

# footnotes

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**On the cover** Stained-glass window from Deering Library as restored by Botti Studios. Above is an engraving from a book in Oxford's Bodleian Library that proved key to the restoration. See more on page 2.



### Brazilian bounty

Brazilian writer and diplomat João Almino and his wife, artist Bia Wouk, recently donated a collection of more than 1,000 books to Northwestern University Library. Almino is a novelist as well as the current consul general of the Federal Republic of Brazil in Chicago.

The donated books reflect Almino's scholarly interests in literature, political science, and philosophy; Wouk's career as a painter; and their diplomatic residencies in France, Lebanon, Mexico, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The gift includes more than 150 beautiful large-format art publications from Brazilian museums and foundations; literary works by prominent Brazilian writers such as Ignácio de Loyola Brandão, Clarice Lispector, and Nelson Rodriguez; and excellent foreign-language editions of books by English-language authors — for example, James Joyce in Portuguese and Virginia Woolf in French.

### From her *Book World* to ours

On campus to accept the 2009 Alumnae Award last October, author and former *Washington Post Book World* editor Marie Arana stopped by the Library for an informal chat with staff. The Peru-born former Northwestern homecoming queen recalled her undergraduate years at Northwestern as “transformative” because they provided her with “a real moment of understanding the American culture and my place in it.” It was



also, she said, “the time when books became the most interesting and important part of my life.” A Russian studies major, Arana was hired by publisher

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich for a project that was supposed to make use of her Russian language skills. When that project was scuttled, she stayed on at HBJ and found herself reading her way through the proverbial slush pile, looking for potentially publishable books. After eight years as an editor with HBJ, she moved to Simon & Schuster and then on to *Book World*, where she spent 10 years as editor in chief. She is now a writer at large for the *Washington Post*.

The author of numerous books — including *American Chica: Two Worlds, One Childhood*, a memoir that was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award and the PEN/Memoir Award — Arana is currently a

Kluge Distinguished Scholar at the Library of Congress. “I’m in awe of the work librarians do,” she said, adding that visiting Northwestern and the Library again gave her the chance to reflect on “the long arc of experience from my Deering Library days, studying Russian history, to doing research in libraries today.”

### Library goes where you go

The University's launch of a new Northwestern mobile phone application in January enables users to instantly search the Library's holdings from their iPhones and other mobile devices. The “Library” feature provides access to books, periodicals, journals, databases, music, video, and digital collections. A separate “Images” feature showcases more than 10,000 images from the Library's extensive portfolio of unique digital collections, including Rare African Maps, Transportation Menus, and World War II Posters. The app can be downloaded from the iPhone App Store or iTunes; just search for “Northwestern University.”





# Stained-glass revival

NEW LIFE FOR A BROKEN BONAWIT WINDOW



Embedded in the walls of James Gamble Rogers's magnificent Deering Library are 68 artistic gems: the original stained-glass windows created by G. Owen Bonawit. They were meant to be windows into the building's soul: a glimpse of the library's intellectual, cultural, spiritual, geographical, and historical identity. They depict classical goddesses and literary heroes from the pages of the library's books; the Native Americans and European settlers who had shaped the Chicago area; even the horse-drawn McCormick-Deering twine binder that had, via Charles Deering's generous bequest, funded the library's construction. A series of images alludes to the great universities whose company Northwestern — and this particular Collegiate Gothic building — aspired to keep. There were the seals of Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and those venerable English institutions, Cambridge and Oxford.

When the Oxford window was found to be damaged during Deering's 75th-anniversary year, the repair demanded something a bit beyond routine Facilities Management expertise. Several of the central



panels had been knocked out, probably by a well-aimed snowball, and the heart of the image was shattered.

The search for artisans qualified to restore historic stained glass turned up an internationally renowned studio coincidentally located just blocks away from Northwestern in downtown Evanston. Botti Studios traces its roots in the ecclesiastical glass business back to 17th-century Florence. When the Library contacted the studio, Botti had just finished renovation projects involving the glass dome ceiling in the Plaza Hotel's Palm Court in New York and the Tiffany glass dome in the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall, the largest Tiffany dome anywhere in the world. So one day last spring Botti technicians carefully removed the Oxford window from Deering Library and transported it — shattered fragments and all — to the studio, where it remained for most of the summer.

