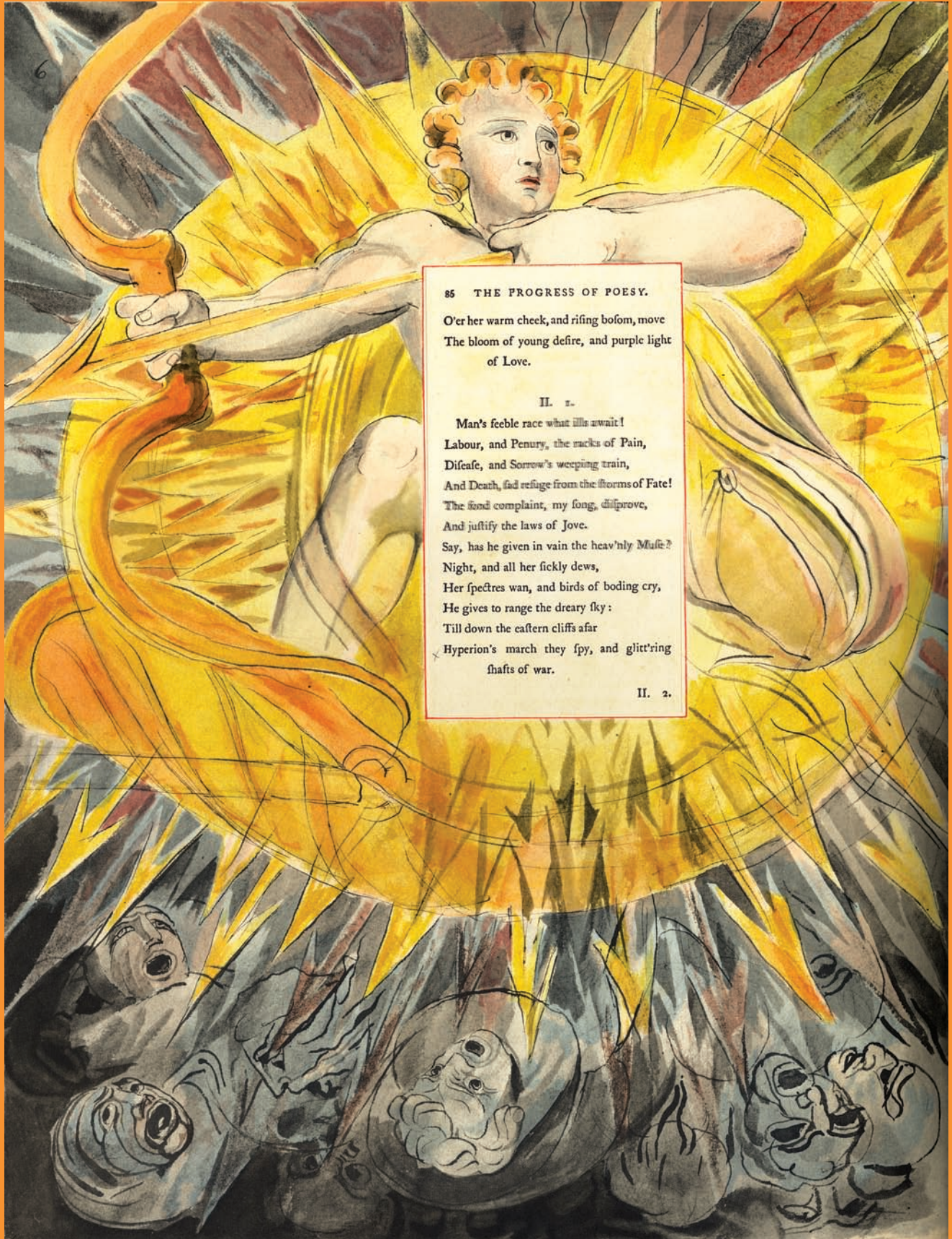


ACORN Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY THE JEAN AND ALEXANDER HEARD LIBRARY • VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY • SUMMER 2007



86 THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

O'er her warm cheek, and rising bosom, move
The bloom of young desire, and purple light
of Love.

II. 1.

Man's feeble race what ills await!
Labour, and Penury, the racks of Pain,
Disease, and Sorrow's weeping train,
And Death, sad refuge from the storms of Fate!
The fond complaint, my song, disprove,
And justify the laws of Jove.
Say, has he given in vain the heav'nly Muse?
Night, and all her sickly dews,
Her spectres wan, and birds of boding cry,
He gives to range the dreary sky:
Till down the eastern cliffs afar
Hyperion's march they spy, and glitt'ring
shafts of war.

II. 2.



NEIL BRANKE

Paul M. Gherman
University Librarian

About the cover:

The image of the Sun on the cover of this issue is from the book, *Poems of Thomas Gray*, illustrated by William Blake. Blake was an English poet, painter, and printmaker who died largely unheralded in 1827. His work is today—180 years later—considered important in the history of both poetry and art. The book, beautifully reprinted by Trianon Press, is part of the Brussel Collection recently given to Vanderbilt.

