

Friends Forum



a newsletter for the Friends of the Library

May, 2001

From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Mercifully, perhaps the longest winter in New Hampshire history has finally ended, with no casualties at our beloved library. Though we were often cut off from civilization during the dark days of February and March, we were able to preserve service though the heroic efforts of our staff who frequently had to tunnel their way into the building after the worst of our storms. Special thanks goes to our Reference staff, headed by Miriam Johnson, who were always on duty to serve students regardless of what new depths the weather found over the last few months.

With the coming of spring, important new changes will be coming to the Library in the areas of both personnel and technology. After many years of faithful and cheerful service at our Circulation Desk, Jeanne Marie Poisson will be retiring from full time service effective May 15. She will still be with us part time, however, which is great news not only for us, but also for the many students she has befriended over the years. Also leaving us will be Florence Cimon, who has been our in house periodicals experts for over thirty years. Florence remains the single most knowledgeable person who has ever worked in our periodicals department and we owe much to her for the excellent state of one of our greatest informational assets. In the Technical Services department, finally, we must say good bye to Cindy McGreevey, who is retiring with her husband Phil, Head of Dining Services, to their family farm in Messina, New York. Cindy is one of the world's best catalogers and the best coworker in the history of Saint Anselm. We will miss all of these folks very much, and I can only hope they won't forget us as their paths take them away from our everyday lives.

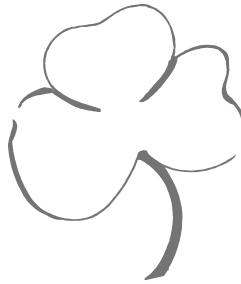
In the summer of this year, we will also be upgrading our on-line catalog ANSELM to a new, fully Web based version entitled *Millennium*. *Millennium* will contain many enhancements to ANSELM, including a new server that will allow many more of our students to use the system simultaneously. The implementation of ANSELM will take many hours, an effort that will commence this summer under the capable direction of the famous John Dillon, Head of Technical Services. In May, John will be in Oakland to begin preparations for our implementation, and also to attend the User's Group meeting sponsored by Innovative In-

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An Evening Of Poetry And Song With Desmond Egan

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

On the evening of March 28 2001, the Friends of the Geisel Library, in conjunction with the Oxford Companions and the Student Government Association, sponsored an evening with Desmond Egan, one of Ireland's best known and most entertaining poets. The event took place in the DeCiccio Current Periodicals Reading Room of the Library, which provided a warm and comfortable setting for a considerable gathering of all our Friends with an interest in Irish culture.



Desmond Egan was born in Athlone, Ireland and attended St. Patrick's College in Maynooth where he received a BA. He continued his studies at University College, Dublin, that awarded him an MA with the highest marks. He began writing poetry nearly thirty years ago, with an introspective volume entitled *Midland* in 1972. After *Midland* came *Leaves*, a collection of pensive lyrics which focused on the image of a woman as well as certain classic Irish landscapes. Few years later, Egan authored a highly significant collection of political poems entitled *Seige*, a work that poignantly demonstrated Egan's despair over the continuous violence in the north. Subsequent works included *Woodcutter* and *Athlone*, as well as *Snapdragon*, *Poems for Peace*, *A Song for My Father*, *Peninsula*, and *In the Holocaust of Autumn* and many, many others. In 1983, Mr. Egan was awarded the prestigious National Poetry Foundation of America Award; the first European to be accorded such an honor.

Mr. Egan gave us an intimate portrait of his life and works, first by singing a song he had written in his native tongue, and then by taking us through a verbal tour of his works over the last thirty years. He also traced his development as a poet, with a special emphasis on his early visits to

America. He read his works with both inspiration and passion,

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Betsy's Bookstore

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

Books: A Love Story



Cloistered in my chaotically cluttered office my thoughts may sometimes wander, but alas do not often turn to flights of love. So it is with great pleasure that I take a few moments to share a love story involving a woman, a man, a saint named Anselm, and yes...books.

Keith Botelho grew up in Middletown, Rhode Island and always had a love of reading. As a teenager, he haunted used bookstores in Newport, and was mentored by two dealers who shared with him their knowledge of book collecting. By the time Keith was 19 and an English major at Saint Anselm College, he had started setting up his own library. He wasn't just a bookworm, though — Keith also worked for the *Saint Anselm Crier* and was copy editor for the yearbook. He also found time to pitch for the Hawks baseball team.

Denise Warner was always a voracious reader. She made weekly trips to her local library in Springvale, Maine, and started her own library as well. She started at Saint Anselm College a year after Keith. Denise graduated in 1997 with a degree in English. She was the student speaker at graduation, and Editor in Chief of the yearbook.