Owner Chris Botti describes stained-glass windows as being like “full-sized cartoons. They’re developed from smaller drawings into full-sized drawings, and then the panes are inked in and numbered on paper. You use the paper as patterns for the glass, just like you’d use a dress pattern,” he explains. To repair a window, you reverse that process, tracing the design from the existing window and then filling in the missing areas.

Unfortunately, there was no exact record of what the missing area of the Oxford window had looked like. Though University Archives has original images of most of the Bonawit windows, this one wasn’t among them, and Bonawit is thought to have destroyed his own records when he left the stained-glass business. So, librarians at Oxford University’s Bodleian Library were consulted. In a 19th-century book called *Memorials of Oxford* they discovered a typographic device from 1585 that appeared to perfectly match the remaining sections of the window. When it turned out that Northwestern University Library had owned a copy of this same book in the early 1930s — the period in which Deering Library was being designed — it appeared likely that this was the exact image Northwestern librarians would have supplied to Bonawit.

A whole team of Botti artisans worked on the window for weeks. They painstakingly removed the damaged glass and then began filling in the missing section by placing the original design on a light table, putting a new sheet of glass over it, and painting the design onto the glass. It’s not quite the paint-by-numbers procedure it may sound like, though.

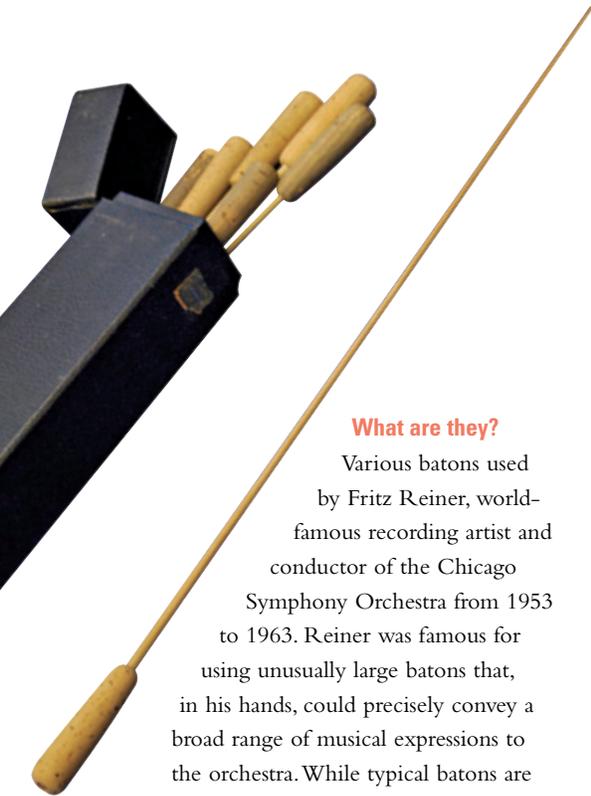
“I could see from looking at the original design that Bonawit hadn’t always followed it exactly when he fitted the window,” says artist Craig Ferris. “And I didn’t

know what techniques he’d used to create some of the artistic effects, so I had to do a lot of work by trial and error.”

The work was not only time consuming but also nerve-racking, since every different color tone had to be fired separately, and a single pane might need to be fired up to a dozen times at different times and temperatures — each time with the risk that it might break during the firing or simply come out wrong. “Once the color is cooked in, you can’t correct it,” Craig says. “If it comes out wrong at any point in that process, you have to start over.”

Finally, on a sunny morning last August, technicians reinstalled the window. The vibrant colors had been recreated, and even an obscure typographical error in the Latin of the original design had been reproduced, at Northwestern’s request.

Jeff Garrett, associate University librarian for special libraries, oversaw the window’s restoration. “As Charles Eames has been quoted as saying, ‘The details are not the details. They make the design,’” he says. “Attention to detail and to art is what made Deering Library such an amazing piece of architecture when it was built in the 1930s. We want to be attentive to preserving these details — and restoring them when necessary — as stewards of a wonderful legacy.”