THE ACORN CHRONICLE is published semi-annually by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University. Address inquiries to the Library, 419 Twenty-first Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240, 615/322-4782, or by email to editor Lew.Harris@vanderbilt.edu.

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Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Libraries hold our memories safe. They are society's means of institutionally holding the accumulated memories of humankind. Whether it be mathematics, history, or computer science, the transfer of accumulated knowledge waits for the next generation on the library shelves, or in today's world, in the library computers. Vanderbilt's library serves this role for our faculty and students but, increasingly, the Library stores far more of our more personal memories for future generations that would be lost unless special efforts are made to save them.

In this issue a feature article tells of how Molly Dohrmann has been interviewing Vanderbilt graduates who served in World War II as part of an oral history project, "Vandy Goes to War." Her work captures the very personal stories of those alumni, both male and female, in a very different age. These spoken memories are transcribed, but also will be available to be heard in the person's voice on the library's Web site.

The weave of friendship and special interests also brings new treasures almost daily, as our alumni and friends donate their prized collections to us. This issue notes three wonderful additions: one made

possible by a faculty member, Robert Barsky, who facilitated the donation of his uncle's press collection which includes rare books by William Blake. An outstanding collection of rare John Updike publications came from Dr. Robert Stempfel, an alumnus of the Medical School, and his wife, Sarah Jane. This collection was loaned to the Nashville Public Library when John Updike spoke there last fall. And finally we are the recipient of a copy of the Macklin Bible, one of the largest Bibles ever printed, thanks to the generosity of John and Anne Czura.

But one must have the right key to unlock memory, and we are continually developing increasingly sophisticated ways of using the computer to access those treasures we hold. We have been a development partner with a library system vendor, Ex Libris, to develop much more comprehensive ways to search our catalog and other unique holdings. A second version of this software, which is named AlphaSearch, was tested by many of our students and faculty this spring. We are pleased with the result and hope that, by year's end, access to our collections will be far more expansive and easy to use.

—PAUL M. GHERMAN

The Best-Kept Secret at Vanderbilt

The best kept secret on the Vanderbilt campus resides in Room 305 of the Peabody Library. That's where the Geographic Information Systems and U.S. Census Information Center are housed.

Jacob Thornton serves as coordinator of the services, which are designed to help Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff as well as the community. Thornton's job is to provide data, tools and training necessary to understand, analyze, and present geographic information.

Many users wish to display their census information in the form of maps. GIS allows complex data to be displayed in an easy-to-understand mapped format. A quality map plotter (printer) is located on site.



STEVE GREEN

Jacob Thornton

Thornton's help on a research project proved invaluable to Vanderbilt Economics Professor Jeremy Attack. Attack's research, funded by the National Science Foundation, involves the use of 19th-century manuscript census data (population, manufacturing and agricultural) at the level of the individual and family, firm and farm. His initial goal with GIS was to examine differences across census years at the county level (there were about 1,600 counties in 1850 and about 2,400 by 1880) and incorporate economic and physical features from 19th-century maps for spatial analysis.

"Prior to Jacob coming over and spending two to three hours with me, I had not been able to reproduce maps that I had created five to seven years earlier because the software no longer works on today's personal computer," Attack says. "Jacob gave me an overview and tutorial that has gotten me over the hump. I literally could not have done this

Smith-Borne Serves as Director of Anne Potter Wilson Music Library

Holling Smith-Borne is completing his first year as director of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library. Previously, he served as coordinator of the music library at DePauw University from 1997–2006. He worked as the music and fine arts librarian at Butler University from 1992–1997. Smith-Borne holds a bachelor’s degree in piano performance from Bowling Green State University. He earned an M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan with a specialization in music librarianship. He has been elected a board member-at-large of the Music Library Association and also serves as treasurer of the Music OCLC Users Group. In his spare time, Smith-Borne enjoys working as a freelance accompanist primarily working with vocalists and choirs.



Holling Smith-Borne

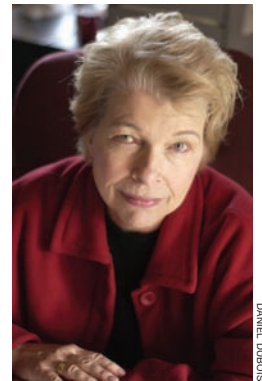
Boyer Elected Vice President of Southeast Region of Art Libraries Society

Librarian Yvonne Boyer was elected vice president/president-elect of the Art Libraries Society of North America, Southeast Region, at the group’s November meeting in

Atlanta. She is bibliographer for art, French, and Italian and also serves as curator of the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

