



NEWSLETTER OF THE
DREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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Visions

Gift of Byron Society of America

PRIZED BYRON COLLECTION ARRIVES AT DREW

Anticipation was in the air as a small group of librarians, archivists, the University president, and a Drew trustee gathered at the edge of a Drew receiving dock late last spring. The arrival of the Byron Society of America's Collection, while unceremonious, was greeted with delight by this appreciative group of academic custodians. Drew President Robert Weisbuch, a specialist in nineteenth-century American and European literature, described the materials as "a feast of research opportunities for scholars and undergraduates alike."

The occasion was a milestone in the life of what Marsha M. Manns, Co-Founder and Chair of the Byron Society of America, describes as an "organic, living collection." The archive of almost 5,000 items devoted to George Gordon, Lord Byron (1784-1824), the legendary nineteenth-century English Romantic poet, includes rare books, manuscripts and research materials from major Byron scholars, and letters and memorabilia, as well as artwork and decorative objects that demonstrate Byron's impact on his readers and popular culture.

continued on page 4



Photo: Byron Society of America

The Byron Society Collection embodies a spirit of imagination seen in this early advertising image.

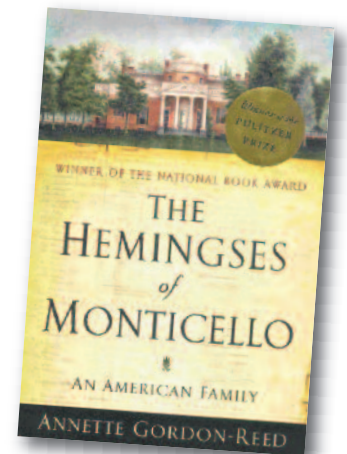
Inside

<i>Dean's Corner</i>	2
<i>Recent Gifts</i>	3
<i>Jing Videos</i>	3
<i>Byron Collection</i>	4-5
<i>Library Strategic Plan</i>	6
<i>Alice Tear Copeland</i>	6
<i>Professional News</i>	7
<i>Exhibits</i>	8

HISTORIAN ANNETTE GORDON-REED FEATURED AT FRIENDS OF LIBRARY GALA

The Friends of the Library will host their ninth biennial Benefit Dinner on January 29, 2011, with Honorary Dinner Chairs, John and Cathie Crawford. The evening begins at Kirby Theatre with a program featuring award-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed, who will speak on "The Hemingses of Monticello: Writing the Life of an Enslaved Family." Most recently named a 2010 MacArthur Fellow, Gordon-Reed is also the recipient of a 2010 National Humanities Medal, 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History, and the National Book Award for Nonfiction for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. The 2008 book has been described

continued on page 7



THE DEAN'S CORNER

DIGITAL DISTRACTIONS

Friends and colleagues are often surprised to learn that I enjoy air travel, even multiple-stop flights. I look forward to buckling up, turning off my cell phone, turning on the light beam assigned to my tray table, and redeeming the time that is available at 30,000 feet. My standard plan is to work on a writing project or to read a book that has been calling me for some time. Air time is remarkable, for it is largely free of the interruptions that dog my normal routines below the clouds.



The book I wanted to read on my last trip has stirred up a good deal of debate. Written by Nicholas Carr, a highly-regarded analyst of technology, he had grabbed the headlines in 2008 with a provocative essay in *The Atlantic*, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" In his recent book, *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*,¹ he expands on his fundamental concern: our burgeoning skills for online searching, skimming and scanning are gained at considerable cost—the loss of our capacity to concentrate, contemplate, and reflect.

We dip into texts far more than we plunge into them, he laments, and as we do, our brains rewire themselves to favor these experiences in the shallows rather than in the depths. Carr observes, "My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles. Once I was a scuba diver in the sea of words. Now I zip along the surface like a guy on a Jet Ski."²

The incessant interruptions of the Internet, he concludes, have turned the difficult text, whether digital or print, into an obsolete relic. In a similar vein, Philip Roth, the celebrated novelist, predicted that the novel, even Kindled novels, would disappear over the next twenty-five years because "attentiveness is hard to come by."³ These observations become even more arresting when I hear faculty—who are writing books and want the library to accelerate the rate at which it is purchasing books—sigh and lament that they can no longer assign book-length texts in their classes, for some students will simply not read them or are unable to read them or will just dabble in them.

Can the library be of help? Or is it part of the problem? A number of ideas have been teasing me ever since another high altitude read—William Powers' *Hamlet's BlackBerry: A Practical*

Philosophy for Building a Good Life in the Digital Age.⁴ Powers makes the case that digital connectedness serves us best when it is balanced by its opposite, disconnectedness.