### What are they?

Various batons used by Fritz Reiner, world-famous recording artist and conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1953 to 1963. Reiner was famous for using unusually large batons that, in his hands, could precisely convey a broad range of musical expressions to the orchestra. While typical batons are 14 to 16 inches long, Reiner's custom-made batons measure about 22 inches. Music critic Harold C. Schonberg once described Reiner as "a short man who used a big baton and a tiny beat."

**Where are they?** In the Music Library. The batons are part of the Fritz Reiner Library, an archive of correspondence, marked scores, books, and other materials received in the early 1970s.

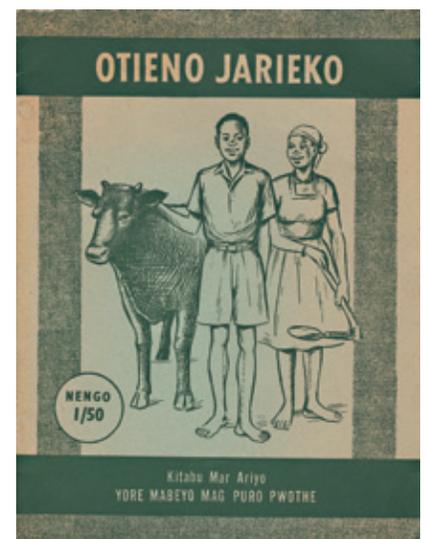
**What is it?** A 1635 edition of *Mysteries of Nature and Art* by John Bate. This was Isaac Newton's favorite book when he was about 13 years old. It is packed with designs and instructions for all kinds of fantastic machines and devices, including an "Engin" to draw water out of a "deepe Well," a water clock, and a flying dragon. Newton bought a special exercise book into which he copied out long passages from Bate's book and became somewhat famous even as a schoolboy for the devices he successfully built.

**Where is it?** The Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections. The book was originally published in 1634. This revised second edition includes a portrait of the author that was not in the first edition.



**What is it?** A book published in Kenya in 1959 and written by President Obama's father, Barack H. Obama Sr. Titled *Otieno Jarieko* ("Otieno the Wise Man"), the book was aimed at newly literate Kenyans as the nation moved toward independence. It is written in the Luo language of western Kenya and offers advice for the successful management of a farm.

**Where is it?** The Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. This is one of about 17,000 books in 300 African languages held in the Herskovits Library. It was acquired 50 years ago shortly after publication and probably had never been used. Curator David Easterbrook ran across it while preparing for the visit of an author researching a book about the African background of the president's family during the summer of 2009.



# REF ASURES

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



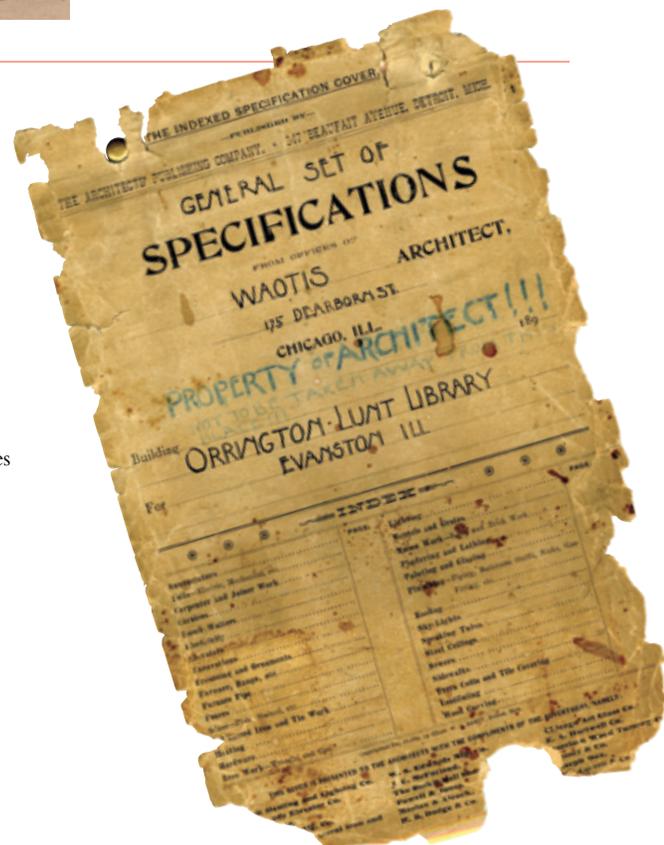
**What is it?** An uncut printed sheet of 78 paper Chicago Transit Authority transfer slips from the mid-1970s. Jane Ratcliffe Coakley of Evanston was training as a CTA employee when she saw sheets of transfers being printed, thought they might make nice posters, and asked if she could have one. Realizing that they might have research value, she recently donated them to the Library.

