THE WORLD FROM HERE

It may be appropriate that one of the most striking items in “The World from Here” is a box of fifty glass eyes from the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library History & Special Collections. For this remarkable exhibition, on view at the UCLA Hammer Museum through January 13, showcases many items from the UCLA Library that illustrate the unique eye of the collector: donors who recognized their value, and librarians who realized the importance of these unique materials for research and teaching.

Subtitled “Treasures from the Great Libraries of Los Angeles,” the exhibition is far more than a survey of the most important works held by collections across Southern California. Each item carries its own story – its “halo,” as Bruce Whiteman, chair of the organizing committee, describes it – that reflects the historical circumstances that brought it into existence and to Los Angeles.

In an exhibition section focusing on print development are works from the finest collection in North America of books printed in the late 15th and early 16th centuries by Aldus Manutius and his family. Taken from the Ahmanson-Murphy Aldine Collection, the books are housed in the Charles E. Young Research Library (YRL) Department of Special Collections.

The first known anatomical illustration in a medical book, published in 1500, is presented in the pure and applied science section. It is from a rare volume in the Biomedical Library History & Special Collection’s John A. Benjamin Collection of Medical History, entitled Fasciculus Medicinae by Joannes de Ketham.

Sketches of a house designed for renowned German director Josef von Sternberg by Richard J. Neutra, one of the 20th century’s most influential architects, illustrate the theme of the “Ingenious Structures” section. Given to the YRL Department of Special Collections by Neutra’s widow and...
GLADZOR GOSPELS
A TREASURED MANUSCRIPT IS RESTORED

This year one of the most important items in the UCLA Library’s collection – The Gladzor Gospels – was on loan for an exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Before being mounted for display, the lavishly illuminated 60-page manuscript was unbound and meticulously restored by the Getty Conservation Institute. However, this treasured manuscript was nearly omitted from the acquisition made by UCLA in 1968 from Dr. Caro Minasian of Isfahan, Iran.

It wasn’t that Minasian didn’t want the university to have the early 14th-century gospels; he was put off by a note that warned, “No one from among our own princes or foreign princes...has the authority or permission to remove this gospel from Ayrivank by selling or dividing or stealing or confiscating it. And whoever dares and endeavors to remove it, shall be judged by God and all the saints...and he shall forever suffer and be tortured even as Satan, and he shall be condemned and accursed by all mankind. Amen!”

Since the curse did not warn against donating the gospels, Minasian made them a special gift to the UCLA Library.

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son, the Neutra holdings include travel sketches, drawings, blueprints, audio recordings, photographs, correspondence, and models and is among the most frequently used of all UCLA Library collections.

Items from the delightful Children’s Book Collection, also held by the YRL Department of Special Collections, are presented in a section on the mundane aspects of daily life. They include The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes (1768), regarded as the first novel for children, and The Royal Game of the Dolphin, a rare and colorful 1821 board game, both purchased with support from the Friends of the UCLA Library.

In the exhibition’s final section on the life of the mind, the spirit, and the imagination is Homage à Gertrude (1909), a painting Picasso made for his great friend Gertrude Stein. Given to the YRL Department of Special Collections by Gilbert Harrison, the painting has four tiny holes in its corners from the tacks with which it was fastened to the wall above Stein’s bed. Also in this section are first editions of William Burroughs’s The Naked Lunch (1959) and Allen Ginsberg’s Howl, and other Poems (1956), both from the extensive collection of beat literature donated by Allan and Maxine Kurtzman.

And that box of glass eyes? Crafted in Germany during the 1860s, it’s in the section on pure and applied sciences. It was purchased with proceeds from the Franklin E. Murphy, M.D. Fund for the History of Medicine, an endowment established by Franklin D. Murphy, one of the most visionary men this city has known, in memory of his physician father.
Holding a book in one’s hand that has survived for hundreds of years can be an extremely moving experience, especially if that book is a commentary on the Torah that survived the Spanish Inquisition, or a concordance to the Hebrew Bible published in Venice in 1523. Books like these, as well as more recent materials, took center stage at a recent event held in the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections and featuring David Hirsch, Jewish and Middle Eastern Studies bibliographer; and Kenneth Reinhard, director of the Center for Jewish Studies.