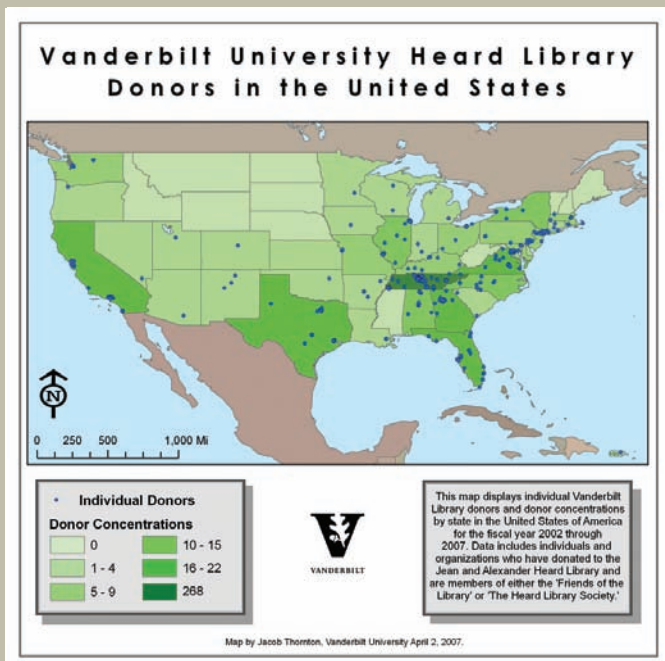
*Friends of the Library
“Bring Your Own Lunch” Talks*

Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, spoke to the Friends of the Library and library staff on March 9, 2007. Her lecture, “Magpie in the Library: The Scholar on the Hunt,” detailed her use of rare books and primary resources in the preparation of her most recent book, *Exposés and Excess, Muckraking in America, 1900/2000*.



Cecelia Tichi

Robert Barksy, Professor of French, English and Comparative Literature and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of French and Italian and the Program in Comparative Literature, spoke on the on topic of “Reaching to the Community from within the Ivory Tower: The On-Line Journal in an Age of Border Control” on September 7, 2006.



without him. As a result I can now produce maps in minutes and am looking forward to performing more sophisticated GIS analysis.”

Thornton, an accomplished drummer, moved to Nashville to be a part of the thriving music business. He continues to stay involved in music—playing, teaching, and recording on nights and weekends.

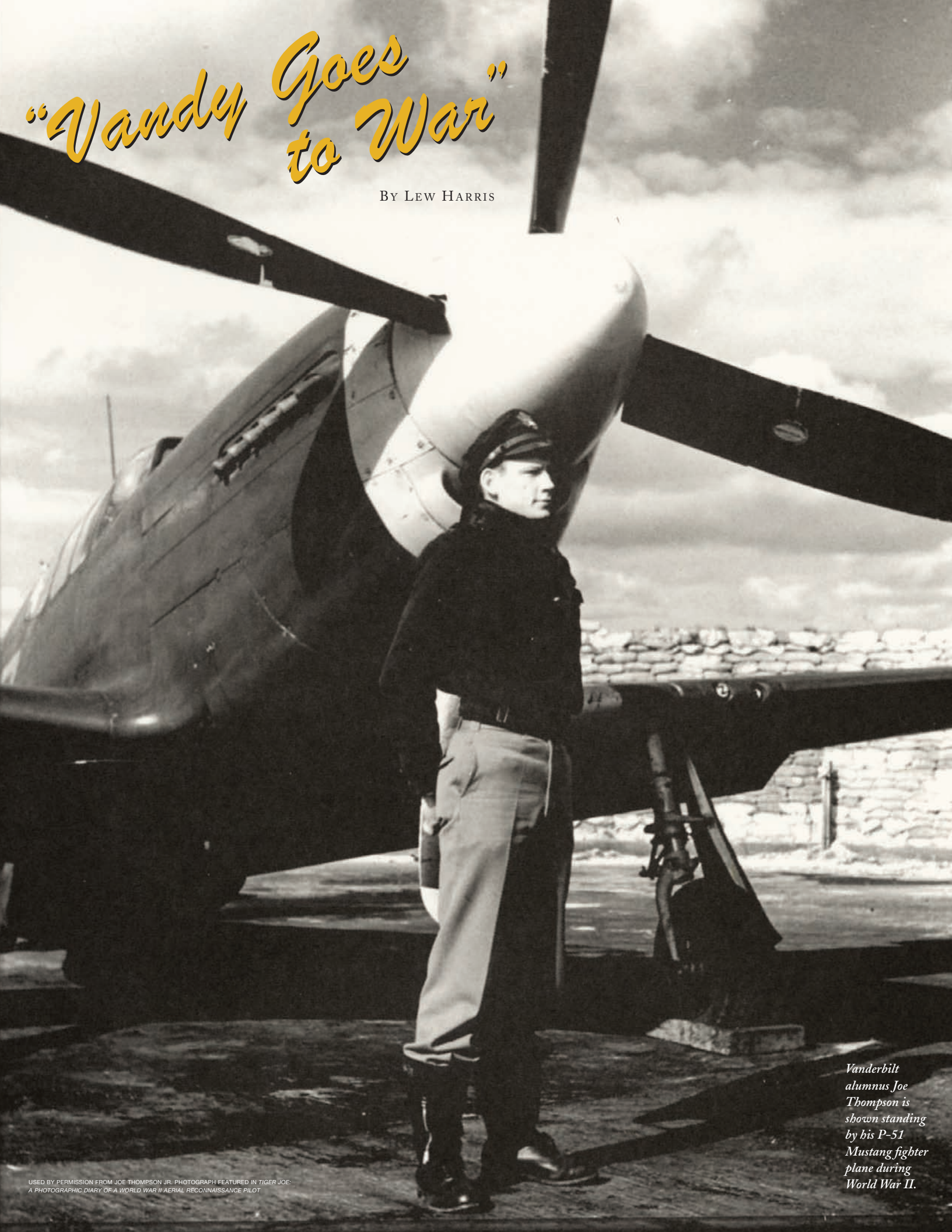
Unlike a lot of young musicians struggling to pay the bills in Nashville, however, Thornton had a steady day job when he arrived in Music City. He majored in geographic information systems (GIS) at James Madison University and then worked as a GIS analyst for two Nashville engineering firms.

