University Libraries
Receive New Research Materials Endowment

New Endowment to Support Unique Collection in Fairfax and Northern Virginia History

The George Mason University Libraries are pleased to announce the establishment of the libraries’ third subject materials endowment generously donated by Professor Randolph Lytton and his wife, Ellen. The Randolph and Ellen Lytton Special Collections Endowment for the libraries will be used to support the Randolph H. Lytton Fairfax and Northern Virginia Collection—a collection of artifacts and documents that relate to the history of Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and Northern Virginia.

Lytton, associate professor of history and art history at Mason, and Ellen Lytton, an information specialist, are both trained in the discipline of history and for years have actively worked to preserve and promote the local history of Fairfax, the surrounding Northern Virginia area, as well as the Fairfax family. They have served in various capacities for Historic Fairfax City Inc., the Fairfax Museum, and other local historic organizations.

Funds from the Lytton Endowment will specifically support Lytton’s collection of historical Fairfax material, which he has accumulated over many years and which he intends to donate to Mason’s libraries over time. [See related story on page 2.] Lytton chose George Mason’s libraries because he wants his materials “to go where I know they will be cared for and preserved as a special collection accessible to students, scholars, and the public.” Since the Lyttons intend to remain in the Northern Virginia area when they retire, they wanted the materials close by to visit on occasion.

John Zenelis, university librarian, remarked, “The Lyttons’ generosity in establishing this library endowment and entrusting us with the archiving and preservation of these historically important and rare documents, are a testament to the excellent work we do for Mason’s academic community and for the scholarly community at large. Their gift over time will undoubtedly grow and continue to benefit George Mason students, faculty, and scholars everywhere. We are grateful to Randy and Ellen for the endowment and their decision to make Mason the future home of these remarkable historical materials.”

A portion of Lytton’s collection can already be viewed online at www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsdl/collect/lytton/lytton.shtml.

—Adriana Ercolano
The Randolph H. Lytton Fairfax Historical Postcard Collection

The Silver Moon Tourist Court and Restaurant; the Pentagon Realty Company Inc.; Howard Johnson’s; the Chas. F. Broadwater hardware store; the house in which Col. John S. Mosby captured Brig. Gen. Edwin Stoughton in 1863; Huddleson Memorial Library of Fairfax. Do these names and places sound familiar?

These people and locations are all represented in the Randolph H. Lytton Fairfax Historical Postcard Collection. Lytton, associate professor of history at George Mason, generally focuses his research on Alexander the Great, classical intellectual history, and classical historiography. But he also studies a rather different topic—the history of the City of Fairfax, Virginia. For many years, Lytton has collected Fairfax postcards, many of which date from the early 20th century—the “golden age” of postcards. A majority of the cards depict local Fairfax buildings, some of which are still standing, but others either no longer exist or have changed ownership many times.

When Lytton contacted the University Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives (SC&A) about his postcard collection, making the images available online quickly became a priority. SC&A worked with the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC) to develop a detailed and interactive web site for the Lytton Postcard Collection. WRLC is a regional resource-sharing organization established by several universities in the Washington, D.C., area to expand and enhance the information resources available to their students and faculty. WRLC, via its Digitization Center, makes the rich visual materials of its member academic libraries available to researchers and scholars worldwide in ways that are easily viewed and searched. The staff of SC&A, in particular, Electronic Texts Coordinator Robert Vay, worked closely with the WRLC technical staff to digitize and catalog the postcards.

The Lytton Postcard Collection site can be searched using keywords, title, creator, subject, date, or the postal date on the postcards. Once a researcher selects a particular postcard, he or she can read all the descriptive information about the postcard, the site it depicts, and the postcard’s creators. Both the image side and correspondence side of each postcard are viewable.

Explore the site to view many wonderful present and bygone images of Fairfax, Virginia.

The Randolph H. Lytton Fairfax Historical Postcard Collection is available online at www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsdl/collect/lytton/lytton.shtml. 

—Anne Hakes and Robert Vay

Editor’s note: This collection, along with other Mason libraries’ digital collections, will eventually be available through the Mason Archiving Repository System (MARS).
Never mind that the release of the sixth Harry Potter book is still a month away. Summer is just around the corner, and our book reviewer Alan Cheuse has been busy compiling his picks for the season.

Whether your summer plans include the beach, or the mountains, or just your own backyard, there’s probably something on his list for you.

