

## From the desk of Arthur Kiron

Curator of Judaica & Librarian of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Library



This is a very exciting time with our [Judaica collections at Penn](#), and I want to share a few highlights with you.

**Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica**  
Penn parents Michael & Linda Jesselson and Jay & Jeanie Schottenstein made a four million dollar gift to enhance

Jewish studies at Penn by supporting the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Judaica collections of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

One portion of their gift supports the endowment of the [Center for Advanced Judaic Studies](#), the world's only institution devoted exclusively to post-doctoral research on Jewish civilization in all its historical and cultural manifestations. Each year, leading scholars come to the Center from around the world to conduct research and share their expertise. Many of the center's fellows teach in the School's undergraduate program in Jewish studies.

A second portion of their gift endows the Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica in Penn's Library, permanently ensuring that students will have access to professional guidance as they explore one of the world's largest Judaica collections. This gift represents the Library's first endowed curatorship.

### The Abraham J. Karp Collection

The Penn Library received a unique collection from Dr. Deborah Karp in honor of her late husband, the historian, rabbi and outstanding collector, Professor Abraham J. Karp. The Abraham J. Karp Collection contains over 300 rare manuscripts including Genizah fragments, historical letters and documents, amulets and manuscript writings related to magic and witchcraft, miscellaneous handwritten prayers, printed broadsides, pamphlets and books from the 17th through the 20th centuries, as well as a collection of hundreds of pre-WWII Judaica bookseller, auction, and exhibition catalogs.

### The Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society

The Penn Library received a grant from Penn's Program for Research on Religion and Urban

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PENN LIBRARY?

# Check It Out!



Civil Society for *Integrating Information Technologies with the Humanistic Study of Religion and Urban Civil Society in the Middle East* to promote the humanistic study of urban religious cultures in the Middle East and North Africa during the Islamic era, the period following the rise of Islam in the seventh century.

The result is a beautiful new research site <http://www.library.upenn.edu/research/prruc/index.html>, equipped with scans of original manuscripts from the Penn collection and links to a vast number of resources. The site seeks to draw the attention of researchers to useful resources, and particularly to printed books, manuscripts, and images in the library collections of the University of Pennsylvania.

### The Penn/Cambridge Genizah Fragment Project

In a collaborative effort to reunite the dispersed contents of the Cairo Genizah in a virtual space, the Penn Library is partnering with the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Unit at the Cambridge University Library and the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City. Thanks to a generous gift from Mr. Jeffrey Keil, Penn alumnus and member of the Penn Library's Board of Overseers, this collaborative effort has led to the creation of a web site (<http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/genizah/index.cfm>) that displays, for the first time, selected holdings from these distinct institutions.

Documents from the Cairo Genizah date from the 9th through through the 15th centuries.

Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, and Judeo-Arabic, they document social, cultural, and religious life around the Mediterranean basin. The fragments were discovered in the late 19th century in the Ben Ezra synagogue in Fustat, a neighborhood in Old Cairo. While most of the fragments eventually wound up at Cambridge, many came to North America.

We have completed the scanning and cataloging of all of Penn's fragments, have received a sample of scans and metadata from Cambridge and New York, and have demonstrated proof that the Project's concept is sound. This web site is an evolving project; its size and functionality will continue to grow and improve with time and additional partners. We hope you enjoy visiting it.

And, check out our fascinating online exhibitions at <http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/>.

## Praise from Hebrew University

APPLAUSE FOR THE PENN LIBRARY'S GENIZAH FRAGMENT PROJECT

September 15, 2005

Dear Dr Kiron:

*I want to share with you an experience I had in a course I taught advanced students at the Hebrew University in the Spring of 2005. The course was entitled "An Introduction to Cairo Genizah Research." The course description was as follows:*

The Cairo Genizah documents all branches of human life especially in the Lands of Islam in the 9th-13th centuries. Those who study this period, especially those interested in the history of Muslim Lands, must consult these sources. This introductory course is dedicated to understanding why the Genizah is such an important research tool, to the significance of its contents and to the accumulated research based on it over the last 140 years. The course is aimed to expose advanced students (no pre-requisites are required) to the richness and the potentiality of Cairo Genizah for further research.

*continued on next page*

## The Friendly Instructor

The University of Pennsylvania Library announces the acquisition of an extraordinary, one-of-a-kind Benjamin Franklin imprint. Several libraries (including Penn's) have long held a full run of Franklin Press items, with the exception of one supposed-lost item: a book aimed at children called "**The Friendly Instructor; or, a Companion for Young Ladies and Young Gentlemen: In which Their Duty to God, and their Parents, their Carriage to Superiors and Inferiors, and several other very useful and instructive Lessons, are Recommended.**"

In time for the Franklin Tercentenary, the Penn Library acquired this engaging book for young children, boys and girls in equal measure (including the likes of "Master Sammy" and 'Master Billy,' and 'Miss Chloe and Miss Dorinda')—and now can boast the only complete collection of original Franklin Press imprints.