The Vanderbilt Library was chosen by the U.S. Census Bureau as a designated Census Information Center (CIC).

“I think Jacob would be able to help many more people at Vanderbilt if they knew about these services,” says undergraduate student Jamie Hillegass, who Thornton helped with a senior project. The best kept secret at Vanderbilt may not be secret much longer.

"Vandy Goes to War"

BY LEW HARRIS



*Vanderbilt
alumnus Joe
Thompson is
shown standing
by his P-51
Mustang fighter
plane during
World War II.*



AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Christmas Eve, 1944, wasn't a festive occasion for U.S. soldiers fighting the Germans in the snowy, bitter cold of the Battle of the Bulge. It was a particularly unhappy time for Sgt. George Thomas and T/Sgt. Frank Tacker, two Vanderbilt alumni attached to the 106th Infantry Division.

Thomas had been leading a squad through the Ardennes Forest that morning when a German machine gun opened up. He immediately "hit the ground" and in doing so shattered his knee on the frozen ground. Tacker, already a winner of the Silver Star for rescuing two wounded U.S. soldiers trapped in a burning half-track (a military vehicle equipped with rear driving wheels on caterpillar treads) on Dec. 22, was captured two days later after surviving a shootout with a German soldier outside a stone farmhouse in Belgium. Corporal Lyttleton "Lyt" Anderson, another Vanderbilt alumnus and an engineer with the 106th, had a little bit better Christmas Eve after having made a daring escape from German captivity a week earlier.

Their recollections, as well as those of other Vanderbilt and Peabody men and women of the Greatest Generation who went through the war—whether as soldiers or students—will soon be available for posterity in their own words. "Vandy Goes to War," an oral history project of Vanderbilt University Special Collections and University Archives, will include the wartime remembrances of more than 30 Vanderbilt men and women. Who is better suited to tell history than the people who experienced it?

The audio and transcriptions will be available on the Internet and accessible from anywhere in the world when completed this fall. The interviews are being transcribed and then edited for spelling corrections. The interviews will be available on the Special Collections Web site both to listen to and read. The transcripts and CD's of the interviews will be kept as an archive in Special Collections.

Molly Dohrmann, a manuscript assistant for Special Collections, conducted the interviews. She said that there is a constant refrain from the people she interviewed and those who recommended them as subjects—"Hurry up!" All are aware of the timeliness of the project and know, of course, that the population of World War II veterans is rapidly dwindling.

Dohrmann prepared beforehand by researching the various battles and aspects of the war. That entailed, for example, reading about the Battle of the Bulge prior to her interviews with Anderson, Thomas and Tacker, who received the Bronze Star in addition to the Silver Star. All three men reside in Nashville, are longtime friends, and are members of a World War II Study Group that meets monthly at the University Club. Dohrmann interviewed Nashville residents in person and reached people out of town by phone.

"I think one thing that's impressive is the range of experiences of the people we interviewed, including the women's perspective of being at Vanderbilt during the war with the men away," said Dohrmann. "The war changed opportunities for women on campus. They filled leadership roles here at Vanderbilt, which was a big change. You find the first woman editor of *The Commodore* yearbook and the first woman editor of *The Hustler* (student newspaper). Women also assumed different leadership positions in student government."

While many male students had left for the war, Naval officer candidates were on campus taking preliminary training offered under the V-1, V-5, and V-7 programs of the U.S. Navy. These midshipmen studied gunnery, communications, naval history, seamanship and navigation. Their

Still Time to Participate in

"Vandy Goes to War"

World War II veterans with Vanderbilt affiliations, as well as men and women who were on campus during those years, are invited to share their remembrances as part of the "Vandy Goes to War" project. Those who are interested should contact Kathy Smith by phone at 615/322-2807, by e-mail at Kathleen.I.Smith@vanderbilt.edu or by mail to her attention at Special Collections, 419 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240-0007.



