From the Librarian

The Library does not very often receive suggestions from students about adding books to the collection, and in order to encourage student involvement in this aspect of the Library's work we held a contest in fall 2000, during an open house for new students, to get their advice in building the browsing collection.

For some years now, librarians have stocked a bookcase near the Magill Library Circulation Desk with the sorts of books that academics read guiltily and furtively as they avoid the press of their “real” work, books of the sort that none of us feels we should have the leisure to read when classes are in session. Mysteries and current novels along with some essays, poetry, plays, travel, and current issues titles dominate the shelves; some titles duplicate those cataloged in the main collection but most of them would not find their way into the stacks for permanent addition to the Library. The books are paperbacks, and since they are not cataloged they circulate on an honor system. It’s “impulse reading,” like the magazines, candy, and other little items that merchants place near their cash registers.

At the open house in early September, we asked new students to create a list of five books they thought all first-year college students should read. 75 of the roughly 200 students who visited us that evening completed the form, signed it, and entered it in a drawing. Library staff then drew nine completed forms at random from a box; each of these nine students was then assigned to a month of the academic year and given $50 with which to purchase any books they think students and other browsers might enjoy encountering.


The students who completed the form listed almost 150 different titles from Dr. Seuss and Shakespeare to George Eliot, Sherman Alexie, and the Haverford Honor Code. Classroom classics were well represented as were current popular fiction; a few poems, plays, and current issues titles found their way into the results, but most respondents suggested novels. The 10 most recommended books were J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye; Joseph Heller, Catch-22 Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice; John Irving, A Prayer for Owen Meaney; Kurt Vonnegut, Cat's Cradle; F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby; Herman Hesse, Siddhartha; William Shakespeare, Hamlet; Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five; and Elie Wiesel, Night.

Please stop at the browsing collection bookcase and help yourself to some extra-curricular reading.

-Bob Kieft is Librarian of the College
Art at Haverford
by Diana Franzusoff Peterson

High above the archway leading to Special Collections hangs a portrait of Isaac Sharpless, President of Haverford College from 1887 to 1917. It is an oil on canvas, 44” x 32”, framed to 59” x 46 1/2”, painted, signed by Cecilia Beaux, but undated.

What is unusual about the painting is its very existence. Isaac Sharpless was a member of the Society of Friends, and Quakers did not usually have their portraits painted, as art was considered a “frivolity.” Yet, Sharpless chose Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942) to paint his portrait. Beaux studied under the Quaker artist, Katharine Drinker, among others, and contemporaries considered her the most distinguished woman portrait painter in America.

Only some few works of art trickled in to Haverford in the 19th century. In his 1933 history of the College, professor Rufus Jones wrote “We look back with mild pity on the generations of Haverford students who were deprived of the joy of music and art. The strong anti-aesthetic bias in the minds of the Quaker Founders and the early Managers was, I think, an unmitigated misfortune.”

The College offered no fine arts classes until a sculpture course was introduced in 1968, nor was there a painting course until 1969-70, or photography until 1970.

Still, Haverford has acquired a good deal of art over the years. A notable example is the 1942 bequest of a substantial art collection which included an oil on canvas painting of St. Sebastian attributed to Bernardino Betti Pinturicchio; an oil on panel “Early Autumn, White Birch” by Maxfield Parrish (who matriculated at Haverford in 1888); an oil painting on canvas of Samuel by Joshua Reynolds; and many others. Within the last few months a collection of six prints came as a gift; these included a hand-colored woodblock print by Hiroshige and an etching by Marc Chagall from his “Noah’s Ark” series.

Today, artwork can be found all over Haverford’s campus -- in offices, dormitories, and the studios in Marshall Fine Arts -- and sculpture beautifies its grounds. For this we can be grateful to the evolution of standards of culture at Haverford.

-Diana Franzusoff Peterson is Manuscripts Cataloger & College Archivist

Electronic Reserves
by Donna Fournier

It’s 2:00am and you forgot to borrow that reserve reading for tomorrow’s class before the library closed for the night. Trouble, right? No, not if the Library offers the reserve material on the Web. And that’s just what we’re doing. Electronic reserves, usually referred to as “ERes” by our students, is one of a number of ways that the Library is moving beyond its walls into offices and dorm rooms providing services twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Here is how Eres works. Professors provide the Library with electronic or paper copies of their course readings. If the material is in paper format, we scan the pages to recreate the readings in an electronic format such as a pdf or html file. A reserves webpage is created for each course with links to each of the readings. Students can then go to the Web to read the material on screen or make a printout on which to take notes. Each reserves webpage is password protected to allow only students enrolled in the class access to the materials. ERes works well for audio files too. Selected tracks from the Music Library’s collection of compact discs are digitized into real media.