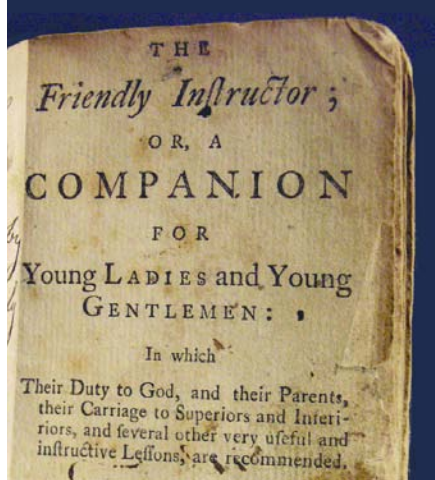
The text was originally written and published in England, as a guide for young English boys and girls. Very few copies of the English work survive. Franklin brought it to America, publishing two editions of the work.

However, none of the editions had surfaced, until this one was offered to Penn. It was printed in 1750, and the owner's inscription reads "Sally Bissell Her Book giving to her by Mr Joseph Nealy Mariner 1772".

The book is of significance as one of the earliest—if not the first—courtesy book aimed at women and published in America. Written by an anonymous English woman (the preface tells us), the book was quite popular in Britain, and its two editions from Franklin testifies to the strength of the American market for it. However, the real proof of the book's popularity

### Praise from Hebrew University *cont. from previous page*

*The combination of the students was surprising—they came from different departments of the faculty (including the school of librarians). In order to show them how to access the contents of the genizah and to research historical questions, I asked for your permission to use your site (<http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/genizah/index.cfm>). The class was not only fascinated by the combination of catalogue and digitized texts they found there; most of the students visited again and again the site. Some prepared their exercises on the basis of it since it is so user friendly and some were in direct contact with you in*



and importance for contemporaries is the fact that only one copy now survives. It was probably a book that was used and used and then used again, circulated or handed down, until it was loved to death. Such, alas, is the fate of books aimed at younger audiences.

Given the importance of Franklin as a printer, the mere appearance of a hitherto unseen and unstudied work from his press is a signal event for curators and scholars. Moreover, this copy is in exceptionally fine condition. It is wrapped in its original binding, executed in a style Franklin's binders often used. It bears ownership and gift inscriptions from the 18th century, so scholars will be able to trace its early provenance. And it contains an unusually large announcement at the end of books for sale by Franklin. All in all, according to Michael Ryan, Director of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, it would be hard to find a more "expressive" artifact. As a piece of the past, Penn's copy of "**The Friendly Instructor**" is exceptionally rich and rewarding.

This addition to our collections is great moment for the Penn Library as it celebrates the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary. Our generous Library Overseers made it possible. Special thanks to former Overseer Lawrence J. Schoenberg, C'53, WG'56, for making the lead gift for this acquisition.

*order to offer their feedback, remarks and ideas.*

*It is truly unique that a group of students completely new to the study of the Genizah have come to feel so much at home in the subject. A lot of the credit belongs to your project, and the useful tools that you have created.*

*Chapeau! Yours truly,*

*Menahem Ben-Sasson  
Professor, History of the Jewish People, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities of the East; President, World Union of Jewish Studies; Co-Director, Friedberg Genizah Project*



## Chatting from Bangladesh

Penn patrons can ask a librarian for help online at **LiveChat**, available weekdays and evenings Thursday through Sunday. Patrons love the service—chatting via computer from as far away as Bangladesh.

From: Sufia Uddin, Ph.D. '00  
in Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

*Hello. I'm writing you from Dhaka, Bangladesh. I am an alum from the ph.d. program in Ames. I desperately need a page citation that I can't seem to find. I know I borrowed the book from Penn when I was a grad student and confirmed the book's existence at Van Pelt just now. I need to send my book out to my editor and don't have the page numbers of an article in the book.*

*The article is: Subhan, Abdus. "Arabic, Persian, and Urdu Literatures," in History of Bangladesh, vol. 3, Social and Cultural History, Sirajul Islam, editor, 1997.*

*Could you please email me back with page numbers as soon as possible. Thanks so much.*

*Sufia Mendez Uddin  
Associate Professor, Department of Religion, The University of Vermont*

From: Patty Lynn, Research and Instructional Services, Van Pelt Library

*Sufia, Thank you for your question. I have checked the citation against the printed book for you. The pages are: 393-417.*

From: Sufia Uddin

*Thanks so much. The online chat is a great addition to the services at Van Pelt.*

## Performance Saved!

Grace F. Zhang, College '08, a student worker at the Library Information



Desk, saved the day for the Leipzig String Quartet. The Quartet was scheduled to perform at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center and arrived in Philadelphia only to discover that their first violinist's luggage, containing all of their music, had not arrived with them. The Quartet tried to get replacement scores from a number of different sources, but was unable to find anyone who could help in time.

