE FAMILY’S HISTORY OF RACE IN AMERICA
Hill and Wang, 2011

The Clamorgan clan traces back to the family patriarch Jacques Clamorgan, a French adventurer of questionable ethics who bought up, or at least claimed to have bought up, huge tracts of land around St. Louis. On his death, he bequeathed his holdings to his mixed race, illegitimate heirs, setting off nearly two centuries of litigation among family members who variously claimed to be black, Creole, French, Spanish, Brazilian, Jewish, and white. Julie Winch is a professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and was a JCB Fellow (NEH) in 1992–93.
WOOD AWARDED JCB MEDAL AT ANNUAL MEETING

O

n May 11, the JCB and its constituencies gathered to celebrate the Annual Meeting of the Associates, a cherished ritual dating back to the mid-1940s. Associates and their guests were welcomed by the Chair, the Hon. William Twaddell, and the JCB Library’s Director and Librarian, Ted Widmer, and then, following tradition, the crowd settled in for a learned discourse.

Often our speakers travel an impressive distance to participate in JCB Associate events, but this time we celebrated one of our own. Gordon Wood, Brown University’s Alva O. Way Professor Emeritus, has been a friend of the Library for decades. His classes on colonial history were legendary during his long tenure at Brown. These classes and his many books reflect Gordon’s lifelong path of historical inquiry. As the chairman of the JCB’s Faculty Liaison Committee, Gordon gracefully shepherds the process that selects our fellows, and his frequent attendance at weekly fellows’ talks throughout the year gives him a deep knowledge of the JCB’s inner workings.

But what Gordon did not know that evening was that he had been selected to receive the JCB’s highest honor, the JCB Medal, previously awarded to D.B. Quinn, José Amor y Vásquez, Felipe Fernández-Armesto, Norman Fiering, and Thomas R. Adams. After a brief ceremony, in which he was warmly applauded, Gordon returned to the business at hand, and delivered a sparkling talk on a great JCB theme, “Environmental Hazards, Eighteenth-Century Style.” With wit, verve and his trademark erudition, he took a delighted group of his fellow Associates on a journey into natural history and the rivalry between Thomas Jefferson and the Comte de Buffon, who tried to argue, not for the last time in Paris, that the Americas were overrated. A buoyant reception celebrated Gordon’s latest triumph and validated Jefferson’s theory that life is indeed vital on this side of the Atlantic.  

Ted Widmer

STAFF NOTES

A part from all the usual Library business and assistance with special events, the JCB staff had a particularly active year of travel for professional development. A sampling of our most recent activities is shared with inJCB readers here:

• Reference and Manuscript Librarian Kim Nusco attended the 53rd annual preconference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts section of the Association of College and Research Libraries from June 19-22 in San Diego. With the theme of “Futures,” the preconference featured presentations and workshops exploring current opportunities and issues in the use of special collection materials.

• In June, Curator of European Books Dennis C. Landis attended the annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP), held this year at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Sessions on “digital futures” for the book were prominent among the usual wide range of topics in the traditions of the History of the Book.

• The last week of June found Ken Ward, Maury A. Bromsen Curator of Latin American Books, at the Biblioteca José Maria Lafragua in Puebla de los Angeles, for training related to the Marcas de Fuego catalog, an online inventory of book brands used by convent libraries in Mexico, to which the JCB will contribute over a hundred examples from its collection, some of them unique. For more information, see www.marcasdefuego.buap.mx.

• In July, Deputy Director Margot Nishimura attended Rare Books School at the University of Virginia. At RBS she participated in “Teaching the History of Book” taught by Michael F. Suarez, S.J.

• In late September, Ken Ward attended a partners’ meeting for the Primeros Libros project, hosted by the Biblioteca Francisco Burgos, where he delivered a paper on “Collaboration and Cooperation in the 16th-century Mexican Book Trade.” The Primeros Libros project aims to digitize every copy of every book printed in Mexico through 1601. The JCB holds more Primeros Libros than any other library in the world. (www.primeroslidos.org)
ADOPT A PIECE OF HISTORY

The Atlantic Neptune, published in England in 1774, is widely considered the first great marine atlas to contain both charts and views of the North American coast. It was compiled for the Royal Navy by Joseph F. W. Des Barres. Now, over 200 years after publication, the JCB’s copy of the Neptune is in need of some TLC. Please consider supporting the conservation of this glorious artifact.

