



NEWSLETTER OF THE
DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
ISSUE NO. 23, SPRING 2008

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Visions

Delving into the Kornitzer Collection

THE VALUE OF ARCHIVAL RESEARCH FOR UNDERGRADUATES

By Dr. Ashley Carter

With the excitement of approaching the unknown, Laura Barclay and I last fall opened a thick file folder of documents that we realized virtually no one except its author had probably ever seen before. There were typed letters, hand-written notes, unedited first drafts, and unique photographs. The material had belonged to the deceased Hungarian writer Bela Kornitzer, whose collected papers were bequeathed to the Drew Library by his sister, Alicia Kornitzer Karpati.

Kornitzer came to the United States in 1948 and wrote about famous fathers and sons. Of particular interest to us was his correspondence with Albert Einstein and the physicist's elder son,

Hans Albert. This led to the first interview granted to anyone by Hans Albert, then a professor of engineering at the University of California in Berkeley. Kornitzer's interview was published as a magazine article and as a chapter in a book copyrighted by the author. However, it has almost completely escaped the notice of historians. Laura and I had found something we couldn't ignore.

Over a period of several months, there followed many

continued on page 5



Delving into Special Collections, Senior Laura Barclay and Dr. Ashley Carter explore documents related to Albert Einstein and his son, Hans Albert, among the letters and papers of Bela Kornitzer.

A. Magrelli

Inside

Dean's Corner	2
Recent Gifts	3
Letter to the Editor	3
Research on the Drew Campus	4
Computer Science Class Develops Software	6
Professional News	7
Exhibits	8

SPANISH CIVIL WAR PORTRAYED THROUGH CHILDREN'S ART

By Henry Dougherty, G'96

Drew University is hosting a traveling exhibit of historic children's drawings and photographs by Robert Capa in, "They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art from the Spanish Civil War." The drawings are the product of war seen through the eyes of children who experienced the 20th century Spanish Civil War. The fierce conflict, which was fought unsuccessfully from 1936-39 to protect the elected Republic from falling into the hands of Fascists, resulted in the rise to power of one of the major dictators in Europe, Francisco Franco.

The cruel nature of civil war was compounded in the Iberian conflict by the presence of foreign fighters on both

sides. Many of the children who drew these pictures were refugees of bombing raids by the German Luftwaffe's Condor Legion. The war in Spain was the first conflict in which aerial bombing of civilian targets was deliberately pursued, and the sight of airplanes overhead loomed in the minds of these young artists. The Spanish Republic, the democratically elected and legitimate government of Spain, removed some 200,000 children from the front lines and relocated them away from the fighting. Some were placed in "Colonias Infantiles," or children's colonies, where they were encouraged to draw as a form of art therapy, to help them cope with the brutality they had

continued on page 5

THE DEAN'S CORNER

THE EXPANDING BOUNDARIES OF COOPERATION

A few days ago I received an e-mail from a library that was trying to find a home for a card catalog—one of those classic, wooden chests with abundant drawers. I was tempted to claim it and move it to my basement, since the cabinets are ideal for wine storage. But I resisted, having won high praise recently from my wife for reducing the clutter on the lower level of our house.



Shelley Kuznetz

The card catalog is a handsome antique from our pre-computer days. Most of the students on our campus—and half of the faculty—have never had the experience of rifling through cards in those long trays. The abandonment of this quintessential library furniture twenty years ago heralded a paradigm shift. The computer became the portal to library collections and services, and automation trumped manual operations. But the transformation did not stop there.

The new technologies enabled librarians to think about new and radical ways to work with other libraries. Consortia were formed and inter-library cooperation—indeed inter-library dependency—became *de rigueur*. Now it is impossible to think about our library as being an entity unto itself. Consider:

- The on-line catalog itself is the product of hundreds of cooperating libraries. We do not need to catalog a book if it has already been processed by a library adhering to national and international standards. We simply accept it into our catalog. Consequently, we are able to spend more time and energy on books for which no cataloging is available. We contribute those unique records to the international OCLC database and other libraries then use them.
- We provide research assistance to our students literally around the clock—24/7—in a chat room mode because reference librarians across the country take their turn at staffing the service. No single library could ever think about offering such a service on its own.
- Our library offers a rich array of databases and on-line, full-text journals. This wealth of resources is in signifi-

cant measure the result of being part of consortia that negotiate with vendors on behalf of their members for more favorable rates. VALE, the academic library consortium of New Jersey, enjoys a laudable record in these negotiations, and we are the grateful beneficiary.

