



The Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
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The Owl

"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

Illuminating the manuscript Leaves

By Delinda Buie
Curator, Rare Books

Illuminated manuscripts serve as icons for the study of Western European culture from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Since learning in that era typically was associated with the Church, the most common examples are religious in nature, such as Books of Hours and liturgical texts. Similarly, the Islamic world has yielded exquisite religious manuscripts, particularly calligraphic copies of the Qur'an and its commentaries, but that culture also has a strong tradition of secular poetry. Because these older artifacts, unlike modern day, more ephemeral book products, are written on either vellum, in the case of Western European manuscripts, or handmade paper, in Islamic tradition, many examples have survived down through centuries, and still tend to hold up well to handling and use.

"Illuminating the Manuscript Leaves," one of the Libraries latest digital collections, is a collaboration to parlay a modest collection of illuminated manuscript leaves into a resource for interdisciplinary teaching, collaborative scholarship, and outreach to at-risk K-12 students. The effort began in 2005, when Libraries Development Officer Traci Simonsen contacted Special Collections with news that the Pzena Foundation had expressed interest in funding an outreach program that would take rare books materials out into the community to engage at-risk youth.

As we considered options likely to be of interest to this age group, the experience of students who had viewed 16th century examples from our collection of English parchment indentures: "Wow, cool!" and "Eeww, gross!" came immediately to mind. We knew that illuminated



Book of Hours, France, mid 15th century, fragment. This fifteenth century Book of Hours, while not attributed to a particular scribe, was completed in Tours at the time of Jean Fouquet (1420-1480), who was considered one of the greatest French painters of the fifteenth century. It has 19 lines on each page.



Bible, France, mid 13th century, fragment.

A leaf from a small portable Bible, copied in France in the middle of the thirteenth century. The leaf includes 49 lines of text in two columns from the First Book of Kings, chapters XVIII - XX.

Astronomy has long been considered part of the curriculum for an Indiana high school's calculus and advanced placement mathematics classes. Last year when a new principal limited school trips, Rare Books staff took several rare books, including the 1482 first edition of Euclid's *Elementa*, to the school to be viewed by the entire student body.

Although that risky venture out into the community had gone very well, we knew that we could not sustain, promise, or publicize an effort to carry a rare illuminated manuscript volume into schools, even one purchased with private foundation funding. As we considered ways to carry actual artifacts to students without compromising the security and physical integrity of valuable collections, we decided that individual manuscript leaves might be a solution. Such leaves are accessible, affordable, and portable. They allow us to collect a variety of specimens in order to ex-

manuscripts would interest the students if they came to the university to see them. The issue remaining was how—even, whether—to take manuscripts out to schools.

As repositories of treasures in a public university, the University of Louisville collections of rare books, photographic archives, and university archives are, by intention and design, highly accessible. In addition to scholars, publishers, media, and an ever-increasing number of university classes, we encourage use by casual users and visits by community groups. We also find that local and regional teachers, UofL graduates who had visited or worked with special collections during their undergraduate studies, want to bring their own students back. Thus, we regularly welcome K-12 students, whether they are touring campus and the adjoining Speed Art Museum, or coming for an exhibit or program focused on materials from our special collections.

University of Louisville's rare books and photographic collections have traveled before to exhibitions at other institutions and for limited interlibrary loan. We also have taken small exhibits of literature, popular culture, and local culture out to schools, cultural festivals, and other venues, but carry along a Plexiglas vitrine to cover the materials and limit exposure to light and handling. Certainly school groups come often to Special Collections for exhibits, special programs, and talks by curators. In fact, the Bullitt Collection of Rare Mathematics and

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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

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pose students to different genres, texts, and techniques. Individual leaves also offer the possibility that students can respond to the artifacts by creating their own specimens of hand-written, decorated work.

