



NEWSLETTER

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LIBERTY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

“Liberty and the American Revolution,” the upcoming exhibition in the Main Gallery at Firestone Library, celebrates 50 years of book collecting by Sid Lapidus ’59, as well as the 50th reunion of his class.

The exhibition features 157 important books, pamphlets, and prints exemplary of the major themes of Lapidus’s collecting: the intellectual origins of the American Revolution, the Revolution itself, the early years of the Republic, the spread of democratic ideas in the Atlantic world, and the concomitant effort to abolish the slave trade in both Great Britain and the United States. These items, presented as gifts to the Library on the occasion of the exhibition, were selected from more than 2,500 books in the Lapidus collection because each offers a distinctive voice in telling the story of expanding liberty. The books range in date from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the nineteenth. Their authors vary widely: young and old, male and female, black and white, learned and self-taught. Yet, through them all, one can hear these voices returning to themes still very much with us today, such as the characteristics of a just society and respect for the equality of fellow human beings.

A 200-page illustrated catalogue will provide a permanent record of the exhibition. In the foreword, Lapidus reflects on why he focused on the eighteenth century. “I’m not clear in my own mind,” he writes, “but it just seemed that it was the seminal time for the development of the ideas and the unfolding of the events that so interested me.” An introductory essay by Sean Wilentz, the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the American Revolutionary Era, insightfully places the books in the context of their revolutionary times, and the entry for each book provides a descriptive note plus a substantial, representative quotation (see next page).

The Friends of the Library are invited to attend a celebration for exhibition on Friday, June 5. Professor Wilentz will present a lecture, “‘The Cause of All Mankind’: Liberty and the American Revolution,” at 4 p.m. at 101 McCormick, followed by a reception in the Main Gallery at Firestone Library. “Liberty and the American Revolution” will be on view from May 28, 2009, to January 3, 2010.

—*Stephen Ferguson*
Curator of Rare Books



C. N. Cochin (1715–1790). Benjamin Franklin. [Augsburg, 1777]. Mezzotint by Johann Martin Will (1727–1806).

Examining Franklin

Excerpts from *The Examination of Doctor Benjamin Franklin, before an August Assembly, Relating to the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, &c.* ([Philadelphia, 1766]), 1, 3–4, as printed in the catalogue of the exhibition “Liberty and the American Revolution.”

Q. What is your name, and place of abode.

A. Franklin, of Philadelphia.

Q. Do the Americans pay any considerable taxes among themselves?

A. Certainly many, and very heavy taxes.

Q. What are the present taxes in Pennsylvania, laid by the laws of the Colony?

A. There are taxes on all estates real and personal, a poll tax, a tax on all offices, professions, trades and businesses, according to their profits; an excise on all wine, rum, and other spirits; and a duty of Ten Pounds per head on all Negroes imported, with some other duties.

Q. For what purposes are those taxes laid?

A. For the support of the civil and military establishments of the country, and to discharge the heavy debt contracted in the last war. . . .

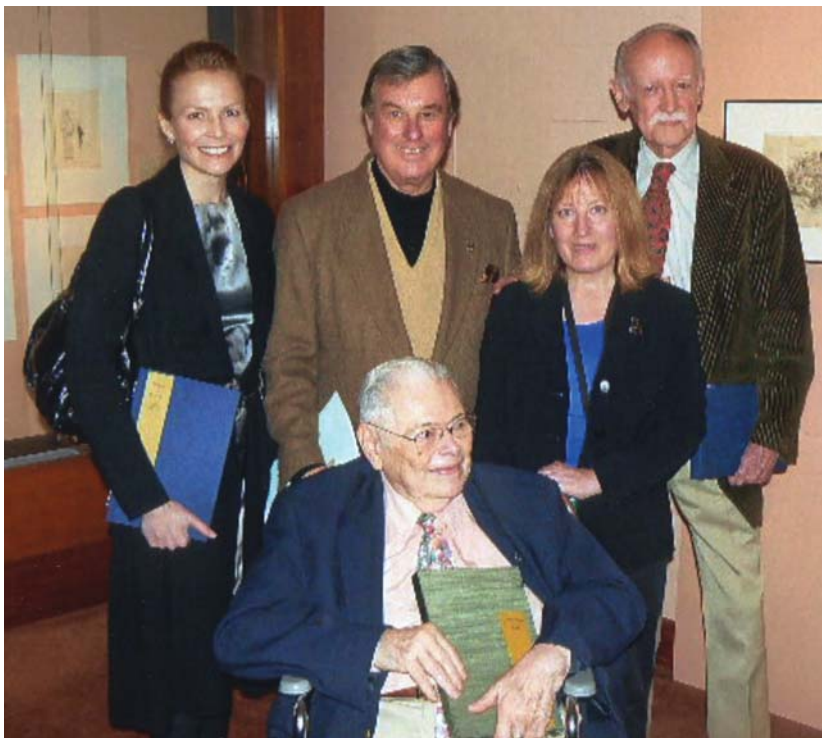
Q. What was the temper of America towards Great-Britain before the year 1763?

