

Among Friends

Volume 18, No. 2 – Summer 2004

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Library of Brown University

University Librarian Departs Brown and Leaves a Lasting Legacy

After 22 years of service, Merrily E. Taylor, Joukowsky Family University Librarian at Brown, resigned her position in order to become University Librarian for Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. She completed her service to Brown at the end of the spring semester. But before she left, she offered some thoughts about what the Brown University Library means to the Brown community.

"Brown's Library is not only one of the nation's great research libraries, but it is also absolutely unique, the product of the academic interests, trends, fads and intellectual disputes of generations of Brown faculty and students; a rich tapestry woven by all the librarians and curators who ever worked here and by all the collectors who ever gave or sold a collection to Brown," said Taylor. "There is no other library in the world like it, and as Brown's academic excellence continues to expand and prosper it will be in this Library and in the libraries of the world that it is preserved for the ages – whether in print or digital form. So, as I depart to challenges in another old and distinguished institution, I pass on this treasure to someone else and all of you. Be good to this Library, because at least when it comes to the life of the mind, it is your immortality."

"Merrily was a tremendous asset to the Brown University Library over the years," said Fraser A. Lang, '67, P'04 and Chair of



Departing University Librarian Merrily Taylor and Friends of the Library Chair Fraser Lang at a reception honoring her service to Brown.

PHOTO BY JOHN ABROMOWSKI

the Friends of the Library. "She was a top-notch leader who helped steer the Library through more than two decades of rapid technological change – such as the development of the Internet – and built an impressive staff of dedicated individuals who make a real difference, day in and day out, to Brown's community of scholars."

"It was a tough decision for me to decide to leave Brown and the wonderful colleagues I have enjoyed here," said Taylor. "But, I felt that at this point in my life I was ready for a professional and personal change. I've learned a great deal here at Brown that I'm eager to share with Washington and Lee University, and excited to learn from my new colleagues as well. I'm looking forward to learning about the issues faced by the library in a high quality liberal arts college – different than those of a research library but no less challenging. Wherever I go, Brown and the

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A View from the Chair

As you know from our cover story, the Brown University Library is entering a time of transition as we say goodbye to Merrily E. Taylor, who served as University Librarian for 22 years. She was a wonderful leader, friend and steward of the wonderful resource that is our Library. During her time here, she helped bring many exciting new collections to Brown.

To honor Merrily Taylor's exceptional service to the Brown University Library, a new endowment has been established. The "Merrily E. Taylor Fund" for the Friends of the Library will support the activities and operations of the Friends of the Library, pay tribute to her accomplishments and preserve her legacy of an energetic group of individuals who support the Library and work tirelessly to expand Library collections and services.

Investing in the Friends of the Library by supporting this endowment is an excellent way to support the Brown University Library as a whole. The Friends help encourage new gifts from our members and recruit new donors to the Library. It is not surprising that the Friends of the Library are among the Library's most generous benefactors. In addition to paying membership dues, a full 60 percent of our members also support the Library through gifts of cash, in-kind materials or by contributing to endowments.

If you would like to support this endowment to honor Merrily Taylor's service, please write a check payable to "Brown University" and send it to:

The Merrily E. Taylor Fund
Brown University Library – Box A
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

If you have questions about this endowment, or would like to make a multi-year pledge, please contact the Friends office at (401) 863-1518. We will be sure to inform her of your gift and appreciate your continued support of the Library.

Although we will miss Merrily, Brown University Library is very fortunate to have a gifted and highly experienced librarian to lead the Library through this time of change. Florence Doksansky will serve as Interim University Librarian while Brown conducts a search for a new University Librarian. Please see the article about Florence on page 4.

We are grateful that Florence will be leading the Library in the coming months and look forward to announcing the results of our efforts to endow the Friends of the Library in honor of Merrily!

Sincerely,



Fraser A. Lang, '67, p'04

“[Merrily] was a top-notch leader who helped steer the Library through more than two decades of rapid technological change and built an impressive staff of dedicated individuals who make a real difference, day in and day out, to Brown’s community of scholars.”

— FRASER A. LANG

Brown University Library will always have a special place in my heart.”

Taylor oversaw many significant accomplishments during her tenure at Brown, including:

- more than doubling the Library’s endowment, in part through two challenge grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH);
- working with the Music Department to envision and create the Orwig Music Library;
- implementing *Josiah*, an online library information system and catalog;
- greatly expanding digital resources and establishing a Digital Initiatives Program; and,

- launching the Library’s Preservation Department and procuring secure funding for it via an NEH Challenge Grant.