Carr moves in a similar direction, observing that recent psychological research indicates that people who spend time in a quiet, rural setting exhibit greater attentiveness, stronger memory, and generally improved cognition. Even an hour's walk in the woods makes a difference if the cell phone is turned off. (Sounds like a valuable affirmation of our forested campus and useful data for the recruitment of students.)

"We dip into texts far more than we plunge into them."

Curiously, our library buildings were not designed to give views of our spectacular forest environment. Nevertheless, we might steal a page from the Chicago Public Library, which designed a Winter Garden on the top floor of its main building. Regardless of the weather in downtown Chicago, library patrons are able to read indoors in every season under a grove of olive trees. We could build such an atrium by adding a panoramic floor to the Rose Library. Or we could glass in the massive colonnade porch of the Rose Library. As a modest interim move, we could add restful murals to the walls of the much-anticipated Thomas H. Kean Reading Room and Gallery, thereby providing the path to virtual rustication.

Even more radically, perhaps some library spaces should be disconnected spaces, quiet spaces, areas where cell phones and BlackBerries cannot be used, where the Internet is blocked, where texts can be explored, where projects are conceived and written with minimal digital distraction. We would then be providing much-needed, interruption-free zones without the expense of running a library reading room aboard a commercial jet.

Alan C. Surinjan

1 W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.

2 *The Atlantic* (July/August 2008), 57

3 Tina Brown, *The Daily Beast*, October 27, 2009.
<http://vimeo.com/7185567>

4 HarperCollins Publishers, 2010.

RECENT GIFTS

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following gifts.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Dr. Patti M. Becker, G'85
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In memory of Alice T. Copeland

Lessie Culmer-Nier, G'80 and
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New from Reference

JING VIDEO INSTRUCTION

*By Elizabeth Patterson, Ph.D.
Reference and Government
Documents Librarian*

Jing...sounds fun, right? It is. The Reference and Research Department at the Drew Library has a new Web 2.0 tool in its arsenal. Online chatting goes visual with this free software from TechSmith. Reference guides are enhanced with YouTube-like short films. These videos are informational rather than entertaining, but we're still having fun making them.

A common chat question we get at the Reference desk is, "Which database is best for research on a particular topic?" By viewing a Jing video customized for their question, a patron can follow the series of clicks through each page of the catalog display involved in their search.

Jing videos are also useful in the online guides we tailor to specific class assignments. In addition to text and static images, we can embed a link to a voiced over video that shows and tells a student how to use library resources to do an assignment. Students watch and listen as we click through to the appropriate online resources, give them some tips on using that resource effectively, and help them interpret their search results. Here's a sample video showing students how to find foreign language newspapers in English: www.screencast.com/t/NWJiMTEz.

Creating Jing videos enhances what we already use to help patrons find the information and resources they need. We're still experimenting with Jing, but we're delighted to have the opportunity to expand our skills and get out of our comfort zone by directing and starring in our own videos. And, best of all, we feel our productions will benefit our YouTube students, giving them helpful information in a format they can easily follow and absorb.

Visions

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A complete online archive of past issues of *Visions* can be viewed on the library website at:
www.drew.edu/library/visions

BYRON COLLECTION ARRIVES AT DREW *continued from page 1*

Marsha Manns has nurtured the Society's initiatives from the beginning. She described the momentum and excitement of launching the society which began for her in 1971, with a notice in a literary journal seeking inaugural memberships for a Byron Society in London. According to Manns, "The Byron Society had two earlier British incarnations—one in the late nineteenth- and another in the mid-twentieth century. The society had been reconstituted. Its dynamic re-founders were the late Elma Dangerfield and Dennis Walwyn Jones. They envisioned a society with committees throughout the world, reflective of Byron's vast influence."