A. The best in the world. They submitted willingly to the government of the Crown, and paid, in all their courts, obedience to acts of parliament. Numerous as the people are in the several old provinces, they cost you nothing in forts, citadels, garrisons or armies, to keep them in subjection. They were governed by this country at the expense only of a little pen, ink and paper. They were led by a thread. They had not only a respect, but an affection, for Great-Britain, for its laws, its customs and manners, and even a fondness for its fashions, that greatly increased the commerce. Natives of Britain were always treated with particular regard; to be an Old England-man, was, of itself, a character of some respect, and gave a kind of rank among us.

Q. And what is their temper now?

A. O, very much altered.

Honoring Gillett



On January 25 the Friends hosted a reception for the opening of “Beauty & Bravado in Japanese Woodblock Prints: Highlights from the Gillett G. Griffin Collection Given in Honor of Dale Roylance.” The beautiful and insightful catalogue of that exhibition, designed by Mark Argetsinger and with an introductory essay by Laura J. Mueller, has proved to be one of the Library’s best-sellers. The exhibition remains on view through June 7. In conjunction with the Friends’ annual meeting on May 3, Julie Davis, professor of art history at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak about “Making Pictures for the Floating World: Ukiyo-e Artists and Publishers” at 3 p.m. in 101 McCormick.

Laura Mueller, Gillett Griffin, Millard Riggs, Julie Mellby, and Dale Roylance at the exhibition opening. Courtesy of Millard Riggs.

MUDD HAS MUCH TO CELEBRATE

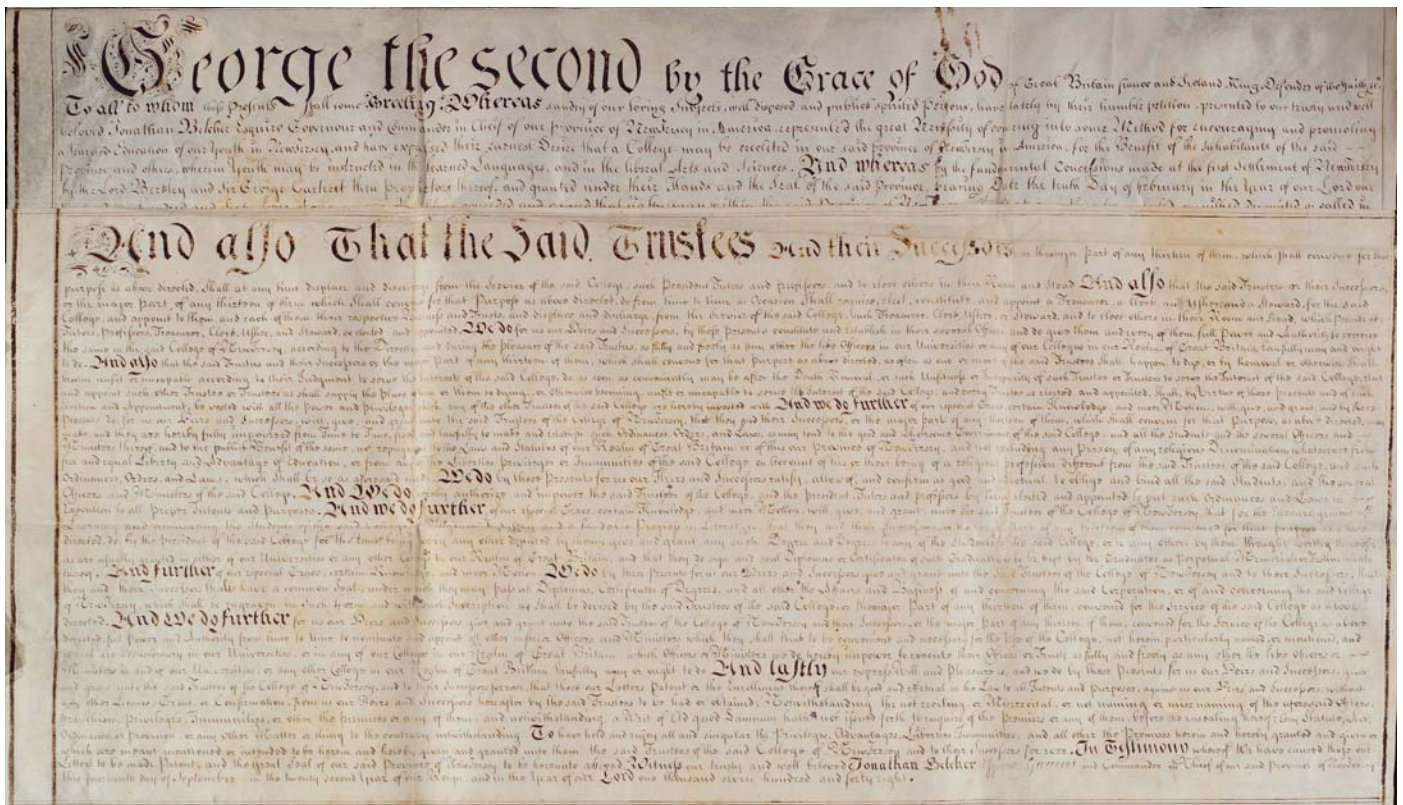
A yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University Archives in October 1959 is underway. The exhibition in the Wiess Lounge, "The Best Old Place of All," is crammed with rarely seen documents, photographs, and ephemera, from the earliest surviving degree awarded by the College of New Jersey to an e-mail recounting some events in the daily life of a recent graduate. A special presentation will occur on May 29 and 30, during Reunions, and on October 10, during Parents' Weekend. The 1748 charter of the College of New Jersey, the founding document under which the University continues to operate, will be taken out of climate-controlled storage and placed on view (see detail below).