Taylor has a special fondness for a few areas of accomplishment, particularly staff development, growth of the collections and the revitalization of the Friends of the Library.

“When I came to Brown, the Library already had a terrific staff,” said Taylor. “In fact, that was one of the things that attracted me. But, I’m happy to say that over my years here, we’ve made the Brown Library a place that has continued to attract among the best people in the profession and that many of them have remained with us and done great things for Brown. Our staff are creative and get things done, finding ways to build collections and offer new services despite the fact that our resources are less than many of the other Ivy League institutions. What is particularly exciting is that this staff of dedicated professionals will be a major factor in attracting a top-notch candidate to be Brown’s new University Librarian.”

“In addition to having contributed toward developing the people that make the Library such an indispensable resource for faculty and students, I feel much honored to have helped build our collections,” said Taylor. “It is nice to know that when we are all long gone, people will still be using these collections for teaching, learning and scholarly research. It is through the collections that a librarian makes a lasting and profound impact on an institution.”

Some of the more notable collections acquired for Brown University under Taylor’s tenure include: the Library of

the Rhode Island Medical Society (which dates back to 1803); the Mahdi Collection of Middle Eastern Literature; the Sidney P. Albert George Bernard Shaw Collection; the archives of the Feminist Press and the papers of its founder, Florence Howe; and the archives of the Gorham Silver Company.

“Perhaps one of our best tools in acquiring new collections is the Friends of the Library,” said Taylor. “The Friends do a terrific job in showcasing our existing collections to the Brown community, but as importantly, they play a critical role in encouraging new gifts to the Library.”

When Taylor arrived at Brown in 1982, the Friends group was small and had lost momentum. Along with Sam Streit, who then was the Associate University Librarian for Special Collections, she embarked on a plan to revitalize the Friends, which now numbers nearly 1,000 members.

“We could not have done it without superb volunteer leadership, such as Martha Joukowsky, Henry Sharpe, Jr., and Helena Hope (“Singer”) Gammell, each of whom served as chair of the Friends board at a critical moment in the evolution of the organization. Now we have an equally outstanding chair in Fraser Lang and I feel very confident about the future of this organization and its ability to support the Library’s growth.”

For information on how you can help honor Merrily Taylor’s rich legacy here at Brown, please see page 2, which details a new Library endowment established in her name.

Florence Kell Doksansky Named Interim University Librarian

With the departure of longtime University Librarian Merrily E. Taylor, the Brown University Library is very fortunate to have a gifted and highly experienced librarian to lead the Library through this time of transition. Florence Doksansky will serve as Interim University Librarian while Brown conducts a search for a new University Librarian. Florence has been Associate University Librarian for Public Service and Collection Development at Brown since 1983, and has served the Brown University Library in leadership positions since 1980. Prior to coming to Brown, she was the Assistant Librarian for Acquisitions at the Rotch Library, in the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



PHOTO BY JOHN ABRAMOWSKI

Interim University Librarian
Florence Kell Doksansky



Changes Come to the Holiday Cards

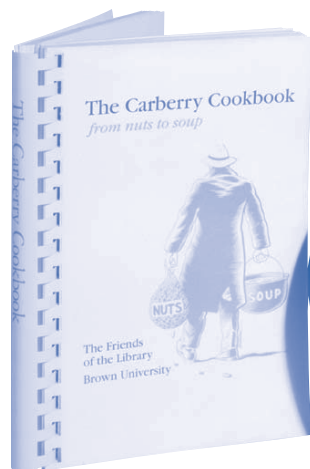
In response to increasing card sales through our online card store and the rising costs of printing and mailing catalogs, the Friends of the Library will not be producing or mailing card catalogs this year. This change will enable us to keep prices at 2003 levels and generate funds to support the Brown University Library and the activities of the Friends.

Please visit our online store, which operates year-round at:

www.brown.edu/library/friends

Just click on the "Cards and Gifts" link to go directly to the store!

In addition, we will no longer be offering custom printing for the cards. However, upon request and availability, we will mail your cards flat so you may have them printed by your printer.



Calendar of Events

The Dalí Dimension: Art and Geometry

Thursday, September 30, 2004
8:00 p.m.
Lownes Room, John Hay Library
20 Prospect Street, Providence, RI

The impressive accomplishments of Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí are being celebrated throughout the world this year, as the “Year of Dalí 2004” marks the 100th anniversary of the artist’s birth on May 11, 1904. While most of the festivities are being held in Catalonia, Spain, the Friends of the Library are delighted to host an event here at Brown featuring an inspiring interdisciplinary exploration of the multiple dimensions of Dalí.

