EDITOR’S NOTE

Since the fall 2012 edition of this newsletter, the JCB has not lacked for accomplishments and activities to celebrate. It’s been a busy time for exhibitions and related events, growing our collection and the online resources that increase its accessibility, expanding the reach of our fellowship program, and building connections both on and off campus to people, places, and things.

The calendar year began with “The Florida Story” in the MacMillan Reading Room cases, and now we look forward to the opening of “Sugar and the Visual Imagination in the Atlantic World.” Both represent collaborations between Curator of Maps and Prints, Susan Danforth, and long-time JCB friends—Amy Turner Bushnell, in the first instance, and K. Dian Kriz, Professor Emerita of History of Art and Architecture, in the second. “Neue Welt: Germans and the Americas, 1493-1830,” prepared by Curator of European Books, Dennis Landis, occupied the exhibition space in between, highlighting an area of the collection that weaves a prominent thread through the pages of this inJCB (beyond the cover story, see great examples of our German Americana on pages 4, 8, 10 and 12). In planning for events to tie in with the exhibitions, we joined forces with many of our other colleagues at Brown, in the Departments of Anthropology, History of Art and Architecture, English, and History, the Programs in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and Science and Technology Studies, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice and the Haffenreffer Museum, as well as with the German Consulate General in Boston.

Tucked into the back of this newsletter is witness to connections of another sort that benefit the Library—the announcement of this year’s JCB Fellowships. It’s a remarkably international cohort, and we remain grateful to the generosity of donors, including Associates, who have made and continue to make this program of residential scholarship possible. We’ve also benefited for 27 years from the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and I’m thrilled to report that our recent application for a renewal to this funding has been successful, assuring at least two JCB NEH Fellowships a year through 2017.

Staff transitions have allowed for other kinds of connections to be made this year. Farewells to Xephyr Inkpen and Abby Saunders have translated into welcomes to Donna Dorvick, our new scanning specialist for the Internet Archive, and Jane-Coleman Harbison, who will pick up where Abby left off as coordinator for the Watts History and Culture of the Book Program. We have also added Jennifer Wilson to our Administrative Office, where she assists Maureen O’Donnell with all matters relating to JCB Associates. And last, but in no way least, we celebrate the imminent arrival of Neil Safier as our new director and librarian, who, as a former fellow, Brown alum and noted scholar, will connect the JCB in new ways to past, present, and future. But this is a story that deserves an article all to itself (see opposite).

Margot Nishimura
Deputy Director and Librarian

2013-14 BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Frederick D. Ballou
Antonio Bonchristiano
T. Kimball Brooker
Sylvia Brown
Paul R. S. Gebhard
Harriette Hemmasi, ex-officio
Artemis A. W. Joukowsky
Gilbert C. Meister
Andrew Oliver
R. David Parsons
Christina Paxson, Chair, ex-officio
Jean René Perrette
Jane Gregory Rubin
David M. Rumsey
Clinton I. Smullyan
William H. Twaddell
Ira L. Unschuld
Gordon Wood, ex-officio


Mathias Quad (1557-1613), Die Jahr Blum: welch da begreifft v[n]d in sich helt fast alle Jahren dieser Welt, Strassburg: Anthoni Bertram, for Johan Bussemeker [at Cologne], 1595.
Neil Safier Appointed Next Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian