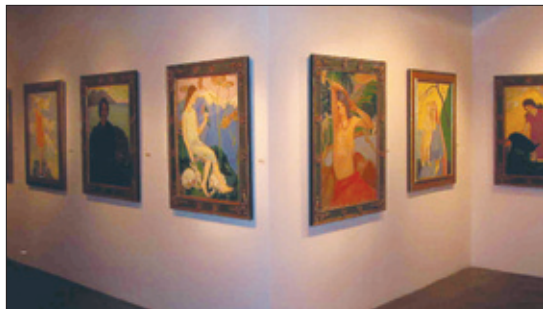
- Most VALE libraries allow faculty from participating libraries to borrow books from their collections (with the appropriate letter from their home library). Many provide the same service to graduate students, and a pilot project is under way to extend that service to undergraduates.

Now the spirit of cooperation is infiltrating a domain long controlled by corporations. I refer to the realm of software development. You may think that I've stepped into esoteric territory, but hold on for a few more sentences. The computer system that runs the catalog, including modules for Web searching, circulation, cataloging, and acquisitions, is purchased from a company and at a fancy annual fee. While the system functions fairly well, it does not include many enhancements that we covet. Some of these enhancements are available from our current vendor, but most often at prohibitive cost. Librarians and software developers have now taken matters into their own hands and begun to develop software that can be freely used and modified by anyone without fee. This development is known as "open source."

Major projects are emerging as individual libraries and groups of libraries experiment with creating systems on their own. As Andy Guess recently wrote, libraries now "wonder whether it would make more long-term financial sense to hire more developers than to continue paying for products over which they have limited control."¹ The Mellon Foundation is putting its monetary muscle behind major experiments with open source code, and the VALE libraries are looking to open-source alternatives in their efforts to create a more responsive, cost-effective library system for its members.

The spirit of cooperation has long flourished in libraries, and no end of it is in sight. Thank goodness.

¹ *Inside Higher ED*: "News: Views and Careers for All of Higher Education." February 19, 2008. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/02/19/opensource>



Paintings by Willa Cather friends Earl and Achsah Brewster, in a recent exhibit at ACA Galleries in New York.

RECENT GIFTS

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following gifts.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Robert and Professor Emerita
Lucille Becker
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Dr. Sloane Drayson-Knigge
Dr. Robert G. Gardner
George Quillan
Mrs. Bertha Thompson
Linda Van Wert
Dr. Susan Elizabeth Walsh
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Trey Oakley
Franklin and Betty Parker
Harold J. Peters
Professor Emeritus Kenneth E. Rowe
Dr. Robert J. Williams

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

R.S. THOMAS AND GOD

[Ed.'s Note: Responding to an article in our Fall 2007 issue, "The R.S. Thomas Collection," by Brandon Fralix, The Rev. John McEllhenney draws our attention to the poet's growing reputation. McEllhenney is the donor to the University of a major collection devoted to Thomas.]

To the Editor:

Certainly I am pleased with the article about the Thomas Collection. The photograph of R.S. is my favorite, a rare smile that, in fact, was not all that rare when you got to know him.

What is making Thomas, in my opinion, and that of many authorities, a poet whose reputation can only grow, are his God-obsessed poems. While his earlier attention focused "on nature, Wales, and the Welsh people," (Fralix), Thomas wrote increasingly about God from 1968 on. Obituary writers in 2000, and other interpreters are ranking him with John Donne and George Herbert as the three greatest poets writing about God in English. Thomas's reputation is growing in the British Isles, where the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is a significant proponent, as well as in the United States; in Japan, his poetry is featured in a novel written by Kenzaburo Oe, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Two American scholars recently published books about Thomas's religious poetry: William J. McGill, *Poets' Meeting: George Herbert, R. S. Thomas, and the Argument with God* (2004); William V. Davis, *R. S. Thomas: Poetry and Theology* (2007).

