

# footnotes

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# footnotes

FALL 2009, VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3

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**On the cover and above** Details of a map of Evanston, Illinois, c. 1876, by Theodore Reese. Northwestern University Archives. See more on page 2.  
Photo by Stephen Anzaldi.

## from the University Librarian

The past year has been an exceptionally difficult one financially for many institutions — and of course, for many individuals as well. That makes us all the more grateful for the generosity of new donors who chose this particular time to make a commitment to higher education



Photo by Robert McCamant

and the Northwestern mission, as well as for the loyalty of those faithful donors who continued their strong support.

We thank all of you in this issue of *Footnotes*.

Your contributions make a very real, very human impact on the Library and our community. Sometimes that impact is direct, as two of the stories in this issue show. Two endowed funds — the Charles Deering McCormick Fund for Special Collections and the Margaret Clover Symonds Library Conservation Fund — made it possible for the Library to acquire the earliest known map of Evanston, rescue it from near disintegration, and share it freely with the world through digitization (see page 2). The Thomas R. and Carol Butler Endowed Fund enabled us to further the work of a distinguished English professor researching domestic diaries from Tudor and Stuart England (see page 6).

Sometimes, the impact is indirect. It is created not by acquiring the resources that we know a scholar will come to us seeking but by investing in collections that are rich and diverse enough to produce serendipitous, maybe even life-changing, discoveries. You can see that dynamic at work on page 9, in the story of a young man who found a bit of his own history in University Archives.

It is our Annual Fund that makes it possible for us to remain flexible in meeting our financial challenges — and it is our Annual Fund that suffered most in the past year's downturn. Annual Fund gifts in all sizes, from \$50 to \$50,000, make a difference to us because their impact is collective. As the 2010 fiscal year begins, I hope we can count on your support as we continue to cultivate the services and collections that make Northwestern University Library a place of discovery — whether in the building or on the web — for so many scholars and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah M. Pritchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah M. Pritchard  
Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian

# BACK ON THE MAP

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY RESTORES A PIECE OF EVANSTON HISTORY