The very real issue standing in opposition to such a seemingly perfect solution was one of curatorial ethics. Book-breaking, the deliberate deconstruction of a book in order to realize a higher profit by selling the leaves as individual lots, is anathema to ethical book and manuscript dealers, rare books curators, scholars, and collectors alike. We approached the ethical issue by conferring with colleagues to establish criteria for purchases. We decided to purchase only those leaves cut from very incomplete fragments of texts, and only of texts also readily available in other, complete manuscripts. Since this will limit the collection of leaves to established texts of religious works and recognized poets, historians, and authors, eventually we hope to make a joint purchase of a more ephemeral and desirable work, perhaps a unique vernacular text, in collaboration with the Newberry Library.

One of the contributors to the effort, English faculty member and medievalist Andrew S. Rabin, has been involved with Special Collections from the time of his initial interview on campus. Even before he officially moved to Louisville, Andrew Rabin was surveying the holdings of the Libraries' rare books collection to make notes of ideas for the classes he was developing and to plan collaborative projects with the Libraries staff. After arriving on campus, Rabin worked with colleagues to form MEDREN, a regional interest group of scholars working and teaching in Medieval and Renaissance studies. He also encouraged the Libraries and Humanities to pool resources to join the Newberry Library's Center for Renaissance Studies. When the Pzena had made a handsome initial gift in 2006, we asked Professor Rabin to be the Libraries' agent at the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan. He met with dealers, and made an impressive and diverse selection of leaves: the eighteen specimens included Western European religious texts, Islamic texts, and Persian poetry. An additional gift from the Pzena Foundation will make further purchases possible, allowing us to eventually add examples of Coptic or North African religious texts.

Around the same time, Curatorial Studies Professor John Begley asked Special Collections staff about the possibility of interesting projects for his graduate students. After hearing about the manuscript leaves project, he offered his students to design and build the apparatus necessary to carry and display safely the leaves in classrooms, draft lesson plans, and develop interpretive panels which would help prepare K-12 students to see the actual artifacts.



Hafiz, 14th cent. Divan, fragment.

Persian poetry, written in calligraphy on handmade paper. This original fourteenth century leaf is from a calligraphic manuscript of the Divan of Hafiz, the collected poems of the poet also known as Muhammed Shamsuddin Hafiz or Shamsoddin Mohammad Hafez-e Shirazi, ca. 1320-1390.



Qur'an fragment.

This illuminated leaf of the Qur'an was written on handmade paper probably in Herat in the late sixteenth century.

In June 2007 Amy Purcell organized a program for the University's Signature Partnership campus visit of 100 Western Middle School students. Working with Traci Simonsen, she recruited UofL basketball great Darrell Griffith, and one of Special Collections' college work study students, education major JoAnna Cruz, who described herself as a former at-risk student. Both Griffith and Cruz spoke with passion about education, research, and the treasures awaiting the students in the Libraries. The key link to the manuscripts themselves, however, was the presentation of Andrew Rabin, who spoke in front of large projected images of the leaves. Although the exquisite images captured the attention and enthusiasm of all adults present, the students themselves remained polite, but looked bored until Rabin began to speak. Rabin sometimes jokes about appearing in pelts and Viking horns to enliven his students, but his dynamic presentation, even without such accoutrements, turned the static images into a powerful attraction, securing the students' imaginations and drawing them into the historic documents. As envisioned at the beginning of the project, the students were most interested by the Rabin's graphic — "Eeww, gross" — account of making vellum from animal skins.

Illuminating the Manuscript Leaves was launched as one of the Libraries new Digital Collections in August 2007 (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/mss/>). With a beautiful animated introductory page designed by Terri Holtze, the collection already has attracted hundreds of hits.

The next phase of the project involves faculty from regional universities, local K-12 teachers, and graduate students contributing their research and teaching materials, all developed from their work with the manuscript leaves, to expand the metadata and interpretive context of the project. In many cases, after students are introduced to the manuscript leaves via digital presentation, curators will carry some of the actual specimens out into university classrooms and local schools and invite students to create their own illuminated leaves.