Following an extensive international search, Brown University has named Neil Safier, a former JCB Fellow and 1991 Brown alumnus, the eighth director and librarian of the John Carter Brown Library. Brown President Christina Paxson chaired the search committee, which included Brown faculty, librarians, members of the JCB Board of Governors, and former JCB Fellows. With a doctorate in history from Johns Hopkins University, Safier has held academic appointments at the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, and most recently at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where he was associate professor of history. Earlier experience in non-profit fundraising—at Barnard College and the Sierra Club Foundation in San Francisco—will serve him well in his new post, but his intellectual interests, according to President Paxson, are what “made him an outstanding choice to lead this world-renowned collection.” Safier’s research includes early modern cultural and intellectual history and the history of science, focusing on 18th-century European empires and their overseas territories, with a particular geographical emphasis on the Andes, the Amazon River region and Brazil. Safier is a prolific author, with publications on topics ranging from the history of print culture to indigenous history, but of special note is his Measuring the New World: Enlightenment Science and South America (University of Chicago Press, 2008), which traces a 1735 Paris Academy of Sciences expedition to the Spanish American province of Quito (in present-day Ecuador) to study the curvature of the Earth at the equator. The book asks its readers to consider how the social and cultural worlds of South America contributed to the production of European scientific knowledge during the Enlightenment, traditionally understood as a largely Eurocentric enterprise. Research for the book, as well as the 2003 Johns Hopkins doctoral dissertation on which it was based, was supported in part by a Charles H. Watts Memorial Fellowship at the JCB in spring 2002. Even earlier, as an undergraduate Comparative Literature concentrator at Brown, Safier learned tools of textual analysis that allowed him to work closely with travel narratives and cartographic materials—a rich corpus for the study of the early Americas that is at the heart of the JCB collection. In addition to his research at the JCB, Safier visited an extensive range of archives and libraries across three continents, many of them peer institutions to the JCB, and he frequently collaborated with the professionals who serve as their stewards. The staff at the JCB look forward to welcoming (back!) Neil Safier and his family to Providence in October 2013.

Library of the John Carter Brown Library

George Parker Winship 1895–1915
Champlin Burrage 1916
Worthington C. Ford 1917–1922 (acting)
Lawrence C. Wroth 1923–1957
Norman Fiering 1983–2006
Edward L. Widmer 2006–2012
Neil Safier 2013–

When Neil Safier arrives in October he will not only be the eighth librarian of the JCB, but also the third Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian. In their 1997 match to a Mellon Foundation grant, Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo lent their names to the endowment for the leadership of the John Carter Brown Library. Julio Mario Santo Domingo, who passed away in 2011, was a Columbian businessman who controlled more than 100 companies in the diversified portfolio of the Santo Domingo Group, which later became known as the Grupo Empresarial Bavaria. Mr. Santo Domingo’s other philanthropic activities were focused on helping the poorest in Columbia. In 1980 he was named the First Ambassador of Columbia to China. Beatrice Davila Santo Domingo served on the Library’s Board of Governors from 1998 to 2007.
Several key milestones have made this the ideal year to highlight the Library's unparalleled collection of German Americana, which in sheer volume outnumbers collections held by the great libraries of the world, even the national library in Berlin. These events include the 330th anniversary of the 1683 founding of the first German settlement in North America at Germantown, Pennsylvania; the 250th anniversary of the end of the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) and the confirmation of Prussian independence, outside Austria's imperial power; and of great significance to our own time, the 50th anniversary of the Élysée Treaty and half a century of treaty-based friendship between the longtime rivals Germany and France.

Neue Welt celebrates these milestones through books, prints, and maps that span three centuries and exemplify the two predominant themes of German Americana—German intellectual engagement with the Americas, on the one hand, and the direct experience of immigrants, missionaries, soldiers, and travelers, on the other. The first of these themes is seen in copies of the Columbus letter published in German-speaking areas and maps and geographical studies commissioned by the Holy Roman emperors for their German member states. The second theme is characterized by the mission narratives of Catholics and Protestants, and descriptions of the sectarian religious paradise where German Protestants flourished in an alternate linguistic zone amid English-speaking colonists. In the literary and scientific works that describe the lives of the indigenous populations and botanical, zoological, and mineral resources of the Americas, the two themes often intertwine.

The Library has long believed this remarkable collection should be described in bibliographical fashion for the benefit of all scholars of global interaction, and one other purpose of this exhibition is to draw attention to this project. A "pilot edition" of a printed catalogue for the period 1493-1618 was published in 1988, at which point a three-volume series, under the title Die wunderbare Neue Welt, was envisioned. Following a brief hiatus, and taking into account the more than 100 new accessions in the genre in recent years, the descriptive process resumed in this past year, and we're happy to report that the second volume, for the imprint years 1619-1763, is now nearing completion. — Dennis Landis

“Neue Welt: Germans and the Americas, 1493-1830” was on view in the MacMillan Reading Room through September 16, and can now be seen online at www.jcbl.org/german.

Related events, which included a lecture by Pamela Smith (Columbia University), “New Worlds of Stuff: Nature, Books, and Things in Early Modern Germany,” on September 12, and a symposium, “German Science and the Creation of Knowledge in the Atlantic World,” on September 13, were supported by generous contributions from the Program in Science and Technology Studies at Brown and the German Consulate General in Boston.