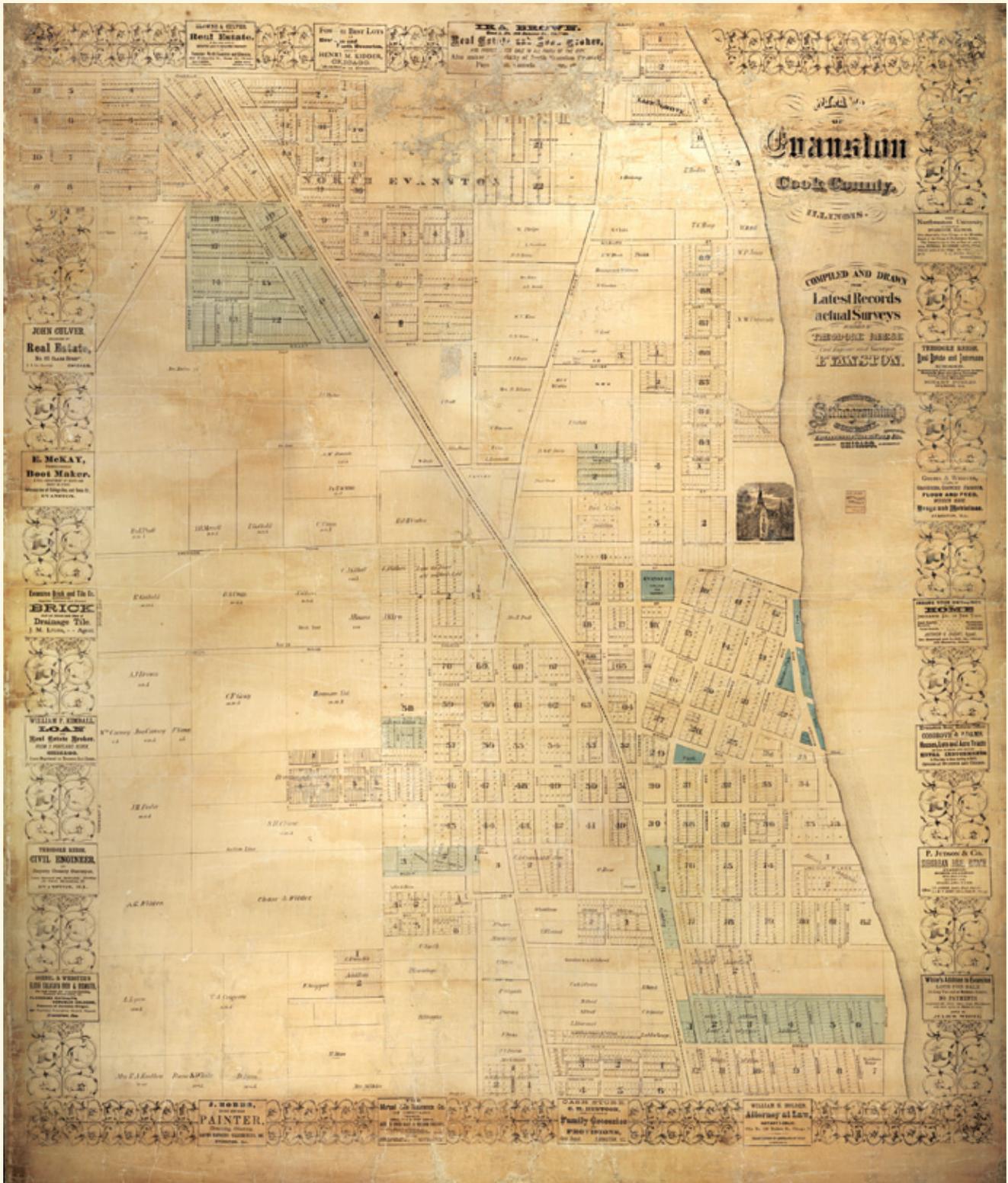


Photo by Stephen Anzaldi



Discovered several years ago on the verge of disintegration, the oldest printed map of Evanston has been restored to its original vibrancy and made freely available online by Northwestern University Library. “This map is a very rare and important piece of Evanston history,” says Kevin Leonard, University archivist. “The conservation staff here did an incredible job bringing it back from the grave.”

Created circa 1876 by local surveyor and mapmaker Theodore Reese, the map appears to be the earliest published plat of blocks, streets, and alleys in all three of the separate villages — Evanston, North Evanston, and South Evanston — that eventually merged into the incorporated city of Evanston in 1892. “It’s valuable as a relic of Evanston’s past,” Leonard says, “but it also continues to be of use to anyone researching the history of their own or other piece of real estate, because the map records some of the city’s earliest legal property boundaries.”

The history of Evanston has always been intimately intertwined with the University. The area was known as Ridgeville until the mid-19th century, when Orrington Lunt suggested to his fellow Northwestern trustees that they purchase a large plot of lakeside land with a down payment of \$1,000. In subsequent years, Leonard says, the University trustees acquired additional parcels of land, selling or leasing plots to finance the institution’s growth. Much of this land was surveyed and laid out in plots by the University’s business agent, Philo Judson (for whom Judson Avenue was named). He submitted the original plat for a village named Evanston — after Northwestern trustee John Evans — in 1854.

The map restored by Northwestern University Library includes this central area as well as the two separate settlements to the north and south that were flourishing by the late 19th century. The border of the map includes advertisements for local businesses, including a “Fashionable Bootmaker” and a purveyor of “Family Groceries and Provisions,” as well as Philo Judson’s real estate and surveying business.

“Philo Judson died in 1876, which means the map must have been published by then,” says George Ritzlin, owner of an antiquarian map business on Central Street in Evanston. “That means it precedes an 1883 map that was previously the earliest known one.”

Ritzlin researched the map’s history when he acquired it in 2006 from an Evanston resident who said it had been in his family’s possession for at least 40 years. “It is certainly very rare, and it may be unique,” he says. There was no record of it having been catalogued by the Library of Congress or the *Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900*, the most comprehensive listing of maps held by Midwestern libraries, museums, and historical societies. (Though the *Checklist* is now 20 years old, its editor, Robert Karrow, curator of special collections and maps at the Newberry Library in Chicago, confirms that the map remained unknown until it was recently brought to his attention; it has now been catalogued.)

Russell Maylone, Northwestern’s former curator of special collections, bought it from Ritzlin and then gave it to University Archives — partly, he says, because it perfectly complemented the existing property records held there. In addition, he says, “It was obvious that unless it received immediate attention from some highly skilled conservation professionals, it was just going to fall apart and be lost to everyone.”

Certainly 40 years of basement storage had taken a huge toll. It was filthy, covered with grime and animal droppings, and colonized by mold and cocoons. Originally mounted for wall hanging, the map (measuring 4 x 3½ feet) had been rolled up on wooden dowels, but the scroll had been crushed, causing the varnished paper to crack into hundreds, if not thousands, of tiny pieces. “If not for the fact that most of the pieces were still clinging to the cloth the map was originally mounted on, it would have been completely shattered,” says Susan Russick, who led the team of conservators who restored the map.

