



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 24

SPRING 2007

SID LAPIDUS AND COMPANIONS

The sun shines brightly on the two bronze figures on the front porch. On the left, looking directly at visitors, Thomas Jefferson sits in shirt sleeves. He balances a lap desk on which he is writing the Declaration of Independence. Seated nearby, wrapped in his great coat, Benjamin Franklin is reading the Constitution. Through the front door comes their companion, Sid Lapidus, whose private home and library the Friends will visit on May 8.

“Like many of you,” he told a university audience recently, “I spend a good deal of intellectual time in another century. Mine is the eighteenth.” He acquired his first antiquarian book in London in 1959. “I had just graduated from Princeton as an American history major, and I was absent-mindedly scanning a bookseller’s dusty window. I noticed a small book, a 1792 edition of Tom Paine’s *Rights of Man*. The price? About the equivalent of \$5. How could I not buy it? My book collecting career had started.”

While at Princeton, Lapidus was greatly inspired by the late R. R. Palmer, whose *Age of the Democratic Revolution* “created the framework for my collecting interests.” From the single Paine volume, his collection of English, American, and French books documenting the expansion of liberty during the Age of the Enlightenment has grown dramatically in recent years. Numbering about a thousand items in 1999, it now contains nearly 2,250.

At first, Lapidus identified and collected certain foundational themes related to the expansion of liberty.



He made sure that he had what he calls “The Giants,” the works of seventeenth-century English political thinkers who influenced the founders of the American republic: John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, James Harrington, Algernon Sidney. On the French side, he included Montesquieu and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Equally important, however, was the story of how and why political liberty expanded in the English colonies of North America. It could be found in the many octavo-size, one-shilling pamphlets of the period, such as *Considerations upon the Rights of the Colonists to the Privileges of British Subjects, Introd’c’d by*

a Brief Review of the Rise and Progress of English Liberty and Concluded with Some Remarks on Our Present Alarming Situation (New York, 1766).

For that more elusive story, Lapidus relied heavily on the life work of Thomas R. Adams, now emeritus librarian of the John Carter Brown Library. Adams’s twin bibliographies of the pamphlets dealing with American independence and the controversies in Britain surrounding it mapped out what Lapidus needed to collect. On his shelves today, arranged by date of printing, one can literally see the rising tide of words disputing the Stamp Act, the Townsend Acts, and all other acts of the Crown that eventually provoked the Declaration of Independence.

Within the last fifteen years, Lapidus realized that the expansion of liberty in this era included not just the account of enlarged political rights but also the

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The Chairman's Corner

Welcome to the rekindled Friends of the Princeton University Library newsletter! We hope to publish this newsletter semi-annually, in spring and in fall, to bring you articles on happenings in the Library and on various Friends activities.

With our winter season successfully behind us, we have a busy spring planned for Friends events. Our Small Talks program was once again extremely successful, with three wonderful lectures: Graham Burnett discussing his book *A Trial by Jury* and the history of science; John Fleming holding forth on "Some Books and Some People Who Owned Them"; and Phyllis Billington enrapturing us with an afternoon of Mozart. Our Winter Dinner, a tribute to Lynne and Robert Fagles, was timely and beautifully presented.

Within these pages you will find out about some of the many Friends activities going on right now and in the near future. Featured in this newsletter is a profile of Sid Lapidus, Class of 1959, who has invited the

Friends to his private library as part of our spring field trip, following a tour of the Morgan Library. Those of you who have joined us on these annual field trips know that they are not only informative, but lots of fun; if we arrive home tired from the day's events, we are also happy and satisfied!

In the initial planning stages for the fall is an adopt-a-book program similar to the successful events held at the Folger Library and the Grolier Club. In the galleries, new exhibitions will feature numismatics in the Renaissance and prints from the Taller de Gráfica Popular of Mexico. Friends-sponsored conferences will accompany the numismatic exhibition and celebrate the Library's acquisition of the archives of the *Hudson Review*. Watch for details in the fall issue of the newsletter.

I encourage you to participate in all of the activities listed on the back page of this newsletter, to visit the newly installed exhibitions, and to convey to me your ideas for Friends activities and newsletter features.

—Nancy Klath

Lapidus . . .

story of extending fundamental natural rights to all mankind. The summation of this story is the motto, "Am I not a man and a brother?"—the words of the kneeling, enchained slave on the cameos issued in 1788 by the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade. Lapidus's collecting in this area covers the work of the great abolitionists: on the English side, Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson, John Newton, James Ramsay, and William Wilberforce; on the American side, John Woolman, Anthony Benezet, Benjamin Rush, and David Cooper.

