

footnotes

Online collection brings African posters to the world

by David Easterbrook, George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies

Three years ago, Okwui Enwezor, then adjunct curator of contemporary art at the Art Institute of Chicago, was well into planning an exhibition concerning art created in

Africa since 1945. He was, however, experiencing difficulty locating political posters, especially those that focused on liberation movements and on the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, for possible inclusion in the exhibition. He resorted to what many of us do these days when looking for something we cannot immediately locate: a Web search. What he discovered was the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies and its comprehensive collection of African posters, about 80 of which appear in digital form at <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/africana/collections/posters/>.

The results of Enwezor's research efforts can be seen at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago from September 6 through December 30 in the exhibition *The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movement in Africa, 1945–1994*. The exhibition includes about 25 posters borrowed from the Herskovits Library. Prior to its stay in Chicago, *The Short Century* appeared

to rave reviews in museums in Munich and Berlin. In early 2002 the exhibition opens at the Museum of Modern Art and PS1 Contemporary Art Center in New York.

The posters on loan to *The Short Century* are an integral component of the exhibition, which presents the art of African liberation during a critical time in Africa's history. From 1945 until 1994, when Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa in the first free election in that country, the struggle for independence produced some extraordinarily powerful works of art. *The Short Century* strives to present a representation of the broad range of art forms used to express the liberation struggle, including paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, photographs, textiles, music, literature, drama, film, and architecture. These diverse works mirrored struggles throughout Africa and present both the uniqueness and the many similarities of struggles that transcended colonial borders.



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The Short Century also clearly demonstrates continuity and connection in forms of artistic expression between African and North American and European art.

Reproductions of many of the posters on display are included in the 496-page catalog for *The Short Century*, and one of the essays in the book was written by Nnamdi Elleh, a Northwestern art history graduate student and former Herskovits Library student assistant.

A majority of the approximately 3,000 items in the poster collection of

the Herskovits Library deal with political issues, but the collection also provides a unique and important visual history of a wide range of important issues in African society. Such topics as sporting and cultural events, women's rights, education, tourism, and public health are addressed in the posters. The public health posters, for example, focus on a broad range of issues including HIV/AIDS, birth control, and small-pox eradication. The collection also includes Africa-related posters produced on the Northwestern campus and in the Chicago area.



Between 1995 and 1998 several University Library departments (including the Preservation Department, the Catalog Department, the Mitchell Multimedia Center, and the Herskovits Library) worked with the University's Information Technology division to digitize and make accessible on the Web a representative selection of the extensive poster collection held by the Herskovits Library. Of the Herskovits Library's 3,000 posters, 365 were selected for digitization. These posters focus on three subject areas: the liberation struggle in the former Portuguese African colonies, the antiapartheid struggle outside of South Africa, and the

first free election campaign in South Africa in 1994. The posters accessible on the Web are fully cataloged and can be easily accessed. For example, a key word search using the term "Mandela" reveals the posters containing the image of Nelson Mandela.

Response to this digital project has been remarkable. In addition to those posters now part of an international art exhibition, the images of the posters have been used for study and curricular support at Northwestern and other educational institutions. For example, at one local high school, the Latin School of Chicago, an exhibition of 40 posters from the collection, including many of those digitized, was mounted during Black History Month in February 2000. There have also been requests to reproduce individual digitized posters in research publications and African history textbooks.

The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies was established at Northwestern in 1954. Today it is the largest separate library for the study of Africa in existence. Its collections include about 245,000 volumes and 2,800 current serials. The collection has over 13,000 books in about 300 African languages as well as archival and manuscript collections, ephemera, maps, videos, photographs, and electronic resources for the study of Africa. Visiting scholars come from all over the world to carry out research at the Herskovits Library. Local school-teachers use the library's resources to enrich Africa-related curricula. Independent scholars and business, legal, and public health researchers as well as the general public also regularly use the Herskovits Library. For more information on the Herskovits Library, contact africana@northwestern.edu.



NORTHWESTERN LEADS NEWSPAPERS DATABASE

The Herskovits Library is helping to lead a project creating a database of American holdings of African newspapers. Directed by Herskovits Library curator David Easterbrook, the Union List of African Newspapers Project brings together about 15 U.S. libraries with the largest holdings of newspapers published in Africa in an effort to create a centralized, searchable online listing of the newspapers.

