

Gettysburg College
Musselman
Library

friends



VOLUME XXIV, NO.2 Fall 2023

FROM THE DEAN

By Robin Wagner

Because of you exciting things happen at Musselman Library.

Because of you we offer more than a dozen meaningful internship opportunities to curious students. Because of you we have acquisitions endowments that have helped us through hard times.

Because of you we have a conservation program to repair fragile pages and broken spines. Because of you we have endowments that support preservation, digitization and oral history.

Because of our library friends we have renovated our patio on the building's north side as an attractive outdoor study space. Because of you we continue to offer successful musical programs like *Notes at Noon* and *Three at Three*.

Because of you we provide study break treats during finals, stress relief activities, and late-night coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

In this issue you will read about interesting collections that have come our way because of you. Marianne Larkin '71 donated her family archive to Special Collections. It documents the history of her ancestors' home adjacent to campus at 339 Carlisle Street. It was once a private home, then Theta Chi, and now the location for classrooms and offices.



We feature a story about posters purchased in Maui over the course of eight years—purchases made possible by donations to Friends of Musselman Library.

Also in this issue you will read about the generous gift from the estate of Norman Eavenson '67 that will allow us to create an object study room nearby the Special Collections Reading Room. This is the first step



Front Cover: Chinese propaganda poster, with banner in Chinese proclaiming “In agriculture, learn from Dazhai.” This refers to a campaign organized by Mao Zedong from 1963 to 1976 that encouraged self-sacrifice. The Dazhai movement placed agriculture at the center of the economy with the goal of China becoming self-sufficient in feeding its people. The Tibetan banner on the front declares a similar slogan. This is one of a number of posters purchased in Lahaina, Hawaii [see page 29].

Back Cover: *Because of You*, antique sheet music from the collection of Gary Hawbaker '66. Popular bandleader and musician Ted Fiorito (1900-1971) composed the music for ukulele accompaniment in 1925. Walter Hirsch (1891-1967) wrote the lyrics [see page 13].



in an ambitious plan to transform the fourth floor of Musselman Library into a new Special Collections Department, with better collection storage, improved HVAC for temperature and humidity control, and enhanced lighting.

The images shown here will give you an idea of why this is important. For the library, the good news about our work also presents challenges. New collections are often housed on book carts between the aisles.

Look closely and you will see a staff member whose desk is wedged between archival supplies.

Our conservation and book history classes are going gangbusters—students really do love old books and learning about their repair and rebinding. But that requires space. The same is true for our amazingly busy instruction program. We've reached a point where researchers have to postpone their visits to work on our special collections because classes are meeting so much of each day.

That's why the Eavenson estate gift is so important. It will allow instruction and research to go on simultaneously, as is the case at leading college and university libraries across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. We must expand.

Our long-term goal, consequently, is to provide more space for collection storage, digitization, and conservation activities. We hope to enlarge our processing area so we have room for our interns and student workers to spread out. Currently we



have metal cage walls, but wish for real walls someday. A restroom on the fourth floor would delight everyone. This makeover is a large and expensive proposition, and we will have to complete it in stages.

Norman Eavenson's visionary gift is a wonderful start; we begin construction on the study room over winter break. There is still much to be done, but we are grateful for the philanthropic support that has provided us with the resources to begin this impactful project. Because of Norm, and because of all of our supporters, we are able to accomplish great things together that will benefit current and future generations of students and library patrons.

Because of you there is a spirit of giving alive in the library.

BECAUSE OF YOU these three words represent more than a rhythmic jingle [see back cover] but instead signify an inspiring way forward.

Greeting First Years

It is important to connect students to library services as soon as possible in their academic careers. As usual, our staff came up with a variety of ways to welcome them.

New arrivals were given everything from ice-cold lemonade to information about textbook affordability options. As the weeks progressed, staff offered library tours, workshops, casual conversations about favorite books, lattes with research librarians, and more.



Right: “Muscleman” (and women) librarians Meggan Smith ‘04, Hannah Krauss, and Eyoel Delessa were part of the College’s volunteer crew that descend on the cars of arriving first years to offer greetings and to heft their belongings to dorm rooms.

Trivia Night

After all the hard work of the opening weeks, it was time to have some fun. The library hosted student employees and staff members for a trivia competition and lots of pizza. One of the student teams took first place!

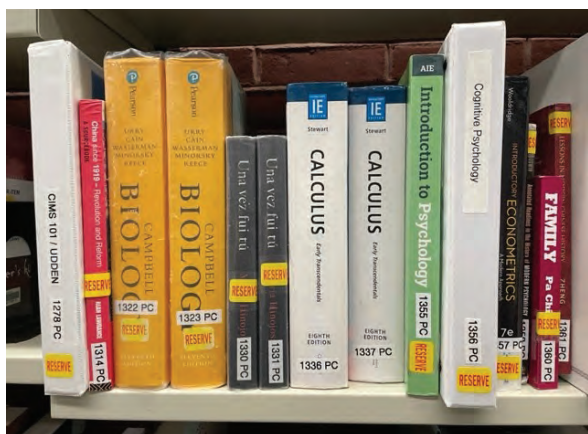


Patio Makeover

Thanks to the Friends of Musselman Library the patio on the north side of the library just got a major facelift. This once dreary outside space now attracts students throughout the day, providing an outdoor study space during three seasons. Planters made from recycled lumber and coated aluminum are filled with plants. Some species will offer year-round color. Campus Facilities provided new tables and chairs and a paved footpath connecting to the main sidewalk. We’re hoping to illuminate the space so it can be a welcoming space after dark as well.

Free Textbook Access

This fall, students have access to an expanded Course Materials collection at the library, which could translate to greatly reduced textbook costs for many. Students and faculty can request that the library purchase their assigned course texts. Librarians then research the publisher's options to purchase multi-user e-books or to buy print copies.



Expensive textbooks have proven to be a significant barrier to students' academic success. A 2022 Gettysburg College survey revealed that 33 percent of students chose not to purchase a required text at least once during their college careers. More alarmingly, negative impacts are exacerbated for first-generation students and Pell Grant (federal grant based on "exceptional financial need") recipients.

The survey found that 43 percent of first-generation students did not purchase required books due to cost, and 33 percent struggled academically because they could not access the books. For Pell Grant recipients, 44 percent did not purchase required books due to cost, and 37 percent struggled academically without them.

For more information on free textbook accessibility and other ways the library is leading the way in investing in textbook affordability see the online edition of the newsletter at <https://foml.sites.gettysburg.edu>.

New Research Room

We are pleased to report that the estate of Norman R. Eavenson Jr. '69 has provided the funding for a research space across from our Reading Room as part of our Special Collections and College Archives expansion project. The Eavenson Room will allow for the scheduling of research visits and class visits at the same time.

"We welcome over 3,000 visitors to our Reading Room each year," said Carolyn Sautter, director of Special Collections and College Archives. "We also have seen a significant increase in the number of class visits requested by faculty that often overlap with our open research hours. Now we can easily accommodate both."