The Archives can thank a group of alumni for amazing recent acquisitions. The Princetoniana Committee undertakes a broad range of projects focused on assuring the stewardship of Princeton's history. Numerous members monitor eBay for Princeton-related material and on several occasions have purchased items for the Archives, including a student scrapbook compiled by William Alsop Bours, Class of 1904, that featured two previously unknown photographs of Woodrow Wil-

son's 1902 inauguration. It was purchased through the generosity of Dave Cleaves '78, Scott Clemmons '90, Donald Farren '58, and Sev Onyshkevych '83. The seller had advertised the Woodrow Wilson images but had made no mention of the image of Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain), whose photograph was on the same page.



Finally, Mudd Library recently announced the completion of the processing of the papers of diplomat and historian George F. Kennan, Class of 1925. Working with a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, project archivist Adriane Hanson integrated the 16 linear feet of the open collection with more than 100 linear feet of previously restricted materials. Researchers can now access extensive correspondence files and unpublished diaries and other writings from 1950 to 2000.



GENEROUS GRANTS, INTRIGUING ACQUISITIONS

GRANTS

The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections has received four grants that will help to make important items in several collections more accessible to researchers. Two grants came from the David Gardner Magic Fund, the gift of Lynne Shostack in memory of her husband, David Gardner, Class of 1969.

The first of these, proposed by Julie Mellby, will permit the Library to convert more than 800 reels of silent French films to digital format. The films, which include natural history subjects, animation, biography, current events, and multi-reel comedies and dramas, were acquired by the Graphic Arts Collection with the purchase of a Pathé Baby home projector. The 9.5 mm films made for this innovative product came in small cassettes holding approximately 30 feet of film, and they play for around 60 seconds. These films are of enormous interest to many Princeton professors who use films in their courses.



The second Gardner grant, proposed by Don Skemer and Professor Wendy Belcher, a new faculty member in Comparative Literature, will enable Kesis Melaku Terefe, an Ethiopian scholar specializing in

manuscripts written in Ge'ez (the sacred, liturgical, and classical language of Ethiopia), to enhance existing online descriptions of Ethiopic bound manuscripts in the Manuscripts Division. The Princeton University Library has one of the largest collections of Ethiopic manuscripts in the world, including approximately 155 codices and 489 magic scrolls. The principal holdings were the gift of Robert Garrett, Class of 1897. In recent years, these holdings have been expanded by generous donations (principally of magic scrolls) from Bruce C. Willsie, Class of 1986.

Two other grants came from the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey. One will fund a project proposed by Steve Ferguson to recatalogue more than 400 American imprints dating before 1776. These volumes, printed chiefly in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and New Jersey, range from instructive children's books to Jonathan Edwards's *The Great Christian Doctrine of Original Sin Defended* (Boston, 1758). Unique are a number of imprints relating to the colonial days of the College of New Jersey, such as *The Delaware Lottery, . . . for the Use of the College of New-Jersey* (Wilmington, 1772). Some copies of these colonial imprints belonged to important figures such as John Witherspoon.