Added to these voices, one finds on Lapidus's shelves those of former slaves, such as Olaudah Equiano's narrative (New York, 1791) and *Some Memoirs of the Life of Job, the Son of Solomon the High Priest of Boonda in Africa; Who was a Slave about Two Years in Maryland; and Afterwards Being Brought to England, Was Set Free* (London, 1734).

In a similar vein, Lapidus has collected books related to American Jews, a number of which he gave to the Library in 2001 and 2006. Most recently, he

gave Princeton a substantial fund to support work jointly sponsored by the American Studies Program and the Judaica Studies Program. Prior to that gift, he endowed a professorship in the Department of History. He serves on the advisory council for the history department as well as that for Judaic studies.

Giving is as important to Lapidus as collecting. "My business success gradually gave me the wherewithal to indulge two of my favorite pursuits, philanthropy and book collecting," he has said. He agrees with his friend and fellow book collector—and generous benefactor to Princeton and the Library—Leonard L. Milberg, who said: "The ultimate value of collecting is in the scholarship it inspires."

Would Jefferson and Franklin have agreed? One need only consider the evidence. In 1731, Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia, which continues to thrive today as one of America's leading independent research libraries. Years later, Jefferson's books served as the foundation collection for the Library of Congress.

—Stephen Ferguson
Curator of Rare Books

REFLECTIONS ON A NEW ORGANIZATION

Two short years ago, a small band of Princetonians gathered in the Frist Campus Center. It is, of course, a common place for students to meet. By the time we leave Princeton, we know its every corridor, doorway, and table. There is little about Frist that strikes us as an adventure into the unknown.

Yet at one particular meeting two years ago, the students gathered there little knew what to expect. Filled with anticipation, we had assembled for the first Leadership Council meeting of the newly launched Student Friends of the Library. Our goal—to start a student branch of the Friends of the Library—was clear. But what we did not yet know was: how exactly could we achieve that goal. Amid the numerous organizations at Princeton, what would be our niche? Who would join? And what would be our measure of success?

The meeting began with an idea to create a motto that would speak to our future members, encapsulate our vision, and set the tone for our young organization. The motto, we all agreed, ought to be in Latin. We were, after all, forming a new organization. But we were building off a seventy-year-old tradition that had a strong history of its own.

A few percolating ideas on post-it notes, a final version typed in Times New Roman, an e-mail to a Classics professor to perfect the translation, and twenty-four hours later, I sent the members of our Leadership Council an e-mail containing all the numerous ideas we had discussed at our recent meeting. I then added the words, “Sapientia a libris legendis;

admiratio a libris lustrandis.” In its original English form, “Knowledge comes through reading books; curiosity comes through exploring them.” A motto for the Student Friends of the Library.



In the two years since that initial meeting, the Student Friends have taken a behind-the-scenes look at the Sotheby’s book department. We have examined collections at the Grolier Club, learned about the history of libraries at Princeton, and chatted about our own collections over tea in Maclean House. Just recently, we heard Jodi Picoult speak about her latest novel, and joined the Adult Friends to hear the *Aeneid* read in its native language. And the Student Friends, which began with five students around the table in Frist, is now nearly fifty students strong.

Yet perhaps our greatest achievement comes not through the growing numbers of events and members, but rather through the sheer pleasure of watching our motto spring to life. What once was created to be a goal, has become a reality. As we have explored, so we have nurtured our curiosity. And thus our adventures continue, in the very spirit by which they began.

—Elizabeth Linder
Founding Chair, Class of 2007

Behind the Best-Sellers

When the Student Friends of the Library extended an invitation to best-selling author Jodi Picoult ’87 to return to campus and discuss her career as a writer, she responded immediately and with great enthusiasm. In some ways, the timing of her appearance on March 26 could not have been better. It was the first day of classes after spring break, and the fluctuating early spring weather was favorable. It also happened to be the day after Picoult’s latest novel, *Nineteen Minutes*, debuted atop the *New York Times* hardcover

fiction best-seller list, the first of her fourteen novels to do so. Her talk, “The Fact Behind Fiction,” drew an attentive audience of approximately forty people, mostly students.