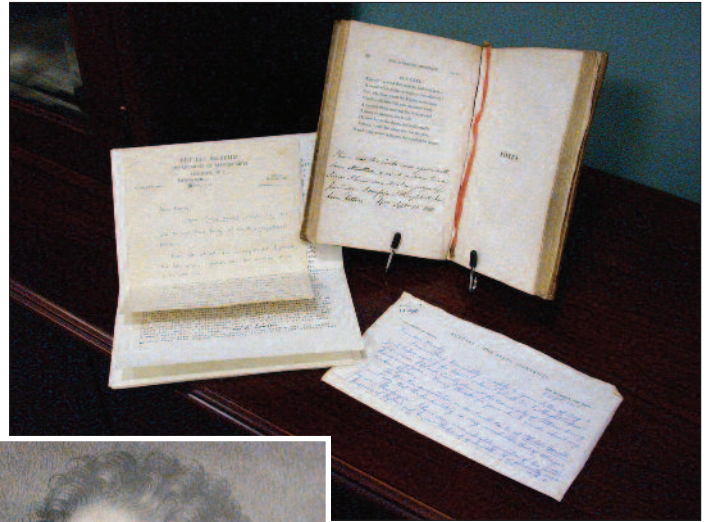
On January 22, 1973—Byron's birthday—Manns, together with the towering Byron scholar and biographer, Professor Leslie A. Marchand, founded the American Committee of the Byron Society, the first of the international Byron societies. Today forty such groups include two in Britain and thirty-seven other countries.

As the Society grew, Manns' correspondence with Byronists around the world became extensive. Often members would write personal, dramatic stories of their experience of Byron's poetry, sometimes "perceived as life-changing by the individual involved." Manns' response to the many speculations and queries led to the creation of a Byron Society collection that would integrate objects with books and other written materials. In 1992, while sorting through the bequest of collector Jacqueline Palmer, she and Marchand "came up with the idea of forming a living collection" to which members and others could contribute. "Collectively, and well-integrated with the collections of others, there was the promise of something quite valuable. Leslie and I both committed to donating our own collections to such an endeavor, if it could be established, with Jackie's bequest to me being the first." Their goal was realized in 1995, when Manns and Marchand founded the Byron Society Collection.



Library Conservator Masato Okinaka inspects the boxes and materials as they mount up in a holding area, where they remained in quarantine prior to storage in the archival area.

Drew President Bob Weisbuch, Trustee **Jeanne Zenker**, and **Andrew Scrimgeour**, Dean of Libraries, welcomed the Byron Society Collection to campus.



Photos: Byron Society of America

(Above) A first edition of Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto the Fourth (1818), with historic marginal annotations. Gift of Jerome J. McGann. Photo: Byron Society of America.



(Left) A prized item central to the collection is a rare 1825 lithograph by Rembrandt Peale. The lithograph, a gift of Marsha Manns, dates from the year following Byron's death and is likely one of the first American-made images of Byron. It now hangs in the president's office in Mead Hall.

While the bulk of the collection is comprised of books and other written material, visual representations of the poet in nineteenth and early-twentieth century sculpture and other images are also significant. Over the years, likenesses of Byron began to turn up as parian, bronze, plaster and chalk busts, jasper and ivory medallions and painted miniatures, and bronze and spelter statues. Today the collection includes such items as a cigar box, pictures and mementos from Newstead Abbey—Byron's ancestral home—and a lock of Byron's hair, along with celebratory printed programs, posters, and other commemorations marking his birth and death dates.

Another piece of special interest is a Royal Copenhagen miniature of a Thorvaldsen statue intended as Byron's memorial in Westminster Abbey. Church criticism of what was deemed his scandalous lifestyle forestalled any recognition in Poets' Corner until a plaque was dedicated there in 1969. The miniature was a gift to Michael Rees on his retirement as secretary of the International Byron Society, and has now been given back to the Collection. The statue is at Trinity College, Cambridge.

The creative impulse of the poet is captured in a letter from Byron to his publisher Thomas Moore, dated January 2, 1821, "Poetry comes over me in a kind of rage every now and then—and if I don't write to empty my mind, I go mad!"

Tis to create, and in creating live
A being more intense that we endow
With form our fancy, gaining as we give
The life we image

Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto III

What musings are we hearing about the collection at Drew? How would Professor Weisbuch introduce Byron to an audience of students new to poetry?

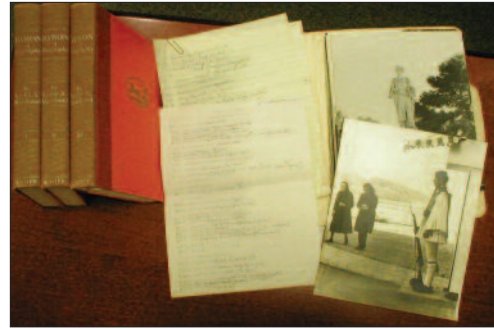
"George Gordon, Lord Byron, is one of the great poets of the English language. He created a sort of teen-idol hero of his earlier poems, a young man who had seen it all, done it all, and was suffering from a kind of spiritual fatigue. This figure took England by storm and came to be known as the Byronic Hero. Then, in a totally unexpected turn, Byron adapted him to the most successful epic comedy of all time, *Don Juan*."