THE “COPPERPLATE BIBLE”

In his monumental illustrated nature series popularly known as the “Copperplate Bible” or Kupfer-Bibel, J. J. Scheuchzer, an eminent natural scientist and physician from Zurich, included specimens from far beyond the Holy Lands, incorporating American snakes and birds and creatures of more remote parts of Africa and Asia, all with the dual purpose of celebrating increased knowledge of the natural world and affirming the Bible as a work of universal application.

Of the achievement, Kurt von Faber du Faur wrote, “In Scheuchzer’s gigantic work, Physica sacra, the Baroque attains, philosophically as well as artistically, its high point and its conclusion. It is the last of those elegant works which do not really contain illustrations to a text but which are, in effect, composed of splendid plates with a text to accompany them.”

The illustrations in this case were largely based on the author’s own natural history cabinet or on other famous European cabinets of rare specimens. The plates were executed by a group of highly skilled German engravers, including Georg Daniel Heumann and Johann August Corvinus, after drawings by Johann Melchior Füssli.
A Sampling from the Exhibition

The Imagined Northern Reaches of America


Mathias Quad was an eminent German geographer, cartographer, engraver, and humanist and an important figure in Cologne, where his cartographical publications established the city’s reputation as the center for German map production in the late 16th century. The poem consists of a geographical chronicle of western history up to the year of the work’s printing. Of particular interest is the text for the year 1497: “Amerigo Vespucci sailed out with several ships, discovering a new land, ‘America’ as it is called, after him: so large that it is held to be the fourth part of the entire world.” At 1577 Quad notes also Sir Francis Drake’s voyages in the New World. Amid the author’s poetry, he includes his own engraved map, which depicts the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa and, most notably, the New World as the northernmost continent, partly situated above the island of Greenland.

The Moravians in Pennsylvania


The Moravians, coming originally from the kingdoms of Bohemia and Moravia, established themselves in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and launched missions from Greenland to South America and beyond. Portrayed in this history are Moravians engaged in all manner of ceremony, among which are illustrations of baptismal rites observed for infants and adult Africans, Greenlanders, and continental (mid-Atlantic) indigenous Americans. Shown here are adult baptisms of Native Americans in Pennsylvania.

The Americanischer Generalissimus


One of various images and maps used to illustrate the accounts of events in North America in the Geschichte der Kriege is this stern and martial portrait of George Washington, “Americanischer Generalissimus.” For German writers the topic of North American life and culture came into its own to a far higher degree with the brewing and outbreak of the American Revolution, which commanded close attention among the growing newspaper and journal culture of the German-speaking lands. Strong divisions emerged among writers who either despaired over the chaos of an American rebellion or viewed it as the next step in an historic seizing of political freedom that offered Europeans a guide to the future of nation-building.
ASSOCIATES PURCHASE I: THE EGG AS EMBLEM FOR HEART AND SOUL

Like festival books, emblem books were a popular genre in sixteenth and seventeenth-century Europe, offering moral lessons in the form of a woodcut, engraving, poetry, prose, or some combination. In this most curious of emblem books, the author takes the egg as an inspiration—and a literal framing device—for 100 Catholic meditations on Easter and the Eucharist. Two of these meditations relate directly to Native Americans, while four more use Native Americans as an inspiration for the engraved illustration. The well-read Jesuit author demonstrates a strong interest in Heinrich Salmuth’s commentary on Pancirol’s Rerum memorabilium sive perdiditarum (1599-1602), despite Salmuth’s unorthodox Lutheran remarks, which had drawn condemnation by the Inquisition. In emblem 42 (to the right), Stengel relates a story Salmuth told about Native Americans feeding chickens, showing conflict between women and men. In another meditation, Stengel reports Salmuth’s claim that Native Americans abstain from eating eggs. Stengel’s text goes on to explain, with numerous citations, how safe and healthful eggs really are. This purchase was made with funds donated by the Library’s Associates.