It took five conservators almost 100 hours to repair and stabilize the map. The process began with removal of the loose dirt and debris. Then a gentle water bath rinsed away decades of accumulated grime, removed soluble degradation products, and softened the adhesive that had held the cloth lining in place. Next, the original cloth lining was removed — an extremely delicate and tedious process during which the technicians had to ensure that the fragments remained in place. The map was relined, this time with six sheets of Japanese tissue paper. Only then, with the fragments properly secured, could the technicians carefully dissolve the badly discolored original varnish. Finally, a few bald patches were shaded in with watercolor.

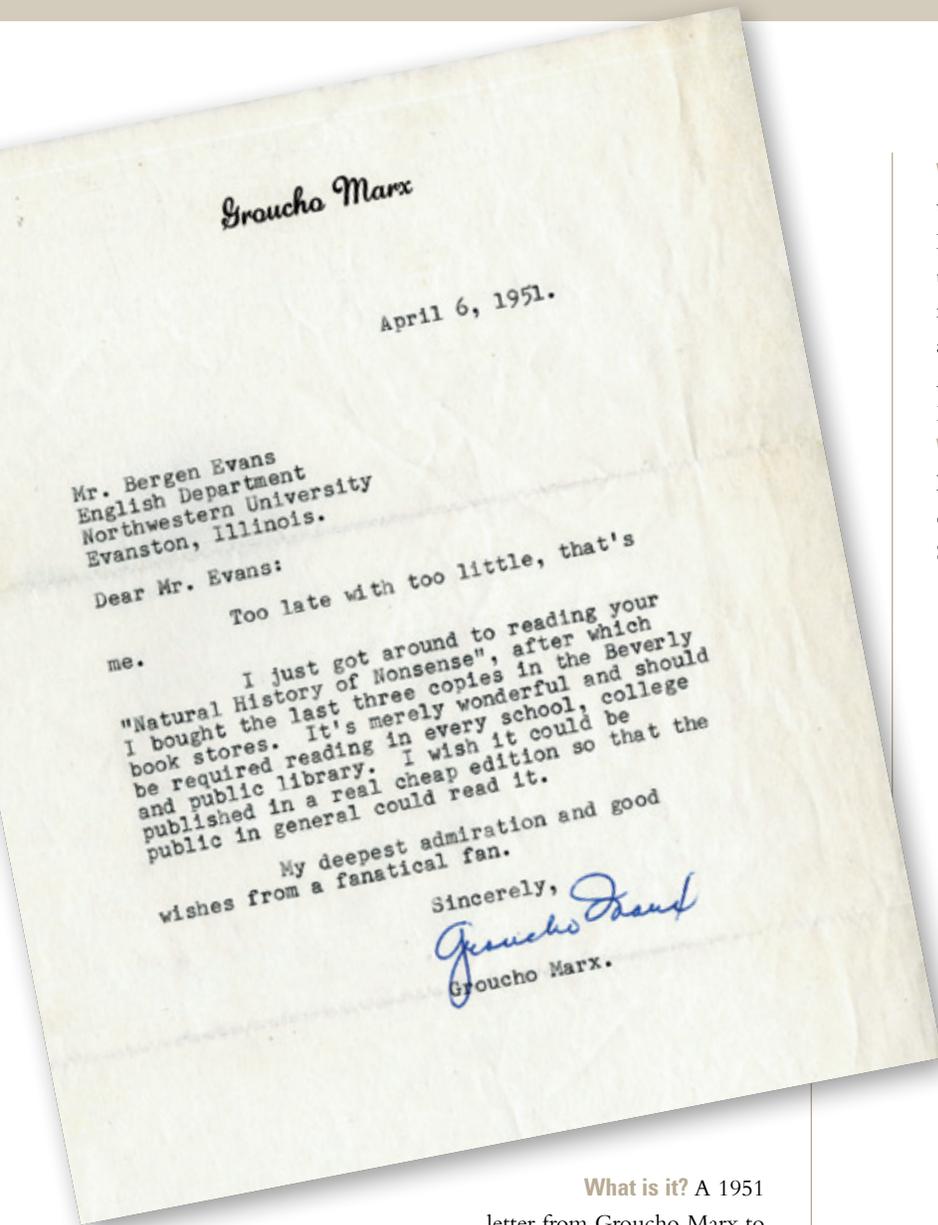
“Where the fragments had actually fallen off, we didn’t attempt to recreate any of the original design or lettering,” Russick says. “It’s not our goal to make a document like this appear new again. But we will make noninvasive improvements so that its imperfections and discolorations aren’t the first thing you notice when you look at it.”