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The Library has recently purchased a collection of electronic books from netLibrary, a leading e-book vendor. E-books, the latest trend in online information, offer useful searching capabilities and round-the-clock accessibility. The Library has purchased over 100 e-books and will continue to add to this number on a regular basis. These electronic books are available through links in Tripod.

In addition to the e-books the Library has purchased, netLibrary makes an additional 4,000 titles available on its web site. This free set is known as their “public collection,” and includes such classics as Beowulf, Hamlet, and The Scarlet Letter.

The netLibrary interface offers powerful searching capabilities, similar to those available in Tripod. These include title, author, subject, keywords, publisher, publication year, and ISBN (international standard book number). Results can be displayed in various formats. Moreover, users have the ability to limit results to titles within the Haverford e-book collection or the netLibrary public collection, thereby ensuring that retrieved items will be available for use.

When accessing a title from netLibrary, users can either browse the e-book for 15 minutes, read it online, or download it for use with the netLibrary e-book reader. This tool supports off-line reading on a PC desktop or laptop computer (but not Macintosh computers) and provides several features to enhance the reading experience, including searching across all downloaded texts, annotation creation, and a citation reference manager.

One of the value-added components of netLibrary e-books is a dictionary tool which can be used to look up terms while you read. The definition will not only include text, but often an audio file for the word’s pronunciation. Occasionally, the definition will also include a miniaturized image that can be enlarged with the click of the mouse.

Navigation is also a quality feature in netLibrary. Forward and backward arrows provide simple movement through the text. In addition, a jump facility and a “top of page” button are also quite useful.

Printing and/or copying parts of the e-book are the only real shortcomings to the netLibrary service. Only one page at a time can be reproduced. If a user wants to print a range of ten pages, she must select and print them individually. This perceived nuisance, however, may deter violation of laws which prohibit excessive reproduction of copyrighted material.

Before using the netLibrary collection, users must create an account, which can be established the first time they access an online text.

-Norm Medeiros is Coordinator for Bibliographic and Digital Services
Toyko Broadcasting System sees Haverford Heroine

by Emma Lapsansky

“I want to invite an American lady who is a Christian, but not fanatic.” So is quoted the Showa Emperor, Hirohito, in the Tokyo Broadcasting System video “Testimony in 2000: Empress Michiko, A Woman of Destiny.” The 88-minute TBS video includes this description of what Emperor Hirohito sought in a tutor for his son, Akihito, who would eventually marry Empress Michiko. A new acquisition in Haverford’s Special Collections, this video is mostly focused on aspects of the life of the Japanese Empress. But woven into the story is the interaction between Crown Prince Akihito and Elizabeth Gray Vining, the American Quaker woman chosen to answer the emperor’s call for a tutor. “A Christian, but not a fanatic,” Vining, whose recent death inspired many researchers to seek information on her life, spent several years (1946-50) in service to the Japanese royal family, encouraging the Crown Prince to develop views “based on his own idea.” Her memoirs of the experience were published in 1952 as Windows for the Crown Prince. Vining’s many other works include a biography of Haverford College philosophy professor Rufus M. Jones (1863-1948). The College also holds Vining’s papers—including manuscript versions of some of her publications. Access to some parts of her papers is restricted. If you are interested in this collection please feel free to contact us.

Emperor Akihito and Elizabeth Gray Vining

Emma Lapsansky is Curator of the Quaker Collection

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This new service is especially helpful for students taking a class at another campus, students living in the Haverford College Apartments, and students who routinely burn the midnight oil. At the time of this writing, some thirty courses have reserve materials available through the Library’s ERes service. We expect this number to increase every year until a time when all course reserves are available electronically.

-Donna Fournier is Coordinator for User Services and Collections

Staff News and Announcements

by Mike Persick

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, Haverford has had a number of staff changes in the Library.

John Anderies, Music Librarian, joined us in January 2001. He comes to us from the Cook Music Library at Indiana University—Bloomington, where he served most recently as Acting Head of User Services. At Indiana, John oversaw the daily digitizing operations for the VARIATIONS Project, Indiana’s digital music library, and served on the advisory committee for the project. John's MLS and Ph.D. course work in musicology are also from Indiana.