— Dennis Landis

ASSOCIATES PURCHASE II: A CHILEAN RARITY CELEBRATING U.S. INDEPENDENCE

On 9 July 1812, the Aurora de Chile carried notice of the July 4th celebrations of the United States’ citizens resident in Santiago. The ceremonies were led by the US Consul General, and Chilean government officials festooned the “Pabillón de los Estados Unidos” with red, white, and blue. The notice included an Octava, an eight-line verse, composed in celebration. The Aurora was, in fact, published by printers from the United States, and in addition to reproducing the Octava in the newspaper, they printed a separate broadside edition measuring a mere 5.5 x 7.75 inches. Renowned Chilean bibliographer José Toribio Medina never saw a copy, and no library has owned it, until now. Only a handful were printed, and this is perhaps the only surviving example. Like the emblem book on the previous page, this purchase was made with funds donated by the Library’s Associates. — Kenneth Ward

MIND THE GAP: REESE DONATES TWO RARE REVOLUTION ERA PAMPHLETS

At the JCB’s “Rare Book Dinner” during this year’s annual New York Antiquarian Book Fair in April, preeminent Americana dealer William Reese concluded his after dinner talk by paying homage to the late Thomas R. Adams, Librarian of the JCB from 1957 to 1983. In particular Reese referred to The American Controversy (Providence, 1980), the comprehensive listing, compiled by Adams, of British pamphlets related to the United States’ struggle for independence, and noted that of the 2,350 pamphlets listed in these volumes, the JCB holds approximately 80%. The remaining 20%, he remarked, are truly scarce and rarely come to market. But the Library’s holdings increased by two that evening, as Reese then generously presented to the JCB A Plain and Seasonable Address to the Freeholders of Great-Britain (London, 1766, Adams 66-46b) and The Rights of Great Britain Asserted (London, 1776, Adams 75-95l). — Kenneth Ward

A Plain and Seasonable Address to the Freeholders of Great-Britain, London, 1766.

When it appeared, A Plain and Seasonable Address was reviewed in Tobias Smollett’s Critical Review as “a stupid, abusive, common-place declamation against Mr. P. [William Pitt the Elder] on account of his singular behavior in the case of the American stamp act. In some places it is personal, and even insults the infirmities of the great commoner.” Pitt, “the Great Commoner,” believed that it was unconstitutional to impose taxes on the colonies, and argued forcefully against the Stamp Act in a number of pamphlets also held at the JCB. In response, the Plain and Seasonable Address calls Pitt’s arguments, “subversive of all order and government, at the same time that [they are] repugnant to the very principles of reason, justice, and the law of nations.”
During a beautiful spring week in April, the JCB teamed up with the Departments of Hispanic Studies and Classics and the Humanities Initiative at Brown to co-host a series of events around the theme of “The Classical Tradition in the Atlantic World” (April 24-26). The series began on Wednesday evening with the JCB’s annual Maury A. Bromsen Lecture, given by Prof. José A. Rodríguez Garrido (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú) on “Classical Myth on Stage: Theater from Imperial Propaganda to Creole Project in Colonial Lima.” On Thursday afternoon curator Ken Ward presented a rare book workshop in which a standing room only crowd examined an extraordinary range of early modern editions of classical authors, and discussed questions about printing, the book trade and classical reception on both sides of the Atlantic. On Thursday evening, in his lecture “Aztecs on Olympus: Renaissance Classical Learning and Native Traditions in Sixteenth-Century Mexico,” University of Warwick Classics Professor Andrew Laird demonstrated how Franciscan friar Bernardino de Sahagún and his Nahua collaborators, especially Antonio Valeriano, drew on knowledge of Classical Mediterranean myth in framing the myths and symbols of Aztec religion. And on Friday there was a full-day interdisciplinary symposium in Rochambeau House on “The Classical Atlantic,” with talks by professors of Classics, Comparative Literature, and Hispanic Studies from Brown, McGill, Wheaton College, and Yale, moderated by Laura Bass (Department Chair, Hispanic Studies), with commentary from Andrew Laird and Kenneth Haynes (Department Chair, Classics). — Jeremy Mumford
This spring, the Charles H. Watts II History and Culture of the Book Program explored aspects of paper and book conservation and the preservation of books as historical objects. Inspired by the American Library Association’s “Preservation Week” in April, the Watts staff crafted a schedule of programs and events dedicated to collections care, papermaking, and historic bindings. A chief objective was to introduce students with a passion for book arts and culture to the breadth of careers available within the field. Guest speakers, professional conservators, and staff from Brown libraries connected Brown and RISD undergraduate students to the various educational and internship opportunities available to students with an interest in preservation.

