

The Friends of the Library of Washington and Lee

FOLIOS

Editor: Karin O'Callaghan, (540) 458-8642 or ocallaghank@wlu.edu
Library.wlu.edu

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Leyburn Renovation Becoming a Reality

Many of you are aware that the Leyburn Library has been on the University's "short list" for a renovation for some time. With the number of other critical building projects that are also under consideration, however, there was some question about the scope and purpose of the project.

Everyone agreed that the building needed to be more comfortable and welcoming, and that technological facilities required improvement, but how much more was needed? Should a renovated Leyburn include other University departments, such as University Computing? Might an addition to the building include a conference center as well as additional classrooms?

After two architectural studies, and thanks to the leadership of Provost June Aprille, we're moving forward with a \$2.5 million project that will focus on the Library's main floor, and significantly improve study space for students as well as provide users with "one stop shopping" for their information needs. Library Technical Services, now occupying about one-third of the main level, will move downstairs, and the entire entry floor of the building will become public space, with new furniture, carpet, group study rooms, and a services desk operated jointly by the Library and University computing.



Standing room only for SFCS presentation

The building's existing entrance on Stemmons Plaza will remain, and a second entrance will be created on the side of the building facing the Elrod Commons. Planning is already underway with SFCS, an architecture, engineering and interior design firm based in Roanoke. If all goes well, we hope to see the project completed by January 2009, with Technical Services moving downstairs this summer.

On April 1 SFCS held a meeting for the entire W&L community to see some of the proposed plans. Input from both faculty and student groups informed many of our decisions and their continuing interest was evident at this meeting.

We'll keep you posted on the project as it moves along. Our objective, it goes without saying, is to complete the renovation with as little inconvenience to the W&L community as possible. I hope that you share my delight that this critical project is going forward!

Merrily E. Taylor, University Librarian

— Mission Statement —

The Friends of the Library supports the academic mission of Washington and Lee University through activities which strengthen the Library's collections and services, promote greater awareness of the Library's needs and resources,

encourage monetary or in-kind contributions to the Library, foster closer community and Library relations and stimulate the intellectual life of the community.

Leyburn: The Post-8-Track Experience

A library can seem so irredeemably twentieth century. Like an 8-track tape-player or a typewriter, libraries tend to become associated with vaguely embarrassing technical gadgets that date their users (and not in a good way).

I'm a historian, so I'm used to working with outdated stuff (mostly sixteenth to nineteenth century imperial Chinese outdated stuff like memorials and other documents you probably never heard of because you don't spend much time in archives, which actually seem pretty nineteenth century at best and so make libraries sound sort of progressive). But I couldn't possibly make such timely use of any of the materials I haul out of the archive I annually work in, China's History Archive #1 located within the irredeemably eighteenth century environs (except for the Starbucks) of Beijing's Forbidden City, without access to Leyburn Library, which is actually quite un-dateable to any century but the twenty-first.

