Letter from the Director

Welcome to the newly redesigned in JCB, in living color. This is one of many contributions we have received from Margot Nishimura, who joined the JCB in July as our Deputy Director and Librarian. A historian of the book, Margot has also written several, including Images in the Margins (Getty Museum Publications, 2009), a study of medieval marginalia. She is a seasoned administrator as well, coming to us from RISD, where she taught art history and directed traffic from the Provost’s office. Another recent arrival is Roseanna Gorham, the JCB’s first Fundraising Coordinator. She is a JCB veteran in her own way – she worked with us in 2006 when she organized a very successful commemoration of the French army’s march from Rhode Island to Virginia at the end of the American Revolution. And our Watts Program in the History of the Book continues to advance by leaps and bounds, thanks to the two “bookends” who are now directing its fortunes, Suzi Cozzens and Abby Saunders. Suzi is a local letterpress printer, book artist, and Critic in Graphic Design at RISD. Abby is a graduate student in Library Science at Simmons College.

As usual, we are combining new and old with this newsletter, and that is true to the nature of the work day inside the JCB. Our digital programs continue to generate extraordinary use (and gratitude) around the world. Following the launch of Remember Haiti in 2010, we received numerous honors, and in the fall of 2011 we will unveil a similar site dedicated to our remarkable Peruvian collection. In the year to come, we expect to launch additional sites dedicated to Portugal/Brazil and to the indigenous languages of the New World. I do not wish to describe events that are perfectly well described elsewhere in this newsletter, but I do want to say that these projects have transformed the way that the world reads our books. From every continent on earth, at any time of day, readers can look at a rare book from the JCB. If they feel inclined, they can underline the book, or cut and paste it – which they certainly cannot do while looking at the original. When we began providing free access, only two years ago, we were one of a small handful of rare book libraries who did so – now this is becoming standard practice. Thank you, David Rumsey, for the boldness of your vision.

Our new activity never threatens our traditional work. We will always take superb care of the treasures that live here, and this fall we are hoping to create a new fund named after the late JCB Governor, William Warren, to enlarge the resources we can devote to the essential labor of conservation. Please consider a gift to help us protect or repair a particular favorite from our collection. And by all means, stop by to see us in person. As this issue colorfully proclaims, every day brings something new.

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

Drugs from the Colonies: The New American Medicine Chest

From September 27 to December 22, the JCB will host an intellectually and visually delightful exhibition on drugs from the New World. It is well known that the introduction of native American foods radically improved the early modern European diet. Maize, potatoes, cacao, and a great range of peppers and gourds are still among the most familiar – and nutritionally rich – American contributions to what is now called the Columbian Exchange. Somewhat less well known is the vast array of New World plants that revolutionized European medicine. Europeans who lived among the indigenous Americans, many of them missionaries, studied traditional medical applications and described them in print for a European audience. Artists and naturalists were drawn (or sent) to further study, illustrate, and disseminate the vast botanical treasure trove of the Americas. As a result, the Old World practice of medicine, largely inherited from the ancient Greeks and Romans, was forever transformed, with much of this New World pharmacopeia still

Francesco Torti (1658-1741), Therapeutice specialis ad febres periodicas perniciosas, Frank-furt & Leipzig, 1736. Lignum Februm. Italian physician Francesco Torti presented evidence that cinchona was effective only against a limited group of diseases. His “Tree of Fevers” portrayed the cinchona plant stylistically as a taxonomy, or orderly classification, of fevers. The barkless, leafless branches covered with bark represent fevers for which cinchona may be used. The barkless, leafless branches show conditions that cinchona will not affect. The center represents a gray area with partially barkless branches where further evaluation of the patient’s condition was necessary, in Torti’s view, to judge whether the bark could be effective. The new way he offered of organizing and categorizing information on diseases advanced medical thinking, cleared a path for wider acceptance of cinchona, and challenged the traditional humoral philosophy that relied on the old regimen that included bloodletting.

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.