**Fiction:**

*The Practice of Deceit*, by Elizabeth Benedict (Houghton Mifflin): “The first-person story of the marriage between a Scarsdale, New York, therapist and his South Boston-born divorce lawyer wife—a marriage coming apart at the seams. Benedict tells it from the man’s point of view, and the story practically spills into your lap as you turn the pages.”

*Natives and Exotics*, by Jane Alison (Harcourt): “In a lyrical series of chapters, [Alison] recalls the adventures of a family of wanderers and settlers and diplomats, with an early cameo appearance by the great German naturalist and explorer Alexander Von Humboldt... a fascinating summer journey between book covers that spans centuries and continents.”

*Europe Central*, by William Vollman (Viking): “Vollman’s depiction of the struggle between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia reads like Solzhenitsyn on acid, with a surreal romance starring [Russian composer Dmitry] Shostakovich at the center of the book, and major battles and betrayals and genocide erupting about the edges.”

*Sunstorm*, by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter (Del Rey): “An absolute must for science fiction fans,” this book is the conclusion to the authors’ “A Time Odyssey” series.

*Legends*, by Robert Littell (Overlook): “The spy novel of the summer—a tour de force about a former CIA agent who’s taken on so many false identities he’s not sure who he is.”

*The Right Madness*, by James Crumley (Viking): Written by “Montana’s answer to Mickey Spillane,” this hard-boiled P.I. novel opens on a “seemingly idyllic summer evening and soon leads to a lot of murder and mayhem—and gruff male meditations on the joys and rigors of Crumley’s late middle-aged private eye.”

**Nonfiction:**

*The Restless Sleep*, by Stacy Horn (Viking): “an obsessive nonfiction account” of New York City Police Department’s cold-case squad, Horn “writes in outrage at [long-unsolved crimes] and with great affection for both the living and the dead.”

**Young Adult:**

*Broken China*, by Lori Aurelia Williams (Simon & Schuster): “Young-adult fiction with a true voice, about children raising children.”

**Poetry:**

*William Carlos Williams: Selected Poems*, edited by Robert Pinsky (Library of America): A new volume of Williams’ poetry—over 100 poems, including the lively and goofy “Danse Russe.”

**CD:** *Native Joy for Real* by Joy Harjo (Mekko Productions/Distributed by Wings Press): An American Indian poet sings her poems and plays sax.

**Short Story Collections:**

*The Wonder Spot*, by Melissa Bank (Viking)

*Follies*, by Ann Beattie (Scribner)

*A Perfect Stranger*, by Roxana Robinson (Random House)

*Tropical Fish*, by Doreen Baingana (University of Massachusetts Press)

*Nobody’s Baby*, by Leo Litwak (forthcoming from El Leon Literary Arts)
University Libraries’ Indispensable Student Employees

A crucial component of the libraries service to the university community

Everywhere you look in the University Libraries there are hard-working and dedicated student employees assisting the libraries’ regular staff to provide services to Mason’s academic community. The University Libraries are one of Mason’s best sources for student employment: each year, the libraries hire approximately 80 student employees who work the equivalent hours of approximately 35 full-time staff employees.

Student assistants perform a variety of tasks that supplement the programmatic and operational functions of librarians and staff. These jobs, though often mundane, are necessary, and because students execute them so well, they free staff time to perform more complicated activities and projects. For example, many student workers spend the bulk of their time shelving books and research materials in the libraries’ stacks. Others are trained to serve at public service points such as circulation to assist staff during peak times. Some student employees assist the technical services division to process newly arrived materials. Still others work with the Special Collections and Archives Department in the processing of and caring for unique and rare holdings.

In turn, the University Libraries provide student employees with opportunities to gain new skills that will enhance not only their educational experience at George Mason, but also provide them with valuable real-life skills that are sought after by today’s employers. The libraries teach student assistants how information is organized and accessed to help them to be better library employees. These skills also help students in conducting their own research.

A number of student employees have decided to continue their education after receiving their Mason degrees by going to graduate school to become professional librarians. Most of these individuals have decided to enter the information management profession because of the relationships they have built with librarians and library staff over the course of their academic career at Mason. There are many examples of these successful interactions with student workers who are part of the Mason libraries.

The University Libraries are indebted to all the student assistants who work with staff in the libraries. Without their assistance, the University Libraries simply would not be able to achieve their mission to serve the university community with information management and research expertise.