**Where is it?** The Transportation Library. The CTA doesn't have its own library or archive, so the Transportation Library makes a special point of collecting ephemera relating to the agency. This item is particularly rare and valuable, from both research and historical perspectives, since there's nothing more ephemeral than a transfer slip that's only good for a few hours on a particular day, and paper CTA transfers are now obsolete.



**What is it?** The original 1894 architect's specifications for Northwestern's first free-standing library, the Orrington Lunt Library. Architect William Augustus Otis had studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and was a partner of William Le Baron Jenney, known as the "father of the American skyscraper." The Lunt specifications include detailed information on every aspect of construction — for example: "Contractor must give approved written guarantee that all workmanship and material is thoroughly first class and that apparatus will heat each and every room to 70 degrees Fahrenheit in coolest corner when the thermometer is 20 degrees below zero outside...."

**Where is it?** University Archives. The Lunt Library was superseded by Deering Library in 1933. Now called Lunt Hall, it houses the mathematics department and, in the former reading room, the Ralph P. Boas Mathematics Library (see related story on page 9).



# Police search!

## Helping future top cops hone research skills

One day late last fall 18 students in a Northwestern classroom listened to retired Warwick, Rhode Island, police chief Tom Wilson lecture on the topic of gut instinct. This was not a theoretical subject for the students, as it might have been for others on campus. It can mean life or death for them as well as for many of those with whom they interact every day. That's because these students were police supervisors from all across the country being groomed for top appointments in their departments.

"As law enforcement executives,"

Wilson told them, "it's important for you to understand how the subconscious comes into play, because sometimes we make decisions that aren't rational." Through slides, video clips, and a little old-fashioned storytelling, Wilson spent most of the morning demonstrating how subliminal "rapid cognition" could affect the outcome of a suspect lineup or questioning, a trial, a confrontation with an armed subject — or, alternately, a policy presentation to a city council.

Wilson's talk came in week five of the School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC), an intensive 10-week training course at Northwestern's Center for Public Safety. Because it's an executive leadership class, its focus is less on law enforcement technique and more on the psychological, strategic, and analytical skills necessary for managing police operations. And it requires one assignment that even the most seasoned sworn officer of the law might reasonably dread: a research paper citing at least three primary sources.



### Looking for evidence

The paper was to be a "staff study" on an issue currently affecting their departments, and the finished project was expected to have a real impact on operations back home. In the fall class, for example, Commander Tim Wilinski of the Highland Park Police Department and Sergeant Matt Smizinski of Lake Bluff were researching the implications of moving their departments from 8-hour to 12-hour shifts. Skokie Sergeant Bob Libit was researching how to move his department from its old building to a new one.

Ron Nauman, commander of field operations in the Antioch, Illinois, police department, was researching the feasibility of implementing an injury-and-illness prevention program in his department. "I graduated college in 1987," he says, "so it's been a long time since I did my last research paper." He needed to document the effectiveness of fitness programs and to identify sources of information on workers' compensation issues. Initially, like almost everyone else in the class, he was a bit bewildered by the whole new world of electronic reference that didn't exist when he was in school.

That's why each SPSC course includes a workshop in Northwestern's Transportation Library. Taught for the past 10 years by public services librarian Kay Geary, the workshop brings the officers up to speed on basic information literacy, search techniques, and the law enforcement web sites and databases most relevant to their research needs. "They come in very much like Northwestern freshmen in terms of research skills," Geary says. "They know how to google something, but only the basic google; they don't know any of the little tricks."