Abigail Quandt, Senior Conservator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Walters Art Museum, spoke to students about her thirty years of experience in working with medieval manuscript material and offered a “Conservation Show and Tell” of several pertinent pieces in the JCB collection. Sara Bisi, an independent conservator, and Lindsay Elgin, the Brown University Library’s photographer, used the Rockefeller Library’s new digital scholarship lab to present their work on the conservation of Brown’s Book of the Dead papyrus fragments. Students learned about the conservation of historic bindings and relevant preservation tactics from talks and workshops by Julia Miller and Robert Hauser. In order to more fully understand the role of Asian papers in the conservation process, students experienced the craft of making paper from fiber, to pulp, to sheet when Aimee Lee, a paper and book artist, led a workshop on Hanji (Korean Paper). The semester concluded with a “Preservation Week” tour of the conservation lab and book bindery of the Brown University Library. — Jane-Coleman Harbison

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


In conjunction with the Library’s spring 2013 exhibition, “The Florida Story, 1513-1783: Reconnaissance and Rivalry on a Maritime Periphery” (see next page), Invited Research Scholar Amy Turner Bushnell was able to do something most academic organizers can only dream of: choose an integrated group of paper topics and assign them to some of the top researchers in the field. She started with a problem: early Florida history and archaeology are relevant to many areas of study, among them the Caribbean, colonial Latin America and British America, imperial borderlands, the Native American southeast, and the Atlantic world, yet the scholarship on Florida has had little impact on those larger fields. The question she posed to her speakers: Is it possible to bring Florida into these mainstream conversations? Paul Hoffman, John Worth, Susan Parker, and Robbie Ethridge rose to the challenge, and over the course of the day connected Florida convincingly to larger historical narratives, including those of imperial rivalries, the Spanish mission system, and the southeastern Indian slave trade. A concluding roundtable brought Amy herself into the conversation, as well as Felipe Gaitan Amman, and David Hurst Thomas, Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, who had given a public lecture in the MacMillan Reading Room the evening before based on his archaeological research in the area, “Whatever Happened to the Franciscan Missions of Spanish Florida?” The event was co-sponsored by the Haffenreffer Museum and Brown’s Department of Anthropology, and drew attendees from Florida, Rhode Island, and many points in between. — Jeremy Mumford
NEW EXHIBITION ONLINE

THE FLORIDA STORY, 1513 TO 1783: RECONNAISSANCE AND RIVALRY ON A MARITIME PERIPHERY

Now online is this past winter’s exhibition on the early history of the area of the southeast United States once known as “Terra Florida.” First claimed by Spain, greater Florida remained a contested territory, with challenges from France and Britain, and native populations, for most of the 16th through 18th centuries. That it was at the crossroads of colonial enterprise in the Atlantic, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico made it a particularly vulnerable area, with the battle for its sovereignty largely waged in the court of public opinion back in Europe—through maps, books, and manuscripts like those included in this exhibition, which ran in the JCB Reading Room January through April, 2013. The exhibition was prepared by Amy Turner Bushnell (Independent Research Scholar) and Susan Danforth (Curator of Maps and Prints) and can now be seen at the following link: www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/florida.

THE INFLUENTIAL FLORIDA IMAGERY OF THEODOR DE BRY

Included in the Florida exhibition are images of the Timucuan Indians that Theodor de Bry published after drawings by Jacques de Moyne—in this example a vivid depiction of “their way of killing crocodiles.” (N.B. The animal shown is an alligator; crocodiles are not native to Florida.) The de Bry images are the only visual documentation of these peoples that we have. That de Bry admired their vigilance is evident in the commentary here, which concludes, “This is the Indians way of hunting crocodiles which molest them to such an extent that they are compelled to keep watch by night and day, just as we guard ourselves against the most dangerous enemies.” More than a century later, however, they would meet a more formidable foe. During the course of the seventeenth century, the Timucuans were successfully Christianized by Spanish missionaries, but they were virtually wiped out of existence in slaving raids armed by South Carolina in 1703 and 1704.