Rev. John McEllhenney, T'59

Visions

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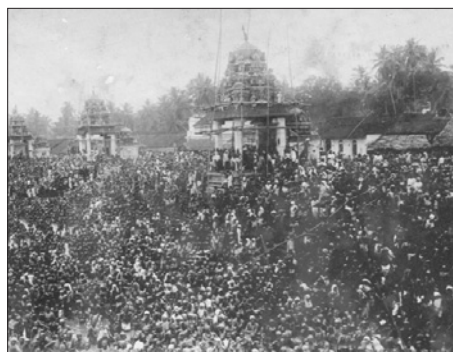
Research on the Drew Campus

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS CAPTURE HISTORY AND CULTURE

By Morris L. Davis

*Assistant Professor in the History of Christianity
and Wesleyan/Methodist Studies, Drew Theological School*

In the early twentieth century, leaders in the Methodist mission movement in the United States began to recognize the power of new visual media to grab people's attention and leave strong and convincing images in their minds. The vast and sophisticated collection of photographs and lantern slides created by the Methodist Episcopal Church was at the leading edge of the increasingly visual culture of the United States. What remains of their great investment is a collection at the United Methodist Archives on the Drew campus. The collection consists of approximately 250,000 photographs from 50 countries on every continent but Australia and was originally used as a catalog of images for public lectures in churches. In addition to picturing missionary encounters with people and places

*Preaching with phonograph, China.**Kodambakam Festival, South India, where multitudes wait for the golden idol.*

around the world, many of the images capture disturbing and dehumanizing aspects of culture and history, such as evidence of genocide, extreme poverty, and racial exploitation. The mission boards that created and used these images hoped to convince audiences of the extreme suffering in the world, and that those in need depended on the churches for their help.

While most of the photographs seem to date from the early 20th century through the 1920s, the collection includes images taken from the late 1860s through the 1930s. The photographs were "lost" for several decades, then uncovered in a warehouse on 125th Street in Manhattan in the 1960s, and finally brought to the Archives at Drew in the 1980s.

The collection presents wonderful research opportunities across several disciplines. With a generous grant from

*Lyons, France. "There passes on the streets of Lyons a terrible constant procession of widows."**Typical mountain home, Pittman Center, Tennessee.*

the University's Presidential Initiatives Fund, I have been working through the collection for several years. Besides the obvious benefits of the collection—rare and high-quality images from all over the world of cities, towns, villages, people, and their cultural practices and religious rituals—the collection also allows us to think about the ways in which photographs shaped the way Americans began to imagine the world outside the United States. In other words, the photographs tell us not only about the worlds of those being viewed, but also about the worlds of the viewers, and thus help us understand the very early development of our visual culture lexicon.

For more information about research materials at the Methodist Archives, contact Archivist Dr. Dale Patterson, at 973-408-3195, dpatters@gcah.org, or Mark Shenise, Associate Archivist, at 973-408-3194, mshenise@gcah.org.

Photographs: Collection of the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, Madison, New Jersey

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

continued from page 1

sobering moments. Hans Albert's benign depiction in the interview of life with his father was distinctly different from the stormy relationship revealed in other historical accounts, most of them based on recently available letters of the two men. We wondered: Were the questions posed by Kornitzer to Hans Albert conditioned by the journalist's relationship to his own autocratic father whom, he reasoned, Einstein could not possibly resemble? Was the timing of the interview significant? Hans Albert was 47 and his father was 72, ill with a life-threatening aneurysm. Had Hans Albert made up

with his father, who had often treated him cruelly? Had he forgiven him for leaving his mother? Or had he chosen to varnish the truth because Albert had only a few years to live? Did he fully trust Kornitzer, who was to him a comparative stranger?

The Kornitzer papers were only the beginning of Laura's research. She found numerous relevant sources and eventually wrote an enlightening 40-page paper entitled "Einstein and His Son Hans Albert: A Fresh Look at Their Relationship."

Laura's experience illustrates the value of undergraduates using resources in archival collections. Students learn

new techniques of information discovery, analysis, and evaluation. They gain a sense of intimacy with people who lived in a different time. And they come to understand that written history is a reflection of an author's interpretation of events. The search for historical truth is rarely totally objective and is always provisional. We ask: What really happened? How do we know?

Ash Carter is Director of The Dana Research Institute (RISE) and Adjunct Professor of Physics. He is interested in the history of science and teaches a course on the history of 20th century physics.

Laura Barclay is a senior, majoring in physics and medieval studies.

Abraham Lincoln Brigades Archives



Robert Capa photo of boys drawing in a children's colony

SPANISH CIVIL WAR

continued from page 1

witnessed and separation from family.

The power of their drawings lies in the innocence of the artists and lack of motive or need to sell an image. Yet these images from the 1930s serve as a reminder to the present day viewer of the capacity of children to bear witness to wars where people of all ages are on the receiving end of what is often described as smart or intelligent weaponry.

