



Nota Bene

News from the Yale Library

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CONSERVATION TREATMENT COMPLETED ON 316-YEAR-OLD CORONELLI GLOBES

In the Spring 2014 issue of *Nota Bene* (“A Tale of Two Globes”), we shared news of extraordinary gifts from University Library Council member Stephen F. Gates ’68 and Yale Library Associates Trustee Allan Bulley III ’86 to support efforts to conserve the library’s remarkable Lanman Globe Collection. Bulley’s gift funded a survey of conservation needs across the collection, and thanks to Gates’s support, the library was able to perform a full conservation treatment on the spectacular pair of celestial and terrestrial globes made by Vincenzo Coronelli in 1699. T.K. McClintock, one of a very small number of experts worldwide who specialize in the conservation of globes, and his lab, TKM Studios, worked on the globes, which just returned to the library this fall.

According to Christine McCarthy, Chief Conservator in the Preservation Department, “This treatment project really highlights the importance of today’s professional conservation approach: the treatments were made complex by a series of historic repairs that were well-intentioned but poor-quality. Often doing something can be more problematic than doing nothing in conservation. That’s why we strive for reversibility in our work,



employ proven and tested materials, and create documentation records.” Happily, alumni generosity and professional expertise worked together to protect two of the finest globes at Yale, which will be on display at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library when it reopens in September 2016.

University Librarian Susan Gibbons and Stephen Gates ’68, a member of the University Library Council and a collector of globes and books on globes, examine a pair of 1699 Venetian globes by Vincenzo Coronelli.

The Coronelli globes – the most important globes in Yale’s collection – were recently conserved by a specialist in globe conservation thanks to gifts from Steve Gates and Yale Library Associates Trustee Allan E. Bulley III ’86.

SAVING BOOKS AND BYTES: THE LIBRARY’S NEW CENTER FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Over the past year, the Preservation Department has been preparing for a major move from non-contiguous spaces in the basement and stack tower of Sterling Memorial Library to the Center for Library Preservation and Conservation, a facility at 344 Winchester Avenue offering more than 15,000 square feet of purpose-built space. This fall, the department’s Conservation and Exhibition Services, Digital Preservation Services, and Preservation Services units have settled into their state-of-the-art laboratories and offices. The new facility, which other major research libraries have already used as a model, was only possible thanks



to the great generosity of University Library Council members Christopher A. di Bonaventura ’77, Stephen F. Gates ’68, William S. Reese ’77, and Stephen A. Stack ’67.

The Gates Conservation Laboratory houses a large conservation treatment area where books, manuscripts, photographs, prints, maps, musical

The new center for Library Preservation and Conservation at 344 Winchester Avenue

scores, and a range of other materials from the library's collections are assessed, stabilized, and repaired; it is directly adjacent to specially designed spaces for examination, photo documentation, secure storage, and aqueous solvent treatments. In the di Bonaventura Family Digital Archaeology and Preservation Laboratory, experts in digital preservation use computer hardware and software from the last several decades to ensure that the library's vitally important digital information – over 1,000 terabytes and growing – on a range of media remains accessible and stable for generations to come. An anonymous donor named the Stephen Parks Exhibits & Housing Workshop to honor Stephen R. Parks '61, former curator of the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection at the Beinecke and longtime librarian and chairman of the Incorporators of the Elizabethan Club;

materials are already being prepared there for exhibition at Sterling Memorial Library and Paul Rudolph Hall later this academic year. The Reese Conference Room and Stack Family Conference Rooms provide comfortable, high-tech spaces for staff from across Yale's libraries to meet.

While the new center represents remarkable progress for the Preservation Department, their needs are only increasing: Yale's special collections require perennial care to ensure their long-term safety for use by students, faculty, and researchers, and the need for sophisticated preservation work on the library's born-digital collections is growing exponentially each year. Incremental funding to support the vital work of the Preservation Department, whether for physical conservation or digital preservation, remains one of the library's highest priorities.

PRESERVING THE 'KING OF SWING' ON FILM: RARE FOOTAGE SHOWS BENNY GOODMAN BACKSTAGE AND AT HOME

The "King of Swing" got a second life on the silver screen earlier this year thanks to an extensive collaborative project between the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library and the Yale Library's Preservation Department. More than a hundred of jazz legend Benny Goodman's personal film reels – including never-before-seen footage of rehearsals and home movies with the likes of Harpo Marx – were saved from irreparable damage and preserved for generations to come.

This included dozens of hours of commercial-grade footage on 16 mm and 35 mm film, as well as the audio tracks on magnetic reels. Remi Castonguay, former public services librarian at the Music Library and the overseer of the project, commented, "we quickly realized that the collection was quite special, including raw footage of trips that Goodman took to Brussels, Thailand, and Russia as a cultural diplomat during the Cold War."

Goodman moved to Stamford in the 1940s and regularly visited and performed at Yale. He received an honorary degree from the university in 1982; that's when he first met Harold Samuel, Yale's music librarian. It wasn't revealed until after



Benny Goodman, 1930s MCA publicity photo, #359 from MSS 53: The Benny Goodman Papers, Irving S. Gilmore Music Library

Goodman's death in 1986, however, that he had left his vast musical collection to his adopted alma mater.

Among the Benny Goodman Papers are 1,500 musical arrangements, 5,000 photographs, 500 reel-to-reel audiotapes and recordings, 150 film reels, personal correspondence, scrapbooks, and memorabilia, including a plaster cast of his teeth. Goodman also donated master tapes of concerts, live performances, and studio performances that had not been published before, and gave permission for the library to issue previously unreleased recordings, for which it receives royalties. To date, Yale has produced 12 CDs from the material in the archives, all with support from the Goodman estate.

The Music Library supported the project using a \$260,000 "re-grant" from a previous gift to the Yale Library by the Arcadia Foundation.