[Their way of killing crocodiles], in Theodor De Bry, Grands voyages, Part 2 (German), Frankfurt, 1591.
CURRENTLY IN OUR “MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT”: Watch the podcast of Jack P. Greene’s June 6 lecture, “1763 and the Re-evaluation of Empire: The View from Britain,” a celebration of the publication of Evaluating Empire and Confronting Colonialism in Eighteenth-Century Britain (Cambridge University Press, 2013), and the opening event of the public symposium, “1763 and the Americas,” which the JCB co-hosted with the 1763 Peace of Paris Commemoration (based at the Old State House Museum, Boston), June 7–8, 2013. www.brown.edu/academics/libraries/john-carter-brown/media/jack-greene-and-empire

JCB PUBLICATIONS GO (BORN) DIGITAL: In April 2013, the JCB published online, “The Changing Faces of Toussaint Louverture: Literary and Pictorial Depictions.” In this significant contribution to the historiography of Toussaint Louverture, David Geggus (University of Florida and former Mellon Senior and InterAmericas Fellow at the JCB) delineates what we do and don’t know about the physical appearance of the iconic figure of the Haitian Revolution, through the investigation of both written and visual sources. www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/toussaint

5000TH BOOK UPLOADED TO THE JCB COLLECTION ON THE INTERNET ARCHIVE: In early March 2010, the JCB uploaded its first contribution to the Internet Archive, with a book appropriately titled, Premier recueil de pieces intéressantes (Paris, 1788). Just over three years later, on May 13, 2013, we uploaded our 5000th book. Within this short period the Library has made over 10% of its rare materials freely available online to users around the world, and the digitization of the JCB collection continues apace. To find out more about the 5000th book, see the article online at JCB Books Speak: blogs.brown.edu/jcbbooks

READ JCB PUBLICATIONS ONLINE: As part of an ongoing project to make our backlist of publications more accessible, more than twenty pamphlets and smaller books, dating from 1914 to the present, can now be downloaded for free from the JCB website. To access these titles, go to the “Publications Online” page at www.brown.edu/academics/libraries/john-carter-brown/events-publications/publications-online. You may also link to the PDFs from the JOSIAH record for each publication on Brown University Library’s online catalog.

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.
In June 2011, the Grupo de Investigación de Siglo de Oro (GRISO) sponsored a conference at the JCB, which led to discussion of possible joint research projects and other activities to strengthen intellectual exchange between the two institutions. GRISO is a research institution affiliated with the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, that focuses on literary and historical texts concerning Spain and the Hispanic World from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. Those early conversations have now borne fruit in the form of two co-funded fellowships a year, each for two months, for a duration of three years (2014-2017), at the end of which, the two institutions will host an international conference at the JCB on the theme of the fellowships, “The Marvelous Element in the New World (1492-1800).” The applications for the GRISO fellowships will follow the usual procedure for short-term fellowships at the JCB; for 2014-15, the deadline is December 15, 2013.
—Margot Nishimura

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOINT FELLOWSHIP ON THE MARVELOUS IN THE NEW WORLD

SEAN MONSTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Chet van Duzer

SEA MONSTERS ON MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MAPS

University of Chicago Press (for the British Library), 2013

Despite their obvious visual appeal, the monsters that adorn the masterpieces of 15th- and 16th-century mapmaking have never received the scholarly attention that they deserve. In Sea Monsters on Medieval and Renaissance Maps, Chet Van Duzer, Jeanette D. Black Fellow at the JCB in 2011, takes on this challenge, beginning with the earliest mappaemundi on which these monsters appear in the tenth century and working his way through to the end of the 16th century, shedding important light along the way on the sources, influences, and methods of the cartographers who drew or painted them. Van Duzer has clearly struck a chord here, both with scholars and the broader public, with reviews appearing in outlets as varied as the Wall Street Journal (July 12, 2013) and Fox News online (Sept. 9, 2013, [www.foxnews.com/science/2013/09/09/sea-monsters-on-medieval-maps](http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/09/09/sea-monsters-on-medieval-maps)).
**Recent Publications by Former JCB Fellows**