Picoult began by describing her evolution as an author. Advised to write what she knows, she ran into an immediate problem: her upbringing in a happy two-parent



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IN THE GALLERIES, ON THE SHELVES

THE BELL OF THE PIONEER

The only museum object in this spring's exhibition, "To the Mountains of the Moon: Mapping African Exploration, 1541–1880," is a ship's bell, approximately 27 cm high, 67 cm in circumference (outside bottom). It belonged to the Pioneer, the small steamboat used by the Zambezi Expedition (1858–1864), led by the missionary-explorer David Livingstone (1813–1873). When the bell was placed in the Princeton University Library by George W. Lyon, Class of 1896, on June 11, 1931, it was accompanied by the following letter.

Summit, N.J. Oct. 9th 1886

In delivering this bell . . . to my friend Mr. Lyon, I wish to make a statement in regard to the same, lest his may be doubted.

While a missionary in Africa under the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, I frequently saw and was a passenger upon the S.S. "Pioneer." It was built by the British Government especially for the use of Doctor Livingstone in his explorations of the Zambizi River, East Coast of Africa, and was in his service for that purpose for some time. On her deck the honored doctor's first [only] wife died—right under this very bell, it is said. As the "Pioneer's" draught was too deep for the purpose for which she was intended, this steamer was sold after a time to the French Government and taken to the West Coast but being found unprofitable for its purpose also, was sold to a trader at Gaboon by the name of John Holt, and by him to another Trading Firm—Walton & Cookson, Liverpool. As long as she was at all sea-worthy, she was used by them as a branch trading vessel in the vicinity of Gaboon.

At this present date she floats at the headwaters of the Gaboon River—a trading hulk. As near as I can remember her dimensions are as follows: Length—about 75 feet, Beam—18 feet, Draught, 6 feet. At my earnest and repeated solicitation Mr. Jobet, Walton & Cookson's Agent gave me per-



mission to possess myself of the "Pioneer's" Bell and I took it away from her deck with my own hands. This was in the Spring of 1883. At that time the poor steamer was in a very dilapidated condition, and was leaking constantly. . . .

H. M. Bachelor, M.D.

Medical Missionary at Gaboon, W.A.

July, 1879 to March, 1883.

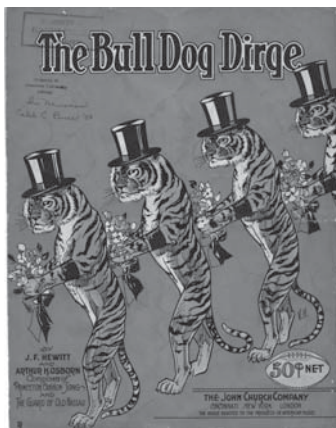
The main goal of the Zambezi Expedition, beyond extending knowledge of the geography and resources of the river's watershed, was to improve Great Britain's understanding of the inhabitants and to encourage them to cultivate their lands and produce raw materials that could be traded for manufactured goods. Livingstone argued that this industry would lead to the extinction of the slave trade, as natives would regard it as more practical, reliable, and profitable. Toward those ends, Livingstone used the Pioneer in his explorations of the lower Ruvuma, Zambezi, and Shire rivers during the years 1861–1864. When the expedition was recalled by the government, Livingstone delivered the ship to the British navy on the coast of Mozambique, from where it was towed to Cape Town for repair.

—John Delaney

Curator of Historic Maps

SOUNDTRACK OF THE CAMPUS

A new exhibition, "Tune Every Harp and Every Voice," draws upon the rich holdings of the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library to document more than two centuries of musical life on campus. The exhibition focuses primarily on the development and evolution of student vocal and instrumental groups, such as the Glee Club; *a cappella* groups like the Nassoons; the University Band and Orchestra; and now-defunct organizations like the Mandolin Club. Even students who did not participate formally in any of these groups are still connected to generations of other Princeton alumni through a now canonized corpus of songs extolling Princeton. The centerpiece of the exhibition, and in many ways the lodestone of Princeton music, is a section devoted to Princeton's most famous and enduring song, *Old Nassau*. The exhibition suggests that the history of music at Princeton can offer a unique per-



spective from which to view changes at the University as a whole.

Exhibition items include important, notable, and rare examples of song sheets, recordings, photographs, and class songbooks. Karl Langlotz's personal violin, upon which he composed *Old Nassau*, is featured along with examples of alterations in the song's lyrics, prompted by the ever-changing face of the University population. Songbooks printed for Senior Step Singing mark a favorite Princeton tradition, during which the class gathers on the lawn of Nassau Hall to sing the songs that reflect on their time on campus. Tickets, programs, and posters from concerts give testament to the varieties of musical expression that students found and were able to create for themselves. Albums on display include early recordings from the Marching Band, the Nassoons, student jazz bands, and groups formed by alumni returning for Reunions, and demonstrate the skill with which these groups were able to make their music available far beyond campus boundaries. Musical events on campus have been well documented by photographers, and the images on display range from group portraits of musical clubs dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, to the marching band in action, and spontaneous musical concerts held under Princeton's many arches.