Of course, having brought the map “back from the grave,” another goal is to extend its life as long as possible. It’s still extremely valuable as a research tool, says Leonard, because it actually turns out to be an important key to many of the other Evanston property records in University Archives. Many of these are organized by original block and lot numbers rather than by contemporary street addresses. For most properties platted before 1876, these lot numbers appear on the Library’s new map and can easily be matched with those street addresses. But repeatedly unrolling the map, or even hanging it in a publicly accessible place, would subject it to wear and tear that would ultimately shorten its lifespan.

“Thanks to digitization, it’s now available to anyone with access to a computer terminal,” Leonard says. “That’s an example of sophisticated technology helping us ensure that a rare and valuable historical document is going to be around for a long time.”

The map can be viewed online at [www.library.northwestern.edu/archives/exhibits/map](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/archives/exhibits/map).



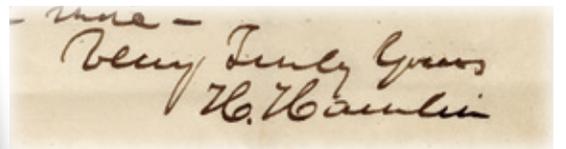
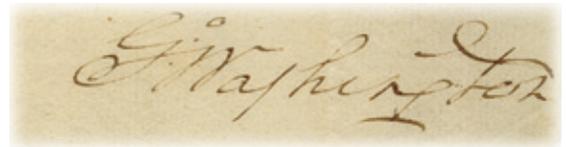


**What is it?** A 1951 letter from Groucho Marx to Northwestern English professor Bergen Evans in which Marx declares his “deepest admiration and good wishes from a fanatical fan.”

**Where is it?** University Archives. A wildly popular teacher who served on the faculty from 1932 to 1974, Evans also hosted a TV game show in the 1950s called *Down You Go*, based on the game of Hangman. After Marx appeared as a celebrity contestant, he and Evans became good friends. The papers donated to University Archives by Evans and his wife, Jean, include 13 letters Marx wrote to Evans.

**What are they?** A complete collection of presidents’ and vice presidents’ signatures, from George Washington through Richard Nixon. The collection also includes presidents pro tempore of the Senate and nonfederal presidents — for instance, Sam Houston, president of the Republic of Texas; and Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America. (Below are the signatures of Washington; Hannibal Hamlin, Abraham Lincoln’s first vice president; and Houston.)

**Where are they?** The McCormick Library of Special Collections. Chicago financier W. Clement Stone assembled the collection over a period of many years and donated it to Special Collections in 1996.



**What is it?** Manuscript of a canon Felix Mendelssohn composed in September 1842 as a puzzle for his friend, composer Ferdinand Hiller, who wrote out the solution on the bottom half of the page the next day. Hiller solved the puzzle by starting the same melody a fifth below and half a beat later, making Mendelssohn’s tune infinitely repeatable — like “Row, Row, Row, Your Boat” sung in a round. Mendelssohn was following a long tradition of puzzle canons that dates back at least as far as the 14th century.

**Where is it?** The Music Library. It was purchased recently in honor of the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn’s birth in 1809.

Canone a 2.

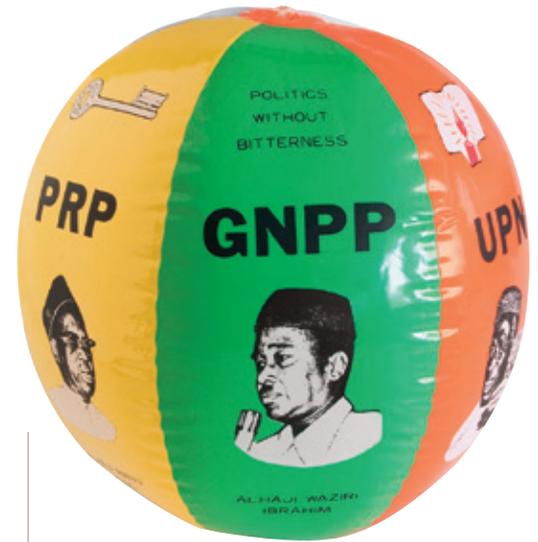
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Frankfurt d. 15. Sept. 1842.

*Erweiterung eines Canons.*

Winnem inbrunnigstlichen freundlichen Willen  
zu seiner Benefizung beigetragen.