Then they discovered that Penn's Music Library's holdings included the scores that they needed. A member of the Quartet contacted the library and spoke to Grace Zhang. Grace took it upon herself to go to the Music Library, find and photocopy the scores, and deliver those copies to the Quartet at their hotel.

After all of her effort, Grace refused repayment for the copying costs or her cab fare, but did accept a ticket to the performance she had just saved.

## Joel & Lissy Davis Teaching Seminar Room – Fisher Fine Arts Library

A gift from Elizabeth Toll Davis, College for Women 1970, and Joel P. Davis, College 1966, funded a Teaching Seminar Room in the Fisher Fine Arts Library.

The Fisher Fine Arts Library is housed in the University's first library building, built in 1888 from the designs of architect Frank Furness. A flamboyant Victorian building, the Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Its restoration by the architectural firm of Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown has won national honors.

The Teaching Seminar Room, prominently located on the main floor of the Fisher Fine Arts Library, will be used for classes, group study, meetings, and seminars. With four arched windows overlooking College Hall Green, the room will be a handsome space fully equipped with high-speed internet connections and multi-media capability.

Generous supporters of the University, Mr. Davis has served on the University of Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Advisory Board, and Mrs. Davis has been an alumni inter-

viewer for Penn applicants and President of Florida's Gold Coast Penn Club.

"The University of Pennsylvania holds a special place in our hearts, and we wanted to give a tangible gift in appreciation," said Joel and Lissy Davis. "A library is central to any great university, and we knew the Penn Library was an appropriate place for our gift. We hope that many students will enjoy the room and its lovely view overlooking the Green."

Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, said, "Joel and Lissy Davis share with us our vision of the Library as central to teaching and learning at Penn. We are very grateful for their generosity."



## Bravo for Books by Mail

*I have found Books By Mail an extremely useful and well-executed service of the Penn library. It has been my research lifeline during my time away from Philadelphia. Books By Mail has been unfailingly timely and accurate, and its staff helpful. I realize that it must not be cheap to ship books across the country, but I think I speak for many of us who cannot be on campus when I say that it is money well spent. Bravo!*

*Dorian Bell  
PhD candidate, Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania*

Books By Mail is a service offered to Penn graduate students and faculty members to facilitate their research while living away from campus. Participants can request delivery of on-shelf Penn Library circulating books via insured carrier to their homes. The service is available to registered graduate students and to faculty with continuing appointments who live more than 75 miles from Philadelphia within the United States and Canada. The service also extends to patrons with disabilities.

## A Model of Excellence

We are very pleased that the **Library's Summer Internship Program** was selected to receive one of [Penn's Models of Excellence awards](#). The Models of Excellence program encourages excellence, provides inspiring role models for emulation, and rewards remarkable accomplishments by Penn staff.

The Summer Internship Program is a new diversity initiative designed to bring minority high school students into an academic library environment to kindle an interest in the library and information science profession as a career choice. Last summer's program was an extraordinary success, and we are looking forward to hosting a new group of interns this summer. The award honors the Library staff as we strive together to create a workforce that reflects the diversity of the Penn community the Library serves.



## Happenings

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### East Meets West - Flute and Guitar

Dolce Suono Chamber Music Concert Series

Thursday, March 16 • 7:30 p.m.  
Rosenwald Gallery, 6th Floor  
Van Pelt-Dietrich Library

Mimi Stillman, flute, Yamaha Performing Artist and Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Pennsylvania, and Allen Krantz, guitar, professor at Temple University  
Music of Astor Piazzolla, Claude Debussy, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Ravi Shankar, Allen Krantz, Daniel Dorff  
For more information, telephone 215-898-7552



### Music from Franklin's Circle

Songs, sonatas and suites from Penn's collection of Franklin-era music

Tuesday, April 4, 2006 • 5:00 p.m.  
Harrison Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology  
3260 South Street

Soprano Laura Heimes joins the Tempesta di Mare Chamber Players for a concert of songs, sonatas, and suites featuring highlights from the University of Pennsylvania's collection of music belonging to Philadelphia native Francis Hopkinson. Hopkinson (1737-1791), protégé and friend of Benjamin Franklin, signator to the Declaration of Independence and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's first class (then the College of Philadelphia), was also a performer, composer, concert promoter, and avid music collector.