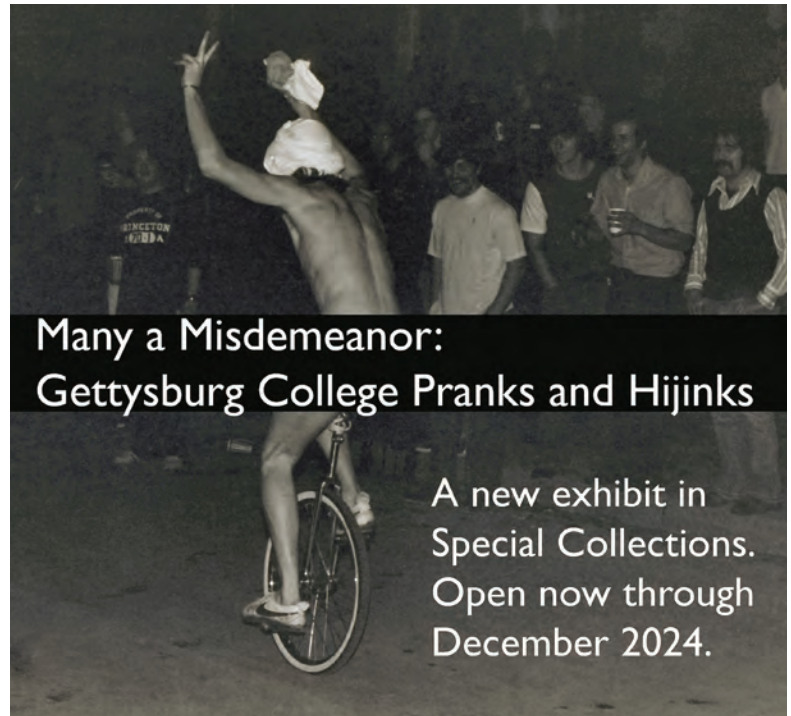
Norman Eavenson, who died in 2021, lived in West Chester, PA, and taught social studies in the Kennett Square School district from 1972 to 2005. He earned a BA in history from Gettysburg and an MA in political science from Villanova University.

Eavenson loved history and was a gifted teacher, according to his friend Todd Larmer '71, who wanted to see his friend honored in a "history-related" way. He connected the library to Eavenson's longtime friend and executor, Larry Otter. "Norm and Larry had many discussions over the last 40 years about the importance of the humanities specifically, and the liberal arts in general," said Larmer. He explained that Eavenson wanted his bequest to go toward something meaningful and lasting for the students—to provide spaces and programs that support the humanities.

Many a Misdemeanor

Gettysburg students have always enjoyed the pranks and hijinks for which college students are known. Visit the Special Collections Reading Room to discover the wild and crazy ideas students have come up with over the decades. You'll see everything from how nineteenth-century students "trolled" their professors to 1970s students letting it all hang out during the streaking fad. The stunts may change, but the mischief remains.

1890s: There are over a century of pranks rumored to have occurred in Pennsylvania Hall (then a dormitory). One recurring story is that of students rolling cannonballs through the hallways. Charles Huber, Class of 1892, recalled cannonballs "thundering down" the halls that "roared and reverberated through the building." Library friend, Angelo Scarlato loaned the cannonball on exhibit.



Many a Misdemeanor: Gettysburg College Pranks and Hijinks

A new exhibit in
Special Collections.
Open now through
December 2024.

1950-60s: "Panty raids" started in the 1950s with fraternity brothers sneaking into girls' dorms to steal their undies. The stakes got a little bigger by 1964 when stunts like putting a Volkswagen Beetle in a dining hall seemed more fun...*oh waiter, there's a bug in my food!*



Special Collections Interns Reveal “How I Spent My Summer Vacation”

Four interns spent last summer in Special Collections doing rotations in archival processing and records management; conservation and collections maintenance; digital humanities; and cataloging and metadata. They also went on two field trips—a day of hands-on activities at the Frederick (MD) Book Arts Center and a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Adams County Historical Society with Executive Director Andrew Dalton '19. Here the interns reflect on their favorite experiences.

The Coconut Caller

Alex Meagher '25 (Brian C. Pohanka Intern)

While I had the privilege of working with many fascinating materials, most of my experience centered on one collection: the World War II Papers of Robert S. Dowhouer.



Dowhouer, who was from Harrisburg, PA, served three years overseas in the Pacific theater with the Army Air Forces and sent home hundreds of pages of letters to his parents. Those letters form the nucleus of this collection.

My first week was spent sequencing, rehousing, reading, and describing them to make the collection accessible for researchers. The process was labor intensive, but incredibly rewarding. Later, we all used a component of his collection to create a small digital humanities project.

From 1944 to 1945, Dowhouer sent his parents 19 copies of his squadron's service newspaper, *The Coconut Caller*. It was an ideal candidate for digitization because we were unable to locate this publication anywhere online. Under the direction of Digital Initiatives Librarian R.C. Miessler, we used WordPress software to make digitized versions accessible to researchers online and built a website that used digital tools to analyze its contents.

It was a joy to get to spend my summer with Bob (he always signed his letters Bob). More importantly, it is satisfying to know that I have made it possible for others, both online and in the Reading Room, to explore everything in his collection.

This Coconut Caller cover of a woman in a military uniform is a patriotic take on the traditional pin-up girls usually featured.

[special-collections.sites.gettysburg.edu/coconut-caller]



The Importance of Browsing

Ziv Carmi '23 (Diane Werley Smith '73 Intern)

I urge every student to do yourself a favor and spend half an hour browsing the stacks. You never know what treasures you may find!

While researching for my thesis, I came across Sumner Welles' *The Time for Decision*, a 1944 publication printed on thin paper compliant with WWII-era paper rationing policy. I wondered why it was not in Special Collections, since it was a tangible example of the rationing regulations on the home front and, thus, a valuable teaching tool.

I had the opportunity to change that oversight during my internship when we nominated books from the stacks to transfer into Special Collections. It was one of my favorite projects! I enhanced the cataloging to make the book more discoverable in the library's online catalog and included notes about the wartime paper.

I also nominated two books by John Muir: *My First Summer in the Sierra* (1911) and *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf* (1916). These were both printed within a year of first publication, making them useful examples of how the writings of one of America's premier environmentalists were initially presented.

Carmi is currently pursuing an MA in Public History at West Virginia University.

Creature Feature

Sydney Dyer '25 (Smith Intern)

Sydney Dyer most enjoyed her two-week cataloging and metadata rotation. She said she appreciated the precision of describing an item and assigning subject headings. She cataloged a number of items including pieces from of the historic sheet music collection.

Along the way she stumbled upon the subject heading "Alleged Animals" that includes the Loch Ness Monster, Sasquatch, and a mythical lake creature in Canadian folklore named Ogoopogo. This newfound knowledge came in handy when she had to catalog a pamphlet on Ogoopogo for a Philosophy of Monsters course (being taught this fall).

She said, "Cataloging and metadata training gave me the tools to describe it, and learn something new in the process."



Conservation

Devyn Wesolowski '25 (Robert '44 and Esther Kenyon Fortenbaugh '46 Intern)

My favorite part of my internship was conservation, something that I am considering for a future career. Apprenticing with Conservator Mary Wootton and learning about all the different skills required to go into this work was eye-opening.

For example, did you know that in order to repair a book you often have to take it apart? The first book I repaired was an 1839 copy of *Isabel; or, Sicily. A Pilgrimage* by Henry Tuckerman. The book's spine was falling off and the cover was poorly attached. To fix it, I had to remove the spine and detach the book cloth from the covers.

This caused me great anxiety, but I knew I had to persevere to make sure this book became usable again. Once I detached the fabric, I was able to repair the spine (shown above) and covers with Japanese tissue paper and paste. I color-matched the fabric with paint. When I finished, the book looked as if it had never been damaged at all.

We don't restore items in Special Collections, we conserve them. We make sure that the books we repair are usable and authentic to their age. These items have made it this far, and we want them to be available for future researchers.