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.

an alarming array of ills suffered by tobacco workers, including disorders of the head, lungs, and stomach, and advised them to cover their nose and mouth and to breathe fresh air as often as possible. Diseases as well as medicines were part of the Columbian Exchange. At the end of the 17th century, European science confronted the medical riddle of syphilis, seemingly unknown before the return of Columbus’s ships from the Caribbean. Treatment efforts centered on guaiacum, a plant found in South America, and its therapeutic properties were promoted in print across Europe from the 1671 century on. Most prominently celebrated in 17th-century print sources—and apparent from the numerous instances exhibited—would be the investigation of cinchona by Spanish physicians in Lima in the 1650s. Jesuits brought the bark of the plant to Rome around 1631 to treat malaria. Through their agency it came to be called Jesuits’ bark or Peruvian bark. The rival name was introduced when the Condesa de Chinchón, wife of the Peruvian Viceroy, was herself cured of malaria in 1638. Physicians required some time to research the proper dosage and course of treatment, as well as eliminating the various species that were unhelpful. Many medical dissertations focused on some small aspect of this quest, and the vital agent quinine would not be isolated until 1820, but that will have to be the subject of another exhibition, or perhaps a conversation over a restorative gin and tonic. Dennis C. Landsis
See www.jcbl.org for the online version of the exhibition.

Drugs from the Colonies celebrates the print and manuscript culture that ignited and fed this pharmacological revolution. On view from the Library’s collections are 67 books and manuscripts that document the European reception of medicinal knowledge and plants from the Americas, many of which are spectacularly illustrated. Perhaps most famous, and most surprising, among substances showcased by the exhibition is chocolate. “Discovered” by the conquistadors in 1525, chocolate became at the time one of the most widely discussed “drugs” with the pleasure of its consumption, thankfully, never entirely lost to science. Cacao, from the seeds of which cocoa and chocolate are made, was one of 3,000 medicinal plants that Francisco Hernández collected and described from 1571 to 1577 in his magisterial study of New World botany commissioned by King Philip II of Spain—represented in the exhibition by two versions, one print, one manuscript. Alongside Hernández is Eberhard Happel, who made the claim in his Thesaurus exotorum (Hamburg, 1688) that chocolate “serves to strengthen the chest, drives away all nasty vapors ... crushes and disperses stones (calculi) and ill humor, and maintains the body in good health.” To illustrate his point, he included a woodcut portrait of a most healthy looking Moctezuma, last king of the Aztecs, who reputedly enjoyed chocolate. The exhibition tells a different story about tobacco, which even in the early days of its investigation as a medicinal agent had a mixed reception. Having perhaps one of the most substantial impacts of all New World plants on economies and social behavior on both sides of the Atlantic, tobacco was being plumbed for its curative powers in the laboratories and clinics of today. Drugs from the Colonies celebrates the print and manuscript culture that ignited and fed this pharmacological revolution. On view from the Library’s collections are 67 books and manuscripts that document the European reception of medicinal knowledge and plants from the Americas, many of which are spectacularly illustrated. Perhaps most famous, and most surprising, among substances showcased by the exhibition is chocolate. “Discovered” by the conquistadors in 1525, chocolate became at the time one of the most widely discussed “drugs” with the pleasure of its consumption, thankfully, never entirely lost to science. Cacao, from the seeds of which cocoa and chocolate are made, was one of 3,000 medicinal plants that Francisco Hernández collected and described from 1571 to 1577 in his magisterial study of New World botany commissioned by King Philip II of Spain—represented in the exhibition by two versions, one print, one manuscript. Alongside Hernández is Eberhard Happel, who made the claim in his Thesaurus exotorum (Hamburg, 1688) that chocolate “serves to strengthen the chest, drives away all nasty vapors ... crushes and disperses stones (calculi) and ill humor, and maintains the body in good health.” To illustrate his point, he included a woodcut portrait of a most healthy looking Moctezuma, last king of the Aztecs, who reputedly enjoyed chocolate.

Dr. David Vanderlight, a Dutch physician, who married into the Brown family and conducted a medical practice in Providence in the mid-18th century. Vanderlight’s account book for the early 1750s and the inventory of property made upon his death offer a rare and intimate glimpse into a medical practice of the New England colonial period. He prepared his own prescriptions, and had at his disposal a wide variety of medications of both Old and New World origin. A long list of medications and supplies included such drugs as sassafras, jalap, Peruvian balsam, copaiba, Peruvian bark, coryanthe root, ipecacuanha, and chocolate.