**Cohen’s Novel and the Sea Takes Top Prizes**

**Margaret Cohen**

**The Novel and the Sea**

Princeton University Press, 2010

A significant literary history, *The Novel and the Sea* challenges readers to rethink their land-locked assumptions about the novel, and view it in terms of the seas. This inspiring book illuminates the broad cultural impact that the many works of the sea have had over the centuries, and shows how the mariner’s way of narrating danger in the ship’s log influenced much of our beloved maritime fiction. The book won the 2012 Barbara and George Perkins Prize from the International Society for the Study of Narrative, and the 2010-2011 Louis Gottschalk Prize of the American Society for 18th-Century Studies. Margaret Cohen is a professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford University, and was an NEH/Vietor Fellow in 2002-03. — Susan Newbury

**Daniel Krebs**

**A Generous and Merciful Enemy: Life for German Prisoners of War During the American Revolution**

University of Oklahoma Press, 2013

Some 37,000 soldiers from six German principalities, collectively remembered as Hessians, entered service as British auxiliaries in the American War of Independence. *A Generous and Merciful Enemy* portrays the experiences of those soldiers captured and made POWs by the Americans. It brings to life the soldiers’ everyday experiences in captivity from New England to Havana, Cuba, and also traces the lives of both the prisoners returning to Europe and those who stayed in North America. Daniel Krebs is an assistant professor of History at the University of Louisville, and was a Donald L. Saunders Fellow in 2009-10.

**Aviva Ben-Ur with Rachel Frankel**

**Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname: Essays**

Hebrew Union College Press, 2012

This second volume complements the first volume, *Remnant Stones: the Jewish Cemeteries of Suriname: Epitaphs*, and offers a historical and cultural overview of Suriname’s Jewish community, with special emphasis on its synagogues and the Jewish and Creole cemeteries. The book focuses on three Sephardi cemeteries whose monuments date from 1666 to 1904. Aviva Ben-Ur is an associate professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and was a JCB Touro Fellow in 2003-04.

**Kristen Block**


University of Georgia Press, 2012

Using the personal stories of ordinary men and women, *Ordinary Lives in the Early Caribbean* illustrates how engaging with the powerful rhetoric and rituals of Christianity was central to survival. Seen from their on-the-ground perspective, the development of modern capitalism, race, and Christianity emerges as a story of negotiation, contingency, humanity, and the quest for community. Kristen Block is an assistant professor of History at Florida Atlantic University, and was a Ruth and Lincoln Ekstrom Fellow in 2004-05 and 2009-10.
Since the acquisition of the famous 1507 world map by Martin Waldseemüller by the Library of Congress in 2003 much new scholarship has been accomplished, focused not only on the 1507 map, but also on his other cartographic creations and experiments. This conference brought together scholars who have been working to answer some of the outstanding historical questions relating to the entire Waldseemüller corpus, which includes the 1516 Carta Marina at the Library of Congress, Waldseemüller’s 1513 edition of Ptolemy’s Geographia also at the Library of Congress, a set of globe gores dated 1507 at the James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota, and the mysterious JCB Stevens-Brown map. The conference also provided the opportunity to exhibit all of Waldseemüller’s works together under the same roof for the first time.

Why is our Stevens-Brown map important? Its most eye-catching feature is that it is almost identical to the world map in the 1513 Ptolemy, except that on the JCB map the New World carries the caption, “America,” while there is no such caption on the 1513 world map. Several mysteries surround this map. What is its relationship to the map in the 1513 Ptolemy? Is it an early proof copy, or was it published post 1513? Was it intended to be a separately published map? These are some of the questions this conference was organized to explore. The joint presentation by Susan Danforth, Curator of Maps, and David Parsons, member of the JCB Board of Governors, reviewed the colorful history of how the map came to reside at the JCB and discussed the research that has been done on the map, both historically and more recently.