Not surprisingly these two people with much in common found one another and fell in love. They were married at the Abbey Church in August, 1999. But the story continues...

After graduation and marriage, both Denise and Keith pursued their love of books and Saint Anselm College. Denise is the Resident Manager in Bernard Court at the college (12 buildings of townhouses housing juniors and seniors). She also works for Colophon, a small book production company in Harvard Square. Denise is the production editor for the firm, which manages mostly academic and medical textbooks for a variety of publishers. She works with authors, editors, and proofreaders, handling up to 15 manuscripts a week. In her free time, she freelances as a copy editor and proofreader. Her commute to Boston allows her to get in some "pleasure" reading as well.

After graduation, Keith was an English teacher at Londonderry High School, where he was also the advisor to the literary magazine and coached varsity baseball. Last year he left the high school for a teaching assistantship at UNH, allowing him to complete his Master's degree in English Literature. He is putting the final touches on his thesis: *17th Century Revenge Tragedy: The Political Subtext of Bodily Violence*. Last summer he also worked at the Public Relations office at Saint Anselm.

Throughout this time, the couple has been building their library, which now is approximately 3,000 volumes. Denise has a special interest in Renaissance, Victorian, Gothic, crime

fiction, and an eclectic array of literature. Keith is interested in many things: history, modern firsts (first editions of twentieth century authors), signed and association copies, anything "unusual". One of his treasures is the 1963 booklet recalling the life of Robert Frost from a memorial service at Amherst College two weeks after his death. Another is a collection of individually bound, early twentieth century newspapers from the Narragansett (RI) Indian tribe.

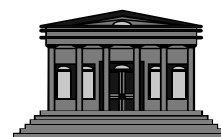
Last summer, Keith and Denise contemplated how to further their commitment to Saint Anselm College. They were already members of the College's President's Society, and they decided to give back something more than just a monetary gift to Saint Anselm's. Inspired by the Anselm of Canterbury conference sponsored by the library, and coupled with their keen interest in book collecting, Keith and Denise determined they would collect and donate books specifically for the Anselm Collection of Geisel Library. They recently presented the library with their first gift: *Art, Mind and Religion*, a collection of essays from the Oberlin Colloquium in Philosophy, 1965. They have plans to locate, purchase, and donate several titles a year when possible.

It has been my very great pleasure to work with the Botelhos. Their commitment to each other, the college, and now the library, is, frankly, awesome. These young people are channeling their energies in many significant ways, and it is the good fortune of the library that they have chosen to become donors of the Anselm Collection. They are also Friends of the Library and I encourage each of you to seek them out at a Friends function. I guarantee you will have an interesting conversation. ♥

(From the Librarian, continued from page 1)

terfaces and sponsored each year by our vendor, Innovative Interfaces. By late August, you will be able to see the new face of ANSELM by simply going to the College home page and clicking on the Geisel Library. The upgrade of ANSELM, finally, was made possible by a gift from the estate of Mrs. Esther Routhier, one our best friends who passed away just last year.

Again, at the end of each academic year, I like to thank all of you for your support of our efforts for so many years. Without your help our Library collections would not have reached their current level of excellence, nor continue to develop as our curriculum expands to meet the challenges of a new and exciting century. Thank you once again, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall. ✍️



A Rare Find!

By Anne Murphy, Assistant Cataloger

In our last issue John Dillon, our revered Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator wrote about a plan for a new project. This project turned out to be a **Retrospective Cataloging Review** of the Rare Books Collection. In short, we are trying to look at the collection and make certain all the titles are cataloged according to a proper standard, and also give each item an identification mark and a security strip. These are cataloging terms for dotting one's i's and crossing one's t's. Naturally this is a significant undertaking, but being a fan of special collections, I immediately piped up, "How fascinating! Wow, rare books! Wonder what is up there on those dusty, creaky shelves?" I was of course referring to the Creaghe and Wang Rooms, (neither of which is



dusty or creaky), home to our special collections. J. D. looked quickly in my direction and said, smiling, "Glad you asked, Anne. Thought I would assign you this project in the hope that you might be able to tell us."

With three-fourths of the project completed, I could speak volumes. Each day brings intriguing books to my attention. For example, we own a seventeenth century work on mysticism entitled *Sancta Sophia, or Directions for the Prayer of Contemplation* by Augustine Baker published in 1657 in Doway. Father Baker was a Benedictine monk well known for the many treatises he wrote on mysticism. We also own an update to this work as well, entitled *Holy Wisdom, or Directions for the Prayer of Contemplation Extracted Out of More Than Forty Treatises* published in 1890. Another notable title that you will now find in the catalog is *The Works of Philo Judaeus, the Contemporary of Josephus* translated from the original Greek into English.