The second grant supports preservation work on the 1746 Charter of Princeton University, which will be displayed on May 29 and 30 and October 10 as part of the exhibition at Mudd Library celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University Archives.

—Ben Primer

*Associate University Librarian for
Rare Books and Special Collections*

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Graphic Arts Collection has acquired an unusual and interesting mapmaker's traveling printing case, dating from the 1860s, which was intended for military use in the field. The compact buckram-clad case (9" × 6.75" × 2.5"), with brass hinges, two swivel locks, and a carrying handle, houses 63 brass printing blocks bearing a selection of numbers (Roman and Arabic), military symbols, and topographic features, like trees, each in its own compartment (though a

couple are empty). Also included are seven miniature glass bottles of ink (now dry) with glass and cork stoppers, whose colors match those in the sections of an accompanying ink pad. Five small, squat, refill bottles (also dry), some of which still bear the label of Dagron & C[ompagn]ie, occupy a compartment underneath the pad.



Presumably the brass printing blocks would have been set in a hand-held “form” and “stamped” onto pre-existing printed topographic maps—“on the fly,” as it were—so that military officials could more clearly plan and interpret maneuvers and strategies on the battlefield. The provenance of the case—from the U.S. South—suggests that it might have seen use in the American Civil War. Some contemporary Civil War maps viewed on the Internet do bear similar identification marks, but this association needs further research.

Although the case displays no maker’s name, Dagron & Cie is known to have been active during the 1860s in Paris producing photographs, one of which (a portrait of Alexandre Dumas) is held by the National Portrait Gallery in London. René Prudent Patrice Dagron (1819–1900) had trained as a chemist before becoming a photographer. On June 21, 1859, he was granted the first microfilm patent in history. During the 1870–71 siege of Paris by the Prussian armies, Dagron convinced French military authorities to use his microfilming process to send messages across enemy lines via carrier pigeon. More than 115,000 messages were delivered to Paris with this method.

—John Delaney
Curator of Historic Manuscripts

With help from the Friends of the Library, the Manuscripts Division has acquired selected papers of Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849–1924) dating from the 1880s to the 1920s. An English-American author of novels, plays, and short stories, Burnett is best known today for three children’s books: *The Secret Garden*, *A Little Princess*, and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. The materials include 400 autograph letters and 15 autograph postcards from Burnett to her son Vivian and other family members, two original drawings by Reginald Birch for the first edition of *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, a sketch by Henry James, who was Burnett’s neighbor in Kent, England, and two *Little Lord Fauntleroy* costumes (velvet, lace, and silk), which Burnett had



made for Vivian and in which he posed for photographs (also in the collection).

The Manuscripts Division already holds more than 300 letters by Burnett, chiefly in the Archives of Charles Scribner’s Sons. In addition, most of the original manuscript of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* is in the Wilkinson Collection of Mary Mapes Dodge. It lacks only the first chapter, which is part of this purchase, thus making the manuscript complete. Although at least one Burnett scholar has had access to these materials, for the most part the correspondence remains to be studied in a comprehensive way.

—Don C. Skemer
Curator of Manuscripts

PRINCETON'S BIBLIOPHILES

Since 1996 a small group drawn from the membership of the Friends of the Princeton University Library has met one Sunday afternoon a month during the academic year to discuss or to hear presentations about books, graphic arts, bibliographical matters, the history of printing and publishing, the book arts, preservation, and the collecting of printed and manuscript matter of all kinds. All members of the Friends, serious collectors or not, are encouraged to consider the pleasure of an hour spent talking and learning about these subjects.

The meetings of the Princeton Bibliophiles and Collectors include numerous types of programs. We often have presentations by invited speakers, such as Robert Anderson, the retired director of the British Museum. Nicholas Basbanes entertained us shortly after one of his popular books about book collectors and collecting had appeared. More recently, local scholar Karen Reeds spoke about the library of Linnaeus, and Associate University Librarian for Collection Development David Magier introduced us to "The Challenges and Rewards of Global Matchcover Collecting." Of local interest, New Jersey's chief archivist, Joseph Klett, described the very important East Jersey documents purchased by the state in 2005.