Among the unique objects on display for Drugs from the Colonies are an inventory and account book for Dr. David Vanderlight, a Dutch physician, who married into the Brown family and conducted a medical practice in Providence in the mid-18th century. Vanderlight’s account book for the early 1750s and the inventory of property made upon his death offer a rare and intimate glimpse into a medical practice of the New England colonial period. He prepared his own prescriptions, and had at his disposal a wide variety of medications of both Old and New World origin. A long list of medications and supplies included such drugs as sassafras, jalap, Peruvian balsam, copaiba, Peruvian bark, coryanthe root, ipecacuanha, and chocolate.

Inventory of Drugs...taken this 27th Feb. 1751 by Benj. Bowen and Nich. Tillinghast, vizt. Providence, Rhode Island, 1755.
A KEY INTO A 17TH-CENTURY MYSTERY: INVESTIGATING ROGER WILLIAMS’ SHORTHAND

From late September through the end of November a small, special exhibition in the MacMillan Reading Room will showcase one of the bibliographic mysteries of the Library’s collection: a 17th-century book, lacking a title page, subtitled, “An Essay Concerning the Reconciling of Differences among Christians,” with the margins of nearly every page filled with cryptic annotations rumored to be from the hand of Roger Williams.

The book entered the Library’s collection accompanied by a letter asserting that the intriguing shorthand annotations on nearly every page were made by Roger Williams, who had learned “the art of stenographic” as a young legal clerk. Coinciding with the 375th anniversary of the settlement of Providence, the exhibition will advertise an exciting proposal to explore this enigmatic item and its potential connection to the founder of the colony.

We hope that a display of the book and related items will ignite interest in undertaking the investigation as a Group Independent Study Project (or “GISP”) by Brown undergraduates. Deciphering 17th-century shorthand is a laborious process and a relatively rare skill, even among historians. With “GISP”) by Brown undergraduates. Deciphering 17th-century shorthand is a laborious process and a relatively rare skill, even among historians. With

The exhibition will advance an exciting proposal to explore this enigmatic item and its potential connection to the founder of the colony.

We hope that a display of the book and related items will ignite interest in undertaking the investigation as a Group Independent Study Project (or “GISP”) by Brown undergraduates. Deciphering 17th-century shorthand is a laborious process and a relatively rare skill, even among historians. With

A PREFACE By the Author to a Judicious Person of Authority, London, specific date unknown (17th century). Second title page with marginal notation in shorthand, possibly by Roger Williams.

COMING SOON

COLONIAL PRINTER REDUX

In 1931, Lawrence Wroth published The Colonial Printer, still one of the most important resources for all aspects of the history of the book in British North America up to 1800. It was expanded in 1958 and reissued several times between then and 2004, and while Wroth was thorough in his descriptions, he included very few illustrations of the books he mentions. JCB copies of many of these books will be visible, however, in the MacMillan Reading Room from early January to late April 2012. Ken Ward, Maury A. Bromsen Curator of Latin American American Books, has worked with Brown senior Rebecca Levinson ’12 to put together a companion exhibition to The Colonial Printer, complete with historic objects related to printing – on loan from the Updike Collection at the Providence Public Library – as well as archival materials, such as galley proofs with Wroth’s own notes, that trace the publication of the book itself. The exhibition will be a focal point of this year’s Watts History of Printing. The former program director Lisa Long’s tremendous efforts with Watts (more on which, see p. 8), Kenneth Ward

JCB AND THE “REVOLUTION!” AT NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The New-York Historical Society is about to re-open its doors after an extensive renovation. On the auspicious day of 11/11/11, the holdings of the John Carter Brown Library will be on full display, as highlights of the new exhibition, Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn. The exhibition will celebrate unknown features of all three of the major revolutions that rocked the Atlantic in the late 18th century – the American, French, and Haitian – and the ways in which they intersected. The JCB’s holdings have always been strong in the latter revolution, and have been augmented by a burst of acquisition activity in the last few years. For many friends of the Library, former Fellows, it will be the first chance to see some of these new old treasures. When asked about the JCB’s contribution, exhibition curator Richard Rabinowits expressed his gratitude for the loan of the hard-to-find Haitian materials: “Revolution! counts no fewer than two dozen treasures from the collection of the John Carter Brown Library. Their texts help us tell the dramatic story of the upheavals that created our modern ideas of liberty. But more than that, their physical reality brings us immeasurably closer to the hands, eyes, and minds of the heroes of that story.” We encourage all in the JCB community to visit the NYHS for this exciting exhibition, and to join us for a day-long symposium co-sponsored by the JCB to be held at the NYHS in conjunction with the exhibition on January 21, 2012 (see back cover for more details). Ted Widmer
MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY VISITS THE JCB