"They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art in Wartime" was curated by Anthony

L. Geist and Peter N. Carroll for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives, Inc. of New York. The original Spanish Civil War materials are owned by the Avery Library of Columbia University and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives. The exhibition was made possible at Drew with support from the Office of the Dean of the College, the Spanish Department, the European Studies Program, and the Library. Professor of Spanish Mónica Cantero coordinated the effort to bring the exhibit to Drew, where it will be on view in the Library Gallery through May 30.

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COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS DEVELOPS SOFTWARE FOR CAMPUS LIBRARY

By James Farrugia, Ph.D., Systems and Electronic Resources Librarian

Last fall, students and faculty in Computer Science, staff from Computing and Network Services, and several librarians joined forces in an unprecedented campus software development project designed to benefit Drew library users. The goal of the collaboration—to improve search results for people using the library catalog—was realized through a software prototype available at <http://bob.drew.edu/DrewLibrary>. Patrons searching the catalog by keyword can now obtain more useful results ranked by relevance, instead of the default order supplied by the catalog.

The students from CSCI 100 worked with Professor Shannon Bradshaw, Director of the Computer Science Program, and Systems Librarian Jim Farrugia to parse and index the catalog records. “We were looking for a software project with real clients where the students could learn particular programming skills, and also be exposed to the social processes of working with a group of clients. We were fortunate that the Library and CNS were available to work with us on a project that was ideally suited to the content of the course,” explained Bradshaw. “It was stimulating to work with an interested



Computer Science students in Professor Shannon Bradshaw's CSCI 100 class met the challenge of software development for their real life client, the Library. Participating in the project, left to right: Jim Farrugia, Systems Librarian; John O'Meara; Professor Bradshaw, Chair of Computer Science; Scott Bransdorfer; David Thorpe, (standing); Max Pike; Milfranc Evra, (standing); and Axel Larsson, of Computing and Network Services. Not pictured: Lauren Koed and Paul Becker, both CSCI 100 students

cross-section of the University. The breadth of experience we were able to offer students—including systems programming skills, an acquaintance with the structure of the library's catalog records, and the creation of a working, useful search-engine prototype—was tremendously valuable.”

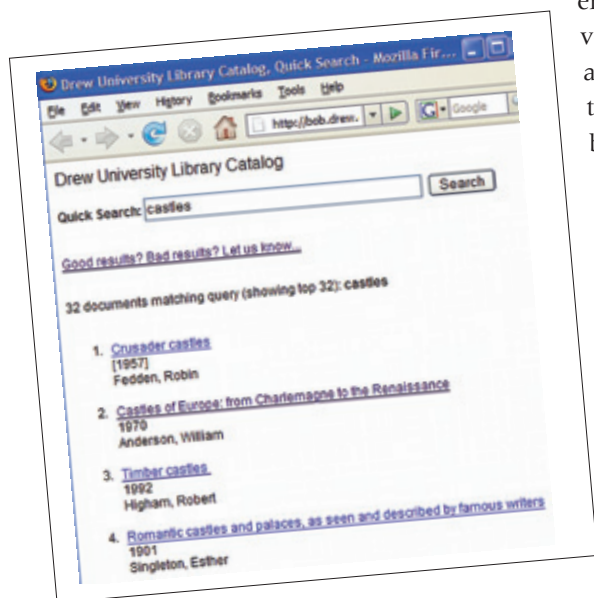
Axel Larsson, Enterprise Integration Specialist for CNS, provided the necessary hardware and software configurations so that students could focus on the tasks of parsing and indexing the catalog records. Larsson, an alumnus of the CSCI program himself, commented, “The students were really engaged and enthusiastic about the project. It's very powerful motivation to be able to work on something real that is going to be used by and benefit their fellow students.”

Elise Zappas, Humanities and Theological Cataloger, was invited to attend class to contribute her expertise in the semantics of the subject headings, which had to be understood well in order to create an index that made sense and returned appropriate results. Zappas noted, “[The students] asked excellent questions and were surprised, I think, at the intricacy of the

bibliographic record and the vast number of rules required to construct one. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the class and was amazed that they were able to provide us with a successful search engine so quickly.”

Beth Patterson, Reference Librarian, was involved in helping generate the relevance judgments that were used to calibrate the effectiveness of the search engine through its early stages. She was also invited to class to give a librarian's view of searching. Said Patterson, “Asked to come into the CSCI 100 class and talk about my experiences searching online databases, including the catalog, I was struck by the enthusiasm with which Shannon Bradshaw's students discussed MARC [MACHINE Readable Cataloging] records and their keen interest in how people use our catalog and other databases. The many questions they posed about the information seeking behavior of real life patrons made me realize just how conscientiously they were thinking about the practical task at hand: creating a system that returned catalog results by relevancy.”