Presentations by members of the group are very popular. These have included talks about collections

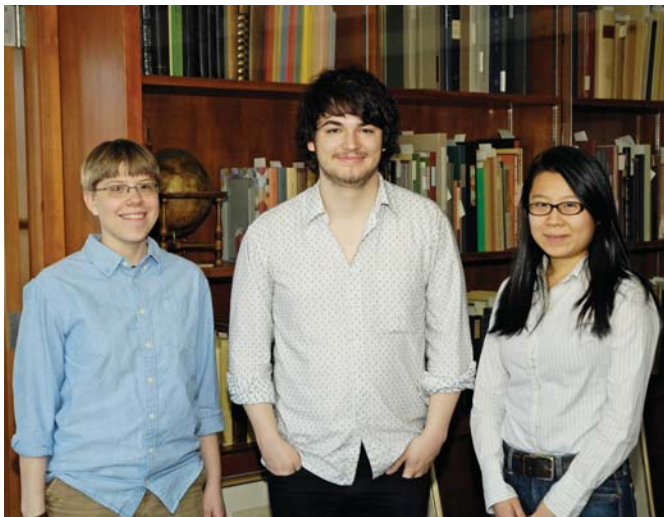
and about a wide variety of ongoing research. The collecting and scholarly interests of the current members are very broad. Among the impressive private collections we have heard about are modern fine press publications, early music manuscripts and printed music, artists' books, early medicine, Aldine Press publications, publications and graphics associated with Winston Churchill, movable and pop-up books, the works of Emily Dickinson, Ethiopic magic scrolls, and graphic arts for the illustration of scientific works. In most cases, the speakers bring items to show. Ever popular are the "Collectors' Showcase" meetings, for which we encourage all attendees to bring something and talk about it for five or so minutes.

One or two social meetings, including the very popular December dinner meeting, are scheduled each year. In some years we have visited the home of a member to view a collection and enjoy a light repast.

Meetings of the Princeton Bibliophiles and Collectors are usually held in Firestone Library on the third Sunday afternoon of the month during the academic year. We invite all members of the Friends to consider joining this circle of like-minded individuals who gather to share their appreciation and enjoyment of books and bibliographical matters of all kinds. Please contact Ronald K. Smeltzer (609-924-4789) with any questions and enquiries.

Adler Prize Winners

Photograph by John Blazejewski



The Elmer Adler Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting will be awarded at the Friends' annual spring dinner on May 3. The winners, pictured here from left to right, are Emily Rutherford (second prize), Jac Mullen (first prize), and Cindy Hong (third prize). Mullen won for his essay "A Zealous Declaration," which describes his passion for twentieth-century novels. Collecting seems to run in his family. Hearing about the prize, his grandfather gave him a copy of the Spring 1965 *Chronicle*, which featured a checklist of writings by his great-grandfather, Princeton Professor Gilbert Chinard, who donated books and manuscripts to the Library. "More to the point," Mullen told prize administrator Julie Mellby, "the issue was introduced by an essay my great-grandfather wrote about (of all things) book collecting!"

Friends Annual Winter Dinner, December 13, 2008



Friends enjoyed the spaces of the Carl Icahn Lab



Featured speaker
Tavis Smiley



Richard and Susan Brown with Cornel West



Farah Peterson received the 2008 Prize for Outstanding Scholarship by a Graduate Student from Associate Dean of the Graduate School David Redman (left) and Marvin Harold Cheiten, who donated the prize

Photographs by David Hunsinger

Library Road Show, Chancellor Green, March 29, 2009



Valerie Young with Don Skemer, Curator of Manuscripts



Paper Conservator Ted Stanley assists some guests

THE FRIENDS' CALENDAR

Exhibitions and Related Events



MAIN EXHIBITION GALLERY, FIRESTONE LIBRARY

Egypt Unveiled: The Mission of Napoleon's Savants

Closes May 10

Liberty and the American Revolution: Selections from the Collection of Sid Lapidus, Class of 1959

May 28, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Friday, June 5, 4 p.m.: Lecture by Professor Sean Wilentz, 101 McCormick, followed by exhibition reception.

LEONARD L. MILBERG GALLERY FOR THE GRAPHIC ARTS

Beauty and Bravado in Japanese Woodblock Prints: Highlights from the Gillett G. Griffin Collection

Closes June 7

Imagerie populaire: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century French Illustrated Broadsides from the Cotsen Collection

July 10, 2009 – January 24, 2010



SEELEY G. MUDD MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, 65 OLDEN STREET

"The Best Old Place of All": Treasures from the Princeton University Archives

Through January 29, 2010

Viewing of the University charter: Friday, May 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. to noon; Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Until June 8: weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Wednesdays to 8:00 pm); weekends, noon to 5:00 p.m. (except Mudd Library)

June 8–September 8: weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays in June and July to 7:30 p.m.); weekends, noon to 5:00 p.m. (except Mudd Library)

FRIENDS OF THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

THE LIBRARY, ONE WASHINGTON ROAD, PRINCETON, NJ 08544