### Franklin, Vergennes, and the Achievement of American Independence

Lecture by Richard Beeman, Professor of American History University of Pennsylvania

Friday, April 7, 2006 • 5:00 p.m.  
Rosenwald Gallery, 6th floor  
Van Pelt-Dietrich Library



Professor Beeman will discuss the way in which

Franklin, by his extraordinary combination of charm, political acumen, guile and, perhaps most important, genuine love of France and the French people, negotiated the dangerous diplomatic waters during America's peace negotiations with England, France, and Spain.

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## Happenings *continued*

Reception and view of the exhibition, *Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin*, follows Sponsored by the French Heritage Society in conjunction with the University of Pennsylvania Library. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Beck at 215-898-7086 or egw@pobox.upenn.edu.

### Armonia del Paradiso Flute, Strings, and Harp

Dolce Suono Chamber Music Concert Series

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 • 7:30 p.m.

Rosenwald Gallery, 6th Floor

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library

Mimi Stillman, flute, Yamaha Performing Artist and Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Hainen,

Principal Harp, The Philadelphia Orchestra; Hirono Oka, violin, Burchard Tang, viola, and Yumi Kendall, cello members of The Philadelphia Orchestra Music of Debussy, Bax,

Jolivet, Ravel, Takemitsu  
For additional information, telephone 215-898-7552

### The Library is Burning: Text, Image, Object, 1963-2005

Oswaldo Romberg retrospective, see "Exhibitions"

Exhibition opening reception:  
Friday, April 7, 2006 • 6 p.m.

Kamin Gallery, 1st Floor

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center

## ALUMNI WEEKEND

### Milestone Ribbon Cutting

Join us for a celebration of the innovative Weigle Information Commons and other new Library study spaces

Saturday, May 13, 2006

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

David B. Weigle Information Commons, 1st Floor

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center



### Open House, Tours, Workshops, & Coffee Bar at the David B. Weigle Information Commons

Tour the recently opened collaborative and media-rich David B. Weigle Information Commons and see how this new learning environment supports student research. The Weigle Information Commons is a learning space in Van Pelt Dietrich Library that offers students a supportive environment for work by providing collaborative group study spaces (both traditional study rooms and more informal diner booths); a digital media center; a seminar room; and consulting services for students and faculty.

Friday, May 12, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Open House, Tours, & Coffee Bar

11:00 a.m. - Workshop on Research Digital Tools

1:00 p.m. - Workshop on Research Digital Tools

David B. Weigle Information Commons, 1st Floor

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center

For reservations, contact 800-390-1829

### The Founder's Idea of a Good Education

Muriel Pfaelzer Bodek Public Affairs Lecture

Presented by J.A. Leo Lemay, Winterthur Professor of English University of Delaware

Saturday, May 13, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

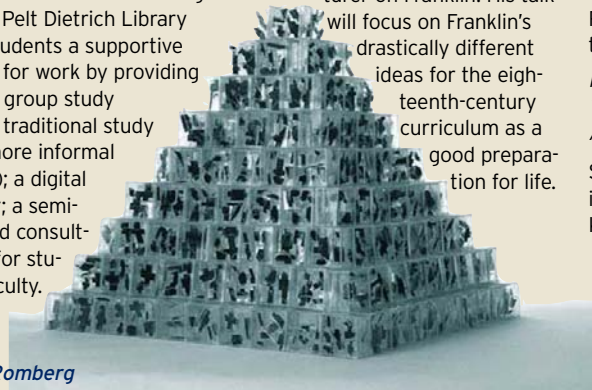
Rosenwald Gallery

Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, 6th Floor

Flour

In conjunction with *Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin*, the Penn Library presents Dr.

Lemay, renowned author and lecturer on Franklin. His talk will focus on Franklin's drastically different ideas for the eighteenth-century curriculum as a good preparation for life.



"The Library is Burning, Model" (1991), Romberg

## EXHIBITIONS

### Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Franklin and Worlds of Colonial Learning

What were schools like in the early Delaware Valley? Who received an education, how, and where? Who were the teachers, and what was taught? Drawing on the collections of the University of Pennsylvania Library, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and other Philadelphia-area libraries, museums, and schools, this exhibition surveys the educational landscape of the period and

investigates the importance, originality, and ongoing relevance of Franklin's vision. It includes original documents, printed books, and artifacts, as well as photographs of surviving school buildings.

Rosenwald Gallery, 6th Floor  
Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center

On exhibition January 17 - May 31, 2006

### Oswaldo Romberg, The Library is Burning: Text, Image, Object

A retrospective of Oswaldo Romberg's work as an artist of the book

Kamin Gallery, 1st Floor  
Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center  
April 7 - June 7, 2006

Special support for this exhibition is provided by the Kamin Family.



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