*Lieutenant Commander Allen Eskind,
Vanderbilt alumnus*

celestial navigation course was taught by Lucile Weingrun, an expert in seamanship and navigation who was thought by many naval officers to be perhaps the only female instructor on this subject in the United States. By midway through the war, approximately 100 of her former students were either in active service on submarines, sub-chasers, or destroyers, or were taking

advanced naval training at other universities prior to being commissioned as ensigns.

One of Weingrun's most successful midshipmen was Allen Eskind. He won top honors in navigation from a class of more than 1,000 Navy midshipmen at Columbia University. Eskind received his degree from Vanderbilt with the class of 1942. He has donated his World War II notebook complete with extensive photos to Special Collections. Other memoirs with rich and interesting details of their personal World War II experiences were provided by Ted M. George and Harry Murray Brammer Jr.

"When I went to the interviews, people gave me photographs, notebooks and other memorabilia," Dohrmann said. "We hope to include a lot of the memorabilia and photographs as part of the project."

"It's been so interesting," she adds. "Going through Mr. Eskind's World War II notebook with the photographs was fascinating. Also hearing about the combat at the Battle of the Bulge was very important. And listening to (aviator and Vanderbilt alumnus) Joe Thompson and his wife Martha talk about his experience in the war while she was at Vanderbilt was fascinating. We have his letters home, also. The letters illustrate what life was like in Nashville and his experiences flying combat missions. All of them have a great story to tell."

In addition to the midshipmen at Vanderbilt, the Fourth Calvary Reconnaissance Troop of the 44th Infantry Division took its Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at the University. The cadets, who had completed basic

training, took courses in basic engineering, English, chemistry and physics at Vanderbilt before being shipped out for the fighting in Europe.

Peabody trained Army Air cadets from the 333rd Meteorology Battalion, according to Kathy Smith, associate university archivist. "I talked to one woman who had been a student on campus and she said her main contribution to the war effort was to date a different cadet every night," says Smith with a chuckle.

After the war ended, the GIs came home and many enrolled in college, courtesy of the GI Bill. "When they talk about coming back, they say they were able to do that because of the GI Bill," Dohrmann said. Several men who had done their military training at Vanderbilt, but had no prior affiliation with the university, decided to enroll at Vanderbilt after the war ended because they had liked the university so much. One of the men, Harry M. Brammer Jr., sent his son—Dr. Harry M. Brammer III—to Vanderbilt for his undergraduate studies.

Many of the veterans married either shortly before shipping out or immediately after returning from the war, so temporary married student housing was built on campus near the site where Memorial Gym now sits. There was also a large "Veterans' Village" on the Peabody campus. Dohrmann was given a picture of the tiny little houses in Veterans' Village by the wife of one of the GIs who earned his degree after the war.

These Vanderbilt alumni truly were members of "The Greatest Generation."



Vanderbilt alumni and Battle of the Bulge veterans (from left) Frank Tacker, George Thomas, and Lyttleton "Lyt" Anderson reminisce about World War II at the University Club. The longtime friends were interviewed for the "Vandy Goes to War" project.

DANIEL DUBOIS

Library Developing a Next-Generation Research Platform

BY MARSHALL BREEDING, *Director of Innovative Technologies and Research*,
AND JODY COMBS, *Director of the Digital Library*

During the past year, the Library has been engaged in developing a new service that should allow library users to find resources, discover resources they might not have thought to look for, and easily access those resources once they have been located.

Vanderbilt's two-year development partnership with Ex Libris, a leading vendor of library automation and systems software, will result in a research platform that will become a key component of the Vanderbilt Library's next-generation research environment. Vanderbilt's code name for the platform is AlphaSearch. The Library is currently researching the name that will be used for its implementation of this service.

AlphaSearch is designed to anticipate the needs of researchers. It includes features that users of the Web have come to expect. It is not meant simply to be a replacement or update for the Vanderbilt Library's current online library catalog, Acorn. Rather, it can grow to contain information about all of the library's resources and eventually include campus resources not traditionally associated with the library catalog.

Today's library users expect a service to be fast, intuitive, and require minimal training for effective use. They want the service to be comprehensive and allow them to search across as many different resources as possible rather than being required to locate individual resources and search them separately. In short, students and other library patrons want their online experience with the library to be similar to what they experience with Google, Amazon, eBay, or MySpace.

They want to be able to access services wherever they happen to be, not only physically but also "virtually," whether that be within an institutional Web portal, an online course, or a departmental Web site. Library patrons also are increasingly interested in social computing: reading about insights from others using the same resources and sharing their own ideas and insights.

AlphaSearch should meet these needs. During this first stage of development and testing, the library staff has loaded records from Acorn and the Vanderbilt Television News Archive. Users will be able to search Acorn or the TV News Archive—or both at the same time. As new sources of data are added over time, patrons will be able to search across a growing variety of library and campus resources, both

print and electronic. AlphaSearch will also include a search capability that allows users to simultaneously search many of the article indexes and databases to which the library subscribes.

