

# Friends Forum



a newsletter for the Friends of the Library

May, 2002

## From the Librarian

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr.

Spring has finally arrived in the foothills of New Hampshire, though early mornings are still chilly enough to remind us that Old Man Winter could retaliate against our optimism just once more before our gardens are planted. Still, the warmer weather cannot help but lift our spirits, just as we conclude what was a very busy spring for the Friends of the Library.

Our first event of the New Year took place in early February as former Head of Reference Joe Tucker and his fellow musicians played Irish and American folk tunes at the Saint Anselm Coffee Shop for the benefit of our campus community. The group played a most pleasant mix of old Irish folk tunes and newer American scores, all tailored to a rousing Friday night sing-a-long crowd. Joe played lead guitar and was head vocalist while his lovely wife, Amy, played several instruments and assisted with vocals. Joe and Amy were joined by their friend, Robert Gerry on bass, as well as an entire station wagon full of instruments. It was a wonderful evening of music and we are grateful to Joe, Amy and Robert for their fine performance. Since leaving Saint Anselm, Joe has been working as Head Cataloger and Reference Librarian at the Berkeley Conservatory of Music. There, he has been busy building a first class collection of musical recordings for students who will be making music their life's work. We look forward to seeing him again sometime soon.

On March 21 the Friends sponsored a lecture by Ronald Suleski, Ph.D. on religion in Japan entitled, *Shinto in Japan: Yesterday and Today*. Dr. Suleski is a highly respected scholar who now works at the famous Harvard-Yenching Institute of Harvard University. The Yenching Institute is the finest repository of Asian sources in the United States, containing a wealth of material pertaining to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cultures. Dr. Suleski's address is part of a larger effort at Saint Anselm to encourage interest in Asian studies.

On April 12-13, 2002, the College hosted the second Saint Anselm Conference where scholars from all over the United States gathered to present papers celebrating the life and works of

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## Institute Of Saint Anselm Studies Names Board Of Consultors

By Joseph W. Constance, Jr., Librarian

On February 18 of this year, Fr. John Fortin, Director of the Institute of Saint Anselm Studies, announced the formation of a Board of Consultors to advise the Institute on issues of policy and planning. The Consultors include: Dr. Stephen Brown of Boston College, Rev. Brian Davies, OP of Fordham University, Professor Gillian Evans of Cambridge University, Rev. Hugh Feiss, OSB of the Monastery of the Ascension, Dr.



Stephen Gersh and Dr. Ralph McNerny of the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Thomas Losoncy of Villanova University, Dr. Katherin Rogers of the University of Delaware, Dr. Eleanor Stump of Saint Louis University and Sr. Benedicta Ward, SLG of Oxford University.

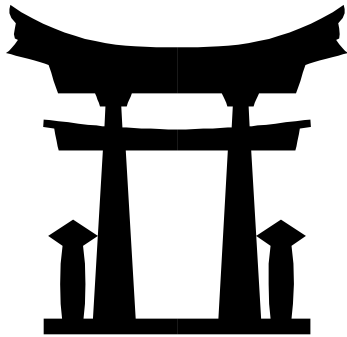
Each member of the Board is a distinguished scholar in the field of medieval and Anselmian studies who will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the newly formed Institute. Professor Evans, as you might recall, was the keynote speaker at our last conference and has graciously offered to assist us in the search for Anselm materials in Britain that might be suitable for acquisition for the Institute Library. Dr. Katherin Rogers was the keynote speaker at this year's conference which was held on April 12 - 13, 2002. Dr. Rogers is a recognized scholar on the thought of Saint Anselm of Canterbury. She is the author of *The Neoplatonic Metaphysics and Epistemology of Anselm of Canterbury*; *The Anselmian Approach to God and Creation*; *Perfect Being Theology*; and *St. Anselm of Canterbury On Divine and Human Ideas*. The Board will be available to advise Fr. John and the Advisory Board of the Institute on such matters as conference and seminar planning, study trips, library acquisitions, and other major issues regarding Institute policy. Everyone at Saint Anselm is honored to have such an august body of consultors to our newest Institute and we are certain

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## Betsy's Book Shelf

By Elizabeth Holmes, Collections/User Services Librarian

One of the duties of a library's Collection Development Librarian is to keep up with changes in educational offerings, and to ensure that relevant resources are added to the library's collection to support the current curriculum. As you may know, Saint Anselm College offers many Certificate Programs (similar to a "minor"). Examples of certificate programs at the College include Russian Studies; Human Relations and Work; Communications; Catholic Studies; and Medieval Studies. A recent addition is the Certificate in Asian Studies, which aims to "introduce students to forms of governance and commerce, genres of art, and ways of talking about human life and divine agency that are part of the cultures and the peoples of Asia".



Geisel Library's collection has a good general survey of Asian titles, but I determined to bring depth to our basic resources this year. Yikes! Where to begin?!? There are numerous bibliographies available in print and on the web to assist librarians (not to mention a plethora of publishers catalogs) -- works not only in English but in every Asian language. Joe Constance brought order to this chaos by suggesting a visit to the Harvard-Yenching Library in Cambridge.