No other American university library has such an extensive collection of African newspapers as Northwestern. This project is, therefore, an important way to make information about the resources of the Herskovits Library more accessible to researchers throughout the world.

The Union List of African Newspapers Project is based at the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago and funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation through the Global Resources Program of the Association of Research Libraries. The Web site for the project can be found at <http://www.crl.uchicago.edu/info/camp/afrinul.htm>.

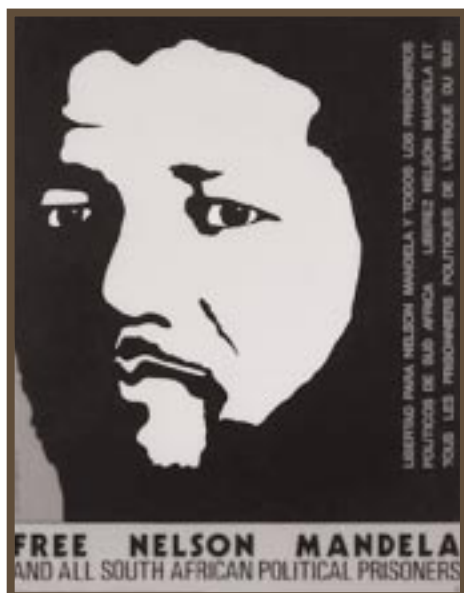
NORTHWESTERN RECEIVES GRANT FOR AFRICAN ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Northwestern's new Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) has received a \$1 million grant from the Ford Foundation. Directed by Northwestern professor of history and religion John Hunwick, ISITA was formally established in January 2001 with a mission of preserving, digitizing, and making accessible to scholars the holdings of African Islamic libraries. The Herskovits Library is the repository for one such collection, the library of Umar Falke, a scholar from Kano in northern Nigeria. His library contains more than 3,000 manuscripts and is the largest single collection of its kind in any North American library.

Among the many ISITA-sponsored events held so far was an exhibition mounted in University Library by Hunwick in February and March that focused on the Umar Falke collection and a colloquium entitled "African Libraries and the Transmission of Islamic Knowledge" held in May 2001. The colloquium brought about 20 scholars and archivists from North America, Europe, and Africa to the Herskovits Library, where they conducted research.

The Web site for ISITA can be found at <http://www.northwestern.edu/isita/>.

A selection of posters from the Herskovits Library appearing in the exhibition The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movement in Africa, 1945–1994, now on view at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art.



Casting a wide net

THE EARLY ENGLISH BOOKS PROJECT MEETS AT NORTHWESTERN

by Jeffrey Garrett, bibliographer for Western languages and literatures

Today's scholars and librarians are in the process of repaying the debt they owe to the philosophers, mathematicians, poets, and dreamers of the 16th and 17th centuries, whose writings paved the way for computing technology and the world of the Internet. When completed, the project known as *Early English Books Online* (EEBO) will bring almost every work published between 1475 and 1700 in England — 125,000 titles in all — to the computer monitor in your home or office. Northwestern University Library is taking an active role in crafting the interface that will bring these very old texts to modern users.

EEBO traces its origins to an enormous microfilming project begun in 1938 with the goal of reproducing the entire corpus of early printed books in the British Museum Library. In the 1990s the creators and owners of this microfilm, University Microfilms, Inc., of Ann Arbor, Michigan, began to transfer this vast archive from film to electronic form, opening up the prospect of manipulation by computer and access through digital networks. Northwestern University Library and many other libraries in the United States acquired EEBO in 1999. Readers with a copy of Adobe Acrobat software can see an example of an EEBO text by visiting the EEBO "Featured Content" page at <http://www.lib.umi.com/eebo/featured>. There you can download, for example, images of every page of the 1600 edition of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Hypertext is a new word, but an old concept. In the illustration above from Agostino Ramelli, Le diverse et artificiose machine (Paris, 1588), a scholar follows "links" that lead him from one text to the next using an elaborate wheel instead of a mouse click to move himself along. Reproduced by permission of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

EEBO's Text Creation Partnership

Currently, the works digitized in EEBO appear as facsimile reproductions of printed pages, to be read like a book on the screen. This is already an enormous achievement, but recently the EEBO Text Creation Partnership (TCP) was established to take the next significant step: to create searchable versions of all the works in this vast library.