On June 2 the JCB presented a program for the Manuscript Society, which was visiting Providence for its 2011 annual meeting. After a morning visit and lecture on Lincolniana at the John Hay Library, approximately 80 members of the Society attended a talk about the JCB’s manuscript holdings. Kimberly Nusco, Reference and Manuscript Librarian, spoke about her work with the Library’s holdings of early American business records, including the papers of the Brown, Arnold, and Tillinghast families. Curator Ken Ward then presented highlights of the Library’s remarkable collection of manuscripts from Central and South America, including our recently acquired 1713 Guaraní manuscript—the only known example of devotional exercises in that language (see In the Collections, Fall 2009, p. 3).

The Manuscript Society is an international organization whose members include collectors, archivists, librarians, dealers, and the staff of auction houses. The Society maintains a publication program, offers scholarships, and provides assistance in replevin cases. Kimberly Nusco

Distinguished Visitors: Wyclef Jean and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos

Shortly after he stepped out of the Haitian presidential race in 2010, musician and record producer Wyclef Jean was awarded a visiting fellowship to Brown’s Africana Studies Department. On October 18, 2010, he visited the JCB to look at our Haitian materials, and in the image to the right is shown examining, among other pieces, the “Pillage du Cap Français” engraving that is reproduced on the previous page in relation to the NYHS Revolutionary exhibition. On April 5 of this year, president of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, visited the Brown University campus to give the 41st Stephen A. Ogden, Jr. Lecture on International Affairs, “Why People Should Give More than a Damn About Latin America.” Prior to his lecture, President Santos dropped by the JCB for a visit to the Bromsen-Bolívar Room and a look at some of our materials related to Colombia. President Santos later publicly praised the JCB’s commitment to the study and preservation of Latin American materials. Kenneth Ward

NEH Summer Scholars at the JCB

This past July the JCB provided a workshop for an NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers, sponsored by the Rhode Island Historical Society. With “The Role of Slavery in New England Commerce, Industry, and Culture to 1860” as their theme, thirty K-12 teachers from all over the country visited the Library on the afternoon of July 22 to learn about our resources and to view materials from the collection. Reference and Manuscript Librarian Kimberly Nusco presented items from the Library’s holdings of early American business records that illustrated aspects of the Rhode Island slave trade, the role of Rhode Island in provisioning plantations in the West Indies, and debates surrounding the issue of slavery in New England. Digital Imaging Manager Leslie Tobias-Olsen demonstrated the JCB’s various online resources that could be useful to educators in developing curricula.

When asked, the teachers agreed that the highlight of their visit was seeing the records of the slave ship Sally, a vessel sent by the Brown brothers to the coast of Africa under the command of Captain Esek Hopkins, who would later become the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Navy. The documents from the Brown family business records provide vivid testimony about the workings of the slave trade, and were used in the development of the report produced by Brown University’s Committee on Slavery and Justice. While many of the documents can be viewed online (http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/sally/), the visiting teachers especially appreciated the opportunity to view this material firsthand, and several chose to extend this experience by returning to the Library the following week to research their own individual curriculum topics. Kimberly Nusco

This Bill of Lading for the slave ship Sally was among the papers that participants in the NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers on slavery in New England were able to view firsthand at the JCB. Prominent in the lower right of the image is the signature of Esek Hopkins.
104 people, more than twice the expected turnout, packed the MacMillan Reading Room on September 15 for Douglass Scott’s “Panoply of Paper” – the opening event of this year’s Watts History of the Book “PAPER PRINT BOOK” Program. Suzi Cozzens, Watts “Curator” for 2011-12, has much more in store to fulfill the Watts charge to bring Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design undergraduates together to learn about the culture, history, and arts of the book. Following Scott’s lecture, ten lucky students got their hands wet in a paper-making workshop (there was a waiting list of thirty), the first of a series of practical lessons designed to complement the lectures, book talks, and other programming for Watts this year.

Enthusiastic participation stems in part from last year’s successful programming by former Watts Program Manager Lisa Long-Feldman. The 2010-11 season was diverse, ranging from conservation demonstrations to on-demand printing with then provocateur-in-residence Andrew Losowsky. Over two hundred students attended events throughout the year, and the season culminated in a Pecha Kucha-inspired book talk right in April, when students and local bibliophiles shared their love of books through illustrated mini-lectures.