David and Ken are both passionate about orienting the teaching of and research into Jewish life and civilization to the Diaspora. Ken explained to the group assembled at the library last October 23rd that to understand Jewish history, one must understand the many ways in which Jews have contributed to the cultural, religious, philosophical, literary, social, and political fabric of civilizations throughout the world.

David has scoured countries from Eastern Europe to Argentina in search of materials that illustrate the importance of Jewish communities in every corner of the globe. For the past 12 years, he has been instrumental in building a collection that has as its foundation a trove of 33,000 books from an antiquarian bookstore in Jerusalem. This 1963 acquisition was made possible by a gift from Theodore and Suzanne Cummings. The collection is absolutely essential to the work of scholars at UCLA and beyond who come to investigate the impact of Jewish life throughout the world.

Adding to these collections is becoming a growing challenge due to the decline of state funding and the rapid growth of materials printed in an increasing number of languages. But a pivotal $500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities will bring a welcome focus to the needs of the center and of the library. The grant will support the library’s Judaica collections, a new undergraduate curriculum in worldwide Jewish civilization, and graduate fellowships.

At the October 23 event, hosted by Murray and Lenore Neidorf, guests learned about the close relationship between the library and the center’s academic mission. Many were surprised to discover that UCLA was home to such an incredible and important resource. Murray, a keen supporter of both the Center and the Library, shared his passionate commitment to UCLA with the audience.

“I believe the scholarly work that is being done at UCLA is critical for the growth, support, and understanding of our Jewish community,” Murray said. “It is my fervent hope that you will consider directing some of your philanthropic energies to these programs at UCLA. And if your support helps fund collection or programmatic endowments, your contribution will help secure matching funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, further leveraging your commitment to Jewish studies.”

For more information about supporting the Library’s Judaica collections and meeting the NEH challenge, please contact: Laila Rashid, Director of Development, UCLA Library. Phone: 310/206-8551 Email: lrashid@library.ucla.edu
FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

In “The World From Here,” an exhibition containing many hundreds of items, I must admit that one of my favorites is the catalogue. This is not due to lack of enthusiasm for any one object in the show, but for sheer exuberance of what is presented as the collective whole. Long after this remarkable exhibition is taken down and all of the materials go back to their proper homes in various libraries throughout Los Angeles, I will study the catalogue and marvel at the richness of this city's cultural resources.

I will also marvel at the great store of knowledge that has been assembled in only a single generation at the UCLA Library. With over 7.6 million volumes, 90,000 current periodicals, millions of manuscripts and an increasing number of electronic journals and databases, the UCLA Library is almost bursting at the seams. Next to collections support, space is our most critical need — though it isn't necessarily space for materials that poses the biggest challenge, but space for people.

Truly great libraries are not only filled with distinguished collections and exceptional librarians; they are inspiring places in which to learn, with pleasant surroundings and easy access to materials and services. The Powell Library, which serves undergraduate students, is emblematic of what every library on campus should offer. It blends the aesthetic of an historic building, with its magnificent reading room and inspiring architecture, with state-of-the-art technology and features that today's students demand, such as access to computers and laptop connections, group study rooms, and comfortable seating in a central location on campus.

One day we will be able to provide a similar environment for our largest facility, the Charles E. Young Research Library (YRL). In fact, we hope that day will come soon. I am excited to announce that we have launched a long overdue remodel of the YRL that will transform this facility, which hasn't been updated since it was built almost 40 years ago, into a place that will serve as a magnet for students and faculty.