Geary's Google "tricks" are huge time-savers. She shows them, for instance, how just using quotation marks around a search term can eliminate millions of irrelevant results. She also shows them how to eliminate specific search terms that may clog their results with useless information; for example, if you happened to be researching the Viking people, you could eliminate the term "Minnesota" from your query in order to avoid a deluge of useless information about the football team.

Often the SPSC students can find most, if not all, of what they need through two extraordinary Transportation Library resources. One is TranWeb, a periodical index created and maintained by the Transportation Library technical services staff that indexes articles from all the major law enforcement periodicals to which the Library subscribes. The other is IACP Net, a networking database maintained by the International Association of Chiefs of Police that connects all the major law enforcement agencies in the country and offers articles,

### Heavy traffic

Why a specialized library devoted to transportation should be engaged in training future law enforcement executives might not be instantly apparent. The explanation dates back almost 80 years — to 1932, when an Evanston police sergeant named Franklin Kreml and a Northwestern political science professor named Augustus Hatton created a program for police officers on how to investigate traffic crashes. It was so successful they were soon running workshops around the country.

Transportation Center, an internationally renowned center for research and teaching that is now part of the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. The library's collections and services have grown over the years to support the evolving missions of both institutions. Today the Transportation Library is the nation's largest specialty collection of transportation-related books and periodicals, with a growing reputation for its police administration and traffic enforcement resources.

Serving the students of the SPSC has been good for the library, says Transportation Library head Roberto Sarmiento. Besides the students who take the course in Evanston, the library serves the Center for Public Safety's satellite courses all around the country. "That's pushed us to think about how we deliver services to remote users," Sarmiento says. "It broadens the diversity of our users."

"It's an honor," Sarmiento adds, "to think that we're helping to prepare generations of police leadership. These are people who call us 10 years after they complete the program to remind us they were in the class and ask us for research help on something they're working on now. They know they can always do that."

The respect is mutual. With Kay Geary's help, Ron Nauman ended up finding what he needed for his illness-and-injury prevention report in the library's FBI bulletins and the IACP Net database. "Kay was very helpful," he says. "She walked us through everything and really calmed us down a lot." Nauman has already used his report to convince his department to organize a committee to establish guidelines for staff safety.

Having finished his research about 12-hour shifts, Tim Wilinski agrees with Nauman. "I've already asked if we'll still have privileges at the Transportation Library after we leave," he says. "The local library is great, but it doesn't have anywhere near the depth of law enforcement material. I'm already thinking I'm going to want to come back and use it again."



opinion pieces, and discussion forums on most of the critical issues they face. "Access to IACP Net is security restricted to sworn police officers," Geary says. "It's not a resource that just any library user has access to, but we maintain a subscription specifically for the use of the SPSC students."

The basic introduction takes place in a 3½-hour mandatory session, but Geary also sets aside the entire following week to offer each officer two hours of customized guidance. "The extra help is optional," she says, "but almost everyone signs up. I'll work with them as long as it takes to make sure their topic is completely researched by the time they leave."

This was the genesis of what was originally known as Northwestern's Traffic Institute. The institute continued to evolve and expand, adding non-traffic-related courses for police officers as well as non-police-related courses involving traffic management. About nine years ago the institute was renamed the Center for Public Safety to reflect the growth of its offerings. It now runs classes in Evanston and all across the country in police management, forensics, crisis negotiation, traffic engineering — and still, to this day, crash investigation.

The Transportation Library was founded in 1958 to support both the Traffic Institute and the University's new

## OUT OF THE CAGE Landmark exhibition borrows from the Music Library

THE HENIE ONSTAD ART CENTRE in Oslo, Norway, is currently hosting the largest exhibition devoted to the work of composer John Cage since his death in 1992. “The Anarchy of Silence,” says curator Julia Robinson, “tries for the first time to set John Cage’s work in its historical context,” using more than 200 scores, manuscripts, artworks, letters, and other materials by Cage and his contemporaries. Among them are 25 works from the Northwestern University Library collections — including the full 101-page manuscript of Cage’s magnum opus, *The Music of Changes*.