The majority of the works in our Rare Collection are religious in nature. We own two unique Haggadahs. One is entitled *The Haggadah of the Bene Israel of India* and is written in Marathi and Hebrew. The other, *The Moshe Bamberger Haggadah*, includes eighteenth century illuminations. We also own another religious work with unique illustrations, *Woman in Sacred History, a Series of Sketches Drawn from Scriptural, Historical, and Legendary Sources* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. This work includes twenty-five chromo-lithographs.

In cataloging the history section, I came upon a title *Memoirs of General La Fayette*. Many people, I believe, are acquainted with the general and his contributions to our revolution, but I would wager that some do not know his full official name and might not remember all of it even if they did. It is Marquis de Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier Lafayette. And I thought Ann(e) was a problem!

Probably the strangest item that I have ever encountered was cleverly hidden inside a protective box. As I opened the box that held *Geography for Youth*, I jumped back in horror and screamed for help. I thought there was a live animal on my desk, and I reached for my umbrella or a chair to fend it off. Alas, it was only an old squirrel hide binding that looked as though it had been in a bad fight before it ever covered a book. Our resident archivist and chief-in-charge of identifying furry books, Joe Constance, tells us that the practice of using hides for bindings was not uncommon in older publishing houses. Here is one fine example of the importance of not judging a book by its cover.

It must go without saying that the Geisel Library receives many items in donation that assist in our mission of providing educational resources to our community. Some of these donations are, in fact, not always books. You may be comforted to know that somewhere up in the far corners of the rare collection we even have rocks that some people claim contains traces of blood from a prehistoric saber-toothed tiger, a rare find indeed! Too bad I left my DNA kit at home. What will they ask me to catalog next? Oh no! Here comes J.D. again! 📖

(Desmond Egan, continued from page 1)

something which visibly moved all in the audience. He also possessed a wonderful sense of humor, which he demonstrated not only in his readings but also with his warm interactions with his audience in the reception following his reading. In all it was a wonderful evening which we would all like to repeat sometime soon. ♣

Book Review

By *Martha Dickerson, Head of Circulation*

James, P.D. *Death in Holy Orders*. New York. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001

“Smells and Bells”

P.D. James' latest book is a gothic tale set at the fictional College of Saint Anselm. An Anglican theological school on the desolate East Anglia coast, the place has all the looming Victorian towers, turrets, twisting stairs and menacing shadows so essential to good detective fiction.



When a student turns up dead on the beach, the intrepid poet-detective Adam Dalgliesh is called to investigate. Dalgliesh is familiar with Saint Anselm's, having visited the college frequently in his youth. Other mysterious deaths follow, including the ghastly murder of an archdeacon who was determined to see the college closed for good. The priests, students and staff compose a small, tightly knit group, most of who have a motive for murder and are not the least intimidated by police grilling.

James once again elevates the crime genre with her insightful character studies, wonderfully descriptive language, and a fast-paced plot. The reader feels the isolation, inhales the incense, and senses the fear in what used to be a “place of unsullied goodness and peace.”

Of course, it is great fun comparing the fictionalized Saint Anselm's, a seething hotbed of passions and hostilities, to its New Hampshire counterpart. ❁

Geisel Library Book Fund

Quite often, occasions arise when we would like to mark a special event in the lives of our family or friends. Such events include birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, retirements, the birth of a child, or the passing of someone dear to us from this life. Though a card or flowers are always our initial impulse, we often wish for a gift that would convey a deeper expression of our feelings. Please consider a donation to the Geisel Library for the purchase of a book in commemoration of a special person or event. The Library will purchase a book on your behalf, and then notify your friends and relatives of your thoughtfulness. Within the volume itself, we will attach a permanent bookplate inscribed with words of your choice. Your book will then become an important part of our collection which is now well over 215,000 volumes.

Without gifts to the book fund, our collection would be far less rich than it is today and unable to support our strong liberal arts curriculum. For information on the Geisel Library Book Fund, please contact Denise Labore at (603) 641-7301 or e-mail dlabore@anselm.edu.

All of us at Saint Anselm are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. Your contributions are an important source of support for the Library, our students and faculty. ♥

Have An Enjoyable Summer



I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your support of the Friends organization. Activities will resume in the Fall and we hope you will be able to join us for at least one of our events.

Have an enjoyable and restful summer, and as always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Joseph W. Constance, Jr.
Librarian

“To read a book in the true sense, to read it, that is, not as a critic but in the spirit of enjoyment—is to lay aside for the moment one's own personality and to become part of the author.”

Leslie Stephen, 1832-1904