In coming months you will hear more about our plans to design a new learning space with more comfortable areas for studying, a reading room, expanded facilities for the special collections department and the East Asian Library, all in an attractive setting that will invite scholarly interaction among users from all over campus.

It is my hope that through this newsletter you will come to learn more about the UCLA Library and our plans for the future. I invite you to become involved and to lend your support for the intellectual lifeline that is represented by the UCLA Library.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

CRITICAL NEEDS

The Fund for the UCLA Library ensures that critical needs of the library, from special opportunity acquisitions to comfortable user spaces for students, are addressed. Discretionary funds available to the University Librarian will make a significant impact on the quality and cutting-edge services that the UCLA Library has come to represent.

COLLECTION ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

The Collection Endowment Initiative provides critically needed funds to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in a particular subject area of interest. Collection endowments begin at $25,000, and the Library invites donors to make a single gift or to build an endowed fund over several years. Special bookplates reflecting the interests of the philanthropist are designed in consultation with the donor and affixed to each item added to our collections that was made possible by his or her generosity.

MAKING A BEQUEST

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, and other estate planning arrangements.

For more information about any of these, or other options to support the UCLA Library, please contact Laila Rashid, Director of Development, UCLA Library, by phone at 310/206-8526, or by email at <lrashid@library.ucla.edu>. Or visit our Web site at: http://www.library.ucla.edu/development
If anyone understands first-hand how extraordinary the UCLA Library’s collections are, it’s Marie Waters. She spent an entire career as a reference librarian at the Charles E. Young Research Library (YRL), mining their riches for students and faculty.

“The collections nourish the educational environment at UCLA,” says Marie. “They’re what makes this university great.” Marie’s career spanned nearly four decades – from hand-cataloguing to computers — beginning with her graduation in 1961 from the UCLA Library School’s first class to her retirement in 1998. She’s a fan of the Internet and email (“new ways of organizing bits of information”) but says technology hasn’t changed the essence of libraries: “the learning and opportunities to explore your mind.”

Now, with her husband, Raymond, a UCLA graduate and Fulbright scholar, she is supporting the Library’s collections in perpetuity with establishment of The Marie and Raymond Waters Discretionary Collection Endowment Fund. The Waters funded their endowment through a charitable gift annuity created with the gift of a single-family home to The UCLA Foundation.

While donors can designate gifts to specific collections, discretionary support gives librarians freedom to use funds where needed most, such as to obtain a rare book or specialized journal. “You need to be able to acquire materials as they appear, so UCLA can provide the quality of instruction and research for which it is known,” explains Marie, who has been a member of the Friends of the UCLA Library for 15 years and on its council for more than 10.

The Waters, who live in Hermosa Beach, say this is the kind of gift anyone can make. “Best of all, it’s a plus for us and for UCLA,” says Raymond, who taught secondary school and special education. Through the charitable gift annuity, the Waters receive fixed lifetime payments, along with capital gains tax savings and an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction.

“I feel a special satisfaction to be able to give back,” says Marie. And to know that the search for answers will continue.

For more on establishing an endowment for collections support, visit http://www.library.ucla.edu/development
POWELL LIBRARY MUSIC SERIES

Musica Humana
Friday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.

Middle Eastern Ensemble
Thursday, January 31, 4 p.m.

Historical Keyboard Concert
Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

DaCamera Society Chamber Music
in Historic Sites: Anonymous 4
Saturday, February 2, 8 p.m.
Powell Library Building Rotunda
Ticketed event; for more information
and tickets, call 310 / 954-4300

UCLA LIBRARY EXHIBITS

“Américo Paredes: With His Guitar & Pen in His Hands”
Charles E. Young Research Library
Through December 2001

“Blacklist in the Golden State”
Charles E. Young Research Library
January - March 2002

UCLA LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT: 310 / 206-8526
HTTP://WWW.LIBRARY.UCLA.EDU/DEVELOPMENT