(l to r) Devyn Wesolowski, Sydney Dyer, Alex Meagher, and Ziv Carmi with some of the 30 boxes they completed.

Group Effort

One of the interns' achievements was sorting and arranging roughly 40 cubic feet of papers donated by Fred Fielding '61. The papers date from his student days through his work in the Ronald Reagan administration in the 1980s.

Fielding was Deputy White House Counsel under President Richard Nixon. Once suspected of being Deep Throat, his papers document his associations with the Watergate scandal. They also document his years as White House Counsel during Reagan's administration. This extensive set of documents compliments Fielding's 9-11 Commission Papers, which he donated in 2015.

RESEARCH REFLECTIONS

Europe Bound

By Amy Lucadamo '00, College Archivist

In our spring newsletter ["Europe Bound," p. 4], we reported that "Team Peirs" was returning to Europe to further their work on their digital history project. Here's an update.

On March 3, 2020, Team Peirs was in a packed ballroom at the Union League in New York City showcasing its digital history project, "The First World War Letters of H.J.C. Peirs," at an inaugural celebration for College President Bob Iuliano. Students Lizzie Hobbs '20, Benjamin Roy '20, and Claire Bickers '21, described their roles on the project researching, creating content, and uploading it to the website. We talked about the project's future—a trip to rural France and Belgium planned after commencement in May.

Funded entirely by a grant from the U.S. World War One Centennial Committee, we planned to film and photograph sites related to the project as well as survey new areas where Gettysburgians (both local citizens and College students) served during the war as the basis for a new project, tentatively titled "Battlefield to Battlefield."

Then, everything shut down. We canceled our plane tickets, rental car, and accommodations. For the next three years the founding members of

Team Peirs, Professor Ian Isherwood '00, Digital Initiatives Librarian R.C. Miessler, and I did our best to continue to create content for the website [www.jackpeirs.org]. I researched the lives of the men who fought alongside Peirs and added a selection of soldier profiles to the site. Miessler refined data on the men in Peirs' battalion to create an interactive visualization showing the locations of their hometowns, deaths, and burials. Isherwood continued to research and write his forthcoming book on the war experience of Peirs and his men, *The Battalion: Citizen Soldiers on the Western Front* (Pen & Sword, 2024).

Finally, in June 2023, we were able to travel again. We reworked our plans and invited project alumni Jenna Fleming '16, and Meghan O'Donnell '18, to join us. As part of the original team, Fleming's deep knowledge of the Peirs correspondence and social media management was invaluable. O'Donnell, a fluent French speaker and perceptive historian, stepped seamlessly into the role of translator and pinpointed locations for us to begin tracking experiences of the American soldiers of the 58th, 59th, and 60th Infantry American soldiers of the



58th, 59th, and 60th Infantry divisions, who trained at Camp Gettysburg before fighting in Verdun and the Meuse Argonne. We spent the first three days in Verdun orienting ourselves to American experiences of the war, finding the location of Evacuation Hospital #10 where Amos Taylor, Class of 1919 was stationed, and visiting sites important to the story of Major Harry Dravo Parkin, whose unpublished memoir is held by Special Collections and College Archives [see Lecture page 12].

Next we headed to Poperinge and Ypres in Belgium to revisit locations integral to the story of Jack Peirs and the 8th Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. In the final stage of our trip, we returned to locations in Somme that we visited in 2016 and 2018, to film new, high-quality traditional and 180-degree video.

With this footage, we hope to elaborate on the stories that we have told about Jack Peirs and the battle experiences of his battalion. We are working with the Director of Hatter Planetarium Ian Clarke to create short programs that can be projected on the planetarium dome describing the battles of Loos and Le Verguier. These programs will be teaching tools that can be used for classes and general audiences.

In the future, Team Peirs hopes to secure funding to expand upon this digital humanities work focusing on the experiences of local Gettysburg men and women during the First World War. We believe there is potential to tell their stories online and through immersive video.

We are especially thankful to the College, the Office of the Provost, Musselman Library, Nicholas Dracopoli and Diane Zorich 'P14, The U.S. First World War Centennial Commission, and the alumni who have been a part of this project since its inception in 2014.



Finding the Way

Last summer, Meghan O'Donnell '18 had the chance to return to work on an undergraduate project that she started in her junior year in a class on the Great War with Prof. Ian Isherwood. She joined the Team Peirs project in France.

As a student she was primarily responsible for updating social media accounts and uploading letters to the project website. Now she was asked to research locations on the Western Front significant to the AEF troops who trained in Gettysburg.

"We visited these locations on the first couple days to get the lay of the land that they were fighting on," explained O'Donnell. "The visual context is hugely helpful for the planning process—the scope of each battle and its objectives becomes much more concrete in your mind when you've got boots on the ground yourself."

As a double major in history and French, she also provided language support as the team travelled through France. "My language skills were most useful for navigating the little, unexpected snags that came up. The best example is probably after roaming around sunny fields filming for 10 hours,



O'Donnell shows Isherwood (left) and Lucadamo the locations she researched.

we drove back to our hotel only to happen upon a large music festival that shut down the entire city of Verdun. I was able to communicate with the hotel staff to explain our situation and be allowed to park."

One thing that hasn't changed over the years, she says, is that Team

Peirs is extremely collaborative. "Each of us had an important role to play in the success of the trip—R.C. with his incredible camera work and filming; Jenna with her exceptional knowledge of Peirs and his family, that helped add a layer of intimacy to our on-location shots; Ian with his expert knowledge of the war and the landscape (without which we would have been driving in circles); and Amy with her impressive vision for what we were to accomplish and her steady, unwavering leadership throughout. It's one of the few projects I've worked on in my life that exemplifies what it means to work together and be a team."

O'Donnell holds a master's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently works as a career counselor at the College.

LECTURE: NOVEMBER 10, 4:00 P.M.

Ian Isherwood and co-editor Steven Trout will discuss their new book, *Serpents of War*, an abridged edition of Major Harry Dravo Parkin's harrowing memoir and a rare account of World War I as seen from the perspective of a battalion commander. Parkin led his men in the largest battle fought by the U.S. Army at the Meuse-Argonne. He was wounded and captured by the Germans only days before the Armistice.



IN MEMORIAM
Gary Hawbaker
1944-2023

We were saddened to learn of the death of our longtime library friend Gary Hawbaker '66. Hawbaker was a retired high school teacher, genealogist, writer, and local historian. He was the author of more than 20 books and a collector of historical photos, diaries, papers, postcards, albums, and letters—all of which he used in his writing.

Hawbaker donated his impressive historic sheet music collection to the library. It ranges from the Tin Pan Alley era through World War II and into the 1970s, some with especially decorative covers [see back cover]. He also donated papers, photographs, publications, and artifacts from his College years to Special Collections and other items like the 1867 travel diary of Henry Louis Baugher Jr., son of College President Baugher.

Readers will recall our Spring 2022 issue, which featured Hawbaker's donation of his beloved 1901 Beckwith player piano [shown above] and the funds to restore it, which is now being enjoyed by students in the library's apse. Hawbaker planned to come to hear the students play this fall and even shared a list of his favorite tunes. Sadly, he passed away on August 15 and never got the chance.

One of Hawbaker's favorite piano rolls was *You Are My Sunshine*. We are forever grateful for his philanthropy and for bringing so much sunshine into our lives.

MUSICAL NOTES



Crank It Up!