Enric Bou, Chair and Professor of Hispanic Studies, and Tom Banchoff, Professor of Mathematics, will collaborate in an examination of Salvador Dalí’s varied artistic accomplishments and his keen insights into the world of geometry, which played such a large role in his artistic expression.

“Dance, Song, and Wine” – Yiddish Sheet Music in the Collections of the John Hay Library

Saturday, October 23, 2004
3:30 p.m.
Lownes Room, John Hay Library
20 Prospect Street, Providence, RI

Rosemary L. Cullen, MA ’83, Head Special Collections Librarian at the John Hay Library, will show images of some of the magnificent Yiddish sheet music contained in the Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays housed in the John Hay Library. Her presentation will explore popular Yiddish music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the cover images feature portraits of famous Jewish singers and actors, including Molly Picon, Boris Thomashefsky, David Kessler, and Menashe Skulnik. This talk is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Brown University and Brown Hillel.



Small Splendors of State

Friday, November 5, 2004
8:00 p.m.
Lownes Room, John Hay Library
20 Prospect Street, Providence, RI

David Heisser will present pictures and discuss his extensive and colorful collection of research materials on symbols of governments since the Middle Ages. The collection, which will be bequeathed to Brown, contains impressions of great royal and national seals, profusely illustrated books, prints and histories about coats of arms of monarchs, nations, states, provinces and cities of Europe, the Western Hemisphere and beyond. Included also are materials on royal regalia and insignia from many countries. The presentation will feature a selection of colorful images representing the scope of the collection. It is anticipated that the Heisser Collection will supplement the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection and other emblem resources of the Brown University Library.

Dr. Heisser holds a doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina and is an associate professor and librarian at Daniel Library, The Citadel Military College, Charleston, South Carolina. He has published scholarly writings on the history of government symbols and the history of the Catholic Church in America.

Please save the dates for upcoming Friends of the Library events!
Please e-mail Christy_Law_Blanchard@Brown.edu or call (401) 863-1518 for more information. All Friends of the Library events are open to the public, so feel free to bring a guest and allow us to introduce them to fellow Friends of the Library.

Recent Gifts to the Library

Approximately 172 books, journals, newspapers and broadsides, including material related to Connecticut history, children's literature, and military history.

Gift of Mr. Robert E. Schnare, Jr. and Mrs. MaryKay W. Schnare

Approximately 200 items, including correspondence, manuscripts, typescripts, photos and related documents of prominent 19th & 20th century literary, artistic, social & political personalities.

Gift of Dr. Mel Yoken, '67, AM '72 and Mrs. Cindy Yoken

DARWIN: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAN (Grolier Club, 2004); NEW YORK REVISITED text by Kenneth Auchincloss, engravings by Gaylord Schanilec (Signed, limited edition, Grolier Club boxed set, number 20 of 250).

Gift of Mr. Thomas Bryson, '72 and Mrs. Antonia Levine Bryson, '74

DUBIN'S LIVES by Bernard Malamud, with introduction by donor; 2 vols. by donor: MRS. PAINE'S GARAGE & BANDBOX. Additions to the donor's papers, including draft of the donor's novel, BANDBOX and an interview with donor in THE WRITER'S CHRONICLE (v. 36, no. 3, Dec. 2003).

Gift of Mr. Thomas V. Mallon, '73

Approximately 800 pieces of sheet music, including piano/vocal, instrumental and miscellaneous categories.

Gift of Dr. Nan Sumner Mack, AM '71, PhD '82, John Carter Brown Library Staff

The Brown University Library gratefully acknowledges the many gifts that add to the scholarly resources available to Brown students and faculty. While it is not possible to list every gift here, we have selected a small sampling to share with our readers.

Early 20th C. scrapbook for musician/singer/actress, Editha Maxham; AMERICAN DRAMA (CD-ROM, release 3); approx. 1,000 prints, engravings, etc. portraying characters, actors & scenes from Shakespearean plays.

Gift of Don Wilmeth, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, Speech and Dance

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY ed. by Carol R. Ember & Melvin Ember (2 vols., includes contribution by donor).

Gift of Dwight B. Heath, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology

TARJUMAN-UL-QUR'AN (v. 1, Hindi translation of the Holy Qur'an) with commentary, annotations & intro. by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; ONCE UPON A TIME IN INDIA ed. by Nita Berry & Deepa Agarwal (in English). The latter for the Children's Book Collection.

Gift of Najma Heptulla

270 vols. of WWII U.S. unit histories for the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection.