The digital project ultimately will include both digitized and born-digital creative works by students and artists responding to the concepts of purposeful communication and the interplay of text, art, intellect, and creativity within the manuscript leaves. The digital project and mediation of Libraries staff facilitate interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration among scholars, while maintaining a repository for their work. At the same time, the project allows the University of Louisville to bring an exceptional educational experience to at-risk K-12 students. By exposing young students to historic cultures and forms of communication, we anticipate that they will become artists, scholars, and contributors of learning and beauty to our world today, giving back to our culture just as the ancient writers of these exquisite manuscripts gave to their cultures long ago.



From the Dean of Libraries . . .

By Hannelore Rader, Dean, University Libraries

From August 16-26 I attended the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) meeting in Durban, South Africa. I was one of more than 3,100 attendees from 116 countries. Although due to airplane problems I arrived a day later in Durban and missed several of my meetings, the conference was quite informative. The new IFLA President is Claudia Lux, from Berlin, Germany, who hopes to foster advocacy competencies of the IFLA organization of librarians throughout the world. IFLA received a \$1 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and hopes to use it for an advocacy position to support free access of information and freedom of expression to sustain the development of libraries worldwide. Several new IFLA language centers were established in Arabic, French and Russian. Ellen Tise from South Africa, who served as IFLA President from 1999-2001, agreed with Lorlene Roy, ALA's first Native American President, about traditional knowledge and who owns it.



Keynote speaker Albie Sachs, a crusader against apartheid and now a Constitutional Court Justice, was a fabulous speaker as he told us about his jail sentences and injuries, including losing an arm and the sight of one eye through a bomb. He dedicated his speech to the unknown librarian who provided books for him during his confinement.

As a member of the IFLA Information Literacy Section Standing Committee and a newly appointed member of the IFLA Marketing and Management Section Standing Committee, I attended a number of meetings. Gcina Mhlophe, one of South Africa's foremost storytellers, entertained delegates with very fascinating stories.

The 2008 IFLA meeting will be in Quebec, Canada.

During a day-long Safari trip I saw many wild animals but also encountered a group of two-and three-year old orphans from HIV parents. There are many such orphans throughout Africa and it is an extremely sad situation.



The FSCOL (Faculty Senate Committee on Libraries) met on September 19 under the new leadership of Music Professor Daniel Weeks. The committee received its charge from the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Beth Boehm, and reviewed library allocations for new programs, centers and institutes. The next meeting will be October 15.

The Library Associates Board met on October 3. The group sponsored a successful chili lunch fund-raising event in the Ekstrom Library on September 26. This event raised \$750 to purchase new books for the library. The books will be on display during the dedication of the Learning Commons on Oct. 31.

On September 12 President Ramsey gave his annual University Address and provided information about the next strategic plan for the university.

On September 22 I spoke to the American Association of University Women group meeting about the University Libraries.



Library and Department News

Ekstrom Library

CopyIT Center Closed

To make way for expansion of library services supporting the Learning Commons initiative, the Ekstrom CopyIT Center closed permanently on September 30, 2007.

Color photocopying is now available through a public self-service machine. Color print jobs must be sent to UniPrint from the Reference Desk or from the Metro Lab staff station. Users with disabilities may request photocopy assistance at the Reference Desk. All other CopyIT services, including course-paks and fax, are available in the new iTech Xpress retail store located on the lower level of the Miller Information Technology Center.

Office of the Dean

Elizabeth Smigielski's title has been changed to Assistant Director, Kornhauser Library, effective October 1, 2007.

Betty Joyce Graves accepted the position of Library Assistant, Ekstrom Technical Services, effective October 1, 2007. She reports to Lois Severt. Joyce had been employed as a UofL temporary for several years.

Special Collections

SAA in Chicago

In August Amy Purcell attended the Society of American Archivists' annual meeting in Chicago. This photo was taken at the Friday get-together by Mr. Lennart Gidlund (husband of the New York City Archivist). In photo front row from left: Karen Stevens, National Park Service, Philadelphia; Constance Schultz, University of South Carolina; Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the U.S.; Leonora Gidlund, NYC Department of Records; back from from left: Fred Previts and Jelain Chubb, Ohio State Archives; Amy Hanaford Purcell.