Frankfurt d. 16. Sept. 42. Ferdinand Hiller.



**What is it?** A beach ball designed to promote fairness during the 1979 presidential election in Nigeria, when the country was returning to civilian rule following a period of military dictatorship. Its multicolored panels each depict one candidate and include his party's slogan — “Politics Without Bitterness,” for example.

**Where is it?** The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. The beach ball was a 2009 gift from Henry S. Bienen, president emeritus of Northwestern University, who gave many significant gifts of research materials, including political ephemera, to the Herskovits Library during his presidency. While public communication in Africa often relies heavily on what many in the West would consider nontraditional media — posters, commemorative cloths, T-shirts — David Easterbrook, curator of the Herskovits Library admits, “I have never seen a piece of ephemera from an African election that is in beach ball format.” The beach ball, he says, was intended to highlight the idea that “you have a political choice, and you should exercise it.”

# ONTO THE SHELF

why and how an item comes into our collections



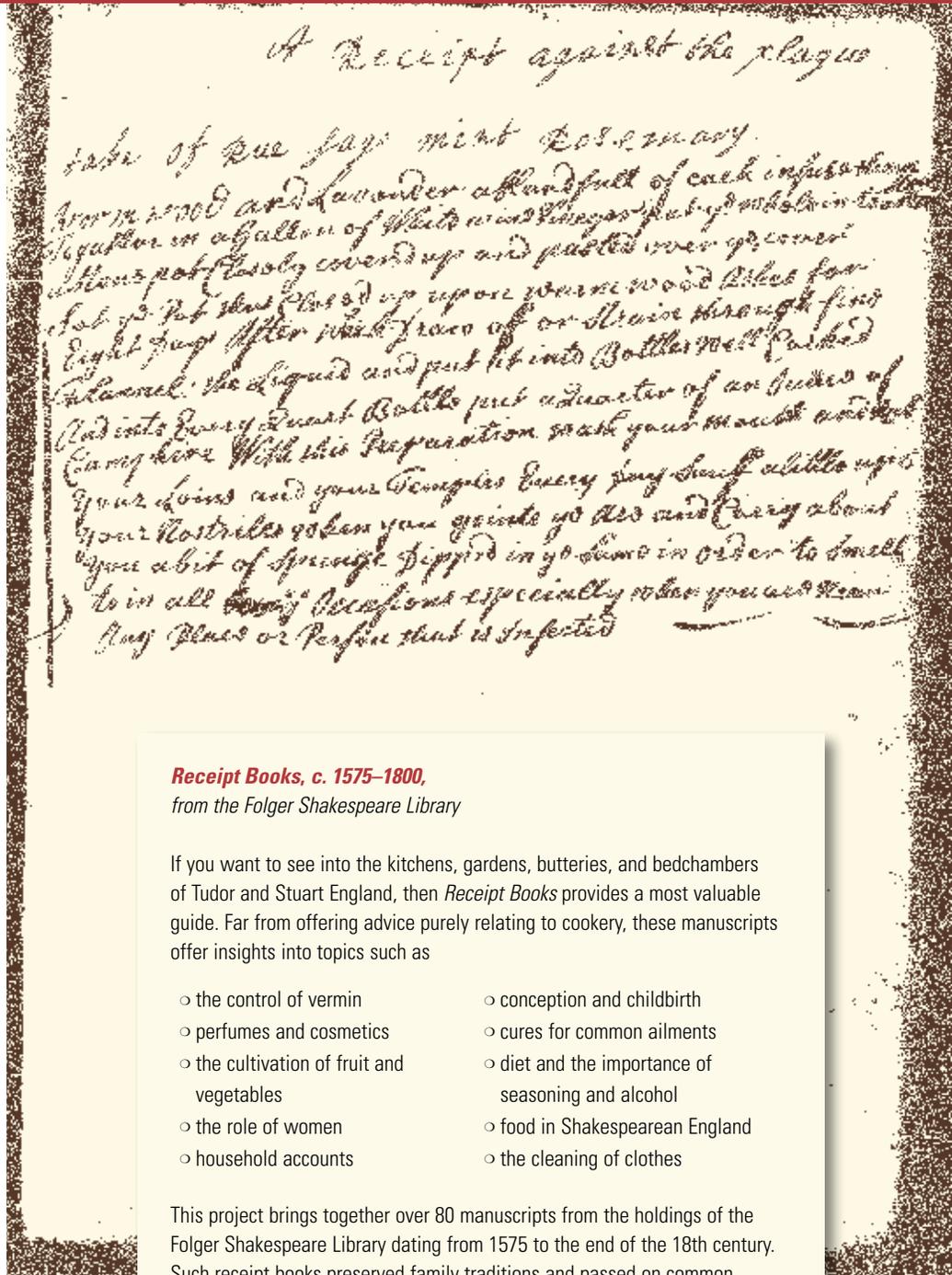
1

November 2008.