Such a comprehensive search platform might threaten to overwhelm a researcher with information. AlphaSearch assists the user by providing tools to identify and quickly select the most useful results. It sorts results of a search using relevancy ranking to present the items most likely to be of interest first. It eliminates duplicate search results and groups-related resources. A print version of a work, for example, might be grouped with an audio version. AlphaSearch also features "faceted browsing," a quick and easy way to select subsets of large result sets by categories.

AlphaSearch also automatically presents links for related searches, so users can launch a related search with a single click if the first search does not return useful results. It includes additional information about individual resources such as tables of contents, book jackets and reviews.

AlphaSearch's display allows the user to determine at a glance if an item is available online, available in the Vanderbilt Library, or has restrictions for access. It also will provide the most efficient delivery route to the resource.

continued on page 11

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To learn more, please contact Vanderbilt's Office of Planned Giving at 615/343-3113 or 888/758-1999. Or e-mail plannedgiving@vanderbilt.edu.

Special Collections Receives Three Prize Treasures

BY LEW HARRIS

The three most recent additions to the Special Collections of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library arrived for a variety of unique reasons:

- The appreciation of a father and mother for the positive educational experience their daughter received as a Vanderbilt Law School student
- The longtime friendship of a Vanderbilt professor with the Brussel printing family, relatives on his father's side
- The fear of possible hurricane damage to a valuable John Updike collection

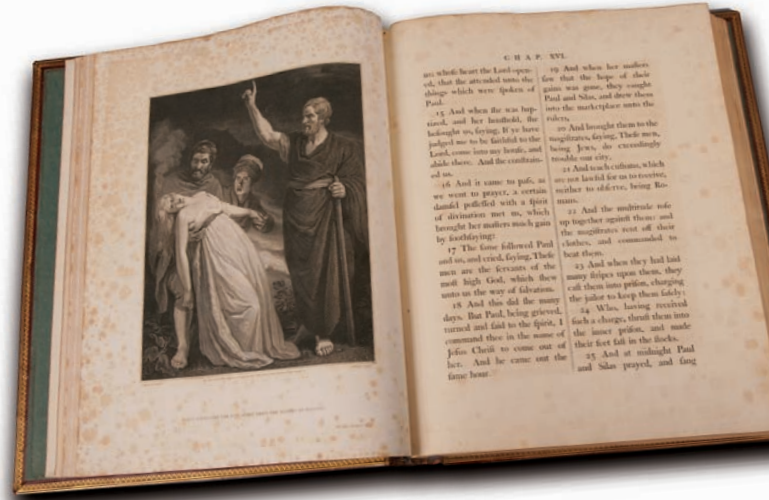
Over the years Special Collections has built an impressive collection of manuscripts, books, and ephemera based on the patronage of people who donate their materials to Vanderbilt University. Special Collections is a steward of the materials donated or purchased to perpetuate the study and dissemination of knowledge to those who seek it—whether they be on campus or around the world.

During the past year Vanderbilt Special Collections has had the good fortune to add three superb collections to its vaults. Each in its own unique way has enhanced Special Collections with their importance to literary and historical research.

John J. and Anne Czura, Dr. Robert S. Stempfeler Jr. and his wife, Sarah Jane, and Karl Brussel all cited different reasons for donating their collections but knew that Special Collections would house them in a secure environment and make them accessible for research.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL DURIOS



Below left, and above: The Macklin Bible is one of the largest Bibles ever printed. It comprises seven volumes and weighs more than 130 pounds. The Bible was given to Special Collections by John and Anne Czura to thank Vanderbilt for their daughter Nell's positive educational experience at the University.

The Macklin Bible

John J. and Anne Czura were so pleased with the education their daughter, Ellen (also known as Nell), BA'00, JD'05, received while attending the Vanderbilt School of Law that they donated an 1800 edition of the Macklin Bible that had been in Anne's family for generations. Comprised of seven volumes and standing more than two feet tall when stacked up, it is one of the largest Bibles ever published. It weighs more than 130 pounds.

The Macklin Bible was named for Thomas Macklin, a one-time ship cabin boy who became a gilder of frames and then a print and picture dealer. He eventually established the Poet's Gallery in London.

Printed between 1800 and 1816, the Macklin Bible is bound in reddish-brown calf leather accented with gold gilding and type. The type is quite large to facilitate reading aloud to one's family. The Macklin Bible contains more than 70 full plate engravings by such well-known artists as Joshua Reynolds and Benjamin West.

The high quality of English engravings in the late 18th century encouraged the publication of handsome illustrated editions of the English classics. A zealous patron of the arts, however, pointed out to Macklin that "while embellishments of the most superb kind were lavished upon other



authors, the most important of the books (The Bible) was scarcely to be found in such a state, with respect to ornaments, as to merit a place in an elegant library.”

Macklin devoted the rest of his life to producing the largest and best illustrated Bible ever published up to that time. He died the same year (1800) that his Bible was first printed. Six volumes were published in 1800 and the Apocrypha was issued later in similar form. (The Apocrypha is a group of 14 books, not considered canonical, included in the Septuagint and the Vulgate as part of the Old Testament but usually omitted from Protestant editions of the Bible.) The only known OCLC library other than Vanderbilt to have the full seven-volume set of the Macklin Bible is the Newbury Library in Boston.