This process involves more than just creating a digital copy of the text of these works. It also involves what is called "tagging," which means labeling parts of a text with codes that facilitate searching and analysis. For instance, a user of the enhanced EEBO would be able to find

out how often Shakespeare's name was invoked by writers of the 17th century. The results could then be sorted chronologically. A wide range of tags can be inserted in anticipation of possible needs — everything from titles and authors' names to typographical features, such as decorative initials.

This is an ambitious project, requiring significant resources. As of June 2001, 52 universities in the United States, Great Britain, and elsewhere in the world — Northwestern among them — had become members of the TCP, working under the leadership of the University of Michigan, Oxford University, the Council on Library and Information Resources, and ProQuest Information and Learning (the firm formerly known as University Microfilms). The initial goal of the TCP is to create searchable text versions of 25,000 EEBO

titles over a five-year period, concentrating on the first editions listed in a standard compilation, the *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*.

EEBO summer camp

This past July representatives of seven TCP member institutions met at Northwestern University Library for a two-day "summer camp" consisting of lab time and intensive consultations to help create the all-important "interface" that will stand between users and millions of pages of electronic text. Imagine this interface as a kind of dashboard on your computer, with adjustable controls needed to navigate through this new cyberspace of e-texts. Among the participants were students, faculty members, librarians, and computing specialists from Indiana University, Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Michigan State, the University of Wisconsin, and Northwestern.

This team discussed a host of challenges facing the project. How, for example, do you search for occurrences of a particular word if that word can be spelled in many different ways? (The word "green," for example, could be spelled "grene" — but "grene" is also an alternative spelling for our modern word "grain.") When pagination is lacking in a text, what alternate navigational aids can be given to the electronic reader? How should the system distinguish when the word "act" refers to a part of a play (important to humanists) and when it refers to a law promulgated by Parliament (important to legal historians)?

Staff from the main TCP office in Ann Arbor returned home from Northwestern with thick quires of notes and suggestions. Though sorting through it will take a long time and careful analysis, the team creating the interface got what it hoped for. They will now set to work creating a powerful "Renaissance computer" like the one John Donne and Thomas Hobbes dreamed of 400 years ago.

Mining the past

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES CONTRIBUTES TO NORTHWESTERN'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Over the past year Northwestern has celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding with parties, performances, lectures, colloquiums, concerts, books, and videos. Appropriately, University Archives has played a vital role in the yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration. University Archives' holdings — including faculty papers; presidential, departmental, and organizational records; publications, artifacts, and photographs; and records of the University's Centennial — have been in constant demand for projects created and supervised by the Sesquicentennial celebration committee.

In addition to serving on the Sesquicentennial committee, University archivist Patrick M. Quinn has participated in a number of Sesquicentennial events. He was a featured speaker on the subject of "Northwestern Legends, Myths, and Traditions" during the October 20–21, 2001, Kickoff Weekend. He estimates that by the end of the Sesquicentennial year he will have spoken on various aspects of Northwestern's history to more than 40 groups, including campus and Evanston organizations and alumni clubs throughout the nation.

The team creating the University's new history, *Northwestern University: Celebrating 150 Years*, made the Archives Reading Room their home for several months as they gathered historical material and images with the help of the entire University Archives staff. A new video, *Northwestern: Moments in Time*, included many stills and movie clips from the Archives. Quinn was a featured interviewee in the video along with University President Henry Bienen and such notable alumni as film director Garry Marshall and trustee Newton Minow. Reporters and designers for *Northwestern* magazine spent hours in the Reading Room or on the phone with University Archives staff members as they researched articles and

selected photographs for the special Sesquicentennial issue of the alumni magazine.

The University Archives staff also supplied images and did fact-checking for countless other projects sponsored by the Sesquicentennial office, including banners, traveling exhibits prepared for alumni events around the country, the image used by the U.S. Postal Service on a commemorative postcard, and an extensive exhibit at the Evanston Historical Society. Inspired by the anniversary, many departments and organizations looked back at their own histories, and the University Archives furnished materials they could use to produce commemorative publications or special events.

In between meeting the demands of multiple Sesquicentennial projects, University Archives staff members participated in the celebration by giving campus architectural tours; designing (in conjunction with the Digital Technology experts in the Library's Preservation Department) a Web-based exhibit featuring historical text and images of buildings on campus (see the "Building History" Web site at <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/archives/exhibits/building/>); and working with the Sesquicentennial committee to mount an exhibit, *Changing Faces, Changing Places*, currently on display in the corridor on the first floor of Deering Library.