**Wendy Wall**, a professor of English and Shakespeare scholar in the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts

and Sciences, has been researching parts of her book-in-progress at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. She's exploring a rich collection of hand-written British recipe booklets dating back to the 16th century. These beautiful calligraphic manuscripts, which were circulated among friends and relatives, not only document what women cooked at home but also the cures they concocted for the sick and the domestic advice they gave each other.

Wall had already made four expensive and time-consuming trips to the Folger when someone on staff there said, "Did you know that these are all available on microfilm?" So on November 24, Wall sits down and writes an e-mail to the Library's **academic liaison** for the English department, Charlotte Cabbage, asking whether it's possible either to borrow the 18-reel microfilm set, called *Receipt Books, c. 1575–1800, from the Folger Shakespeare Library*, through interlibrary loan or order it from its publisher in England.



## **Receipt Books, c. 1575–1800,**

from the Folger Shakespeare Library

If you want to see into the kitchens, gardens, butteries, and bedchambers of Tudor and Stuart England, then *Receipt Books* provides a most valuable guide. Far from offering advice purely relating to cookery, these manuscripts offer insights into topics such as

- the control of vermin
- perfumes and cosmetics
- the cultivation of fruit and vegetables
- the role of women
- household accounts
- conception and childbirth
- cures for common ailments
- diet and the importance of seasoning and alcohol
- food in Shakespearean England
- the cleaning of clothes

This project brings together over 80 manuscripts from the holdings of the Folger Shakespeare Library dating from 1575 to the end of the 18th century. Such receipt books preserved family traditions and passed on common wisdom.

— Description of *Receipt Books* by its publisher, Adam Matthew Publications, Wiltshire, England

The Library's cataloged inventory includes approximately 4.5 million items: books, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, microfilms, and nonprinted materials referred to by librarians as "realia." Each item tells a story, of course; that is its very value to a scholar. But behind each of them is another story — the story of the people who interact with the item as it makes its way onto the shelf. It's an individualized and surprisingly labor-intensive process carried out by a large, highly trained staff whose efforts are generally invisible to the public. So if, as they say, there are 8 million stories in the Naked City, there are at least 9 million in the Library — and this is one of them.

## 2



**Charlotte Cubbage** is the Library's academic liaison in English — as well as in comparative literature, dance, performance studies, radio/TV/film, and theater. She selects what the Library acquires in these fields, usually by scanning hundreds of book reviews and abstracts and matching them with what she knows about the research and teaching interests of individual faculty members. When she gets a direct faculty request — especially one like this, for a resource that will cost several thousand dollars — she weighs a number of different factors. Cubbage knows Wall and her work; she knows that Wall will probably incorporate the research she's doing

now into her teaching, which means students will end up using the microfilms as well; and she knows there are scholars in the theater department working on this period who are also likely to use it. And critically, she knows there is money available from an **endowed fund** — the Butler Monograph Fund, in this case — that will support the purchase. On November 24, the same day Wall's e-mail arrived, Cubbage submits a request to the Library's Acquisitions and Rapid Cataloging department to order *Receipt Books*.

### Academic liaisons

The Library has more than 25 librarians who act as subject specialists and academic liaisons. They develop and manage the collections, offer research consultations and specialized instruction to faculty and students, and consult on topics in scholarly communication — e.g., copyright, fair use, and publisher agreements.

### OCLC

The Online Computer Library Center — or OCLC, as it's universally called — has more than 60,000 member libraries in 112 countries worldwide. Its WorldCat database allows these institutions to input and update catalog data on their holdings cooperatively. This means that after one institution has cataloged an item, its record can be adopted by all the others and does not have to be created anew. It also allows librarians and researchers to locate a cataloged item anywhere in the world; often these items can be borrowed for research through interlibrary loan.

### Endowed funds

The Library's 140 endowed funds play a critical role in helping it maintain a flexible and balanced acquisitions strategy. When they are unrestricted, gifts such as this allow the Library to shift year-to-year expenditures to disciplines in which the need is greatest — or to respond directly to a faculty request such as this one.

