

GELMAN NEWS

Special Collections Student Assistant Awarded Archival Internship at American Dance Festival

by **La Nina Clayton**
Special Collections

Special Collections student assistant Colleen Hooper has been awarded the Summer 2000 American Dance Festival Archives Internship. The American Dance Festival is a six-week intensive dance school held for professional and pre-professional dancers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. It features classes and performances from nationally and internationally renowned modern dance companies.

Employed in the Special Collections Department since spring 1999, Colleen has learned about various aspects of special collections librarianship through readings, consultations, and hands-on-training under the direction of Francine Henderson, Head, Special

Collections and La Nina M. Clayton, Public Services/Collections Development Librarian. She has learned skills in phase-box construction, manuscript processing, and photographic collection management. Colleen has developed and installed several exhibitions, her most recent project being a display on the African American Civil War Memorial, which was on view in the lobby of the Gelman Library. Her work in the Special Collections Department has also included the creation of finding aids or inventories to the records of the Modern Dance Association and the St. Mark's Dance Company and Studio, two of several collections that form the Gelman Library's Dance Archives of the Greater Washington Region.

As the Festival intern, Colleen will be responsible for the reproduction and distribution of the current and past dance performance video recordings from the Festival. She will also assist with an exhibition that features materials from the Archives.

(Continued...)

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ANDREA'S SCHEDULE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

Monday, February 28, 2000	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 29, 2000	9:00 a.m. – 12 noon
Wednesday, March 1, 2000	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 2, 2000	Out of the Office
Friday, March 3, 2000	Out of the Office

Her internship also includes processing the print and photographic collections stored in the Duke Library that date back to the Festival's inception in 1937. The American Dance Festival creates and maintains its archives in partnership with the Duke University Library. The partnership allows the Festival to store materials in the Duke facilities. In fulfillment of her internship requirements, Colleen will also attend daily dance classes and performances, a plus for Colleen who is completing a dual major in Dance and English.

On the whole, this experience promises to be interesting and exciting for Colleen because it applies to both the research and artistic aspects of her studies at The George Washington University. Please join the Special Collections Department staff in congratulating Colleen Hooper on being awarded the Summer 2000 American Dance Festival Archives Internship.

Anonymous Was a Woman

by **La Nina M. Clayton**
Special Collections

Rare Book School at the University of Virginia offers a full day, non-credit course on "bookish" subjects. The school began in 1983 at Columbia University under the direction of Terry Belanger. It moved to The University of Virginia in 1992 after the dissolution of Columbia's library school. As the Public Services/Collection Development Library in the Gelman Library's Special Collections Department part of my responsibilities are the rare book and special collections. Gelman's own Special Collections Department is a hybrid of unique research materials including archives (organizational records), manuscript collections (personal papers), rare books and maps. Before applying to Rare Book School I spoke with several former participants. Conversations with my colleagues left embedded in my memory adjectives such as "intense," "long," and "competitive." Potential applicants are warned of the seriousness of the level of study and the commitment required getting the most out of the program. Being the middle child has left me bereft of the common

sense to avoid such situations, so after discussing my desire to attend a class entitled, "Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship," with my supervisor, Francine Henderson, Head of Special Collections, I forged ahead with an application and was accepted.

In summary, my attendance in Rare Book School was interesting, educational and yes, intense. Daniel Traister, Curator of Research Services at the University of Pennsylvania served as the instructor of the rare book course. Traister is the author of numerous articles on Rare Book Librarianship and lectures widely on the subject. The class of 13 was gathered together from institutions such as the University of Miami, Carleton College and the Nantucket Historical Society. Unlike the majority of other courses at RBS, the Introduction to Rare Book Librarianship is not a hands-on course, thus I was spared the intensity and self-flagellation some of my colleagues experienced. Instead, the course was an overview on the theory and practice of rare book librarianship. Daily sessions from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. held in UVA's Alderman Library included lectures, discussions and visits to local booksellers and UVA's Special Collections department. The course was designed to help the novice to rare book librarianship think how the principles and theories of such hold up in their respective institutions. Far too often the attention for such collections is given simply to acquire rare and expensive books and not how researchers will best use them.

Over 20 topics were covered during the weeklong course, beginning with defining and determining the true intrinsic, and if necessary, the monetary, value of a "rare" book. We were asked to consider: "What makes a book rare and/or valuable?" and "How appropriate are rare book collections in libraries?" Or put another, less delicate way, why bother buying expensive old books? The history of a book's production and size are some of the more obvious criteria for determining the rarity of a book. Thin books are usually privately printed

and are considered luxury items. It was Virginia Woolf who said, "Anonymous was a woman." Gender biases are reflected in the dearth of books with identifiably female authors prior to the 20th century.

Prior to arriving at Rare Book School an extensive reading list is assigned in preparation for the course. Traister's reading list contained over 20 articles many of which are published in *Rare Books and Manuscript Librarianship* and *College and Research Libraries*. Traister's own reasoning for rare book collections is that "manuscripts and books represent the most numerous artifactual remains of the human past." Traister urged those present to meet with faculty to identify the research interests of standing faculty. Contacts in literature and language departments, history, religion and philosophy can offer a great deal in developing what may become fruitful relationships to develop new or enhance existing collections. "Encourage them to use first editions!" he said. "High-spot" or noted literary books should be collected by which to judge celebrated author and scholars. "Review your library's current mission statement and acquisitions policy. Also review those of neighboring institutions as well." By developing an intimate knowledge of rare books and special collections, Traister argued that each institution could use the information to create a niche for your institution. He gave the example of the academic research centers in Texas and Illinois which are now world-renowned because they began collecting things that neighboring institutions, or other similar size national repositories, were simply collecting, namely materials on Southwestern Americana, and printing and popular culture in Viet Nam.