A personal note: I started working as a shelving assistant in the Periodicals Department in 1997. After that, I accepted a position as a graduate assistant and then a full-time paraprofessional staff member. Last year, after earning my degree in library and information services, I accepted a professional faculty position as a librarian. I am one of many student workers who have been encouraged by the staff and the librarians who work for the University Libraries.

—George Oberle

The George Mason University Parents’ Giving Program

About two years ago, the George Mason University Office of Annual Giving launched the Parents’ Giving Program to great success. The Parents’ Giving Program, which primarily supports the University Libraries, allows parents to contribute to the activities and needs of George Mason’s libraries on all three campuses. “Private support is an indispensable resource for the libraries,” says University Librarian John Zenelis. “It allows us to deal with fluctuations in both research material costs and state funding and is an excellent way to support a vital and universal piece of our scholarly community that impacts all students.”

Funds generated by the Parents’ Giving Program support the University Libraries in a number of ways: acquiring new texts, providing lending services such as those offered by the interlibrary loan office, and expanding access to online journal databases, to mention a few. Donations can also be used to support the Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives (SC&A). SC&A are the stewards of rare books, manuscripts, and other unique primary research materials and continually digitize portions of these collections to ensure they will be available for generations to come. Through the Parent’s Giving Program it is also possible to

story continued on page 7
The Virtual Library of Virginia Celebrates 10 Years of Outstanding Service

Nestled snugly in a corner of the second floor of Mason's Fenwick Library is the central administrative office of the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA). From this small and unpretentious outpost, VIVA Director Kathy Perry and her dedicated staff orchestrate the day-to-day operations of one of the most successful higher education library consortia in the entire country. VIVA is a cooperative of Virginia institutions joined together to support higher education by providing scholarly materials in electronic format and interlibrary loan services among Virginia’s colleges and universities. VIVA’s program serves more than 375,000 students and faculty members across Virginia at all campuses of the 39 state-supported colleges and universities, the 31 private and nonprofit institutions, and the State Library of Virginia.

Mason library staff has been instrumental in the creation of VIVA through Virginia General Assembly legislation (effective July 1, 2004) and its subsequent development. Perry is “very grateful for George Mason’s support” of VIVA throughout this period. The University Libraries have provided office space, telecommunications and IT infrastructure, technical and administrative support, financial support, and expertise over the years.

VIVA is funded principally by state appropriations, which are supplemented by local institutional budgets. Overall funding has grown from an initial $5.2 million in the 1994-06 biennium to $13 million in the current 2004-06 biennium. More than 96 percent of these funds is expended directly for library materials. Slightly less than 4 percent of the budget is directed to administrative support for the statewide program.

According to Perry, one of the greatest challenges is to balance VIVA’s small central staff with a far-reaching and ambitious program. VIVA’s greatest strength in meeting this challenge lies in its legions of volunteers, drawn from all member institutions, who perform so many tasks, such as organizing meetings, negotiating with vendors, providing training to staff of member school libraries, serving on standing and ad-hoc committees, creating necessary documentation, and spearheading outreach efforts. VIVA’s outstanding work certainly has been noticed: in 2003, VIVA was honored with the prestigious Governor’s Technology Award, and the Southeastern Library Network’s Outstanding Library Program Award for VIVA’s support of the Virginia Heritage Project.

The tangible benefits of participation in VIVA are many: an eclectic and wide-ranging menu of electronic resources, assistance with various library collection-related special projects, and access to each member institution’s collections through inter-institutional document delivery. Most significant, however, are the monies saved by the mere existence of VIVA. Between 1994 and 2004, member institutions saved more than $125 million. This represents money saved that would have been spent had each individual institution acquired the resources independently. In many cases, these are materials some colleges or universities simply would not have been able to afford.

VIVA has built on the significant relationships that member institutions shared prior to its formation, and has strengthened the spirit of trust and collaboration that Virginia’s colleges and universities share.

What does Perry think is the most rewarding aspect of her job? “Working with the best and the brightest people in librarianship across the commonwealth. I’m representing good people. I’m representing knowledge and education.”

—Bill Fleming

VIVA’s Mission:
to provide, in an equitable, cooperative, and cost-effective manner, enhanced access to library and information sources for the Commonwealth of Virginia’s nonprofit academic libraries serving the higher education community.