## 3



**Jesus Barin**, library assistant, receives the request the next day. He's one of 15 staffers who process new orders, and he specializes in rush requests and special orders. Barin spends a lot of his time scouring the Internet for vendors of hard-to-find, out-of-print, and foreign publications, comparing prices, seller reputations,

and quality of product. In this case, since only one vendor sells the product, Barin e-mails the British publisher to place the order and arrange for shipping.

Barin also must create a listing in the Library's catalog, so the order can be tracked. He does this by importing title, publisher, and other information from a global catalog database called **OCLC**. When the microfilm set arrives on December 19, Barin physically unpacks it, makes sure all 18 reels are there, creates an invoice for the business office, and passes the set along to Bibliographic Services.



# 4

Although her main job is cataloging new materials for the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, **Shoshanah Seidman** also handles all incoming microfilm and microfiche sets. She's one of 18 members of Bibliographic Services who help ensure that the Library's resources can be easily identified and located by librarians and scholars at Northwestern and throughout the world.

When a title isn't already cataloged in OCLC, Seidman will create a new record that can be used in the Library's local catalog and contributed to WorldCat. This detail-rich profile may include such data as page count, physical dimensions (which she measures with a ruler, if need be), the total number of illustrations, the number of color illustrations, the number of maps — even, if relevant, whether a book contains coats-of-arms. Since *Receipt Books* has already been cataloged in OCLC, she double-checks all the information to make sure it's accurate and adds a detail noting that Northwestern University Library now owns reels 1–18. Then Seidman uses a special program to assign the set its call number — the number that tells the Library where to shelve an item in relation to other items on the same or related subjects. When she's finished, Seidman sends the set to the Periodicals and Newspapers Reading Room, where microfilms and microfiche are stored and made available to users.

### Cataloging the collections

Of the 50,000 or so new print titles that are added to the University Library's collections annually, about 65 percent can be cataloged using existing OCLC records. For about 17,500 of these titles — many of them in foreign languages — the Library's catalogers create records from scratch.

### Why microfilm is not obsolete

At most research libraries, a significant portion of the collections budget now is spent on access to databases that aggregate printed collections, digitize them, and make them easily searchable. Such databases are much easier to use than microfilm. But microfilm is still more cost effective for reproducing a collection with a small potential audience. Plus, says Charlotte Cabbage, "Archivally speaking, there's no better way to preserve things than on microfilm."

# 6

Meanwhile, Charlotte Cabbage has been monitoring the order online. On January 3, 2009, she notifies Wall that *Receipt Books* has arrived.

# 5



**Peter Burtch**, library assistant, takes care of "postcataloging" for microfilms: making an item as user-friendly as possible. For instance, he checks to see whether the publisher of *Receipt Books* has a guide to the set available online, so researchers can see the contents of each reel listed without having to scan every reel themselves.

In this case, such a guide exists, so a user can see, for example, that Reel 12 includes Katherine Packer's 1639 "Book of medicines for several diseases, wounds & sores," and Reel 14 has Violetti Ferdinand's 1772 letter to Mrs. Eva Maria Garrick containing "two recipes for a certain broth." Sometimes the publisher sends a printed index, in which case Burtch checks that the index is listed in the catalog record. He makes sure that each box is properly numbered, labeled, and stamped with the Library's name so that if the microfilm set is borrowed through interlibrary loan, its ownership will be clear. He counts the reels again and adds the total to the statistics that help the Library predict how much shelf space it needs for the future growth of the collection. Finally, he sends the set to the front desk of the Periodicals and Newspapers Reading Room to be held for Wendy Wall.

# 7

"I'm so grateful," Wall says. "The Folger has been my base archive for this project, but now the texts I need to go back to over and over are at Northwestern. Plus now I can see lots of ways to use this with my students. It conveys so much about what it was like to be a 17th-century woman — from the domestic detail it contains to just showing what their handwriting looked like."

# His grandfather's voice

Librarians are always pleased when users find what they came in looking for. But sometimes the real joy is seeing them find what they didn't come in looking for.

Asher Miller, 18, just needed a job for the months between his graduation from Evanston Township High School in June 2009 and his departure for Grinnell College in the fall. He'd spent the previous summer working in University Archives and enjoyed it enough to want to come back. "It's a surprisingly physical job, because you're moving boxes around a lot of the time," he says, "but working with the materials can be really interesting." Since Archives often fields questions about the student lives of celebrity alumni, one of Miller's projects that first summer was creating a spreadsheet of locations where famous and infamous alums lived while attending Northwestern. (The eclectic list includes Ann-Margret, Zach Braff, and Rod Blagojevich.)

