

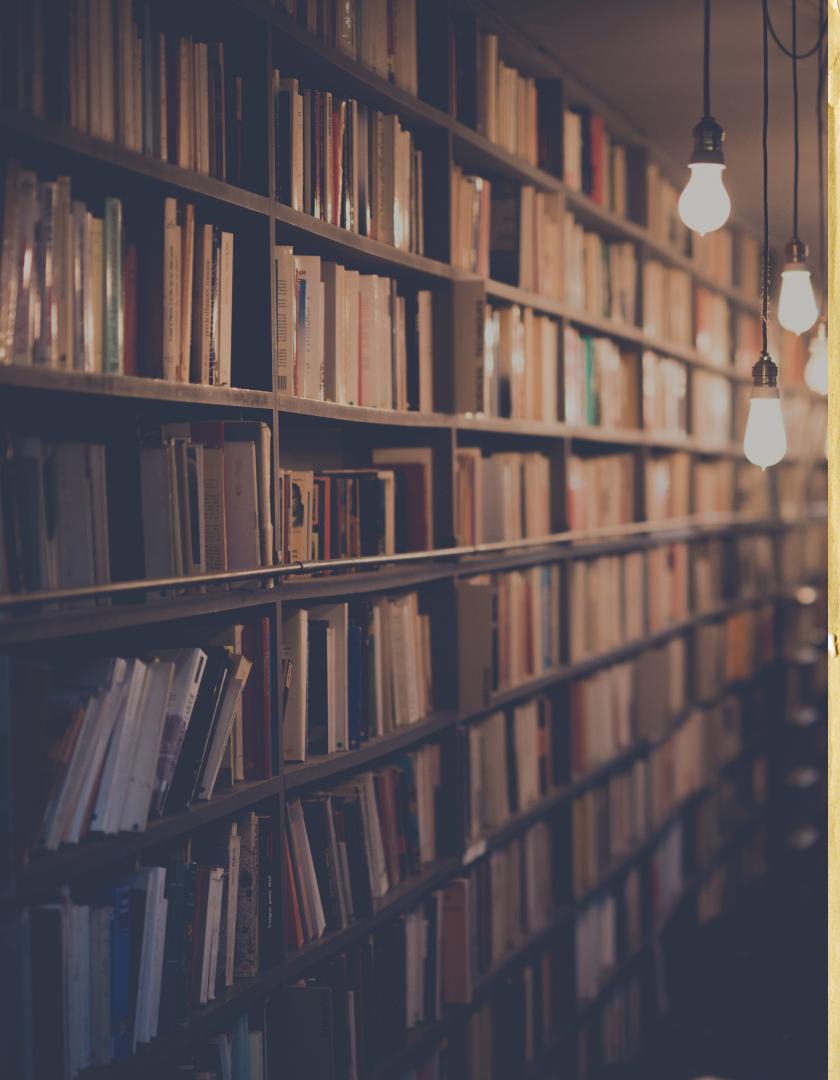
The Bentley Rare Book Museum at Kennesaw State University presents

A LIBRARY OF LIBRARIES

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS IN THE BENTLEY RARE BOOK MUSEUM