The exhibition concludes with items reflecting the experiences of the classes of 1957 and 1982, which are celebrating their 50th and 25th anniversaries.

—Aaron Pickett, *Special Collections Assistant*,
on behalf of the *Mudd Library curatorial team*

LITERARY KNIGHTS COME TO PRINCETON

In the last two years, the Friends of the Princeton University Library have provided considerable financial support toward the acquisition of several important twentieth-century British literary archives, which fit well into the rich holdings of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collection on modern literature. With Friends support, the Library has now added the

papers of two leading British literary critics, who were both knighted because of their many contributions to the world of letters.

The papers of Sir Frank Kermode (b. 1919), former King Edward Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University (1974–1982), contain original typescripts and drafts of his more than forty published books. Also present are many uncollected essays spanning the years 1969–2003, as well as transcripts of numerous radio broadcasts. Some of the most significant files concern the resignation of Sir Frank and Stephen Spender from the editorial board of *Encounter* in 1967, after learning that the CIA had been covertly funding this literary journal. An extensive circle of major correspondents from the academic and literary world includes William Golding, William Empson, Kenneth Koch, Muriel Spark, and others.

Also acquired with Friends aid are the papers of Sir Israel Gollancz (1864–1930), including some five hundred letters from Edwin Abbott (author of *Flatland*), Arthur James Balfour, Sir James A. H. Murray, William Morris, George Bernard Shaw, and many others. The collection also contains a group of Gollancz's own manuscript lectures and notes. An eminent British scholar and professor at King's College, London, Gollancz specialized in Shakespeare and Middle English literature. He is best known as editor of *The Temple Shakespeare* (1894–1896) and for his work for the Early English Text Society. His involvement with various Jewish cultural organizations is also reflected in part in his papers. Gollancz was knighted in 1919.

The Kermode and Gollancz papers are just two examples of how the Friends, collectively and individually, make possible the purchase of materials critical to the continued development of many of the Library's most important collections.

—Don C. Skemer
Curator of Manuscripts



The Making of a Keepsake

In planning the March 4, 2007, tribute to Lynne and Robert Fagles, the Friends' Program Committee agreed that a letterpress keepsake should be produced. John Logan, Professor Joshua Katz, and I eventually decided to print four passages, each representing a scene relevant in some way to the celebration: two from *The Iliad*, one from *The Odyssey*, and one from *The Aeneid*. We also wanted to print the passages in the original text and in Robert Fagles's translation. The passage from Virgil required no special type font. The passages from Homer were another matter altogether. Princeton's Typography Studio had no Greek!

I queried an Internet list of letterpress printers and enthusiasts asking for sources of Greek monotype, that is, metal type. The replies pointed to various typefounders still producing metal type as well as printers having some Greek type in their collections. Because we wanted to be able to print ancient Greek, a character set was required that included all the accented vowels as well as all the separate marks for breathing and intonation—roughly 200 different pieces of type. These folks could not meet our needs. It was a bit disheartening to find that practical realities might be the undoing of our good idea.

A typefoundry in Switzerland finally answered my Internet call. It could produce a Greek type in metal in the quantity we wanted, for a price. In our good and redoubtable friend Dimitri Gondicas and the Program in Hellenic Studies, John found a willing and enthusiastic partner to share the cost of the type with the Library. Now the only practical reality we had to worry about was time. We asked that the typefounder ship the package by air freight.

In anticipation of the arrival of the Greek type, I composed the *Aeneid* passage, which was the longest of the four selections but the least complicated to set in type. Combining the Latin and English on one sheet of paper proved a design challenge. I settled on a long narrow strip of paper, with enough white space around the text to give a pleasing composition. One thing led to another, and the long thin form

reminded me of something. The *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, and *Aeneid* would have been written down on scrolls. Rolling up the *Aeneid* into this form would provide a wonderfully symbolic presentation for all four passages, each of which would be printed on a separate sheet of paper. The final touch was designing something to hold four rolled sheets together. The cigar band came to mind immediately. The keepsake was printed, rolled, and banded with time to spare. And the rest of the story, everyone at the celebratory dinner knows.