Every Friday at 3 p.m., students gather in the library apse to take a musical journey back in time. They can crank up the spring-wound motor on a 1924 Victrola or load a roll into the 1910 player piano to hear three tunes. “Three at Three” is an enjoyable 15-minute break that often turns into singalongs, laughter, and applause as listeners are surprised by the volume of sound and efficacy of these old mechanical devices.

Gail Jones donated the Victrola and 71 records that she inherited from her great uncle, Walter Peters. As a retired music educator and instructor in the Sunderman Conservatory of Music, Jones hoped that the historic instrument could be used as a teaching tool. When she learned about Gary Hawbaker '66 donating the library's player piano, she realized that the Victrola might have a new home.

“It is such a great example of developing music technology, *and* it is fun to listen to,” said Jones. “It is terrific to see such a beautiful antique object being used by students and cared for in the library setting.” When not in use, the Victrola is safely housed in a cabinet built by Duke Staub, who also tinkered with its mechanisms to ensure it was ready for its debut.



Akriti Nepal '26 spins a record of The Pennsylvania Polka" on the Victrola.

The library encourages faculty to bring their classes to explore these great examples of music technology from an earlier age. Librarian Betsy Bein explained, “It’s one thing to hear a recording of an old phonograph or player piano, but it’s quite another to pump the pedals and turn the crank yourself!”

Records range from classical works like Ravel’s *Bolero* to popular pieces including religious songs, rags, and marches by John Philip Sousa. The device reminds us how remarkable it was for people to hear recorded music in their homes.

The Victor Talking Machine Company launched its Victrola in 1905. The awkward external horn was turned inward and housed in a wood cabinet using its doors as rudimentary volume control. The library’s model was made at the end of an era for phonographs. By 1925, the advent of radio offered higher quality sound, free of charge.

But this particular Victrola plays on.



Marching Orders

Devyn Wesolowski '25 has played flute and piccolo in marching band since ninth grade, so she couldn't help but be drawn to a little drill book used by a student in 1959 for the Bullets marching band. While interning in Special Collections last summer, she spied the carefully handwritten log for the band's marching maneuvers.

Although well acquainted with drills, she is used to seeing them animated on her cell phone app, Ultimate

Drill Book. Despite this difference, there was a familiarity as some of the songs and drills are used by the Bullets marching band today. "One of the songs we still play is *Loyalty* from the pre-game show," she said.

"The marks in this book indicate coordinates or 'dots' that were called out by the directors or drum majors and the marchers were expected to copy them down. This drill book appears to have all the dots, so that makes me believe that it is that of a section leader or someone with more authority than a regular marcher." She was curious as to the book's owner.

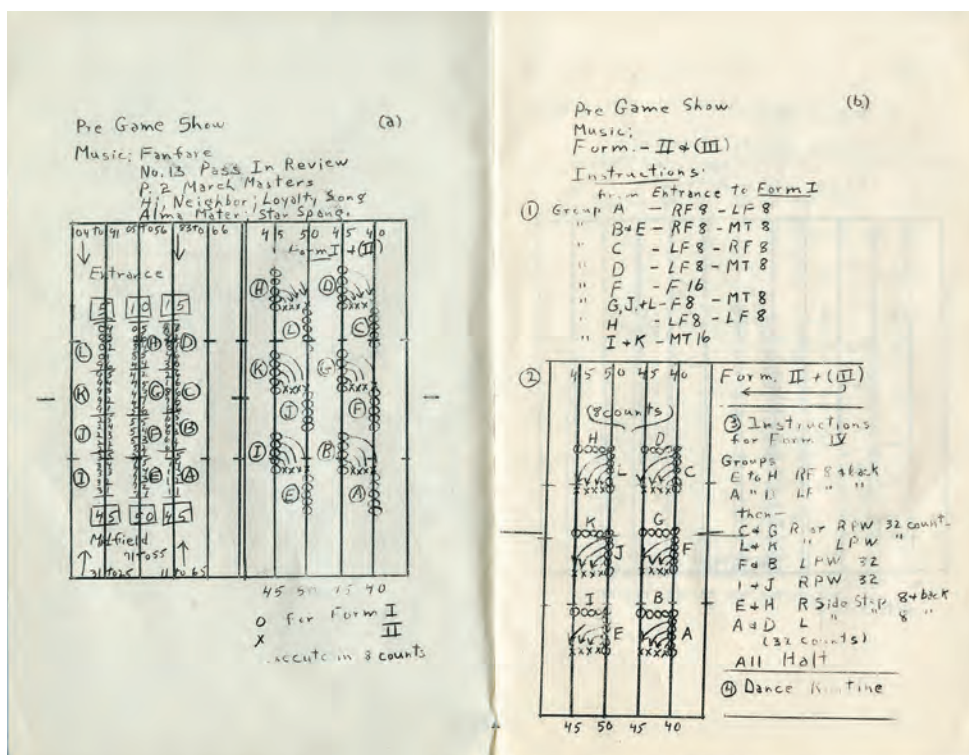
To solve the mystery, she turned to Special Collections Assistant Ron Couchman for help. Imagine her surprise when the solution was instant. It belonged to him! Couchman '63 played trumpet. As for meticulously keeping track of people, well, that's no surprise. He spent his career as the College registrar.

Tune in to Spotify

Tune in to the library's free musical playlists on Spotify, the digital music service. Each month, songs suggested by our staff and patrons are compiled around a particular theme. The results are eclectic and lots of fun! The September playlist, "PUMPED," offered lively songs to get students primed for the busy new semester and October features spooky sounds for Halloween.

User Services Assistant Tommy Oaks got the idea from Temple University Library. "I knew it was something we could do," said Oaks. "We are a library that loves and celebrates music—look at our player piano program, our Victrola, and our Notes at Noon concert series."

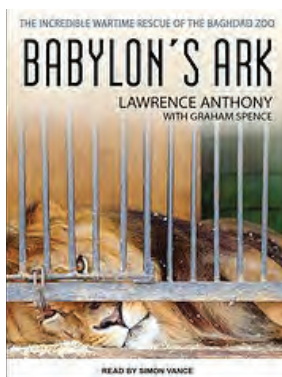
Check out all the playlists here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc44zsd4>



WILD IN THE LIBRARY

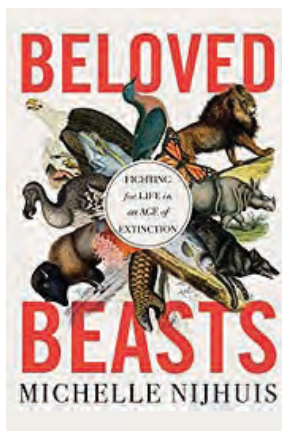
By Beth Carmichael, Acquisitions and Cataloging Assistant

Human and animal interactions are timeless. From the tundra to the desert to the tropics, wildlife has shared space and resources with human beings in mundane, exhilarating, and dangerous ways. Roam the stacks in Musselman and learn how to decode animal whistles and squeals. Observe creatures great and small as they create familial attachments, experience joy, and offer comfort to one another (and to us). Mediate cases of assault, home invasion, and theft, where animals become the defendants in common human-wildlife entanglements. Or delve into the battles over where, how, and why to provide sanctuary for the species who need it most. The collection teems with singular studies of numerous species—think whales, dinosaurs, ants, eels, peacocks, birds, and more—but the following selection of titles speaks to the broader interactions between us.



Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo
by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spence

The Baghdad Zoo was caught in the middle of full-blown combat when the Iraq War began in 2003 and the city crumbled. This heartwarming book tells the story of Lawrence Anthony and his perilous campaign to rescue the animals that survived the invasion but were left injured, starving, and stressed. Anthony, the late owner of one of the largest game sanctuaries in South Africa, details his work with Iraqi zookeepers to protect and nurture the remaining animals from the chaos and to repair their living conditions while in the middle of a war zone.



Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction by Michelle Nijhuis

What are our responsibilities to the non-human creatures that inhabit our world? Should we be expected to make sacrifices, even temporarily, to safeguard other species on the planet (especially those that aren't cute, cuddly, or beautiful)? Nijhuis surveys more than 300 years of conservation history seeking to understand the motivations (some benevolent, others selfish) behind the movements. With climate change and human activity threatening numerous species at an escalating rate, this book offers an important look at how we arrived at today's tipping points.



Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel by Carl Safina

Noted ecologist and professor for nature and humanity Carl Safina writes eloquently about animal consciousness in this touching book. Lyrical, animated, and vivid descriptions of animal interactions convey the depth of connection between them. Killer whales swoop through water corralling salmon. Baby elephant trunks swing wildly as they play and learn to pick up sticks and grass. Safina also explores the darker side of animal emotions, such as grief when a family member dies, and the biggest threats these mammals face, including hunting, overfishing, and underwater military explosions.

***Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach**

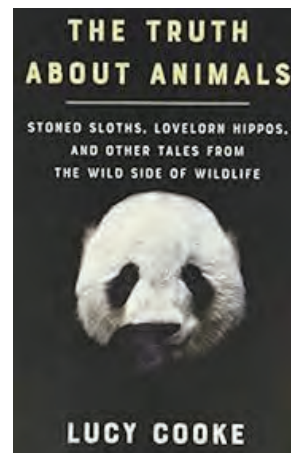
Roach investigates wildlife and human interactions from a funny, yet deadly serious angle: law-breaking animals from gulls that vandalized a Vatican flower display to monkeys mugging pedestrians for food in India. These are not actual criminal acts, of course, but instances where instinctual wildlife behaviors are happening more frequently in yards, homes, and public spaces.

For example, Roach details problems in Aspen with bears dumpster diving in alleys behind restaurants and entering vacation homes for food, despite local efforts to require bear-resistant trash containers. Roach is witty and thoughtful as she delves into these stories, which, despite her entertaining storytelling, highlight the ways in which humans and animals are encroaching on each other's territory with dangerous consequences for everyone.



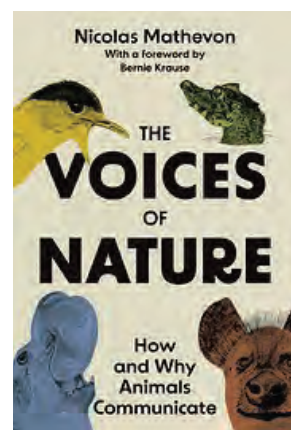
***The Truth About Animals: Stoned Sloths, Lovelorn Hippos, and Other Tales from the Wild Side of Wildlife* by Lucy Cooke**

This book grew out of a talk that zoologist and author Lucy Cooke gave to the Sloth Appreciation Society—an organization she founded when she recognized that sloths had highly unfair reputations for being lazy. Seeking to correct myths and put animals' habits in context, Cooke dedicates each chapter to a specific creature, including the beaver, sloth, hyena, frog, stork, hippopotamus, moose, panda, and penguin.



***Voices of Nature: How and Why Animals Communicate* by Nicholas Mathevon**

Nicholas Mathevon, professor of bioacoustics, deciphers animal sounds and soundscapes from the jungle to the Arctic. He shares how various creatures communicate acoustically, using barks, clicks, hoots, and more to express emotion, mate, teach, and gather food. You absolutely can't put down this book without visiting its website, where you can hear samples of sound signals such as a warbler's song; the bearded seal's underwater call; and the hyena's giggle.



A House with Many Stories

By Sunni DeNicola, Staff Writer



You've probably seen me. For more than 150 years I've bordered Gettysburg College and have witnessed many seasons of joy and sorrow—growing families, graduating students, soldiers marching off to war. Over time, I've become more connected to the campus; for decades fraternity brothers called me home. Today I welcome both students and faculty. I am 339 Carlisle Street. Here is my story.

Moving Forward from the Civil War

I was built in 1869, the same year the Soldiers' National Monument was dedicated, not far from where President Lincoln delivered his famous address. Although this little farm town would never be the same, it was slowly moving forward from the wartime devastation. I symbolized that rebirth.

Col. Charles and Anna Buehler deemed me a cottage. But I was a 2 ½-story showpiece—displaying the fashionable Italianate style with eave brackets, wide trim, and windows crowned with triangular hoods over arched gables. In 1891, they remodeled me in Queen Anne style, adding some curves to my façade. Most noticeable was my tower, the semicircular apse capped with a conical roof. A large porch was added where I would host countless gatherings in the years to come.

The residents of Carlisle Street were prosperous and households like mine were supported by local African American domestics and carriage drivers, some of whom lived in quarters behind the houses. Drivers tended the horses, maintained the carriages, transported the family around town, and escorted guests on battlefield tours and picnics. They became *de facto* battlefield guides, being the most familiar with the sites and the stories.



(Above) Unidentified carriage driver, with Mary Catharine (Mollie) Bair and niece, Mary Catharine Kohler on the Gettysburg Battlefield. c. 1905



(Left) Mary Catharine Kohler (left) with her widowed mother, Emma Jane Jones Kohler, and liveryman Fred Howard. There are very few photos of the widow Emma who lived on and off with the Bair and Berger family until her death. 1910.

(Right) Sarah (last name unknown) came with the Berger family when they returned to Gettysburg. She stands along the south side of 339 Carlisle. 1935



A Fatherless Child



Mary Catharine Kohler (teenager) c. 1910.

In 1896, a new family arrived that would remain with me for generations. J. Emory Bair (1845-1914), a Civil War veteran, was the Gettysburg National Bank treasurer. He was deeply engaged in the community, owned numerous properties, and served as a College trustee. He and his wife, Mary Catharine “Mollie” (nee Kohler, 1848-1934), had no children but raised her brother George’s child, also named Mary Catharine Kohler (1891-1971), after he died in 1901. I would eventually pass into her hands.

Young Mary Catharine was spirited and fun-loving—driving her own small carriage, hosting lively parties, and often dressing in fanciful hats or costumes to evoke laughter. Even in her later years and in frail health, Mary Catharine could be a prankster. I remember her sitting in her tower bedroom, hidden from view, and calling out to unassuming passersby who could not locate her disembodied voice.



Eisenhower and the Tanks

A more somber mood settled over us when Emory died in 1914. But in 1917, things became lively when soldiers again appeared on the Gettysburg battlefield. Camp Colt, the U.S. Army’s first tank school, was established, bringing Capt. Dwight D. Eisenhower to oversee training on this revolutionary new weaponry. Tanks were not yet manufactured in the U.S., so it took a few months before two arrived from France. When they finally rolled into town, it was with much fanfare and curiosity.

Hundreds of men would pass through town for training, much to the delight of Mary Catharine and her girlfriends. One man, 2nd Lt. Clyde Berger, became a mechanic for these small, two-man tanks. His skill caught the eye of his superiors and he would go on to serve in France in the 344th battalion of the 1st Tank Brigade under George S. Patton.

He also caught someone else’s eye.

In 1919, the *Harrisburg Telegraph* announced the wedding of Mary Catharine to Clyde in the headline “Camp Colt Romance Ends in Marriage.” After the war, the couple moved to Baltimore when Clyde

accepted a commercial construction job, taking their firstborn, John “Jack,” and Mollie with them. With their departure I was leased to the Gettysburg Academy, the College’s preparatory school, and I became the junior dormitory for the younger students.