Julie Coy joins us as Bibliographic and Digital Services Assistant. Her primary responsibility is cataloging monographic acquisitions, but she also performs a variety of tasks in the Serials department. Before arriving at Haverford in June 2000, she was Technical Services Assistant in the law library at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP in Philadelphia. As for future prospects...eventually an MLS and to continue writing poetry and fiction.

You may have known Donna Fournier, Coordinator for User Services and Collections/Associate Librarian of the College, in her role as Haverford's Music Librarian from the Fall of 1989 until December of 2000. She is now in

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Library Website Update
by John Hubbard

The Library homepage <http://www.haverford.edu/library/> got a facelift in January to reflect a new campus-wide format for top-level pages. Several new and enhanced features were also added to the Library website.

The site provides information about the Library, and also serves as a gateway to the catalog and article databases. Users can search or browse the website to find a wealth of other resources.

A "Quick Links" popup menu - now appearing on every Library webpage - provides access to popular destinations. Some of the other site improvements include:

- A new "Help" page, which includes a sitemap and a list of frequently asked questions.
- Integrated links to e-journals, e-books, and e-reserves.
- Updated subject, course, and Internet guides provide annotated links to a variety of resources.
- The “Library Information” page now includes a campus libraries map and Magill Library floor maps.

Have a question or suggestion about the website? To send feedback, please click on the "Questions or Comments?" link at the bottom of any Library page.

- John Hubbard is Instructional Technology Specialist

Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortium, Inc.
by Trudi Swain

PALCI, formed in 1996, is a federation of 41 academic libraries looking to spur development of library cooperation within the state. A primary focus has been to create a web-based union catalog allowing patrons to search the members’ catalogs simultaneously and request books directly without having to go through our interlibrary loan department. Through PALCI patrons can request books from Villanova, St. Joseph’s, Temple, Penn State, the University of Pittsburgh, and Carnegie Mellon University, among others. We hope our patrons enjoy being able to initiate requests directly and instantly to potential lenders through the Library’s link to PALCI.

-Trudi Swain is Inter-Library Loan Specialist

Staff News and Announcements ... continued from p.4


Norm Medeiros is Coordinator for Bibliographic and Digital Services. This new position oversees the Library’s technical services departments (Acquisitions, Serials, & Cataloging) as well as Digital Services, a unit charged with establishing web-based tools and services. A Massachusetts native, Norm came to Haverford in October 2000 from the New York University School of Medicine, where he was Technical Services Librarian. He and his wife, Trisha, make their home in New Jersey.

Julie Miran, Science Librarian since July 2000, oversees all aspects of the three science libraries: Stokes, Sharpless and Astronomy. Before coming to Haverford, she worked at the Cornell Science Library at Swarthmore College. Currently, she sees herself as having her hands full being involved in the planning process for the new library in the Koshland Center. This summer and academic year she has also been involved in the planning process for the Tri-Co Mellon IV projects and looks forward to

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Staff News and Announcements ... continued from p.5

participating in the Course Management Software implementation. In her free time she enjoys quilting and being a mom to her three sons.

Mary Lynn Morris, a member of Reference and Collection Services since 1995, moved to Bibliographic and Digital Services in June 2000. As Digital Services Librarian, she is responsible for managing the Library website and for coordinating Library efforts to provide electronic resources to faculty and students.

Mike Persick, as of November 2000 became our Assistant Cataloger and Head of Acquisitions. He hovered around Magill Library’s Tech Services/B&DS Department for years in a number of different positions, starting as a student assistant and most recently serving as Technical Services Assistant. A break from Haverford took Mike to Syracuse University, where he earned his MLS in 1995. His duties include managing the Acquisitions Department, performing various cataloging functions, supervising book processing, and “other duties as assigned.”

Jessica Poland came to Haverford in November 2000 as Circulation Services Specialist—Reserves, handling both print and electronic reserves. She started graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Library and Information Science and worked as Circulation Assistant at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic Library. Jess plans to start thinking about grad school again soon.

Craig Ross joined us in October 2000 as Acquisitions Assistant. He primarily performs ordering of library materials and the processing of the weekly Bryn Mawr/Haverford approval books. Craig comes to us from Booz-Allen and Hamilton, a consulting firm, where he worked in the Environment Protection Agency record center in Philadelphia. He is currently attending Drexel University for his Master’s Degree in Library Science.

Welcome to new staff and congratulations to staff in new positions.

-Mike Persick is Assistant Cataloger and Head of Acquisitions