A full schedule of Watts events can be found on www.jcbl.org. The remaining lectures for the Fall are listed in the Calendar on the back cover of this edition of inJCB. Abby Saunders

PIRATES AND SEA MONSTERS:
THE HUNGRY OCEAN LAPS AT THE SHORES OF THE JCB

The Hungry Ocean Conference on Literary Culture and the Maritime Environment brought a crew of international scholars across the World’s oceans to the JCB on the weekend of April 21-23, 2011. The events launched Thursday afternoon when conference organizer and former JCB Fellow Steve Mentz of St. John's University teamed with curator Susan Danforth to fill the downstairs conference room with examples of the library’s rich holdings in maritime atlases, including rare portolans and a massive 18th century volume ghost-written by Daniel Defoe. The next two days were full of salt and scholarship, starting on Friday with Margaret Cohen of Stanford University’s keynote on modernist aesthetics and the early years of underwater photography. In the evening, Bernhard Klein of the University of Kent examined the current state of early modern maritime scholarship in a talk with the wonderful title, “Fish Walking on Land.”

A highlight of Saturday’s events came just after lunch, when historian and musician Geoff Kaufman performed and sang songs about early modern maritime scholarship in a talk with the wonderful title, “Fish Walking on Land.”

The JCB has one of the greatest collections of books printed in Peru in the colonial period, including more pre-1800 imprints than any other library in the World. Among these is the first item off the first press in Lima, the Pragmatica sobre los diez, printed by Antonio Ricardo in 1546, as well as all four books published in Jui prior to 1560. Lima and Juli were the only cities at this time in Spanish South America with presses, and thus their publications address issues from all parts of the region. Of particular strength in the JCB collection are government documents and indigenous languages. For works in Quechua and Aymara, two languages still very widely spoken in South America, the JCB in some cases has the only known copies.

To celebrate the strengths of our Peruvian holdings, and to make them more broadly accessible, the JCB has scanned and created digital facsimiles of all its Peruvian imprints – as part of our ongoing efforts to digitize the entire Library. Accompanied by the meticulous bibliographic documentation of retired cataloger Dr. Michael T. Hamerly, over 1,000 JCB Peruvian imprints can now be accessed in their entirety through the Internet Archive at http://www.archive.org/details/jcbperu.

Of course, not all potential audiences will benefit from just making the books themselves available online, so as with our collection of Haitian materials, the JCB is also launching a curated bi-lingual website to provide an interpretive entryway into the Peru collection. Selections and descriptions were made by Jeremy Mumford, a specialist on the colonial Andes and Visiting Assistant Professor at Brown, and JCB Curator Ken Ward. With sections focused on Conquest; Languages of South America; Indians of Peru; The Church; Lima; City of Kings; Science and the Enlightenment; Independence; and Maps, the chosen highlights will provide an excellent introduction to the collection as a whole. Kenneth Ward

REMINDER HAITI WINS PRAISE

The Library’s site Remember Haiti (see inJCB Fall 2010, pp. 1-2) has garnered an impressive number of accolades. It immediately named an American Library Association “Digital Library of the Week” in May 2011 and in June won an honorable mention from the Association of College and Research Libraries Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Award. Singling out its “elegant interface,” the ACRL committee commended the site especially “… for its innovative use of the Internet Archive to curate an exhibition that is both historical and topical,” and for the “numerous points of entry” that it offers for a broad audience.

LAUNCH OF THE JCB PERU SITE

The JCB is now in the top 9% of libraries in number of books online in Americana. Of all the JCB books digitized, there are so far only 5 titles that were previously available in their entirety online. To visit the online collection – and download a title or two for vacation reading – go to:

www.archive.org/details/johncaitberrybrownlibrary

Xephyr Inkpen

SCANNING BY THE NUMBERS

The JCB collections now online with number of books:

Argentina 816
Haiti 3,200
Portugal & Brazil 2,75

The 3 most popular books of the JCB’s online collections:

Argentina 117
Haiti 388
Portugal & Brazil 280

JCB ONLiNE

INDEX PRINTED

JCB ONLINE

inJCB
T he latest addition to the JCB’s online image databases features political cartoons of the colonial Americas, from Hudson Bay to Tierra del Fuego, drawn entirely from primary sources printed or created between 1492 and ca. 1825. Featured here is one of the more “puzzling” of the 462 satirical images, a “hieroglyphic letter” described by Hugh Honour as “dealing sarcastically with the Peace Commission sent to America by Lord North in 1778 after the French Alliance.” See if you can decipher the rebus. Hint: This is one of a pair of engravings – the response, in fact, to the first of the pair entitled Britannia to America that “begs acceptance of the Peace Commission, warns America against the double-faced [French] king, and entreats her return.”