Healing Waters

When Mollie died in 1934, Mary Catharine inherited the family properties, including me. She and Clyde returned to Gettysburg with their four children: Jack, 14, Joseph, 12, Mary Catharine, 10, and Jesse, 8. Jack was stricken with Bright’s Disease, a kidney ailment, and Clyde was convinced Gettysburg held the cure.

Decades earlier, Gettysburg became known as a destination to “take the waters.” The mineral water from nearby Katalysine Springs was said to offer restorative powers and was bottled for distribution. Once home, Jack’s parents gave him the healing waters daily; within a year he was pronounced cured. This “miracle” led Clyde to reopen the defunct bottling company, but it was a short-lived venture.



With four children, things were always bustling and visitors were plentiful. My yard was filled with children on tire swings, riding bicycles, batting baseballs, and chasing the family dogs. As members of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, the Berger children performed at the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the lighting of the Peace Light Memorial in 1938.

But with the arrival of World War II, the children left—the brothers enlisted, while Mary Catharine headed to Pennsylvania State University to study medical technology.

(Above) Clyde and Mary Catharine Berger with Mary Catharine and Joseph; (front row) Jack and Jesse, c. 1926.



(Left) Clyde Berger (outside 339 Carlisle with an unnamed boy) was a Boy Scout Leader at the time of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1938. The Scouts oversaw the escorting of veterans.



Clyde and Mary Catharine Berger with (l to r) Mary Catherine, Jack, Jesse, and Joseph at 339 Carlisle in 1941.

It was Christmas of 1947 when the family gathered in my parlor to witness her marriage to Bertram “Bert” Larkin ‘49, the son of Gettysburg economics professor, George R. Larkin.

In 1949 their daughter, Marianne, was born. Although she only lived here briefly, she would be the one to preserve my story [see sidebar page 23]. In 1952 Bert died suddenly, a victim of the polio epidemic. Mary Catharine and Marianne left Gettysburg to live with Clyde and Mary C. Berger who had recently sold me and moved to the Philadelphia area.

Pledging Theta Chi

My time with the Bair, Kohler, and Berger families had ended, but I began a new

chapter—literally. I joined the newly established fraternity chapter of Theta Chi. For more than 50 years, I was home to more than 650 brothers.

To accommodate my new residents, an extension was added at the back. A house mother also moved in to watch over them, making endless meals in my kitchen and serving them in my expanded dining room. These men enjoyed entertaining dates in my parlor prior to a College dance, puffing a pipe while reading by the light of a front window, and of, course, my porch was a favorite gathering place.

Not surprisingly at my age, tales of a ghostly resident also materialized. Pledges were warned about the shenanigans of “Thompson,” who delighted in playing with the lights and rearranging objects.

But over time, even with renovations, I was wearing out from housing so many people. When the fraternity closed, I sat empty and declining for a decade, a chain link fence surrounding my then cherry-red façade.

Going to College

My salvation came in 2010, when Gettysburg College officially adopted me and invested more than \$2 million in restoring my exterior to its nineteenth-century grandeur. My interior was adapted



Brothers of Theta Chi offer musical entertainment for their guests at 339 Carlisle. 1956

for classrooms and offices. The old block-style addition in back was demolished to make way for a two-story structure that matched my architecture and provides conference facilities, a student lounge, offices, teaching spaces, a computer lab, and an elevator. Despite this modernization I retain some of my residential qualities like my cozy parlor.

In 2013, I welcomed my newest extended family—the departments of Africana Studies and Economics. At my grand opening there was a celebration, and about one hundred of my old fraternity buddies came back to see me. Among them was Drew Murphy '84, now a lecturer in economics, who moved back in. "My office is my old buddy's room that we used to sit in and laugh all the time," he said. "The irony is not lost on me."

PASSING THE TORCH **Marianne Larkin**

Over the years, Joseph Berger (1922-2008) carefully collected the family's ephemera. He entrusted his niece, Marianne Larkin '71, who later returned to reside in Gettysburg, with the preservation of these memories. She donated documents, letters, and photographs to Special Collections and College Archives.

After Larkin and her newly widowed mother left Gettysburg in 1952, Mary Catharine returned to school and earned a master's degree in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania. She planned to do cellular research at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, NY. But love intervened and she married alumnus John J. Mulvihill '51, who had been Bert's college friend and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brother. The family settled in Swarthmore.



Bert and Mary Catharine Berger Larkin with baby Marianne c. 1949

Today, Larkin enjoys genealogy and continues to investigate her family's history. She would like to identify the four servants shown in her family's photos. She has successfully identified Fred Howard [see page 19] who was living with the family in 1910, and was their horseman and carriage driver. She was able to confirm Howard's identity with his granddaughter, Jean Green-Howard, who resides in Gettysburg.

It is not often that the library receives such a complete archive, so carefully researched and in good condition. The photos capture a slice of life in Gettysburg over the course of many decades. We are grateful to Larkin and her ancestors for taking such good care of the house and recording its story.



Preserving Ancient Stories

For more than 1,000 years, the tradition of rubbings ensured the preservation of China’s art, culture, and history. Early archivists would wet thin sheets of paper, press them onto images or inscriptions carved in stone, and then apply ink to produce a copy—works of art in themselves. Now students are bringing these ancient works to the modern world, ensuring their preservation through digitization.

Last summer, Kolbe Fellows Elinor Gass ’24, Ran Li ’23, and Emily Walsh ’25 were awarded Kolbe Fellowships to study tomb rubbings donated to Special Collections by the late Dr. Chester North Frazier. The inked impressions offer a glimpse into the Han Dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE), showing how Confucianism and Daoism influenced funerary, societal, and educational practices among the elite.

“The rubbings make for a great student research project—one typically available only to graduate students,” explained Yan Sun, professor of art and art history. “The collection offers a rare opportunity for our students to gain hands-on experience in museum work. They learn what is entailed in curatorial work and receive training in cataloging, researching, and exhibiting artwork.”

In 2022, Elinor Gass worked with six rubbings to curate a campus exhibit, “Imprints of Life.” [elinorgass.sites.gettysburg.edu]. Then in spring 2023, Ran Li cataloged more of the rubbings for an independent study. “Being bilingual, she was able to locate the most recent publications on rubbings in Chinese and English,” said Sun.

Gass and Li were joined by Walsh for this digital project. After researching and cataloging, each

fellow chose a scene depicted in the rubbings to create an online exhibit. Li chose an image of a man bouncing a ball to amuse his parents [see next page], Gass focused on figures preparing food [see banner above], and Walsh picked an assassination scene. Their work continues this fall.

The Peking Connection

Dr. Chester North Frazier (1892-1973) became an avid collector of Asian artifacts while living in Peking (now Beijing), China, from 1922 to 1942. He later donated more than 300 tomb rubbings, intricate jade and ivory carvings, and more to Gettysburg College. Although he was not an alumnus, Frazier admired the College, which was his grandfather Jeremiah’s alma mater (Class of 1855).

Frazier received his medical degree from Indiana University, and a doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins University. His expertise was a good fit for the rapidly growing Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), a joint venture between Americans and the Chinese. Frazier taught there for almost 20 years, but left before the college was seized by the new Chinese Communist Party in 1951, which accused the operation of being an agent of American cultural imperialism.

