



THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON DC

# RENAISSANCE TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GELMAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

RENAISSANCE TIMES

March 11, 2003

## GLS UPDATE

### Snow Day Entrance Counts

by **Jack A. Siggins**  
*University Librarian*

The snowstorms we experienced in February did not deter staff from opening Gelman Library. Despite a major storm February 13 and a record-setting blizzard February 17 and 18, Gelman was able to open its doors and keep some service desks open, thanks to the dedication of staff who struggled through drifts and overcame obstacles to open the building.

In such circumstances, only those individuals and departments identified in advance as "Essential" under our Adverse Weather Policy are expected to come to work. These staff members live within easy walking distance of the library, or, in a few instances, close to a Metro stop. Building Operations Essential Staff have responsibility for providing the most basic library service of simply opening the building. Essential Staff in Circulation and Library Information Technology are also asked to open their units. If there are students on campus in the dorms, opening Gelman is our policy even when the rest of the University is closed and classes are cancelled. The students need some place to go, and many of

---

them take advantage of the free time to come to the library to study.

Entrance counts of the number of people entering Gelman on those days reveal the importance of this policy. On February 13, the first big snow day, 4,602 people entered Gelman. While that is about half the normal count, it is a significant figure, nonetheless. On the record-setting blizzard days of February 17 and 18, only 601 and 926 library users made it to the library, but considering the conditions, those are extraordinary numbers.

Those numbers may only be interesting statistics to some people, but to our dedicated staff they represent students (and faculty) who wanted or needed something important the library provides. Maybe that need is a book or an answer to a reference question. Maybe it's only a warm, quiet place to study. Whatever it is, we provided it.

My thanks and congratulations to all those Essential Staff and many non-Essential Staff who made that

---

extra effort to come to work during those difficult times. You should be proud of what you accomplished. It warms the cockles of my heart!

**GELMAN HUMAN  
RESOURCES NEWS**

**Vacancy Listing**

Please see **Attachment A** for the Gelman Library System's Vacancy Listing.

*"I Have Always Imagined  
that Paradise will be a Kind  
of Library."*

~ Jorge Luis Borges ~

**SIMPLE TIPS**

**Jack Siggins**

*University Librarian*



**"Get The Whole Story Before Making  
A Decision."**

**RENAISSANCE TIMES**

*Renaissance Times (RT)* is the official bi-weekly newsletter of The Melvin Gelman Library at The George Washington University. *R.T.* is proofread by **Valerie Emerson**. *R.T.* is published every other week by **Teena Bedola**. Comments and questions should be directed to:

**Isabella Montgomery, Editor**

The Melvin Gelman Library, 2130 H Street, NW - Room 201, Washington, DC 20052  
Voice (202) 994-6455, Fax (202) 463-6205

## LITERARY HISTORY

- |                |   |                |  |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| March 9, 1809  | <b>Lord Byron's</b> <i>English Bard and Scotch Reviewers</i> is published.  | March 16, 1850 | <b>Nathaniel Hawthorne's</b> <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> is published.   |
| March 9, 1913  | The manuscript of <b>Virginia Woolf's</b> first novel, <i>The Voyage Out</i> , is delivered to Gerald Duckworth.  | March 16, 1892 | <b>César Vallejo</b> , Peruvian poet who will become a major voice of social change in Latin-American literature, is born in Santiago de Chuco.  |
| March 10, 1948 | In Asheville, North Carolina, a fire breaks out in Highland Hospital, where <b>Zelda Fitzgerald</b> is a patient. Trapped on the third story, she dies at 48, along with eight                                    | March 16, 1904 | At 22, <b>James Joyce</b> was awarded the bronze medal in a Dublin singing contest, promptly throws it into the Liffey.  |
| March 11, 1920 | Poet, novelist, editor of <i>The Oxford Book of Contemporary Verse 1945-1980</i> , <b>D.J. Enright</b> is born in Leamington, Warwickshire, England.  | March 17, 1909 | <b>William Butler Yeats</b> records in his journal Lady (Augusta) Gregory's view of <b>Alfred Lord Tennyson</b> : "Tennyson had the British Empire of God, and Queen Victoria for Virgin Mary."  |
| March 12, 1846 | <b>Elizabeth Barrett</b> writes to <b>Robert Browning</b> : "If it will satisfy you that I should know you, love you, love you—when then indeed... You should have my soul to stand on if it could make you stand | March 18, 1721 | <b>Tobias Smollet</b> is born in Dalquhurn, Dumbartonshire, Scotland.  |
| March 12, 1928 | Playwright <b>Edward Albee</b> is born in Washington, D.C.  | March 19, 1996 | <b>Odysseus Elytis</b> , Greek poet and winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Literature dies in Athens.  |
| March 13, 1914 | <b>W.O. (William Ormond) Mitchell</b> , is born in Weyburn, Saskatchewan.   | March 20, -43  | <b>Ovid</b> is born at Sulmona in the Abruzzi. He will be banished from Rome by Augustus in A.D. 8, ostensibly for writing <i>The Art of Love</i> , a guide to lovemaking.   |
| March 13, 1035 | <b>Sulfikar Ghose</b> , a Pakistani-American author of novels, poetry, and criticism about cultural alienation, is born in Sialkot, India (now Pakistan)  | March 20,      | <b>Henrik Ibsen</b> is born in Skien, Norway.  |
| March 14, 1887 | The founder of Shakespeare and Company, <b>Sylvia Beach</b> , is born in her father's personage in Baltimore.   | March 20, 1852 | <b>Harriet Beecher Stowe's</b> <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> is published, provoking a wave of hatred against slavery, as well as the publication of 30 books defending the peculiar institution. The novel becomes the first to sell a million copies. |
| March 15, -44  | <b>Julius Ceasar</b> , author of <i>Commentaries on the Gallic War</i> , is assassinated.   | March 21, 1905 | <b>Phyllis McKinley</b> is born in Ontario, Oregon.  |
| March 15, 1649 | <b>John Milton</b> is appointed Secretary of Foreign Tongues by the new Commonwealth government.  | March 22, 1832 | <b>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</b> , poet, playwright, novelist, and philosopher - dies at 82, in Weimar. His last words: "More Light!"   |
-