“It was the most extravagant Bible published for its time,” says Kathy Smith, associate university archivist. It’s beautiful. The condition of the Bible is really impressive. Mr. Czura said he and Anne wanted to find a way to thank Vanderbilt for Nell’s positive educational experience.”

The Brussel Collection

Vanderbilt Professor Robert Barsky facilitated communication between Karl Brussel and the library for this donation. The Brussel Collection contains more than 150 titles from the 18th through the 20th centuries. It is a gift from the children of Jacob and Minna Brussel and a result of the friendship between Professor Barsky and his relatives, the Brussel family. Barsky describes how the gift came about.

“When my parents decided to get married, they were virtually disowned, on both sides, on account of my father being Russian Jewish, my mother a Protestant (with Catholic antecedents as well). They sought help from the Brussel family in New York City, Russian relatives from my father’s side. For me, the only close family I ever had, outside of my parents and siblings, were the Brussels. When Jack’s son Karl offered the collection I was, of course, thrilled, because of my friendship with him and his wife, Jill; because of my own

These exquisite books, reprinted by Trianon Press and featuring beautiful marbled boards and slipcases, are just part of the Brussel Collection. They are a gift from the children of Jacob and Minna Brussel. The acquisition was facilitated by Vanderbilt Professor Robert Barsky, a relative of the Brussel family.

research on radical Jewish figures from the 20th century (Noam Chomsky, Zellig Harris, etc.); and because of our being able to add to Vanderbilt’s Special Collections.”

Jacob (also known as Jack) Brussel was born in Poland and migrated to Brooklyn from Russia as a young man. His father was interned for revolutionary behavior in Russia and emigrated later. Minna was born in Russia and migrated to Winnipeg, Canada.

Brussel (1900–1979) owned several bookshops in New York City. He opened his first bookstore in the 1920s, the Ortelius Bookshop on Astor Place. He later owned a shop on Fourth Avenue. Jacob was also a reprint publisher. He went to jail in the late 1930s for being the first in America to publish *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller. While famous for its frank and often graphic depiction of sex (tame by today’s standards), the novel is now widely regarded as an important masterpiece of 20th-century literature.

Karl Brussel worked in the publishing business with his father. The term “Brussel and Brussel” refers to all the family because Minna was also an active participant in the business. Minna was a well-respected and much-loved person who had ties to the art community. Both she and Jack had strong commitments in the struggle against all forms of violence.

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WorldCat lists 31 titles attributed to Jacob Brussel and another 13 to Brussel and Brussel, but the number of volumes published by the family is actually much larger. The Brussel Collection covers the following subject areas: classic literature, religion, books published by Brussel and Brussel Publishing Company, books published by Trianon Press, classic reference books on medical treatments, art and art prints, human sexuality, and anything one would want to know about William Blake and his art work.

Blake was an English poet, painter, and printmaker who died largely unheralded in 1827. His work is today—180 years later—considered important in the history of both poetry and art. (See his painting on front cover of this issue.) Other highlights of the Brussel Collection include a set of works by Blake published by Trianon Press, a facsimile of *Canterbury Tales*, the Gutenberg Bible and the Koran.

The Brussel family also gave Vanderbilt an 8-foot bronze statue, “Broken Victory,” at the same time that the book collection was donated. The work, a memorial to the Vietnam War by sculptor Bill Tarr, was installed in front of the Science and Engineering Library. Tarr’s other major works include the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in New York City and the Gates of Hell sculpture in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Stempfel Collection

Dr. Robert S. Stempfel Jr. has been collecting John Updike materials for years and has amassed a wonderful collection of the author’s books, special editions, and other published works. Dr. Stempfel approached Vanderbilt about the possibility of Special Collections taking the materials after seeing the destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina and others like it. He and his wife, Sarah Jane, are both Vanderbilt alumni, live in the Florida Keys and are apprehensive at the thought of a hurricane hitting their home. “One of the conditions Dr. Stempfel stipulated was that we take the collection prior to the beginning of the hurricane season last year (2006),” says Smith.

The Stempfel Collection includes John Updike first editions, limited editions, reprint editions, hard-bound and soft-bound editions, hundreds of magazine articles, and broadsides. (A broadside is an oversized or odd-sized sheet that usually contains a poem or a fragment of prose printed on high quality paper. Often the author signs a broadside. Several in the collection bear Updike’s distinctive signature.)

Updike has produced an extraordinary body of literary work with more than 60 books of fiction and non-fiction. He is a novelist, poet, short story author, playwright, children’s book author, literary critic, art critic and essayist.

In *Rabbit Run* (1960), Updike first introduced readers to perhaps his most memorable character, Harry “Rabbit” Angstrom.