When the Sesquicentennial celebration is over, the complete records of the committee, as well as all the artifacts, publications, photos, and other materials produced throughout the University, will be placed in the University Archives, ready to serve the needs of the Bicentennial celebration committee in 2051.

A hard rain

SUMMER FLOODING CAUSES MINIMAL DAMAGE TO THE LIBRARY

On the morning of August 2, 2001, Evanston received four inches of rain in one hour. The results of this unusual weather were flooding, water damage, and loss of electrical power in many Northwestern University buildings, including University Library. The Evanston campus was closed that day, though emergency crews worked through the day and night to assess, prioritize, and start repairing the damage. The Library and the rest of the campus were able to open the next morning according to the regular schedule.

Lorraine Olley, former head of the Preservation Department, noted that "quick action by dedicated staff and students prevented extensive damage to the collections. Not one book was lost as a result of the flooding." As water entered the lower level of the Main Library and a tunnel between buildings where some University Archives materials are stored, staff moved materials to keep them from getting soaked. Others worked in the towers to drape plastic over stacks located under leaks in the fifth-floor ceilings, preventing damage to materials in the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies and the Transportation Library. In all, only about 150 books were affected by water, and all have been successfully salvaged.

"Although the official, detailed report of the damage has not yet been released," said Dave Strain, University Library's facilities manager, "initial inspections indicated that minimum damage was sustained to the collections and infrastructure of the Main Library and Deering Library." Library collections housed in other buildings on campus were also spared. "We were very lucky," said Strain.

However, there was damage to carpets, ceiling tiles, and furnishings. The effort to clean and repair or replace items that were damaged by water during the storm began immediately and continues as this report is being written.

Like many other libraries, Northwestern University Library devotes considerable resources to preventing, minimizing, and repairing collection damage — especially damage caused by water. A disaster handbook specifies responsibilities, gives guidelines for action, and lists sources of help in a collection-threatening emergency. Special equipment and supplies are kept ready, and a group of staff members called the Disaster Prevention and Action Team (DPAT) has been trained in collection preservation practices. Organized and led by the Library's Preservation Department, DPAT is the Library's best defense against unnecessary loss of valuable library materials to water damage, mold, and other dangers.

MAYA CODEX ARRIVES ON WEB

During the pre-Columbian era in Mesoamerica, the Maya priesthood developed a hieroglyphic writing system to record its rituals, mythology, and the history of its ruling class. In addition to inscriptions that can still be found on wood and stone in Maya architectural ruins, the Maya created codices made of fibrous plant leaves coated with white plaster on which they would inscribe their hieroglyphs. Most Maya codices did not survive the book burning during the Spanish conquest, but four are still known to exist: the Dresden, Madrid, Grolier, and Paris Codices.

In October 2000 Tom Mann, bibliographer for anthropology, discovered a rare book in the Library's stacks. Called *The Codex Perez: An Ancient Mayan Hieroglyphic Book*, this book by Theodore A. Willard (1933) contains a photographic facsimile of the original Paris Codex (also sometimes called the Codex Pérez, Codex Peresianus, or Codex Mexicanus), which remains in the collection of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Mann verified with the publisher that the book is no longer under copyright and is in the public domain.

The discovery of this volume provided the Library with a wonderful opportunity to make a primary resource for the study of Maya civilization easily available to scholars and students all around the world. In collaboration with Cynthia Robin, assistant professor of anthropology, the Library digitized the copy of the Codex printed in *The Codex Perez* and made it available on the Library's Web site. In addition to Mann and Robin, Dan Zellner and other members of the Library's Digital Media Services staff were important contributors to the success — and speedy completion — of this digitization project.

The images from the codex, as well as explanatory information, can be viewed by choosing "The Paris Codex" from the Library's growing list of digital collections at <http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/>.



A page from The Codex Perez.

VAUDEVILLE ARCHIVE COMES TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As a youth fascinated by performance and performing, James McIntyre tried time and again to run off and join the circus. By 1870, at the age of 17, he had left his home in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to join the McKenzie Circus as a dance man. In 1871 McIntyre joined the Burton and Ridgeway's Minstrels, and by 1874 he had formed, with Thomas Heath, one of vaudeville's most enduring partnerships. McIntyre & Heath brought their broad humor, comic operas, and variety shows to small and large towns throughout America with unflagging regularity. One season the duo visited 83 different towns, traveling through New York, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Minnesota, and Illinois.



