



*Nota Bene*

*Yale Library Annual Report*

2016-2017 • volume XXXII, number 3





## FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

In 2016–17, we continued to move on multiple paths toward our singular goal: outstanding support for teaching, learning, and research. This common purpose knit together all of our investments in physical spaces, collections, technology, and staff—setting the stage for further progress.

**Changing Spaces** We began the year celebrating the reopening of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library after its sixteen-month renovation. A few months later, the top-to-bottom renovation of the Manuscripts and Archives Department in Sterling Memorial Library began. As the photos on pages 4–5 show, this iconic space, reopened in February 2018, is now equally beautiful and functional.

In between those milestones, we renovated the lower level of the Center for Science and Social Science Information (CSSSI) to create new study space, a map room, a new seminar room, an audiovisual studio, and a video wall for digital exhibits. We also finished reconfiguring the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library with new seminar rooms, comfortable reading areas, and additional large study tables in the main reference room.

**Planning for the Future** At the same time, we continued planning future projects to ensure optimal conditions for our collections and to meet the changing needs of students, faculty, staff, and researchers. Within Sterling, a re-imagined Franke Family Reading Room will provide a new home for work in digital humanities (pages 8–9). A major renovation of the second and third floors of Sterling will begin in January 2019, to upgrade the lighting and data network, install air conditioning, and replace the antiquated steam heating system.

Beginning in July 2018, the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library will be renovated to better support the Yale School of Medicine curriculum. The project will add new classroom space within the library's current footprint and should finish in spring 2019. Finally, a renovation of the Ann T. and Robert M. Bass Library is scheduled for summer 2019 to expand study space for the growing undergraduate population.



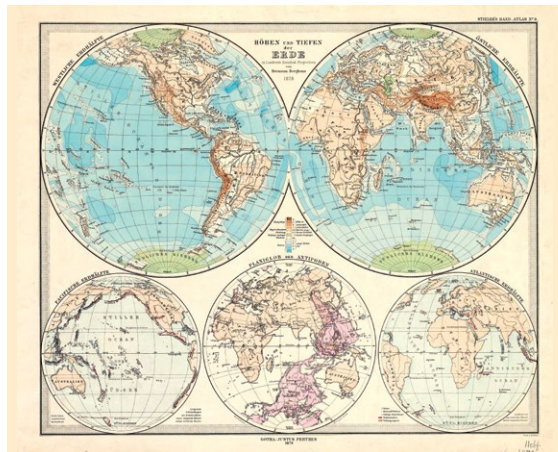
**Teaching with Collections** As President Peter Salovey has said, the myriad opportunities for students to learn from the University's extraordinary art, science, and library collections help to make a Yale education distinctive. Since the opening of new classrooms in the Beinecke and in Manuscripts and Archives, more faculty are working with us to give their students the transformative experience of engaging with original archival materials. Beinecke staff continued their collaboration with Directed Studies, in which students engage with rare manuscripts of their assigned texts. Across all disciplines, librarians continued training students in the sophisticated research skills needed to take full advantage of the library's vast digital holdings. Through the library's active exhibit program (page 12), faculty, staff, and librarians mentor students to present their research in exhibit form.

**Access and Acquisitions** In 2016–17, we spent \$42.6 million building our physical and digital collections, including licensing a wide range of information resources. Acquisitions ranged from Toshiyuki Takamiya's extraordinary collection of Middle English manuscripts at the Beinecke Library to detailed census, demographic, and international trade datasets purchased by CSSSI. The Haas Family Arts Library announced the acquisition of the

## MAP COLLECTION DIGITIZED AND RELOCATED

A multi-year reorganization of the library's extensive cartographic resources, formerly located in the Map Room on the seventh floor of Sterling Memorial Library, continued in 2016–17, improving the security and storage conditions of historic maps and expanding access to the collection through digitization.

The library's pre-1921 privately printed sheet maps – some 15,000 titles comprising roughly 20,000 individual sheets – have been moved to the Beinecke along with antiquarian globes and cartographic instruments. Nearly 12,000 maps were scanned and digitized before the transfer, while others are still being reviewed and assessed for conservation needs. Yale's historic map collection is particularly renowned for North American maps from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries, which reflect European mapmakers' emerging knowledge and appreciation of North American geography.



Stieler's Hand-Atlas No. 8. Created by Hermann Berghaus (1828–1890). Published by Justus Perthes, 1879. Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

The library's holdings of government-sponsored survey maps and a select collection of contemporary print maps from circa 1900 on have been moved to the Center for Science and Social Science Information, where a new map room was created in the renovated lower level. CSSSI also offers geospatial content and services, including consultation expertise, spatial data, and access to supporting software. AP & PC

## EXHIBITS SHOWCASE STUDENT RESEARCH WITH COLLECTIONS

The 2016–17 exhibit program in Sterling Memorial Library spotlighted five students' use of diverse library collections for a wide range of research projects.

The library's Manuscripts and Archives Department provided the original source materials – including student questionnaires, letters and memos from the university administration, local news articles, and photographs – for Helen Price '18 to study the early years of co-education at Yale College. Maria de la Mercedes Martinez '16 used physical artifacts, archaeological books, and periodicals from the Babylonian Collection to explore the use of digital technology in recreating destroyed historical sites. A Beinecke Library photograph of a small boy in a lace-trimmed velvet suit inspired Camille Owens, a graduate student in African American Studies and American Studies, to research the life of “Bright” Oscar Moore, a black child prodigy who toured and performed in the U.S. during the late nineteenth century. Rebecca Straub, a graduate student in art history, drew on the collections of the Cushing/

Whitney Medical Library, analyzing the personal scrapbooks kept by noted neurosurgeon Harvey Cushing throughout his life to reveal the relationship between his personal archive and his published work. Olivia Armandroff '17 drew on materials from Manuscripts and Archives and the Haas Family Arts Library for her research on the early twentieth-century phenomenon of collecting and exchanging bookplates, with a particular focus on the life and work of William Fowler Hopson, a prominent New Haven-based bookplate designer. AP



Student Curator Olivia Armandroff '17 and Kerri Sancomb, the library's exhibits production manager, worked together to install Armandroff's exhibit, “Constructing a Pictorial Identity: Bookplates in the Golden Age of Collecting” in May 2017. Photo: Amanda Patrick