VIVA Facts and Statistics
• 161 databases
• 10,000 full-text journals and newspapers
• 10,000 works of poetry, verse, and drama
• 750,000 other full-text reports, pamphlets, and proceedings
• From 1994-2004, students and faculty performed more than 54 million searches and downloaded more than 16 million full-text articles

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University Libraries Participate in National Periodicals Study

Over the last several years, Mason’s libraries, along with most other academic research libraries, have been undergoing a transition from print to electronic format for part of their periodicals collections. One universal problem in completing this transition has been the issue of archival access and the development and maintenance of permanent archives. A critical issue is the responsibility for archiving, which, until resolved, will slow the transition to electronic journals. Organizations such as JSTOR are working to develop solutions.

As part of these efforts, JSTOR—a digital archive collection of core scholarly journals—sponsored a national study to investigate what effects this transition will have on libraries and on periodical nonsubscription expenditures. The organization enlisted the participation of Mason along with 10 other academic libraries, selected on the basis of size, affiliation, and degree of commitment to electronic resources. Other libraries that took part in the study included Bryn Mawr College, Cornell University, Drexel University, New York University, University of Pittsburgh, Williams College, and Yale University.

The study entailed institutional statistics and activity logs, which reported the amount of time devoted to each of 15 periodicals management-related categories. The data was then analyzed and used to perform a life-cycle analysis to study the longer-term cost implications of the transition.

For some of the participants, collection sizes in electronic format are significantly larger than they ever were for print, and notably different activities are required to manage and maintain an electronic collection. The findings of the study suggest that nonsubscription costs are lower, on a per-title basis, in electronic than in print format. During the transition period, however, total costs may be driven up substantially as expenditures for the electronic format rise well before print format costs decline commensurately. There will also be several shifts in system-wide costs. Some costs that are borne by libraries or publishers for the print format may be carried by the other party in the electronic format. All storage costs for print journals are assumed by libraries, while publishers generally provide for server storage for electronic periodicals. However, perceptions of savings by canceling print subscriptions ignore the archiving problem, as well as the historic responsibility of academic research libraries to ensure long-term preservation and access to scholarly resources.

While the perfect system of archiving solutions is not yet in hand, a number of initiatives are under way—in the university, governmental, and not-for-profit spheres—any of which will require supporting resources. If appropriate solutions are developed and funds made available to support them, the transition to the new format will be much smoother, and the long-term preservation and access to these resources can be ensured.


—Lene Palmer

2003-04 Fenwick Fellows

The University Libraries’ Fenwick Fellowship program was pleased to support the research and scholarship of Marcella Ridlen Ray and Cindy Lont for the 2003-04 academic year.

Ray is a senior fellow in the School of Public Policy and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Her research project, “Social Institutions: Messages from American Bestsellers for Educators, Civic Leaders, and Policy Makers,” builds upon her previous research in institutional and cultural analysis, public opinion, and civil society. She analyzed the content of a sampling of bestsellers selected from the New York Times Book Review to illuminate how public understanding and attitudes regarding social institutions are shaped. Ray is interested in elevating the public discourse and knowledge regarding social institutions in the United States.

Lont is a professor in the Department of Communication. Much of her research has focused on stereotypes regarding women, minorities, and the media. Her fellowship project analyzed and synthesized the extant books and videos regarding women and minorities across various media. Her fellowship work also involved the writing, production, and distribution of a video on her research findings for classroom use. She worked in conjunction with GMU-TV on the video; Lont has produced several award-winning video modules in the past with the staff of GMU-TV.

Ray and Lont presented their findings in lectures during the spring semester 2005.

For details about the fellowship and the application process, please contact Debra Hogan, assistant to the university librarian, at 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

A photo of Professor Marcella Ridlen Ray was not available before press time.

—Anne Hakes
Focus on the Collections
The William H. McFarlane Papers

One of Mason’s first faculty members and historian of the university’s early founding passed away on January 26, 2005. William Hugh McFarlane was hired as chair of the Humanities Department in 1968 at the then-named George Mason College of the University of Virginia, a position he held until 1979. He described the college at that time as a place where “you knew most of the students and certainly every one of the faculty members.” McFarlane founded the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies in 1974 and served as its chair for five years. He also played a crucial role in the development of degree programs in philosophy, art, and music at George Mason. He chaired the Arts and Sciences faculty and the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Policies and Planning.