—Robert Milevski
Preservation Librarian



Best-Sellers . . .

family with a sibling she liked would not provide her with enough “anguish.” She chose instead to write about what she was willing to learn. Each of Picoult’s books is meticulously researched for a period of weeks or months. She described her experiences working in a firehouse, studying the early-twentieth-century debate about eugenics and its effects on the Abenaki American Indian population, and, for her current book, interviewing victims of school shootings. It was clear that the skills she honed at Princeton have helped her to become the writer she is today. Picoult joked that she still gets nervous in front of her professors, referring to two of her most influential English professors who were in the audience.

“I’ve been waiting a long time to be asked to come back to Princeton,” Picoult said, and she was grateful that the Student Friends was the first group to invite her to return to campus. A little over an hour later, Picoult was at a local bookstore for an appearance that drew at least 350 fans. She read a brief excerpt from her new novel and answered a few questions, but most of her time was spent autographing books and taking pictures with fans. It was easy to appreciate the unique and intimate opportunity the Friends had to visit with one of today’s most popular authors.

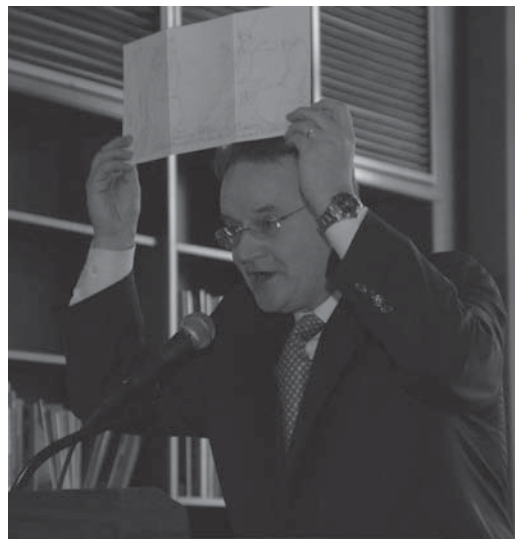
—Lisa Dunkley
Student Friends Liaison

Friends Annual Winter Dinner, March 4, 2007
A Tribute to Lynne and Robert Fagles



Photographs by David Hunsinger

Lynne Fagles with her portrait by Mary Bundy.



Professor Andrew Ford at the readings.



Millard Riggs, Amelie Escher, Karin Trainer, Elizabeth Linder, and Robert Ruben at the reception.



Ben Primer and Shirley Tilghman with James C. Park, Class of 2007.



Above: Elena Schneider received the 2006 Prize for Outstanding Scholarship by a Graduate Student from Associate Dean of the Graduate School David Redman (left) and Marvin Harold Cheiten.

Left: Winners of the 2007 Elmer Adler Undergraduate Book Collecting Prizes: Rahul Mehra (third prize), Kendall Turner (first), and P. G. Sittenfeld (second).

THE FRIENDS' CALENDAR

Exhibitions and Related Events



MAIN EXHIBITION GALLERY, FIRESTONE LIBRARY

To the Mountains of the Moon: Mapping African Exploration, 1541–1880

April 15 – October 21

Gallery tours with curator John Delaney: May 6, 4:00 pm;
June 1, 10:00 am; July 1, 4:00 pm; September 9, 4:00 pm

LEONARD L. MILBERG GALLERY FOR THE GRAPHIC ARTS

***Boris Godunov*, A World Premiere: Pushkin, Prokofiev, Meyerhold**

April 1 – September 4

Gallery tours with curator Paula Matthews: June 2,
2:00 pm; September 2, 11:00 am

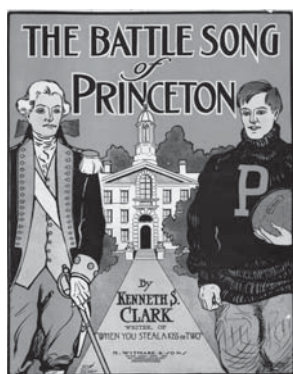


WIESS LOUNGE, SEELEY G. MUDD MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
65 OLDEN STREET

Tune Every Harp and Every Voice

February 15 – July 27

Open for Reunions, June 2, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Gallery Hours (call 609-258-3184 for holiday hours)

Until June 11: weekdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Wednesdays to 8:00 pm); weekends, noon to 5:00 pm (except Mudd Library)

June 11 – September 4: weekdays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (Wednesdays in June and July to 7:30 pm); weekends, noon to 5 pm (except Mudd Library)

More Events

Annual Spring Bus Trip, May 8: To the Morgan Library and the private library of Sid Lapidus '59

FRIENDS OF THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

THE LIBRARY, ONE WASHINGTON ROAD, PRINCETON, NJ 08544