While there, Frazier amassed a varied collection, but he was particularly intrigued by rubbings made from stones carved in low relief with a variety of figures and characters. “Many of these were mortuary in purpose showing scenes in which the deceased had been a participant or in



some way connected. Others were Buddhist figures, Confucius, and the like,” he wrote in a 1967 letter to Lillian Smoke, Gettysburg College’s head librarian.

Frazier describes how a man would visit his home twice a week bearing new copies. “I accumulated great bundles of them,” he explained, saying he ultimately pared them down to a more manageable size. In 1940 his collection was exhibited in the Peking Institute of Fine Arts.

Frazier celebrated his 75th birthday by giving the College a birthday gift—rubblings taken from stone “drums,” made during the Chou Dynasty (1169 BCE - 255 BCE). He described seeing the drums when he first arrived in Peking at the Temple of Confucius.

“In 1927, or thereabouts, when the Chang Kai-shek government was moving all the objects of art and ancient things to the new capitol in Nanking they disappeared. I never saw them again. One wonders where they are now.”

He further described to Smoke how he preserved his collection. “The paper of which they were made

was quite thin but tough. By and by I had them mounted on heavy paper and surrounded with an edge of very thin brocade. They were quite lovely.”

The rubbings were then folded and stored in custom-made boxes that Frazier designed, copied after a classical Chinese book cover. The interlocking inner cover of the box was in the form of conventionalized fungus, faintly resembling a mushroom.

After leaving Peking, Frazier’s career took him to Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but he regularly stayed in touch with Gettysburg College. His donations continue to be appreciated and studied by our faculty, students, and other scholars.

Note: As of 1982, the People’s Republic of China banned tomb rubbings to protect the stones and cultural relics from problems such as erosion. Because of this, these rubbings have become quite rare.



ORAL HISTORY

Making a Life

A generation from now, when people want to know what was it like at Gettysburg College in earlier days, they will benefit from the Making a Life oral history project available in Special Collections. Making a Life captures the experiences and reflections of a person with a substantial connection to the College.

Since 2010, Professor Michael Birkner has assigned this project to his Historical Methods students on eight occasions and conducted dozens of interviews himself. Alumni, former trustees, faculty and emeriti faculty, administrators, and staff are interviewed at length, and transcriptions created. Students also write a reflection essay about their experience conducting the interview.

The interviews look at how people become the adults they grow into. How does education affect their outlook and their life choices, for example; whether and who to marry; what vocation to pursue; or how to respond to the world beyond everyday experience? What are the unexpected bounces life can take?

Central to the exercise is getting Gettysburg College stories. What was it like to attend the College? What were the highlights of those years? Preoccupations? Remembrances of faculty and fellow students? Reflections on the highs and the low points? Faculty members and administrators often share their memories of key personnel with whom they

interacted and their department politics. Current questions explore what they felt at the time, and feel now about campus culture.

“These interviews fill in the gaps left by an increasingly incomplete written record,” said Birkner. “They capture places on campus that no longer exist—the old swimming pool in Weidensall Hall’s basement; the coffee house in Plank Gym; the Stahley Building where math and education were taught; and much more. Above all, they capture interpersonal relationships, as remembered through the lens of experience, ranging from the excruciating to the most pleasant and fulfilling. They capture life as it was lived, from a personalized point of view.”

Birkner recently interviewed retired English Professor Janet Stavropoulos ’67. Afterwards, Stavropoulos looked up the interviews of people she attended college with and worked with as a faculty member and administrator.

“Reading these has given me a deeper appreciation of how the College has evolved, and of the very talented, dedicated professionals who paved its path over an era of constant change and challenge,” she observed. “It is a privilege to have my own oral history interview join the collection.”



A Funny Thing Happened on His Way to the Majestic...

Jeffrey Gabel, the founding executive director of Gettysburg College's Majestic Theatre, will retire in January 2024 after 20 years of dedicated service. He sat for an interview with Michael Birkner on July 31, 2023, and talked about the privilege and pleasure of building "the grandest small-town theatre in America."

When asked about his previous jobs, Birkner was astounded by the range and variety of experiences that "made a life." It's too amazing, and funny, not to share.

"I grew up in Camp Hill, so my first paying job was as a newspaper boy for the *Harrisburg Evening News*. Then I was a tuba player with a German band; a drugstore soda jerk; a mechanic in a paper-box factory; an assembly-line worker in a truck factory; a counselor at a kids' summer camp—actually, Camp Nawakwa, here in Adams County; a circus clown; a sideshow barker; a sign-painter; a circulation manager at a small-town daily newspaper; a hospital maintenance worker; [and] lord high executioner in a turkey-processing plant.

Next, a library checkout clerk; a draftsman in an engineering firm; a cook; an actor in summer theater; and the producer and host of an award-winning quiz show all about the state of Maine, at a public television station owned by Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin Colleges.

Then I was the station manager at the PBS affiliate in southeastern Alaska, in Juneau, and from there I went to be the director of children's programming for the PBS national network in Washington, D.C., followed by the executive director of a bi-state children's advocacy program at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

Finally, I was executive director of the historic 1876 Music Hall in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which led me to the most rewarding and longest-tenured job in my 50-plus-year history of working, and that was as the founding executive director of Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater."

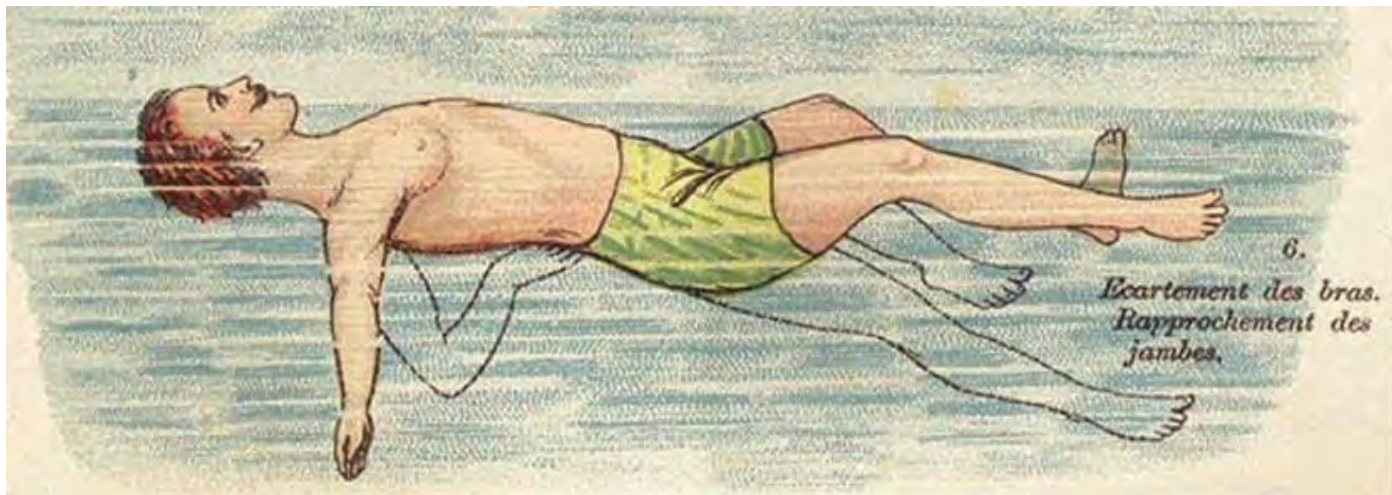
When Birkner asked about the impact of such a peripatetic life Gabel reflected, "My parents instilled in me, from their example, to be a professional, and show up, and do whatever you've agreed to do, day in and day out, and give your very best to the people that you're working beside and with." He added, "In retrospect, I marvel at how many jobs people hired me for that I had no experience for!"