So did the conference settle any of the questions about the origin of the map? As it turns out, even with our careful studies and advanced technologies, we will still have to look to future scholars for the final resolution, if one is even possible. If you would like to make your own assessment, the May 17 presentation can be viewed in its entirety, courtesy of C-SPAN: www.c-spanvideo.org/program/312810-1

—Susan Danforth
Sugar is a shape shifter: it can be visualized as a plant, a white crystalline powder, and a liquid; mixed with other materials, it can take fantastic ornamental shapes. In the early modern period, as now, sugar was commonly an unseen presence, lending its invisible sweetening power to tea, coffee, candies and other confections. But sugar was more than a sweetener: it was the engine driving a large part of the slave trade and colonial commerce of the Americas, especially in the Caribbean and Brazil. It has profoundly changed the human bodies, societies, and larger eco-systems that it touched. This exhibition focuses on the visual imagery of sugar in the Americas, examining some of the ways this sweet, powerful, and often destructive commodity was depicted in books, single sheet prints, and maps that are in the collection of the John Carter Brown Library. — K. Dian Kriz (Professor Emerita of History of Art and Architecture, Brown University), guest curator

FROM THE EXHIBITION: In the early modern period sugar was rarely depicted as the white crystals that we commonly associate with the sweetener. One of the few images of refined white sugar in the JCB collections can be found in an unlikely source—a pro-slavery satire by Robert Cruikshank, printed in 1826—that advances the interests of West Indian sugar planters over those promoting East Indian sugar (made with wage, rather than slave labor). Sugar appears like snow, icing the pagoda-like roof of the “Canten Humbug” warehouse. It also covers a patch of the foreground, where a telescope is trained on the shore of a West Indian island populated by happy dancing black people.

In conjunction with the exhibition the Library will be hosting Beyond Sweetness: New Histories of Sugar in the Early Atlantic World an international conference with 26 speakers from the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean on the history of sugar in the Americas in the early modern period, October 24-27, 2013. For schedule and registration information: blogs.brown.edu/sugarandbeyond

inJCB is published biannually for Associates and friends of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University
Margot Nishimura Editor
Leslie Tobias-Olsen Manager of Imaging
John Minichiello Digital Imaging Technician
Susan Newbury Copy Editor
Brown Graphic Services Graphic Design

JOIN THE ASSOCIATES

The John Carter Brown Library Associates support, with membership fees, new acquisitions to 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 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 to New York and other locations. Our goal is to make your participation personally enriching and enjoyable as you have myriad opportunities to learn about the JCB’s collection and to meet our fellows and other Associates with interests similar to your own. Join today so that you are in the loop to meet our new Director and Librarian, Neil Safier, and to receive notification of our full roster of fall events. For more information, see www.jcbl.org or call Maureen O’Donnell at 401-863-1553.

OCTOBER 3-6 Newport Historical Society’s Spectacle of Toleration conference in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the Charter of RI, co-sponsored by the JCB. www.spectacleoftoleration.org


OCTOBER 17 JBBAS presentation: Wil Verhoeven, Professor of American Studies, University of Groningen, “Americomania and the French Revolution Debate in Britain, 1789-1802.” MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Registration required: blogs.brown.edu/british-atlantic-seminar


NOVEMBER 6 JBBAS presentation: Jason Peacey, Senior Lecturer, History, University College London, “Re-thinking print culture and political life, 1640-1690: the case of Sir Richard Temple,” MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Registration required: blogs.brown.edu/british-atlantic-seminar

NOVEMBER 12 Watts Lecture: Michael F. Suarez, S.J., Director, Rare Book School, University of Virginia, MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m.


DECEMBER 5 Paul A. Van Dyke, Professor of History, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, PRC, keynote address for Discovering East Asia in American History and Visual Culture, a symposium on December 6 co-hosted by the JCB and the Departments of History and American Studies. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m.

BEYOND SWEETNESS: NEW HISTORIES OF SUGAR IN THE EARLY ATLANTIC WORLD AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 24-27, 2013

In conjunction with the fall exhibition, Sugar and the Visual Imagination in the Atlantic World, ca. 1600-1860, October through December, 2013

OCTOBER 24 Keynote address by Stuart B. Schwartz, Professor of History, Yale University, MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Open to the public.

OCTOBER 25-27 Conference sessions and other activities featuring 26 international scholars of sugar in the early modern world; for program and registration information: blogs.brown.edu/sugarandbeyond

Registration required.

Every Wednesday at noon, please join us for our weekly JCB Fellows Lunch Talk at the Brown/RISD Hillel (80 Brown Street, Providence). Bring a sandwich and enjoy the conversation of other JCB Fellows and friends from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Check our website at www.jcbl.org for a schedule of speakers and their topics or call 401-863-2725.