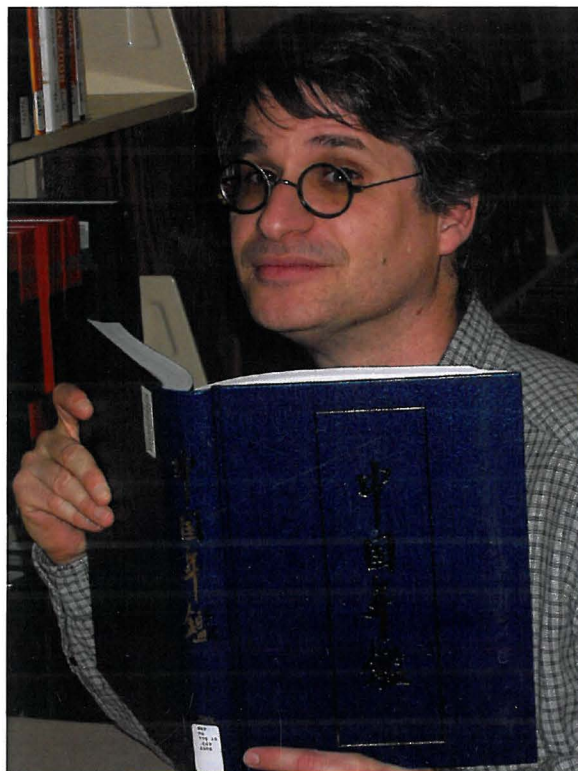
Admittedly, there are some things that are very twentieth century about Leyburn that I can't apologize for. There are books; there are people in face-to-face contact; other "8-track" sorts of things. There is also, however, a technical infrastructure that helps to collapse the space-time continuum, mainly in the form of the Pacific Ocean and North America, separating me from information that I need to ensure I can keep going productively back to Beijing year after year. Remember that article I read about that I forgot to bring with me because I didn't spend the two minutes needed to download it from Leyburn's electronic journal database when I was on campus for the last ten months; yeah, that one. Well, I can also spend two minutes downloading it from Leyburn while I'm in Beijing, which is where I finally remembered that I needed to read it because it will help me understand and translate the 90+ Chinese documents I am currently spending six hours/day for two months hand-copying in China's History Archive #1 because their information infrastructure is a lot like an 8-track tape-player. I can afford to spend the Chinese time, which includes brushing up on my language, improving my penmanship, finding more documents and enjoying a leisurely venti in the Forbidden City, under such nostalgically measured conditions mainly because Leyburn has saved me so much US time.

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Leyburn is also willing to convert passé forms of information, like all the printed materials it holds, into modern electronic files that can also be sent across continents and oceans to me within a few hours or days upon request; there aren't many libraries that will digitize their own holdings for faculty abroad. Perhaps it's because of the time periods I study, but believe it or not, I still rely on print because you can't find everything on the web. Just try Googling the 黑

龍江將軍衙門檔案, for example.

Leyburn, however, actually has this material, which is one of the most important sources for the environmental history of seventeenth and eighteenth century Manchuria I'm currently working on, on microfilm. They have it because I requested it, and the staff helped me buy it, along with generous funding from W&L's own history department, from China's History Archive #1, where I used to spend hours hand-copying bits of it. Now I can spend part of those ten months in the US as if I'm spending my two months in China; in effect, with Leyburn's support, I get more Beijing time in Lexington. Leyburn has also purchased many other books I've requested, mainly in English. And the electronic access Leyburn provides to all these materials they hold for W&L professors working abroad saves me even more time. It has also, in the case of 黑



龍江將軍衙門檔案, permitted me to take parts of the archive with me no matter what continent I'm on. In short, Leyburn has helped me break into the Forbidden City and in an entirely legal way!

Leyburn provides twenty-first century ways to access information past and present, much of which isn't even held directly by Leyburn. There is no better way I know of to get around obstacles of time and space that have been with us for what seems like forever. For me, Leyburn is kind of like a free ticket to China (yeah, OK without the leisurely venti in the Forbidden City, but I hear they're working on that).

David A. Bello
Assistant Professor of East Asian History

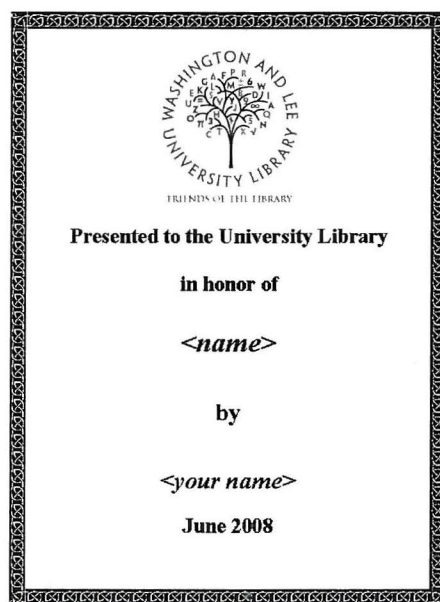


What Makes a Professor Memorable?

I have my ideas. And I bet you have yours! There must be something because well over 600 Friends book plates have been recorded since the Friends began in 2005 and by far the one group that has the largest number of these book plates dedicated to them is professors, current and past.