Areas in need of repair and stabilization:

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Contribute to part or all of the costs of conservation to have your name inscribed on a permanent bookplate to be affixed to both volumes and displayed on the Library’s website. Current and future generations will thank you for keeping this historical treasure trove alive!

For more information on how to give to the Adopt-A-Book program, please see the program page under “Giving” at www.jcbl.org or contact Maureen O’Donnell at either 401 863-1553 or maureen_odonnell@brown.edu.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATES

All are welcome! (with a special appeal to JCB former Fellows)

The John Carter Brown Library Associates support, with their membership fees, new acquisitions to and conservation of the Library’s world class collections as well as research fellowships for scholars who come to Providence to work with the Library’s primary materials. Associates are invited to all special events, receive InJCB, the Library’s newsletter, enjoy discounts on books, maps, and posters published by the Library, and are eligible to attend special trips organized just for Associates. As we summon up warm memories of a successful 50th Fellows Anniversary Conference and reunion that took place at the JCB this past June, we especially encourage former JCB Fellows to stay connected to the Library by joining the Associates. Currently, 172 out of 732 former JCB Fellows are Associates. If even half of the former fellows who haven’t yet joined decide to do so, the Associates could break the 1,000 member threshold that has long been our goal! Of course, all other friends of the Library are welcome to join and participate to the fullest! A JCB Library membership makes a thoughtful and on-going holiday gift, too. For information about membership and how to join, see www.jcbl.org or call Maureen O’Donnell at 401 863-1553.
The Annual Lecture for the Lefty Lewis Cabal: Michael B. Winship, University of Texas at Austin, “A Short History of Bookstores and Book Distribution in the United States.” Open to the Public. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Charles H. Watts History and Culture of the Book Program.

Gulbenkian Vasco da Gama Lecture. José Luís Cardoso, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal, “D. Rodrigo de Sousa Coutinho (1755-1812) and the Dilemmas of the Portuguese Empire.” MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Supported by the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and the John Carter Brown Library.

Watts Lecture: Alexander Gourlay, RISD Literary Arts + Studies, “Two Lost Leaves from John Boydell’s Account Book: An Old Hand and a New Man.” Open to the Public. MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m.

Adopt-A-Book Event. Join us for a “Conservation Conversation” between Susan Danforth, Curator of Maps and Prints, and Robert Hauser, independent conservator, featuring the Atlantic Neptune. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Other adopted items, before and after, will be on display.

Annual Freda Bromsen Bolster Concert: Community Music Works Players with Fred Jodry, harpsichord. MacMillan Reading Room, 4:00 p.m. Part of CMW’s Bach Festival, November 6-11. (Tickets are free, but space is limited and reservations are required. For more information and to reserve tickets, please call Community Music Works at 401 861-5650.)

Watts Lecture: Maureen Cummins, “The Artist as Archivist.” Open to the Public. MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m.


Annual Sonia Galletti Lecture: Barnet Schecter, author of George Washington’s America: a Biography through His Maps. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow.

Book Celebration and Lecture. Timothy Coates, College of Charleston, on his English-language translation (the first ever) of Cultura e opulencia do Brasil (1711) by André João Antonil. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Co-sponsored by the Tagus Press at UMass Dartmouth.

Every Wednesday at noon, please join us for our weekly JCB Fellows Lunch Talk at the Brown/RISD Hillel (80 Brown Street). Bring a sandwich and enjoy the conversation of JCB Fellows and friends from 12 to 12:30 p.m.; talks begin at 12:30, followed by Q & A to no later than 1:30 p.m. Check our website at www.jcbl.org for a schedule of speakers and their topics or call 401 863-2725.

Did you know you can now Follow the JCB on Facebook? Just search “The John Carter Brown Library” from your Facebook page to join our growing community of “friends” and get up to the minute information on events, publications, new acquisitions, and occasional notes of interest from our peer institutions.