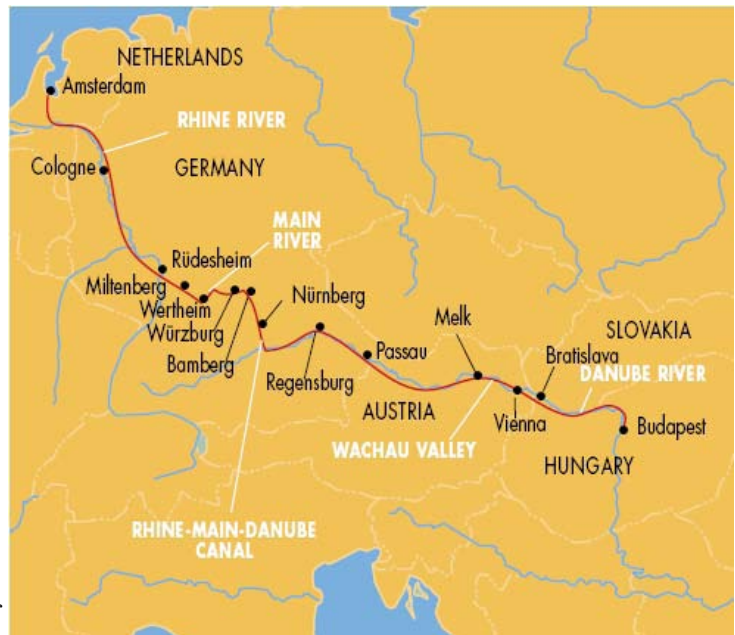
University Archives and Records Center

The Great Rivers of Europe

Ron and Kathie Johnson spent September 12 – 25 cruising the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers on a riverboat tour called "The Great Rivers of Europe." They flew to Amsterdam on September 11, arriving on September 12 and were escorted to their 120-passenger ship. After two days in Amsterdam, which included a canal tour and a visit to the Van Gogh Museum, they set sail. Stops along the way in Germany included Cologne, Koblenz,

Mainz, Würzburg, Wertheim, Hassfurt, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, and Passau; and in Austria included Melk and Vienna, where they disembarked and flew home. Moving along the river at an average of 12 mph is a perfect way to really see the countryside, and the weather cooperated, allowing for a lot of time on the upper deck.

Highlights of the trip included passage through 67 locks (some as high as 83 feet), visiting the many cathedrals and churches (that's one in Cologne pictured below), hearing an organ concert on the second largest church organ in the world (in Passau), spending time with a German family at their home in a suburb of Wertheim, visiting the famed courtroom of the trials in Nuremberg, touring the Residence of the Prince Bishop in Würzburg and the Melk Abbey (made famous by Umberto Eco in *The Name of the Rose*), hearing a Strauss and Mozart concert in Vienna, and many other things too numerous to mention.



The Dutch, German and Austrian people were all very friendly, for the most part spoke very good English, and welcomed us. The food and drink were great (especially the beer and wine). The crew on the boat (mostly eastern European) was outstanding. Our tour guides were knowledgeable and a lot of fun. We would highly recommend this as a relaxing yet interesting and educational way to travel.



DARE TO SAY THANK YOU!

"I would like to take this opportunity to offer continued thanks to the Cataloging team at the Music Library, which includes **Rachel Hodge and Dana Miller**, for continued expedient Cataloging service to users who request Music items that are in-process. Users are always visibly pleased to see how fast their requests are processed.

"I would also like to thank my colleague **Don Dean** for continued assistance in the gathering of signatures for our School of Music Guest Book. We would not have been able to gather the signatures of all the visiting performers, composers, and lecturers we've compiled in the last several years without his determination and effort during the evening and weekend events at the School of Music."