You will recall Sustaining members, those who pay \$100 or more in dues and/or donations in a year, receive five book plates to place in memory/honor/celebration of anyone they choose. They may have up to five different plates, or all five the same. Obviously, this has been a very popular perk of membership!

If you have thoughts on what makes a professor memorable, please share them. Send them to me and we'll put them in the next FOLios. My e-mail is ocallaghank@wlu.edu, or send them via snail mail to Karin O'Callaghan at University Library here at W&L. Should make fascinating reading! Maybe we'll share it with current faculty, too.



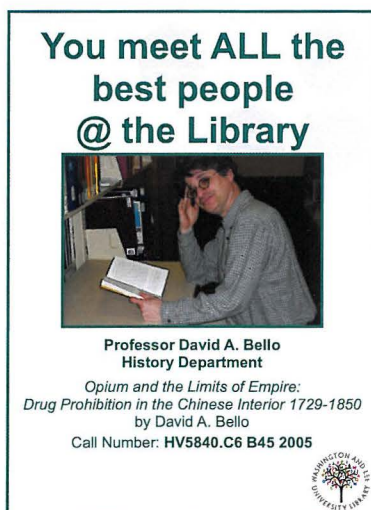
History of the Grandfather Clock

In the University Librarian's office stands a very handsome George Slater grandfather clock. According to University records "it was made around 1850 in Josiah Wedgewood's little town of Burselm in northwest Staffordshire. It has been handsomely restored by a local cabinetmaker, Irvin Rosen of McKinley." If anyone knows any more about the clock, please let us know!

Grandfather Clock in University Librarian's Office.

Added Color for Leyburn and Telford Libraries

Over the summer Library staff will be decorating with posters of faculty members holding a favorite piece of reading. These posters will add color and conversation to the Library's nether regions. Be sure to look for smiling faces you know.



Poster sample

W&L Participating in Historic Campus Project

Council of Independent Colleges has created a web site to document the "national architecture and landscape database of independent college and university campuses". The site documents "nearly 2,100 places of historical significance on private college and university campuses and includes nearly 5,000 images relating to these sites. To date, nearly 400 institutions have participated. On this site, web users can find institutions or places in a particular state or region; seek information about a specific type of architecture, designer, or time period; or gather data for future research." To see the site and all its entries, go to <http://hcap.artstor.org/cgi-bin/library>. Photos were provided by Special Collections in Leyburn Library.

Words from Friends Chair Bob Huntley



My three year term as Chairman ends soon. We have accomplished much more than I would have expected in such a short time: over \$70,000 in dues and donations and almost 300 supportive members. The organization has presented fine speakers, purchased unusual and needed items for use in the libraries, and become a presence on campus and throughout the W&L community. With our strong membership, the guidance of a fine new Chairman, and the continued hard work of Merrily and Karin, I know Friends will continue to grow and support the efforts of the fine staff at University Library.

The Board has kindly asked me to continue as a board member, and I have accepted. So I'll be watching and cheering as we continue to prosper. Thanks to all of you - and keep it up!

Upcoming Events May 3

11 a.m. **Roger Mudd, '50** will autograph his new book
"The Place to Be" Washington, CBS, and the
Glory Days of Television News"
Elrod Commons, University Store



Roger Mudd

3 p.m. **Tom Camden '76**, Director of Special Collections for The Library of Virginia will speak in
Nortchen Auditorium.
"Reviving the Old to Generate the New:
One Man's Passion"
A tea follows his talk