To explore more of the Political Cartoons at the JCB, go to the “Online Resources” menu at www.jcbl.org.

NOW ONLINE: POLITICAL CARTOONS

LONG BEFORE THE SNOWBIRDS

T his manuscript map, attributed to Pedro Díaz Berrio y Palma (b. 1746), extends from the Florida Keys to just north of Savannah, Georgia, and west to the Rio Perdido, just beyond Pensacola. The map’s emphasis on topographical detail, its focus on the whole of Florida, and the inclusion of Indian settlements in the interior, especially in the north, suggest that its purpose was military in nature and that it was perhaps part of a reconnaissance effort by Spanish officials in Cuba who were planning a future re-occupation of Florida. While the Spanish lost control of the territory to the British from 1763 to 1783, they never lost interest in their claims. There is also evidence suggesting that in 1769 the Spanish were actively meeting with the Indians along the northwest coast of Florida, courting their allegiance and support for a future re-occupation.

Susan Danforth

THE SOLUTION TO THE PUZZLE

[America] (sic) her [miss]-taken [moth]-er: Engraving, London, 1778. 31.1 x 25 cm.

The solution to the puzzle:

You silly old woman that you have sent a lure to us is very plain to draw out attention from our real interests, but we are determined to abide by our own ways of thinking. Your children you have sent to us shall be treated as visitors, & safely sent home again. You may [carved bracket/corbel?]—t them & admire them, but you must not expect 1 of your puppets will come home to you as sweet as you sent him. Twas cruel to send so pretty a man so many 1000 miles & to have the fatigue of returning back after soil[—]ing [object looks like a dibble, which could be a reference to soil[—]ing the earth for planting] that I shall always regard you & my Brothers’ relations but not as friends. I am your greatly injured Daughter Amerik.


PERU COLLECTION CONTINUES TO GROW

I n support of our Peru digitization project, the JCB made a spectacular purchase of Peruvian imprints in 2010. Already one of the largest collections of Peruvian imprints in the world, the purchase added almost 90 items to the collection, a good number of them unique copies, unknown to bibliographers. The earliest of these titles, Alonso Ramos Gavilán’s Historia del celebre santuario de nuestra señora de Copacabana, dates from 1621. Among the most remarkable is a copy of José Miguel Duran’s Réplica apologetica, which was published in 1773 following the Sixth Council of Lima. Central to the Council’s debates was the theological idea of Probabilism (the view that when in doubt about how we ought morally to act we may follow any reputable authority), an idea that had been strongly supported by the Jesuits prior to their expulsion in 1767. Duran supports Probabilism in this work, which earned him the condemnation of the Inquisition, and the recently acquired copy at the JCB bears the inscription “Prohibido en totum,” “Prohibited in its entirety.”

José Miguel Duran. Réplica apologetica, Lima, 1773.

[The solution to the puzzle: America to her Mistaken Mother.]

Now ONLINE: Political Cartoons

INCB ONLINE

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS
STAFF PICK: THE COMMON POT BY LISA BROOKS

A delina Azevedo Azevedo joined the staff of the John Carter Brown Library in 1986 to work on European Americana. A library degree and 25 years later, she is the reference book cataloger and keeper of Fellows’ publications for the library.

For readers of inCB Fall 2011, Adelina recommends The Common Pot: The Recovery of Native Space in the North East (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008) by Lisa Brooks (Abenaki). Noted for her success in bringing native voices to the forefront of American history, Brooks in this publication focuses on the central role of writing in Algonquin and Iroquoian communities of the 18th and 19th centuries. In petitions, journal entries, tracts, and speeches, the writing of native leaders—which often itself relied on the metaphor of the Common Pot—connected native communities across space and time and would be key to efforts to reclaim rights and native lands in the northeastern United States. The book includes fifteen maps, which are especially helpful in locating place-names mentioned in the chapters. Brooks was a 2001-02 JCB Fellow and is now Assistant Professor of History and Literature, Folklore and Mythology at Harvard.