Ultimately the purposes of rare book and special collections are to preserve the items for use by future generations. And while rare books are to be preserved, Traister continuously stressed the books are of no use to anyone if they are not used.

Increasingly, digitization is being considered an access tool rather than a preservation method. The craftsmanship of hand-tooled animal skin and fabric binds, gilt fore-edged and illuminated books are best appreciated through visual and tactile experience.

The Gelman Library has an eclectic mix of rare books. Among the rare books are titles from the original library of the Columbian College, predecessor of The George Washington University. The miniature book collections are wonderful examples of skill and conspicuous consumption of the book as material culture. First editions and illustrated texts of American, French, and Russian literature by Willa Cather, Daniel DaFoe, and Vladimir Nabokov are available to researchers in the Special Collections Department.

The most valuable lesson Traister taught was to teach us to re-think what seems routine or unmanageable, rare book collections, and to bring them down to scale by developing an intimate knowledge of the collections. Rare book collections can be supported through outreach efforts to students, faculty and friends of the library. With information provided through assigned readings, discussions with new colleagues and fresh ideas for public programs, I look forward to developing new and creative ways to enrich the current holdings and to increase the use of rare books and special collections.

Many thanks to Francine, Caroline and Jack who supported my participation in the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.

Clarification About “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?”

by Carolyn Frenger
Reference

With apologies to Mark Twain, the reports of a game show appearance in my future have been slightly exaggerated!

Yes, I am trying to get on the game show, yes, I’ve qualified several times to be on the show, and yes, if I do, then I will tell everyone here at Gelman, but no, I am not currently scheduled to be on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?”, contrary to earlier reports. Keep those cards and letters coming!

And that’s my final answer!



BOOK QUOTE

*Books are keys to wisdom’s treasure
Books are gates to lands of pleasure
Books Are paths that upward lead
Books are friends.
Come, let us read*

Emilie Poulsson
(1853-1939)



Workstation Tip of the Week

February 29, 2000

SNOOP-PROOF YOUR PC

by **Alicia Miller**

Management Information Systems

Are you one of those people who have to share your personal computer at work and/or at home? If you are, I am sure that you have wondered if one of your Pcmates ever poked around in your recycle bin or email trash. Here’s a link to an article that offers a few tricks to keep your data “under wraps.”

http://www.interactive.hp.com/hho/enhance/savvy_tips/snoopproof.html

GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES

VACANCY LISTING

Please see **Attachment A** for Gelman’s Vacancy Listing.

What language has more words than any other language in the world?

English

Source: **The Instant Genius**
Tanya Slover

GELMAN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	EVENT
Exhibit <i>Africana Women at the Dawn of the New Millennium</i>	Student Advisory Board Meeting
<u>DATE</u> Monday, January 31 Thru Monday May 1, 2000	<u>DATE</u> Friday, March 10, 2000
<u>PLACE</u> Room 207	<u>PLACE</u> Room 208
<u>TIME</u> Mon. Noon – 8:00 p.m. and Tues. – Fri. Noon – 5:00 p.m.	<u>TIME</u> 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

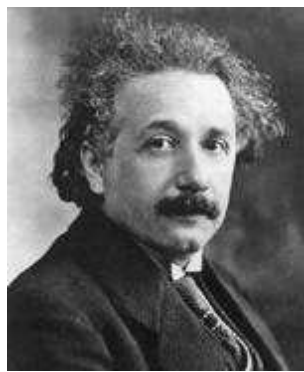
*“Do not take life too seriously...
 You will never get out of it alive.”*

Ibid.

THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

February 27, 1902	John Steinbeck , is born in Salinas, California
February 28, 1916	Henry James dies in London
February 29, 45BC	Julius Caesar adjusts 46 B.C. – known as the “Year of Confusion” with its 445 days – by fixing 365 days and six hours as the length of a year, with one day intercalated every four years, a leap
March 1, 2000	William Dean Howells is born in Martin’s Ferry, Ohio
March 1, 1914	Novelist Ralph Ellison , who will win the 1952 National Book Award for <i>The Invisible Man</i> is born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 2, 1930	D.H. Lawrence dies at 45 of tuberculosis in a sanitarium in Vence, a small town in the South of France, near Antibes
March 3, 1906	F. Scott Fitzgerald’s <i>The Beautiful and Damned</i> is published
March 4, 1968	The real genius behind the Beat Generation group of American writers, Neal Cassady , collapses and dies along some railroad tracks in Mexico
March 5, 1626	The most celebrated European letter writer, Mme de Sevigne , is born in Paris
March 5, 1881	William Burroughs (<i>Naked Lunch</i>) is born in St. Louis, Missouri

ADVICE FROM EINSTEIN



“Reading, after a certain age, diverts the mind too much from its creative pursuits. Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking.”

RENAISSANCE TIMES

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