After McFarlane retired, he remained active and extremely busy. Most notably, he embarked on a major project to compile the complete history of George Mason University from its earliest days. He interviewed and recorded for posterity many individuals connected with the university and its antecedents. These recordings and interviews comprise the William H. McFarlane Papers, which also consist of correspondence, news clippings, reports, meeting minutes, speeches, and audiotape interviews covering Mason until 1977. Included are interviews and speeches by Virginia Govs. Godwin, Harrison, and Almond; information on Virginia state legislators; and interviews with local business leaders and developers. Through the efforts of Robert Hawkes of George Mason’s History and Art History Department, the McFarlane Papers were donated to the Libraries’ Special Collections and Archives (SC&A) in the 1990s. A guide to the collection is available online at: eead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/published/gmu/vivadoc.pl?file=vifgm00002.xml.

Both SC&A’s electronic documentary history of George Mason University (www.gmu.edu/library/specialcollections/gmdcs.html) and the recent exhibit, Simplicity, Permanence, and Economy: The Origins of George Mason University’s Fairfax Campus (www.40th.gmu.edu/), utilized the McFarlane Papers extensively. According to SC&A staff member Robert Vay, who has worked with the collection for many years, McFarlane was “one of the first scholars to recognize the value of studying the origins of George Mason University. His papers, which contain rare interviews of Mason’s founding fathers, many of whom are no longer living, are invaluable to anyone interested in the university’s early history.”

McFarlane’s varied interests also included religion, higher education policy, and the education of women. While at George Mason, he also ran a consulting firm that helped newly developed institutions of higher education in the United States and abroad. He retired in 1986, but agreed to come back to serve for one year as acting department chair in 1988.

McFarlane served in the U.S. Army Air Forces as a pilot during World War II and subsequently attended college on the G.I. Bill. Like a number of other members of Mason’s early faculty and administrators, McFarlane worked at the University of Virginia, where he received a doctorate in 1957. He served as director of the Virginia State Council of Higher Education from 1958 to 1964, during which time the University of Virginia was authorized to start a two-year branch program in Northern Virginia that would later become George Mason University. From 1964-67, he oversaw the Virginia Associated Research Center, where he organized and managed a university consortium to administer NASA’s Space Radiation Effects Laboratory at Langley Field, Virginia. He served on the 1965 state Higher Education Study Commission, which recommended a new regional university in Northern Virginia as its highest priority.

McFarlane is survived by his wife, Shirley of West Paris, Maine; a son and three daughters; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. The university is indebted to McFarlane’s dedication and fortunate to have enjoyed such a long association and friendship with one of the university’s greatest advocates.

—Anne Hakes

The George Mason University Parents’ Giving Program
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give to already existing endowments such as the Emilia and Giuseppe Struppa Library Endowment in Mathematics, which is used to purchase library materials in the field of mathematics.

In the Parents’ Giving Program’s inaugural year, 719 parents generously contributed an impressive $23,000, directly assisting the libraries’ activities. Last October, the University Libraries hosted a parent donor reception during Family Weekend. Parents enjoyed an exhibit depicting the early years of George Mason’s founding and had a chance to speak with University Librarian John Zenelis and other senior library staff members.

In the coming months, the George Mason University Libraries will introduce a Library Giving web site that will provide further information on giving and as act as a portal to other George Mason University web sites.

—Rebecca Forrest, Zavin Smith, and Adriana Ercolano
Upcoming Events and Exhibitions

September 17-25, 2005
Fall for the Book Festival Fairfax, Virginia—Libraries’ Book Sale
www.fallforthebook.org.

Exhibits in Fall 2005

September: Hispanic Heritage Month
November: American Indian Heritage
December: World AIDS Day

Most exhibits can be found on the second floor of Fenwick Library, A-Wing. Visit Special Collections and Archives, Fenwick Library, Room C-201, to view newly acquired or preserved items from Special Collections’ holdings.

Contributors
Editors
Adriana Ercolano
Heather Hannan
Sharon Kerr

Contributors
Adriana Ercolano
William Fleming
Rebecca Frost
Anne Hakes
Sharon Kerr
George Oberle III
Lene Palmer
Zavin Smith

Design, Distribution, Photography, and Production
George Mason's Creative Services
Debbie Brandon
Miriam Bridges

Full Text
University Libraries
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 2FL
Fairfax, VA 22030

library.gmu.edu/libinfo/fulltext.html