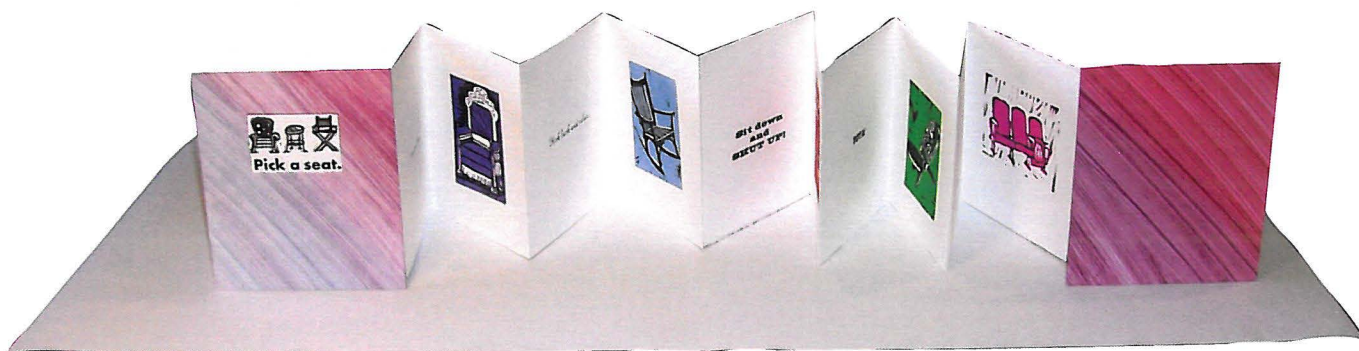
Tom Camden

Lee-signed Diploma Donated to Special Collections

On March 6, Mrs. Mary Berkeley Stoy, cousin of Pres Manning '52, donated a family heirloom: a diploma from Washington College for her great-grandfather Edmund Berkeley, dated 1868 and signed by Robert E. Lee. Edmund Berkeley also attended VMI and fought in the battle of New Market before attending and graduating from Washington College. "We are pleased that Pres thought of us and talked to Mrs. Stoy about making this valuable donation to our Lee collection," said Vaughan Stanley, Special Collections librarian. Dr. Preston Manning is a Charter member of the Friends and a resident of Staunton, Virginia.

Preston Manning '52, Merrily Taylor, Univesity Librarian, Mary and Bob Stoy shown holding a diploma from 1868..





The Book Arts at Washington and Lee

The art of the book is the focus of a new course in the art department. The course was conceived by humanities librarian and professor of record Yolanda Merrill, who teaches book structures and decorative paper techniques, and is co-taught with letterpress printer Bonnie Bernstein and studio art professor Leigh Ann Beavers. The "Introduction to the Book Arts" is an intensive, hands-on Spring term course in which students learn to make various book structures and decorative papers; set type and print on a handpress;

and illustrate their work using several printmaking techniques. The final project is for each student to create a book from conception to execution: text, images, and structure. With this exercise the students learn to communicate an idea by successfully mastering the relationship of visual, verbal, and structural elements.

Yolanda will be on sabbatical this summer to prepare a major book arts exhibit; create a teaching collection in the book arts; and expand the book arts program on campus.

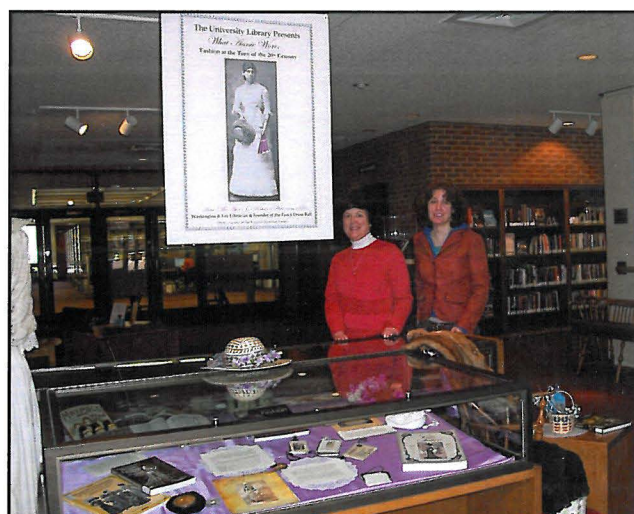
Exhibits

Main Lobby

What Annie Wore: Fashion at the turn of the 20th Century.

Boatwright

The University Presidents: photos and writings of former leaders



"Annie" exhibit can be seen in the main lobby.



In Memoriam



Friends who have died within the last year

MARION BROWN

Her kindness and support are sadly missed

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