Gift of the estate of Robert W. Kenny, Jr., '55

CHAISE MAGAZINE (issue 1, on DVD-ROM); LES XV JOIES DE MARIAGE pub. by Jean Rychner, given in honor of the marriage of Brown Trustee, H. Anthony Ittleson, Class of 1960 to Chandler Mashek.

Gift of Dr. Ronald Margolin, Vice President for International Advancement & Volunteer Engagement

A WALLET OF T.E. LAWRENCE CORRESPONDENCE CARDS & ENVELOPES (National Portrait Gallery); CLARE LEIGHTON: AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF CLARE LEIGHTON; PERISHABLE THEATRE'S TENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL; REFINEMENTS OF LOVE: A NOVEL ABOUT CLOVER AND HENRY ADAMS by Sarah Booth Conroy; THE GIRL FROM THE FICTION DEPARTMENT: A PORTRAIT OF SONIA ORWELL by Hilary Spurling.

Gift of Mr. Richard Noble, Brown University Library Rare Book Cataloguer

ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE AND LILLIE CHACE WYMAN: A CENTURY OF ABOLITIONIST, SUFFRAGIST AND WORKERS' RIGHTS ACTIVISM by donor.

Gift of Dr. Elizabeth C. Stevens, AM '81, PhD '93

Memorial Gifts Honor the Legacy of Robert W. Kenny, Jr., '55



The Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection received gifts in honor of Bob from:

Karen Beaton-Simmons
Betty Ann Beste
Paul E. & Judith A. Beste
Robert & Marjorie Beste
Herbert C. Caldwell
Richard & Christine Devoe
Reginald A. & Sally B. Fawcett
Anna G. Feeney
Margaret Devoe Gidley, '56
Frederick Griffiths, MA '66
The Hackett Family
Arthur & Brenda Hall
Linda R. Hilliard
Kimberley Porter Hogg
Frances M. Innis, '57
Susan F. R. Kenney
Mary-Jo Kline
Fraser A. Lang, '67, P'04

As reported in the most recent issue of *Among Friends*, the Library lost a wonderful friend and volunteer this past winter. **Robert W. Kenny, Jr., '55** (left), volunteered in the Library's Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection for a decade as a military researcher.

Joan H. Lansing
John Wentworth Lawson, '55
Frank A. & Katherine C. Leith
Alex & Susan MacGregor
Duncan H. & Louise S. Mauran
Nancy C. Northgrave
Clarissa B. Porter
John E. & Ila C. Porter
Providence Marine Corps of Artillery
and the 103rd Field Artillery Brigade,
Rhode Island Army National Guard
Providence Steamboat Company
Carol Devoe Reise
Dorothy W. Rittenhouse
William Rivelli, '57
Shirley U. Savick
Bernard V. Scola & Jane A.
Scola, '61, MA, '65
Douglas A. Snow, '45
St. Pierre Manufacturing Corporation
Mary D. Stachura
Michael A. & Beth E. Uzel
Richard Wendel, P'85 & Leslie
Wendel, '55, P'85
Charles Wooley

The Brown University Library is grateful to all who chose to honor Bob in this special way.



Friends of the Library *on the Move!*

The Friends of the Library office will be moving to the Rockefeller Library in late August. Our new location will be in the administration section of the building, just to the left as you enter the main lobby.

The Friends of the Library contact information will remain the same:

E-mail address
FOL@brown.edu

Phone number
(401) 863-1518

Mailing Address
Friends of the Library
Box A
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

Among Friends

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E-mail:
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Editor:
Christy Law Blanchard
**Christy_Law_Blanchard@
brown.edu**

Executive Editor:
Samuel Streit

Join Us or Renew Today!

☐ Yes! I would like to join or renew with the Friends!

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☐ \$45 General Membership

☐ \$50 Subscriber

☐ \$75 Alumni Associate
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from the University Libraries

☐ \$75 Non-Alumni Associate
this category allows non-alumni access
to the University Libraries

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at the \$400 level non-alumni may
borrow from the University Libraries

☐ \$500-\$999 Patron

☐ \$1,000-\$4,999 Benefactor

☐ \$5,000 Nicholas Brown Society

As part of my membership, please send:

☐ A Borrowing Card (based on appropriate membership level)

☐ An Access Card (based on appropriate membership level)

☐ Information about the Merrily E. Taylor Fund.

Name _____

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Telephone _____ Email _____

This membership is a gift from:

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Address _____

Please make your check payable to Brown University and return this form to: Friends of the Library,
Brown University, Box A, Providence, RI 02912