The collaboration will be ongoing as the search engine is refined, based on user feedback and additional relevance judgments supplied by the librarians.



PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Christopher Anderson, Methodist Librarian, presented “Sportive Murder: Methodist Colleges and the Gridiron Controversies, 1890-1895,” at the American Academy of Religion in November. Two new publications are: “John Stewart,” in *African American National Biography* (Oxford, 2008), and “The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America,” in *Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008). In the fall he also gave public talks about archival procedures to audiences at the Chatham United Methodist Church and the Kiwanis Club of the Chathams.

Rebecca Rego Barry, G’01, and a former library staff member, reports that the January 15, 2008 *Library Journal* listed Silver Hollow Audio’s recording of Henry Beston’s *The Outermost House* (ISBN 978-0-9793115-0-5) at the top of their picks for Best Audiobooks in the non-fiction category for 2007. “Very exciting for our little start-up,” says Barry, who conceived the recording company with her husband, Brett Barry. She also published an essay, “Tickle Me Reference: “Elmo’s World” and the Changes in Our Research Environment” in *American Libraries*, November 2007.

Matthew Beland, Acquisitions, has been invited to present “Revolution in the Classroom: The Pedagogical Reception of Crane Brinton’s *The Anatomy of Revolution*,” at the 16th annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing in England this summer.

James Farrugia, Systems Librarian, co-authored a presentation with Tim McGeary of Lehigh University for a SirsiDynix user conference. The topic is their progress toward achieving

Cheryl L. A. King, Cataloging Associate, recently published *Home Sweet Home: Musings on Hairoun* (Kings-Svg Publishers, 2007) with co-editors Professor Emeritus Baldwin King and Dr. Kenneth John. The volume completes a trilogy on the re-publication of essays, poems and short stories that appeared in the *Flambeau* magazine between 1965 and 1968 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. King was also the keynote speaker on November 3, for a gathering of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Organization of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, where she received a citation from the Senate of Pennsylvania for several endeavors.



A. Magnell

compatibility between the open-source catalog viewer, VuFind (<http://www.vufind.org>), and the Drew Library Integrated Library System from SirsiDynix. VuFind enhances searching flexibility for library catalogs. Farrugia also contributed some source code that will be released with the 0.8 version of the software this spring. The code allows VuFind to communicate with the Library’s current catalog and retrieve up-to-the-minute information on an item’s status and location.

Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger, assisted the gallery curator with background research on American expatriate painters Earl and Achsah Brewster for a recent exhibition at the ACA Galleries in Chelsea. She also served as a consultant for the exhibition catalogue. The University owns a significant archive of letters, books, and memoirs from the Brewsters—who were friends of Willa Cather—as part of the Willa Cather Collection.

Ernest Rubinstein, Theological Librarian, contributed to an anthology of book reviews, entitled “Christmas Critics,” published in the December 2007 issue of *Commonweal Magazine*.

Andrew Scrimgeour, Dean of Libraries, served on the Excellence in Academic Libraries Award Nomination Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The committee recommended libraries for the 2008 ACRL awards for creativity and innovation.

**METHODIST
LIBRARY HOURS**

**MONDAY–FRIDAY
9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.**

LIBRARY EXHIBITS

MAIN LIBRARY

They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art in Wartime from the Spanish Civil War

March 19-May 30, 2008

A traveling exhibit of drawings by children who experienced the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s during which the airplane became a looming threat in the

Abraham Lincoln Brigades Archives



sky, and Fascism took hold on the ground. The lives of children living in protective children's colonies where the artwork was produced are further captured in photos by the wartime photographer, Robert Capa.

METHODIST LIBRARY

Sunday School Books of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1827-1880

April 2 – May 30, 2008

This exhibit explores the Drew collection of 19th century children's books published for libraries attached to Methodist Sunday Schools. These libraries were among the earliest lending libraries for children and families. In addition to examining thematic

topics, such as conversion, social reform, and character-formation, the exhibit explores the way books were pack-

aged and marketed to the early Sunday Schools. It also highlights the career of Drew Seminary professor Daniel Parish Kidder, who led the Methodist Sunday School Union and edited its publications from 1844-1856, a period of great growth for the Sunday School movement. The exhibit reflects the research of Cynthia Rogers for the Masters of Theological Studies Capstone Project.



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