He would follow Angstrom from his youth through the social and sexual upheavals of the 1960s, to later periods of his life, and to final decline in the books *Rabbit Redux* (1971), *Rabbit is Rich* (1981), and *Rabbit at Rest* (1990). He won Pulitzer Prizes for both *Rabbit is Rich* and *Rabbit at Rest*.

“John Updike is a very hard man to collect because he’s been so prolific and he’s still producing, which means that you still have to comb the papers and keep up with his comings and goings,” Smith says. “We’re thrilled to have this modern author collection.”

Shortly after Vanderbilt received the Stempfel collection, it was announced that Updike would be coming to Nashville to receive the Nashville Public Library Literary Award in November 2006. Special Collections lent a number of the Stempfel’s materials—first editions, broadsides and some special editions—for the visit. “They created a lovely display at the Public Library downtown, and, from what we’ve been told, John Updike was just thrilled to see the exhibit,” Smith says.



Judging from the broadside and John Updike’s poem, “Scenic,” the noted author admires every aspect of San Francisco.

IOWA

White barns this morning match the trees
whitewashed by fog that tiptoed in
among the little hills and froze.
Was all land once so innocent?
Did all our country uncles come to rest
on such long porches fortified
by moats of lawn where fireflies and dew
compounded the smoke of their summer cigars?

Those fireflies! From gloomy aisles of corn,
from lakeside groves the lanterns come.
This winter holds them in it like a jar—
contours of ripeness cast in frost
like old lawn furniture of iron,
our fruited plain as virgin as the moon.

JOHN UPDIKE



Copyright 1980 by John Updike. Designed and printed by John Laurson at Press-52, Portland, Oregon.
Copperplate etching by Lisa Jones. Of an edition limited to 200 numbered and 20 lettered copies, this is 155.

John Updike

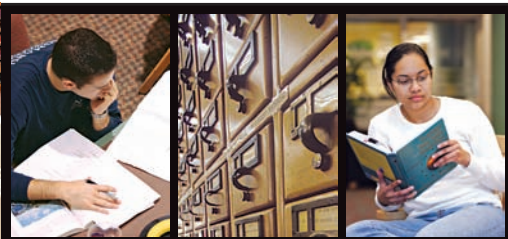
This attractive broadside bears author John Updike's distinctive signature. Dr. Robert S. Stempfel has collected Updike materials for years and offered them to Special Collections because of the possibility that they might be harmed by a hurricane.

ALPHASEARCH, *continued from page 7*

For print items, this might mean presenting a form to place the item on hold, requesting the item be delivered to a faculty office, or providing a screen with call number and location information. For electronic items, it might include displaying the full text of an article, playing a sound recording, or showing a digital photograph.

The Library has approached the project both as a way of developing an important new service for library users and as a method of engaging our staff in the process. By breaking the project into its various components, the library has been able to use the significant knowledge, experience, and creativity of a large number of library staff and plans to involve even more staff members in the coming year. End-user feedback will be incorporated in further development of the platform. AlphaSearch is currently in its second internal testing phase. We made it available for evaluation and comment by library patrons in June of 2007.

The library has devoted a large amount of time, effort, and funding to develop this next-generation research tool. It is a project that directly addresses the library's core mission to bring information to users quickly, simply and effectively. The goal is to continually improve the ways our users find information to encourage discovery and innovation.



GENEROSITY THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES

Every year, the support of alumni and friends allows the Jean and Alexander Heard Library to expand its collections and enhance its services. This generosity is vital to maintaining and managing our first-rate library system.

Now you can be part of this success story by joining the Friends of the Library.

To find out more about the Friends of the Library, please contact Beth Boord at 615/343-4717 or beth.boord@vanderbilt.edu.

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JAMES MCPHERSON AT INGRAM HALL

James McPherson, a noted American Civil War historian who won the Pulitzer Prize for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, delivered a public lecture at Vanderbilt University on May 2.

McPherson's talk, in Ingram Hall, was titled "When Will This Cruel War Be Over? The Failure of Peace Negotiations, 1864–1865." He discussed the inability to negotiate a peaceful end to the Civil War during its final months. He contends that the war aims of each side were non-negotiable, so the conflict only ended with an unqualified victory by one of the opposing sides.

Gary Gerstle, the James Stahlman Professor of History at Vanderbilt and a co-author with McPherson of the U.S. history textbook *Liberty, Equality, Power*, calls McPherson "a national treasure who knows more and understands more about the Civil War and its legacy than anyone else living in the United States today." Gerstle also said that McPherson is that rare historian whose work has been widely read and celebrated both by university scholars and the general reading public.



DANIEL DUBOIS

Noted author James McPherson (right) is pictured with Dr. Harris D. Riley Jr., Vanderbilt University professor of pediatrics, emeritus. McPherson's talk at Vanderbilt in May was sponsored by the Jean and Alexander Heard Library through the Harris D. Riley Jr. Civil War Heritage Endowment. Dr. Riley has a longtime interest in Civil War history and his family recently established an endowed library fund in his honor.

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