“Normally I’d be reluctant to loan an irreplaceable manuscript like that in its entirety,” says D.J. Hoek, head of the Music Library. “But by displaying every single page, what Julia Robinson is hoping to represent here is the hugeness of this piece in Cage’s development and 20th-century music in general.”

“It’s just extraordinary to have the whole score,” Robinson tells *Footnotes*. “This exhibit is all about the formation of ideas, and *Music of Changes* was a reflection of one the biggest ideas of Cage’s life: getting rid of the author and deferring to chance as the agent of creation.” That idea was to have a profound influence on Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, La Monte Young, Nam June Paik, and many other Fluxus artists whose work is also included in “The Anarchy of Silence.”

Among the critics who were dazzled by the exhibition when it first opened late last year at Museu d’Art Contemporani de

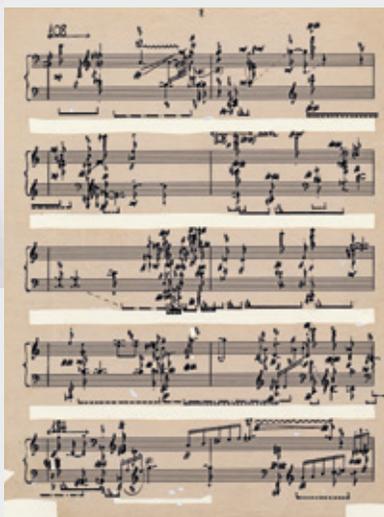
Barcelona in Spain was the *New Yorker’s* music critic, Alex Ross. He blogged on November 9, 2009, that the hour he spent exploring it was sadly inadequate to appreciate its offerings — and also deplored the fact that it was to have no American venue. “Why not MOMA, the Whitney, or the Guggenheim?” he demanded.

Among the items he did have time to appreciate was another Northwestern holding: a 1959 letter written by La Monte Young to accompany the manuscript of his Trio for Strings, which he was sending along for Cage to look at. At the time Young was still studying for his master’s degree and told Cage apologetically that his need to write what he refers to as “University music” meant that “I can’t send you anything that is at all more representative of what I want to write now.”

“Young’s music of the late 1950s and 1960s set the stage for minimalism,” Ross commented, “a movement for which Cage had

little natural sympathy but which nonetheless showed the vast reach of his influence.”

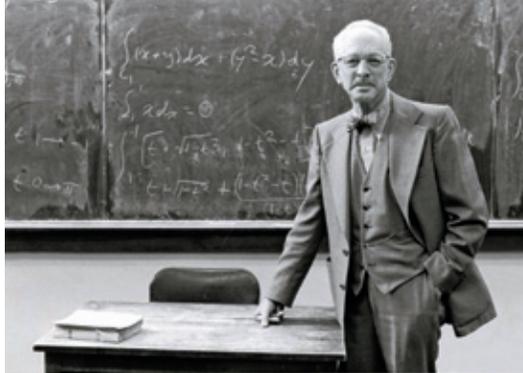
Robinson notes that once Young became an acclaimed musician in his own right, he disavowed Cage as an influence. So she says that when she found that particular letter in Northwestern’s Cage Collection, it was “a revelation. It so clearly shows Young as a deferential graduate student who looked



up to Cage,” she says. “And that isn’t just a curator’s guess. It’s a documentary connection.”

Among the other items Northwestern contributed to the exhibition is Yoko Ono’s manuscript for *9 Concert Pieces for John Cage*, which she originally sent to Cage for inclusion in his book *Notations*. Northwestern’s John Cage Collection includes all the raw material Cage assembled for that book as well as many additional musical scores he collected and thousands of the composer’s letters. “The Anarchy of Silence” remains at the Henie Onstad Centre through May 30.

## Donor spotlight: Ralph and Mary Boas



Near the entrance to the Boas Mathematics Library in Lunt Hall hangs a portrait of a dapper man in a three-piece suit and bow tie. This is the late Ralph P. Boas, the former Northwestern math professor for whom the library is named. Eclectically brilliant and endearingly quirky, he was much beloved by students and colleagues alike.