In November, Joe and I met with Dr. James K. M. Cheng, the director of Harvard-Yenching Library, who introduced us to Raymond Lum, the Librarian for the Western Languages Collection. Ray immediately surprised us when he mentioned a recent donation Geisel Library had sent to Harvard. One of Geisel Library's most generous donors, Mr. Jean J. Chenard of Manchester had recently given the library a copy of *Manuel Pratique de Lanque Cambodgienne*, a Khmer – French language dictionary published in Saigon in 1874. We had sent it on to Harvard as the best site for this very specialized resource – and obviously they were pleased to have received it.

Ray was able to recommend a very focussed group of bibliographies, websites and Asian educational associations from which I have been able to put together my own bibliography of Asian resources. At this writing, the development of the Asian Studies collection is well underway.

But that was not to be the last of our relationship with Harvard-Yenching. A few weeks after our initial visit Ray proposed a very generous book purchase/donation program, whereby Geisel Library buys duplicate hardcover books at a very modest cost, and Harvard-Yenching tosses in soft-bound books for free. I can't help but think that Mr. Chenard's donation that found its home at Harvard was the key to opening the door to this wonderful opportunity. We will be working with Harvard on this program several times each year – I look forward to the treasures the next delivery will bring.

And the connection does not end there! On my last visit to collect books from Yenching I asked Ray if he could recommend a speaker who would be able to address an Asian topic for the Friends of Geisel Library. Ray coyly mentioned that the Dali Lhama was already booked at Harvard this spring (darn!), but then led me to Dr. Ronald Suleski. Dr. Suleski spoke about *Shinto in Japan* to the Friends of the Library on March 21. We were very pleased with the number of students who attended, giving Joe the opportunity to plug the Friends to the younger crowd.

I will keep you posted as our relationship continues with Harvard-Yenching. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer! ☺

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our patron saint, Anselm of Canterbury. Some forty papers were presented, all of which will later be published in a volume compiled by a leading academic press. One of the presenters to the conference was Jeff Aubuchon, a senior at the College and our foremost student assistant at the Library. His paper was entitled "Anselm and William Rufus", a work which Jeff delivered in most animated fashion. On the first evening of the conference, the Library also hosted a formal reception for conference participants at which time the Anselm Room, the headquarters of the Institute for Saint Anselm Studies, was formally dedicated.

I wish you all the best for a pleasant summer, and thank you once again for your continued support of the Friends of the Library. ☺



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that our work with them will prove most productive.

The new headquarters of the Institute, located on the second floor of the Geisel Library, is now complete and was formally dedicated during the Anselm conference. The room is beautifully appointed with illuminated mahogany bookshelves and a scholar's desk, all constructed by the fine carpenters of Saint Anselm College. The room will be visible thanks to the installation of viewing window in the main wall, and accompanied by a small exhibit area near its entrance. The room will be used to house the Saint Anselm collection, and the primary point of research for visiting scholars and students interested in the life and works of Saint Anselm of Canterbury. Visiting scholars may also use the room to host special seminars and lectures featuring Anselmian topics. Access to the area will be slightly restricted to protect the valuable materials housed within its confines. 📖

## Book Review

Reviewed by Nancy "Sam" Urtz, Reference Librarian

Edited by Ray Gamache; introduction by Cindy Carlson.

*Under The Bridge : Stories and Poems by Manchester's Homeless.*

Manchester, NH: Notre Dame College, 2000. 140 pp. (PS508.H65G35 2000)

I heard about 'Under the Bridge' from my friend Debbie, whose 15-year-old daughter had been impassioned by these "stories and poems by Manchester's homeless". Spotting the title while searching for another work among the American literature anthologies, I decided to make it my December holiday reading. While doing so, it occurred to me that I've recently become friendly with someone whom I think is homeless. We don't spend much time talking about living quarters, but I gather that he recently fixed up a big old Lincoln and then 'moved in'. He's a creative musician and a fascinating storyteller. He could easily have authored one of the entries in this volume and may well have, for many are unsigned or with poignantly applied pseudonyms such as 'D. Victim No More' or 'Cancer'.

There are seventy writings and twenty illustrations in this anthology. Most are narratives or poems as diverse as the backgrounds of their authors. A few of the pieces were written by housing advocates such as Cindy Carlson, whose hearts were touched by someone's special way of coping with hardship. Indeed, perhaps the book's harshest reality is its page of dedication to the six contributors who died before seeing their stories go to press. Among the dead is 49-year old Anneli Dyer, who wrote of a more carefree time.



"I was a girl free to play at wonderment  
Was safe enough to pray 'bout something  
Besides how to spend the day or how to let go of the night"

Another, John McDonald, had been looking forward to speaking at a national conference on Student Community Service held here at the college in March 2000. Unfortunately his death occurred in February.