This past summer Miller's assignment didn't seem quite as glamorous. Archives was processing a collection of 1,300 audiotapes from a radio show called *Reviewing Stand* that aired on WGN and the Mutual Broadcasting System from 1959 to 1985. The show featured guest experts addressing topics of current or historical interest. Miller's job was to go through all the tapes; create a spreadsheet identifying them by date, topic, and guest; and then organize



Photo by Jason Nargis

them into 54 storage boxes in their proper chronological order.

One afternoon he picked up a box labeled "A Look at the Man Called Darrow," containing tape of a show that had aired in 1964. Miller knew that his late grandfather, Arthur Weinberg, had been a leading expert on Clarence Darrow and that he'd collaborated with his wife, Lila, on three books about Darrow. "In this case, the label on the box only said the name of the radio segment,

not who the guests were," Miller recalls. "But when I mentioned it to my mom at home that night, she said, 'You should listen to it. It could be your grandfather.'"

So the next morning Miller threaded the tape into the old tape player in University Archives and listened while the announcer's voice crackled out: "This morning we are pleased to welcome our guests, Arthur Weinberg, author of *Clarence Darrow, Verdicts Out of Court*, and *Attorney for the Damned* ... and Elmer Gertz, prominent Chicago attorney and author."

The show features his grandfather chatting with Gertz (the attorney who won parole for murderer Nathan Leopold in 1958) about Darrow's life and legacy. Weinberg makes a few remarks that are personally revealing as well — such as declaring that when he was a little boy he wanted to "be another Clarence Darrow."

"I was shocked," Miller says. "I'd never heard my grandfather's voice before." Weinberg died in 1989, two years before Miller was born. But his grandmother, Lila, still lives in the area. "We made a digital copy of the tape for her, and I was able to play it for her," he says.

As Miller embarks on college life this fall, he thinks he might ultimately like to teach — either English or history. He says his job in University Archives was most interesting to him when he could "connect history to myself in some way. There were so many names on those radio tapes that were famous, that I recognized, like Adlai Stevenson. But it was really moving to see this one that I recognized in another way."

# Honor roll of donors 2009



Northwestern University Library appreciates the generosity of and ongoing support from our donors during the period from September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009.

We ask that you alert Library Development to any incorrect information or omissions. We will correct the University's records and print corrections in the next issue of *Footnotes*.

Thank you for your help in supporting the University and the Library.

*Please send corrections to*

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*Director of Development, University Library*

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*Evanston, Illinois 60208-4307*

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## **The Deering Society**

*The Deering Society is an annual giving group for Northwestern University Library. It recognizes gifts of \$1,000 or more to any area of the Library, and it takes its name from the family whose philanthropy established the Charles Deering Library at Northwestern.*

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*Gifts support the Library's most compelling needs and directly enhance the collections by enabling us to add scholarly materials needed by students and faculty. We appreciate our donors' generosity.*

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**In Memoriam**

*We are saddened by the loss of long-standing friends and are grateful for their generosity over the years. We extend our warm wishes to their families.*

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William J. Narup  
Victor K. Schuster  
David G. Sparks

## bookend

Toward the end of the 19th century, tug-of-war was a popular sport on American college campuses — more popular, even, than football. There were tug-of-war battles pitting freshmen against sophomores, often across a river or mud pit. And in the late 1880s and early 1890s, Northwestern was a national force in intercollegiate tug-of-war competitions. The team defeated Columbia University (then still known as Columbia College) to win the intercollegiate championship in 1891 and won its third consecutive regional championship in 1892, earning it the title “Champions of the Northwest.”

It wasn't all fun and games. A tug-of-war medal in the University Archives collection belonged to anchor Edson Brady Fowler ('93, MD '96; shown at the far left of both team photographs). He was also awarded a medal by the U.S. government for his role in the Evanston Life Saving Crew's rescue of all 18 crewmen of the steamer *Calumet*, which ran aground on a sandbar during a blizzard in November 1889.



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*Restoring a Piece of Evanston's History*

*A lecture by Robert Karrow and Scott W. Devine*

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 6 p.m.**

Ver Steeg Lounge, University Library  
1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, Illinois

Come explore this very rare and important piece of Evanston's history with Robert Karrow, curator of special collections and of maps at the Newberry Library, Chicago, and Scott W. Devine, head of Preservation at Northwestern University Library.

For more information, contact Mary Bradley at 847-491-7641 or [m-bradley2@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-bradley2@northwestern.edu).