“You never saw him without that bow tie,” says Melanie Rubin, who’s been the department assistant in the mathematics department since Boas hired her in 1962. “He was such an incredibly kind and approachable person, yet I could never bring myself to call him ‘Ralph,’ because of this air of formality he had. But he wouldn’t let me call him ‘Doctor’ either, because he thought it sounded pretentious.” Mark Pinsky, Boas’s colleague on the math faculty for many years, affirms that assessment. He notes that Boas’s credentials and achievements as a mathematician were of the highest caliber — a Harvard PhD, authorship of several influential books, and a long stint as editor of the leading journal *Mathematical Reviews*. “But that rarified background never restricted his range of motion,” Pinsky says.

That range is suggested by Boas’s book *Lion Hunting and Other Mathematical Pursuits*. The title refers to a joke that was popular among mathematicians when Boas was at Princeton in the late 1930s. “We talked about ... mathematical methods for catching lions,” he writes, and then quotes some examples, such as “*The method of inversive geometry*: We place a spherical cage in the desert, enter it, and lock it. We perform an inversion with respect to the cage. The lion is then in the interior of the cage, and we are outside.”

Boas and his colleague Frank Smithies collected various hypothetical mathematical methods of lion catching — adding a few of their own — and submitted a paper to the *American Mathematical Monthly*. The paper was published and went on to become legendary in mathematics circles.

In *Lion Hunting*, Boas touches on many other highlights of his life and work, including his long career on Northwestern’s math faculty (with 15 years as department chair) and his tenure as editor of *American Mathematical Monthly*. He also recounts how, when he was teaching at Duke in 1940, a colleague handed him “very glowing” letters of recommendation for a teacher named Mary Layne who had just been hired. He decided she would make a good companion for the next year’s campus concert series. He and Mary were married in 1941. She went on to earn a PhD in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and when Ralph came to Northwestern, she found a position at DePaul University, rising to full professor. Unconventionally for the era, Mary pursued her career while raising their three children — Anne, Harold, and Ralph.

Mary Boas now lives in Seattle. Before Ralph’s death in 1992, they created an endowed fund that supports the legacy they established at Northwestern. “That library is like a laboratory for the math department,” says Bob Michaelson, head of the Seeley G. Mudd Library of Science and Engineering, “The faculty felt it would be difficult to maintain a first-rate department without it. That’s become more challenging economically, but one reason we’ve been able to build the collections so well over the years is the generosity of Mary and Ralph Boas.”

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## Current and upcoming exhibits



Radical Woman in a Classic Town  
Frances Willard of Evanston

January 18 - March 19, 2010

### **Only Connect: Bloomsbury Families and Friends**

*January 14–April 30, Deering Library*

Drawing upon the rich holdings of the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections — including the recently acquired Garnett Family Archive — this exhibit features books, manuscripts, letters, photographs, and drawings by key “Bloomsberries” such as Virginia and Leonard Woolf, Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, David Garnett, E. M. Forster, Lytton Strachey, John Maynard Keynes, Roger Fry, and Clive Bell.

### **Radical Woman in a Classic Town: Frances Willard of Evanston**

*January 18–March 19, Main Library*

Famous as a reformer — especially for her leadership of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, the largest and most powerful women’s organization of its time — Frances Willard maintained a bond with

Evanston from the time she moved here in 1858 until her death in 1898. This exhibit uses historic photographs, documents, and artifacts from the collections of Northwestern University Archives and items on loan from the Frances Willard House and Library/Archives in Evanston to examine that bond, including Willard’s strong connection to Northwestern, where she was the first dean of women and a member of the Board of Trustees.

### **The Once and Future Saint: Two Lives of Hildegard von Bingen**

*March 29–June 10, Main Library*

This exhibit explores two incarnations of medieval German abbess Hildegard von Bingen: her extraordinary 12th-century life as a visionary, author, composer, healer, and adviser of popes and sovereigns; and her 20th-century revival as a feminist and New Age icon by international scholars, including renowned Northwestern faculty member Barbara Newman.