ANNUAL MEETING 2011

On May 13 a packed house welcomed Marie Arana back to the JCB as the speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Associates. Chairman William Twaddell greeted the crowd and reported on the year’s progress, then asked Director and Librarian Ted Widmer to introduce an old friend, Marie Arana was a Visiting Scholar at the JCB in 2009, working on a major English-language biography of Simón Bolívar, to be published soon. Arana enthralled the crowd with early memories of her childhood in Peru and the competing narratives of Peruvian history that she learned, as represented by family portraits of Peruvians who fought on different sides of the wars that catapulted Bolívar to the world stage. Throughout her talk, she explored the contradictions of an American hero embraced to this day by very different followers, all of whom compete to interpret his unfinished historical legacy. In addition to her work as a biographer, Arana is a prominent memoirist (her book, American Chica, told the story of her upbringing in Peru and the United States), a former publisher, and the editor in chief of “Book World,” the book review section of the Washington Post. In the latter position, she worked with former First Lady Laura Bush to launch a partnership between the Post, the White House, and the Library of Congress to promote the National Book Festival on the Mall. Ted Widmer

THE RESTORED CHOMÉ

The author of this manuscript book, Ignace Chomé, was a missionary devoted to the study of Indian languages. He lived among the Chiquitos Indians of South America for thirty years, dying in Cochabamba in 1768. Although the manuscript is not signed or dated, an early owner has noted Chomé’s name on the first page.

In the field, Father Chomé “made-do” with what came to hand. Sometimes he was able to find good paper, sometimes not. Each batch of ink he made up was probably a bit different, depending on available ingredients. As a result, his carefully written manuscript, the work of many years, deteriorated in several sections almost to illegibility; while other sections remain almost pristine. The manuscript’s deterioration was, unfortunately, hastened by a far-too-tight binding put on by a well-meaning manuscript, the work of many years, deteriorated in several sections almost to illegibility; while other sections remain almost pristine. The manuscript’s deterioration was, unfortunately, hastened by a far-too-tight binding put on by a well-meaning
OCTOBER 10 The Annual Dinner for the Lefty Lewis Cabal, The John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University, 6:00 p.m. After dinner talk by Chet Van Duzer, independent scholar and former JCB Fellow, “The Difficulties of Mapping Discovery: Columbus and the New World.” (Tickets $100; for reservations, please call Maureen O’Donnell 401 863-1553.)

OCTOBER 13 Book Celebration for Larrie D. Ferreiro, Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World, MacMillan Reading Room, 5:00 p.m. Reception follows at which books will be available for purchase and signing.

OCTOBER 15 JCB Open House for Brown Family Weekend, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All invited!

OCTOBER 18 Book Celebration for Carol Delaney, JCB Invited Research Scholar, Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem, MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Book signing and reception to follow. Co-hosted by the Brown Bookstore.

NOVEMBER 10 Watts Program Lecture: Jacob Eyerther, University of Chicago, “Papermaking and the Politics of Skill in Modern China,” MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow. Co-sponsored by Brown’s Year of China Program.

NOVEMBER 11 Opening day of Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn at the New-York Historical Society, New York, NY; exhibition runs through April 15, 2012. (See p. 5)

NOVEMBER 12 Annual Freda Bromsen Bolster Concert: Community MusicWorks Players with Fred Jodry, harpsichord, MacMillan Reading Room, 5:00 p.m. Part of CMW’s Bach Festival, November 3-13. (Tickets are free, but this event usually sells out and reservations are required. For more information and to reserve tickets, please call Community MusicWorks at 401 861-5650.)

NOVEMBER 17 Harold J. Cook, The John F. Nickoll Professor of History, Brown University, “Drug Prospecting in the New World: Medicine and Commerce among Early Modern Europeans,” MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow. In conjunction with the JCB’s Fall exhibition Drugs from the Colonies: The New American Medicine Chest on view through December 22 (see cover article).

NOVEMBER 30 Book Celebration for David O. Stewart, former JCB Hodson Fellow, American Emperor: Aaron Burr’s Challenge to Jefferson’s America, MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Book signing and reception to follow.

DECEMBER 1 Watts Program Lecture: Andrew Losowsky, Books Editor, Huffington Post. MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m. Reception to follow.