Exhibition Catalogue
October 2024





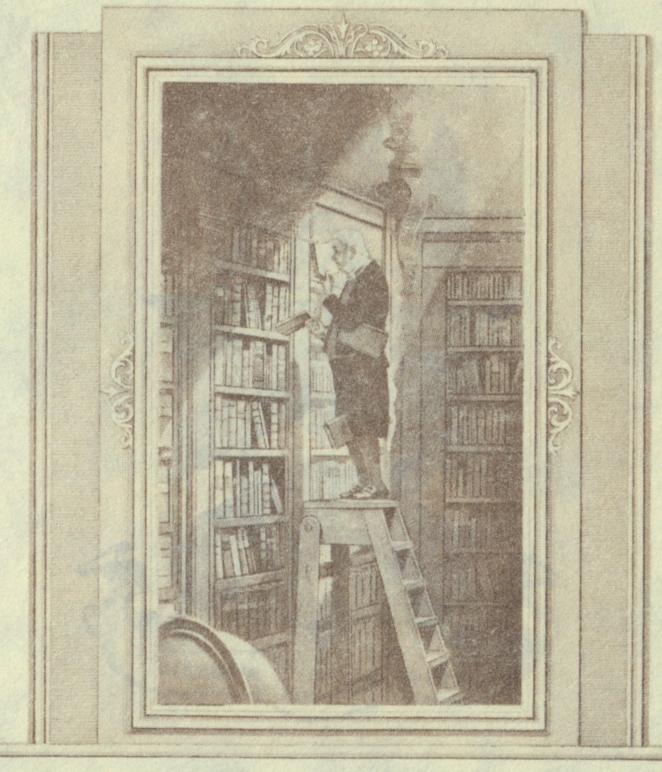
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2024-2025 Exhibition Catalogue

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Robert A. Freeman

THE BENTLEY RARE BOOK MUSEUM AT KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS A LIBRARY OF LIBRARIES

Curator's Statement

Private libraries hardly ever stay private. Quite often, they act as communal spaces for bibliophiles or serve as study areas for dedicated scholars. They are sources of bragging rights for book collectors and safe havens for avid readers. Even when a book owner desires her library to remain private, the books will likely be dispersed, sold or acquired by others after her death. Books can live many lives while their owners can only live one.

ALibrary of Libraries: Private Collections in the Bentley Rare Book Museum is an exhibition that investigates and complicates the idea of private libraries. The Bentley Rare Book Museum is an institutional rare book collection, yet it is comprised of smaller, formerly private libraries that were once shelved in living rooms, stored in boxes, or even sequestered in basements and attics. A Library of Libraries brings these stories to light with a special focus on the people who developed and stewarded these collections in the past. By doing this, the Bentley collection becomes less about books and more about people.

This exhibition is personal because books are personal. Books communicate characteristics and identities of their owners; they create and serve as evidence of relationships, and they offer an escape from reality when circumstances seem hopeless. As you move through the exhibition, consider how the books on display may have served the people who owned them decades or centuries ago. Pay special attention to how owners identified their books as valuable possessions.

Most of all, I encourage you to think about books in your own library and the life you want these books to live when you are no longer able to keep them. If you want to pass these books down to family members, have those conversations and document them. If you desire the books to become part of an institutional library, set up a meeting with a librarian or curator.

Your library is important, and so are you. If nothing else, it is my hope that A Library of Libraries communicates this message.

Sincerely,

JoyEllen Williams, Curator

"The serious study of private libraries, and of the lessons which can be learned from book ownership, is a growth industry and one which has gained much ground in the recent past."

- David Pearson, Provenance Research in Book History, 2019



(ABOVE) Presidential private library, 1905. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

WHEN BOOKS ARE PERSONAL

BOOKS OFTEN OUTLIVE THEIR OWNERS.

Because books endure, texts that were once housed in a single owner's personal library may experience dozens of lives and afterlives over several decades—or even centuries.

Some personal libraries have more determined fates than others. An owner who spent time carefully curating her personal library may take legal steps to protect her collection by filling out a will or donor agreement. Another owner may informally communicate his wishes regarding the library to family members and close friends. Most of the time, however, the destiny of a personal library remains unknown at the time of an owner's death. In this case, the collection may be dispersed among many different people, sold as a unit or in parts, or donated to a public library. When the collection is considered rare or collectible, academic and historical institutions may attempt to acquire it through purchase or donation.

Books housed in the Bentley Rare Book Museum have traveled all these journeys and then some, making the Bentley collection a library of libraries. The Bentley Rare Book Museum honors the

personal libraries that exist in its collection by uncovering stories of people who owned, read, and engaged with these books in the past. *A Library of Libraries* illuminates meticulous clues of ownership that remain in rare and antiquarian book collections and considers the influence of personal libraries on the establishment of major library collections in England and the United States.