—**Mark Dickson**



"Thanks to **Sue Raymond** (Hospital Library) for being such a great person to work with.

Thanks to **James Adler** (Kornhauser Library) — my fellow library master! Thanks for working with me and training me, I appreciate your encouragement and support and I will miss working with you.

Thanks to **Joan Nailon and Felix Garza** and my friends at Kornhauser Library, it has been a great experience working with you all these past three years."

—**Tiffney Gipson**



"An email I received from Carrie Daniels: 'By the way... the guy (I don't even know his name!) who was supervising the (circulation) desk yesterday afternoon was very helpful to me. I requested a couple of old volumes of the *ALA Bulletin* and the system (RRS) was being a little cranky and wouldn't give it up, despite his efforts. I had given up and was actually heading out of the Archives when there he was, walking toward the Archives with the *Bulletins* I wanted in his hand. I really appreciate his work on this glitch, and I especially appreciate his lugging the tomes all the way up to the 4th floor!' This helpful person was **Ryan Stearman**. Good job!"

My thanks to **Jami Allen** who volunteered to put together a picture bulletin board of all our staff and students. Stop by if you have not seen it; it's quite impressive.

Many thanks to **Alice Abbott-Moore** who has kept her pleasant disposition and good humor while settling into the RRS position during a time of extreme business. Circulation is lucky to have such a hard worker and overall great person join us.

Thanks to **Sheila Birkla** for diagnosing and solving the problem on one of our computers that had been plaguing us intermittently for weeks. And for the necessary equipment to enable us to have a third functional work station at Circulation.

Thanks to **Andy Clark and Raymond Slaughter** for identifying and solving a long-standing problem with Ekstrom's book drops. Circulation folks no longer have to turn into contortionists trying to free trapped books!

—**Melissa Horrar**



"Thank you to **Amy Purcell** for all she does to keep the Special Collections department running—from setting up permissions for files to gathering statistics on short notice."

—**Rachel Howard**



"A big Thank You to **Lois Severt** for so patiently and thoroughly explaining the art classification tables to me...again and again. She never makes me feel dumb. I'll get it some day, Lois!"

—**Vicki Niehaus**



"I nominate **Alice Abbott-Moore** for her tireless service in the RRS. It makes working in Circ much more smooth!"

—**Lisa Ortega**



"I want to express thanks to **Kathy Moore** for quickly getting Art Library Document Delivery requests back to me."

—**Steve Whiteside**



Thanks to **John Burton** for sharing his brute strength with us. He made moving a 200+ pound crate an easy, quick job.

—**Delinda Buie & Amy Purcell**



Thanks to **Alice Abbott-Moore** for the impromptu demo of the RRS. Mom and Aunt Pat really enjoyed it.

—**Amy Purcell**



Library Exhibits

Ekstrom Library

East Lobby – Media Resources

Tarzan Around the World

Seven posters from various Tarzan movies, 1936-1957

Courtesy of the Burroughs Memorial Collection

Photo Archives Gallery

This Interrupted Life: Art by Women in Prison

October 1 – 31, 2007

A traveling public art exhibition curated by Rickie Solinger and supported by the Ford Foundation.

Rickie Solinger will give a presentation in the Chao Auditorium on October 22, 2007 from 2 - 3:15 pm

West Wing First Floor Display Cases

Evolution of the University Libraries

and

19th Century Caricatures from Vanity Fair, a Weekly Show of Political, Social and Literary Wares

Richard Kain Gallery, Rare Books

Books of the Founding Fathers: What the framers of the U.S. Constitution were reading

October 4 – November 1, 2007

Music Library

First Floor

School of Music 7th Anniversary Event: New Music Festival

Featuring works of Steven Stucky, guest composer and 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner

Through October 17, 2007

Celebrate With Us! Bach Cantata Festival dedicated to the memory of founder and long time member, Gerhard Herz

October 18-22

Celebrate With Us! 75th Anniversary Event Featuring Guest Artist Lee Luvisi presenting J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier

October 23-November 15