— President Robert Weisbuch

Donor Michael Rees, on learning of the Collection going to Drew where the international archives of the United Methodist Church also reside, wrote Dean of Libraries Andrew Scrimgeour from Wales of his fondness for Wesleyan hymns. Rees explained his desire to see his collection housed in America:

It was from beloved American friends and scholars, including Leslie [Marchand] himself and Marsha Manns, that I received the greatest help in building up a Byron book collection over 28 years. [I] wished to donate it to America in sincere recognition of the remarkable Byron scholarship that has long flourished in the U.S.A., recently led by Leslie Marchand (1900-99) as editor of Byron's letters and journals, by Jerome J. McGann as definitive editor of Byron's poetry, and so many others."

— Brother Teilo [Michael Rees],
The Abbey, Caldey Island, Wales



Leslie Marchand's photographs, taken as possible illustrations for his three-volume *Byron: A Biography* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1957), accompanied by his handwritten captions.

But words are things, and a small drop of ink
Falling like dew, upon a thought produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

Don Juan, Canto III

Professor of English Robert Ready poses a question for students of Byron:

"Byron is one of the most challenging public poets of modern Western culture. The great international Romantic was a poet star in his time. He immersed himself in a European political and historical complexity that demanded and consumed his singular fame. As one takes in the Byron Society's splendid collection now at Drew, one might think about the opening phrase of Byron's comic-epic masterpiece, *Don Juan*: 'I want a hero.' What did he mean by that?"

— Professor Robert Ready

Byron scholar Jerome McGann, editor of *Byron: The Complete Poetical Works*, affirmed Drew's stewardship of the collection, "The deposit of the Byron Society's important archive of books and cultural materials in the Drew University Library is...a moment in the history of the university where its commitment to the preservation of our cultural heritage is clearly displayed."

Manns summed up the lodging of the collection on the Madison campus: "Drew is the natural home for the Byron Society Collection." The library's current holdings, including the Tomlinson Byron Collection, along with the value placed on collections of material culture and the university's willingness to provide wide access to the collection, were all important considerations for the society."

Partnering for Impact: LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

By Dorothy Meaney, Coordinator of Collection Development

The need for strategic thinking is particularly acute in tough economic times. In response to changes in libraries and scholarly communication, Dean Scrimgeour kicked off a strategic planning process in February 2010 that will result in a new blueprint for accomplishing Library priorities over the next three to five years.

Goals for the process itself included involving the community, researching best practices, communicating effectively, and producing a plan that is clear and cost-effective. An internal analysis led to research groups dealing with technology, communication, physical space, and the evolving role of libraries. Students and faculty surveys conducted in the spring provided information about space, collections, services, and library use.

To help make the most of a wealth of information, the Library engaged Joanne Spigner of VisionFirst, who facilitated our exploration of emerging themes for the plan, including: building creative partnerships, embracing technology, improving the adaptability of

space to student needs, and ensuring a focus on the user. A study group then researched collection development. Dean Scrimgeour assigned a restricted fund to make some small but strategic improvements to Library space.

A task force has been drafting the Library's plan, *Partnering for Impact*, and incorporated feedback from the administration, University Library Committee, Computing and Network Services, and the Library Faculty and staff. In February, an outside review team will bring observations and input from their unique perspective that will help shape the plan further. Meanwhile, several initiatives have already been undertaken, notably the installation of technology-equipped group study booths and the much-anticipated 24/7 exam week open hours.

While practical, the plan will be both ambitious and optimistic, reaffirming a strong commitment to supporting the educational mission of the University. We look forward to working with all our partners to make a great library even better.

DEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION YIELDS RICH SOURCE OF IMAGES

ARTStor is now available through the Library thanks to a collaboration with University Technology and the Art History Department. With 1,000,000+ images from the arts, humanities, and social sciences, representing international institutions and collections, this major database can support research in a wide range of disciplines. Find it through the **Electronic Resources by Subject** page on the Library website.

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ALICE TEAR COPELAND *By Lessie Culmer-Nier, Head of Cataloging*

Alice Tear Copeland, former Head of Cataloging in the Drew University Library, died on July 28, 2010 in State College, Pa. She was born November 22, 1926, in Youngstown, Ohio. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. in library science from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1949 she married John Wilson Copeland, who died September 9, 2008.