In her introduction, Carlson makes the thoughtful point that "being poor means being an illness, an accident, a rent increase or a paycheck away from living on the street". For my friend, I think being homeless was the result of a marital break-up. For Samira Karrar, being poor occurred after being forced to flee the country by the fundamentalist regime in Sudan. Samira describes his gratitude from being spared the street because someone agreed to lease his family an apartment without requiring the customary record of credit. Lucky for him, because once a person finds him or herself 'under the bridge', it becomes even harder to locate housing. "Who's going to rent to you if your last address is 7 Hobo Jungle" writes Ed Hurd, who describes some best and worst times living along the banks of the Merrimack River near the newly constructed Singer Family Park in 1998.

The publication is timely for a city that has recently seen vast redevelopment of its mill area, swelling rents and subsequent double demand for beds at local shelters. It is also a rarity, as a search of the monographic literature reveals that only a few other cities in the country have published similar such works of artistic style. Ours was conceived by a local United Way organization called 'The Way Home' and published by Notre Dame College. It is part of a larger 'Under the Bridge' project that also produces videos and performances to promote its educational mission. Editor and College English professor Ray Gamache explains that "building community through art not only empowers and gives voice, it also satisfies the mandates of higher education to make a difference in the lives of all people."

It is easy to understand why my friend's daughter was much moved by these writings. A common thread of passion permeates many of the readings and artwork. Sometimes the passion is expressed as anger, sometimes as hope, and sometimes as loneliness. Many of the readings signal a passion that was once vibrant but has now dissipated, as described in the verse called 'Alley Cat' by Jamie Kupchun.

"I'm just a stray mangy cat  
my coat is no longer black  
just a slick filthy grey".

Additional copies of 'Under the Bridge' are available for \$10 by calling 'The Way Home' at 627-3491.

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## Staff Takes Leap Into New Millennium

By John Dillon, Head of Technical Services and Systems Administrator

On Christmas break, Library staff put in a marathon week getting nothing less than a dose of their own medicine. And it's about time, right? No, not being shushed for loud talking, or having their "unauthorized" drinks confiscated, but rather, receiving instruction in the Library. Yes, instead of playing the "information provider" role, Library staff put on their student hats and met for a week of workshops on how to use the management side of our new online system.




The impetus for this week of training began months prior, in fact back to last summer, when the Library first began installing the "Millennium upgrade" to our online catalog. The summer start gave us time to make ready a number of new public user options which were ready for the fall semester, as described in the last Friend's newsletter. However, we were still left with the task of implementing a number of enhanced non-public modules of the system, which Library staff in acquisitions, cataloging, serials, and circulation would be able to take advantage.

But those of us who've ever begun using the "latest and greatest version" of a software program know that this often can be an uphill battle. This is partly due to the fact that change is always a little painful, even when it involves moving from an older, comfortable interface to a newer, still unfamiliar looking program. This is the case with our "Millennium" staff modules, which now incorporates a java-based Windows-like environment and presents a mix of expected functions along side new and improved features. And, no matter how hard a vendor tries, things are never 100% intuitive, and needless to say, that goes for the technical documentation as well.

Luckily, the College was foresighted regarding this upgrade so that a week of training for Library staff was not overlooked during planning stages. And so it was that the second week of January saw most of us out there on the main floor, each behind a workstation of our own, attending a week full of sessions led by a visiting systems trainer. Though it probably felt like an exhausting week by many of us, it proved to be an efficient way to get us "up to speed" en masse and was also likely the best motivation for all of us to begin officially using our new system.

Geisel Library is also fortunate to have a staff that is willing and able to make such progressive improvements happen. Folks in each department have gone the extra mile in embracing the new staff interfaces. Thanks especially to Martha Dickerson and Joe Melim, we had already begun using Millennium Circulation well before training began, and so the learning curve there was not so steep. On the other hand, Millennium Serials has been perhaps the most challenging of the new modules, yet Kathy Carignan, Sue Pichette, and Joel Burdette deserve special credit for taking the initiative during training week, and persistently working to improve Millennium Serials since then.

All of which is to say, the Library has made an excellent start in transitioning to the new Millennium version of our system. It is gratifying to remain among the forefront of Libraries who are moving to the future sooner than later. And over the long run it puts us into a position of being able to offer more and better services to our community of Library users. 

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### A Few Facts About the Homeless in New Hampshire:

An emergency homeless shelter opened in January 2002 at French Hall, at the former UNH-M campus on Hackett Hill Road in Manchester.

The Salvation Army opened a shelter in Concord in January 2001.

The New Horizons Homeless Shelter is an emergency private shelter that has 82 beds but sometimes sleeps an additional 82 persons on the floor.

National Homeless Memorial Day was celebrated with candlelight vigils in Concord and Manchester on December 21, 2001.

NH is reported to have received \$8.25 million in aid to serve the homeless from the federal government, through a grant

### Friends Notes

  **Contact Us ...**

To notify us of a change in address or for information on making a donation to the Geisel Library Book Fund, please contact the Geisel Library, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, P.O. Box 1746, Manchester, New Hampshire, 03102. Or telephone Denise Labore, Geisel Library Secretary at (603) 641-7301 or e-mail [dlabore@anselm.edu](mailto:dlabore@anselm.edu).

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***Have a Pleasant Summer!***