McIntyre & Heath performed together until 1927. During their 57-year career, they amassed a vast trove of materials, including contracts for appearances, wage reports, fan mail, texts of their comic operas, and many sketches and fragments of sketches for future use in their shows.

An archive of McIntyre & Heath materials was recently acquired by Northwestern's Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections, augmenting

its outstanding collections in theater and theater history. In addition to the materials noted above, the archive includes photographs, handbills and posters for their performances, and McIntyre's extensive correspondence with his wife. A detailed guide to this archive is available from the McCormick Library of Special Collections.

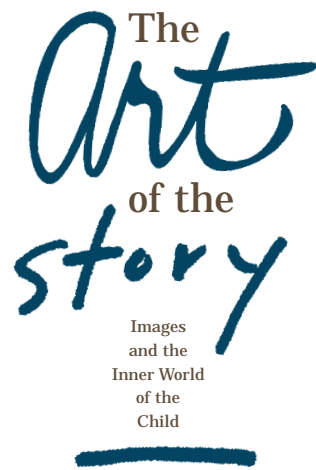
Biblio-file

¶ OCLC, Inc., an international library cooperative organization and bibliographic utility, recently presented Northwestern University with a plaque in appreciation of its support of research and education as a founding member of OCLC's Cooperative Online Resource Catalog (CORC). **REBECCA ROUTH**, the Library's primary representative to the CORC project, was also honored with an invitation to make a presentation about her work on the project to OCLC staff in Dublin, Ohio.

¶ **LESLIE BJORNCRANTZ**, curriculum librarian and bibliographer for education, psychology, management, and communications sciences and disorders, was named Distinguished Librarian of 2000 by the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The award honors academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to the profession.

¶ **HARRIET LIGHTMAN**, bibliographer for history, economics, and philosophy, received the 2001 Bogle Pratt International Library Travel Fund Award. This competitive award, administered by the International Relations Committee of the American Library Association, enables association members to attend an international conference for the first time. Lightman used her grant to help fund a March 2001 trip to the Salon du Livre, an annual book fair in Paris.

¶ Northwestern University Library recently received a bronze medal from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in the category of "Individual Special Public Relations Projects" for *The Art of the Story: Images and the Inner World of the Child*. The spring 2000 event featured the first U.S. presentation of the Illustrators of Children's Fiction Exhibit of Italy's famous Bologna Children's Book Fair along with lectures, performances, and library exhibits.



¶ Northwestern University Library and the University of Chicago hosted the 26th annual conference of the International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST) in June 2000. The conference theme, "Data in the Digital Library: Charting the Future of Social, Spatial, and Government Data," emphasized the relationships between archives and libraries in managing, preserving, and providing access to digital collections.

¶ **M. ROSALIE KEMPE**, a Northwestern University graduate, librarian, and donor, died in January 2001. Kempe, who was 95 at the time of her death, served as a librarian at the Joseph Schaffner Library and at the Northwestern University School of Commerce (now the Kellogg School of Management) from 1928 to 1974.

¶ Northwestern University Library recently honored staff members celebrating anniversaries with the University. This year's honorees include the following.

For 20 years of service:

STUART L. BAKER
FRANK S. FERKO
MELISSA JACOBI

For 15 years of service:

MARIANNE A. MITCHELL
MARTHA M. SMITH

For 10 years of service:

HARRIE M. HUGHES
REINISSA R. NEUHOLFEN
ELEANOR R. QUAINANCE
NORMA C. SOKOKEN
LOU ANN TEMKIN
DANIEL A. ZELLNER

For five years of service:

BRUNO FAST
ISHAMEA C. HARRIS
EMILY O. HEAD
MARY G. LINKE
SIBYLLE MITTELSDORF

¶ *Errata:* The fiscal year 2000 honor roll of donors to Northwestern University Library published in the summer 2001 issue of *Footnotes* incorrectly listed Donald E. Rome at the \$50–99 level due to a database error. He should have been listed at the \$100–499 level. We regret the error and appreciate the interest and generosity of Mr. Rome and all donors who understand the importance of yearly gifts to the Library.

Apologies also to Harriet Lightman, whose name was misspelled in the summer 2001 issue of *Footnotes*.

footnotes

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