She and John became a Drew faculty couple when they moved to Madison in 1965, John taking a position in the Philosophy Department and Alice beginning to work part time in the Library. In the 1970s Alice became head of the Catalog Department and began a career training and nurtur-

ing many young librarians who worked with her. At the time of her retirement in 1992, she had helped shepherd the Drew Library through its metamorphosis from a fully manual operation to an automated library that effectively utilized computer technology. Following retirement she pursued her passions for books and music by organizing and cataloging the Creamer Hymnbook Collection in the library.

She is survived by three daughters, Mary Alice Amidon and her husband Peter of Brattleboro, Vt., Ann W. Copeland and her husband William Brockman of State College, and Susan Tear Copeland and her husband Brian Mynard of Hoboken, N.J. Alice is also survived by six grandchildren, Peter and Daniel Brockman of State College, Tara and Jenny Mynard of Hoboken, and Sam and Stefan Amidon of New York City.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Dr. Christopher Anderson, Methodist Librarian, is co-editor, with George Zimmermann, of *A Guide to Methodist Disciplines, 1785-2008*, Morris Publishing, 2010. Recent presentations include "Google Search and Special Collections Access," at the American Theological Library Association, and "The United Methodist Archives Center: Bridging the Past to the Present," United Methodist Church, Lenox, Massachusetts. He served as a historical consultant and provided images for the PBS series, *God in America* produced by WGBH, Boston.

Dr. Matthew Beland, Acquisitions and Archives Assistant, was sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Sciences to attend a workshop on "Archives for Non-Archivists" at Bryn Mawr in October.

Dr. Jody Caldwell, Head of Reference and Research Services, taught Sociology of Religion for the College this fall. She was also interviewed for a November 28 *Daily Record* article, "Does God Exist? Are Prayers Answered?"

Dr. Linda Connors, Senior Librarian Emerita, has been invited to join the Friends of the Library Advisory Board. In addition, her 1985 paper, "From Art to Corporation: Harry N. Abrams and the Cultural Effects of Merger," with Professor Emerita Sara Henry and Professor Jonathan Reader, is reprinted in *The History of the Book in the West*, v. 5, 1914-2000, Ashgate, 2010.

Kathleen Juliano, Head of Interlibrary Loan, was awarded an H. Gilbert Kelley Scholarship at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information, where she is in the MLIS program.

Dorothy Meaney, Coordinator of Collection Development is Secretary of the New Jersey Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the College and University Section of NJLA.

Dr. Andrew Scrimgeour, Dean of Libraries, spoke on "Hurtles to Writing a Biography," at the Morristown Club last spring.

ANNETTE GORDON-REED

continued from page 1

as "riveting history" and received over a dozen major awards.

Gordon-Reed's most recent book is *Andrew Johnson—The American Presidents Series—The Seventeenth President, 1865-1869* (January, 2011). She received national attention for *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (1997 and 1999) and is the editor of *Race on Trial: Law and Justice in American History* (2002), and coauthor with Vernon Jordan of *Vernon Can Read: A Memoir* (2001). She is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School.

Following the 6:00 p.m. program, guests will gather in Mead Hall for the Gala reception and dinner, including presentation of the Béla Kornitzer book prizes. All proceeds for the evening will benefit the Friends of the Library Book Endowment Fund. For more information, please call the Library at 973.408.3471.

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LIBRARY EXHIBITS **MAIN LIBRARY****The Graphic Novel and Representations of Evil:
The Holocaust, Genocide, and Ethnic and Racial Devastation***Fall Semester through January, 2011*

The highly visual narrative and convergent art form of the graphic novel is an ever-expanding universe which is exploding across classrooms, campuses, academic libraries and scholarly writing. The graphic novel was explored in an August symposium for high school educators organized by Dr. Sloane Drayson-Knigge and Bruce Lancaster. Keynote speaker, internationally known comic artist Joe Kubert, discussed his adaptation of art to the compelling personal experiences of individuals facing evil. He is the author of *Yossel, April 19, 1943: A Story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* (iBooks, 2003) and other graphic novels dealing with war. The exhibit exploring the conference theme continues through January.

Joe Kubert ponders a question about his personal rendering of a fictional graphic arts memoir on the Warsaw Uprising of 1943.



Photo: Shelly Kusnetz

METHODIST LIBRARY**A Celebration of African
American United
Methodist Heritage***Fall Semester through January, 2011*

The exhibit highlights the heritage of Episcopal leadership in the African American community. African American bishops have served the denomination since 1958. Many persevered over racist and segregationist attitudes. By the 1980s, a significant number of black bishops were serving, including the first African American woman, Bishop Leontine Kelly, elected in 1984.

DREW

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