Gabel's rich and entertaining oral history is available in Special Collections' GettDigital Oral History Collection. After nearly 40 years in the entertainment business, he is looking forward to attending shows at the Majestic Theatre as a carefree patron.



FLASHBACK

Sink or Swim?



Anonymous: Les Nageurs (The Swimmers), from the series *Le Supreme Bon Ton*, No. 15 Martinet, Paris, c. 1810-1815

A century ago, many colleges required that students pass a swimming test before being awarded a diploma. At Gettysburg College, the idea was presented at the June 7, 1923, faculty meeting, but went down the drain when tabled by an eight to seven vote:

In the hope that the free use of the swimming pool will be extended to the entire student body, it was moved that the Faculty petitions the Board to make the ability to swim a condition of graduation, that is, that the diploma be withheld until the applicant has shown his ability to swim at least twice the length of the pool unless excused because of some physical disability.

It appears these required final laps towards graduation started in the early nineteenth century. Some schools, like Harvard, were rumored to have

had big donors with a relative lost on the Titanic and demanded it (not true). More likely it was influenced by World War I and the concern that men should be both fit and safe, since most students were male, and threat of war brought military training to many campuses.

The latter was probably the case for Gettysburg, as at that same meeting it was moved that military science be required of all physically fit male students in the freshman and sophomore years. That motion lost by a 12 to 5 vote.

Special Collections assistant Ron Couchman '63 has unearthed this and other interesting tidbits as he transcribes minutes of early-twentieth-century faculty meetings.

Is Cursive History?

History comes alive through handwritten letters and documents. Yet today, reading cursive has become a specialized skill, almost like deciphering hieroglyphics. Gettysburg College history professors and Special Collections staff ruminate on the challenges of assigning work with primary resources when students cannot read cursive writing. Read more in our online edition at <https://foml.sites.gettysburg.edu>

Aloha and Mahalo

By Robin Wagner, Dean of the Library



It was a quirky poster and ephemera shop that drew my attention one dreary January day in 2016. I was strolling among an amalgam of nineteenth-century wooden buildings housing restaurants, surf shops, small museums, a courthouse, and a range of eclectic businesses. Then I stopped to admire the beautiful old travel posters visible through the plate glass window of Vintage European Posters, 744 Front St., Lahaina, Maui.

That day, I opened the door to not just a store, but to an important relationship. Over the ensuing years the library purchased 54 rare World War II and Chinese propaganda posters, unique historical pamphlets, single-issue magazines, and a collection of NASA brochures from the early days of space exploration. All are used for teaching.

Today Vintage European Posters and its treasures lie in ashes, destroyed by the inferno that engulfed Lahaina last August. All the employees survived, but most lost their homes and belongings as well as their livelihoods. We truly mourn this loss, and this article is a tribute to them.

Relationships are important in the library world. This newsletter is always full of stories describing the close connections we develop with our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. What you may not realize is the important relationships we have with our vendors.

In addition to commercial suppliers, we work with independent booksellers, antique dealers, and small bookshops who have, over the years, come to know our “wish list.” They often reach out to us when they get something in that may be of interest to our Special Collections—a scrapbook, a poster, a first edition book, or a manuscript collection.

Our connection with Vintage European Posters was a serendipitous discovery that I described in our Fall 2016 newsletter article, “Treasure Island,” when my husband and I opted out of our tour group’s whale-watching trip and instead happily wandered the charming streets of Lahaina.

The gallery set up shop in Maui in 2001 with just 77 posters. When I visited, they had well over 70,000 original posters dating from 1890 to 1970.

They also offered top-level customer service, culling through their stockpiles to see what else we might like. I shared some of our other collecting interests, and over the next six years, the staff sent dozens of photos of items to consider.

Thanks to these knowledgeable employees, we were able to greatly expand our coverage of World War II posters featuring the home front, women in wartime, advances in medicine and technology, and military alliances.

In my last correspondence with shop manager Sasha Krongos, several weeks after the fires, she thanked us for our concern. “I’m not sure what the future is as far as our gallery goes,” she wrote. “As of right now, nothing has survived except, blessedly, the staff. It is an odd ending for something that meant so much to people. Rebuilding is uncertain, but of course, a dream. *Mahalo nui loa.*”





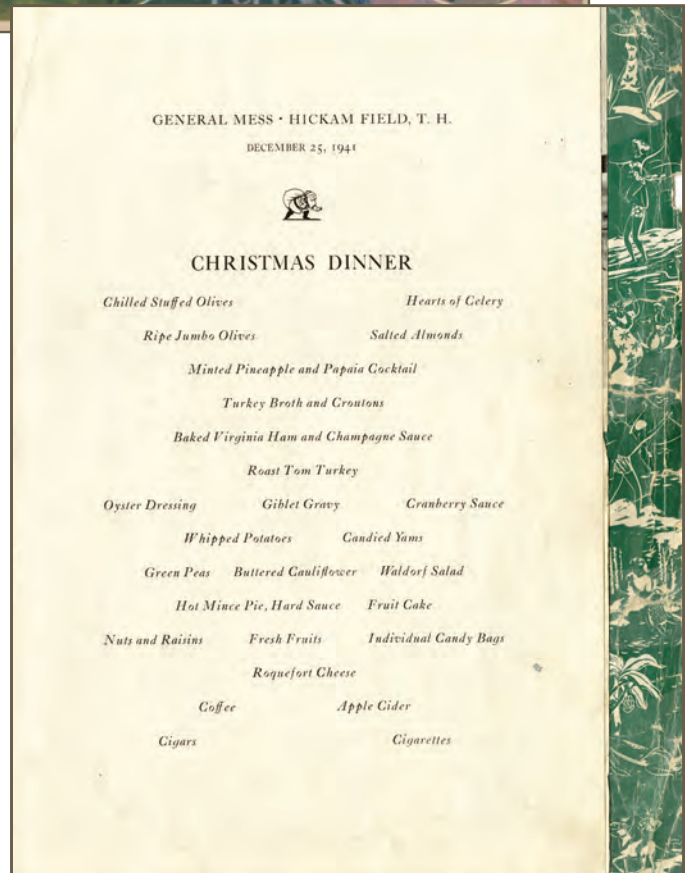
(Above) "The Transmission of Electrical Power" from *Our America* color lithograph series featuring 11 different United States industries was produced by Coca-Cola for classroom use during World War II. The artwork in this series is attributed to N.C. Wyeth.

(Right) Christmas dinner menu at Hickam Field in Pearl Harbor from the booklet "Christmas in Hawaii."

What's for Dinner?

Chilled Stuffed Olives. Baked Virginia Ham in Champagne Sauce. Roast Tom Turkey with all the fixings. Hot Mince Pie. This menu, from Vintage European posters, is a piece that we teach from often. It is a fully illustrated booklet printed in 1941.

Director of Special Collections Carolyn Sautter observed, "We use it to remind students that just because a printed item exists, it does not mean that the event took place. As aspiring historians, they must put in the research to verify the primary sources they encounter. This menu was prepared for a holiday meal for the 31st Bombardment Squadron, planned for December 25, 1941. It is a poignant reminder of a planned peacetime gathering that never took place because of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7.



Because Of You

A RHYTHMIC FOX TROT SONG

*With Ukulele
Accompaniment*



Lyric by
WALTER HIRSCH
Music by
TED FIORITO

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