Priv	ate Library
CARRIE	BARTON HAWKINS
EMILY	SMITH HAWKINS.
No	9
Date	

(ABOVE) Book label featured in American Woman's Home, 1869.

"...All the glory of the world would be buried in oblivion, unless God had provided mortals with the remedy of books."

- Richard de Bury, The Philobiblion, 1345



(ABOVE) Illuminated leaf from a Book of Hours that once existed in a private library, c. 1430. Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

THE RISE OF PRIVATE LIBRARIES

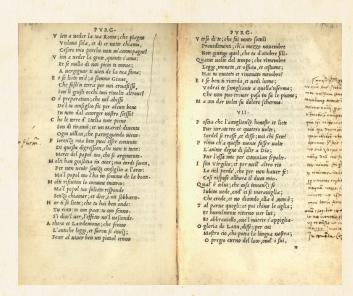
collections.

LIBRARIES WERE PRIVATE BEFORE THEY WERE PUBLIC, and many of the earliest private libraries fell under the ownership of kingdoms or faith-based institutions. Rulers in the ancient cities of Nineveh and Alexandria founded scholarly libraries and acquired massive holdings of clay tablets and papyrus scrolls, sometimes seizing these collections from others during wars. During the early Middle Ages, private libraries existed in religious institutions like temples and monasteries and were usually reserved for religious leaders and students.

Between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, wealthy individuals began establishing private libraries at a higher frequency. One example was Richard de Bury (1287–1345), an English priest, scholar, and diplomat whose status and position enabled him to acquire more than 1500 volumes. Most private libraries during this time, however, were smaller and only included a few dozen books.

As printing became more prevalent in Europe and later, in America, so did private libraries. Wealthy and moderately wealthy families in the seventeenth century usually owned at least a few

books, mainly texts on religion and agriculture. Lower income households often did not own any books. It was not until the late eighteenth century that literacy rates increased and books became more accessible on a larger scale due to the mechanization of the bookmaking process. These changes allowed people from various social classes to establish personal or family library

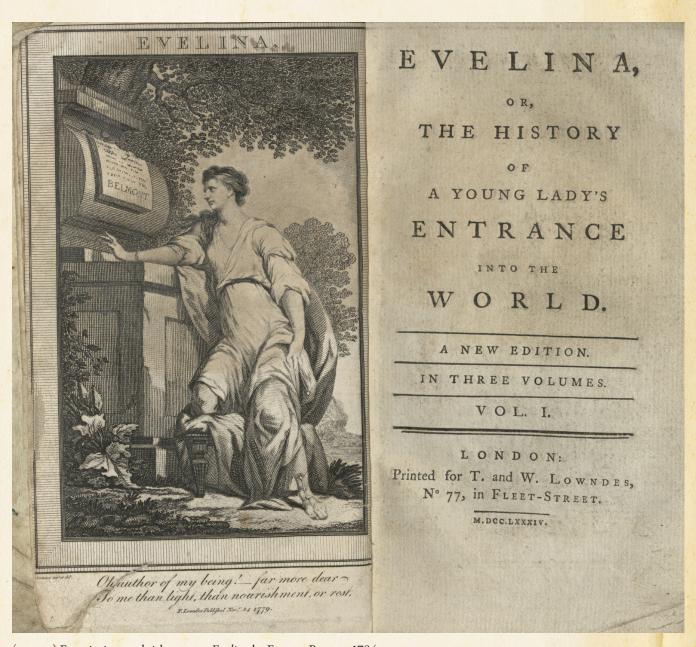


(ABOVE) A copy of Dante's *Divine Comedy* owned and annotated by a sixteenth-century Italian reader, 1502.

Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

"I have a long Work which a long time has been in hand.... We have therefore been led... to print it by subscription."

- Frances Burney discussing her third novel Camilla in a letter to a friend, 1795



(ABOVE) Frontispiece and title page to Evelina by Frances Burney, 1784. Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

PRIVATE LIBRARIES AND CIRCULATION

PRIOR TO THE RISE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, people commonly shared the holdings of a private library. One such arrangement was the circulating library that began in England in the eighteenth century. Circulating libraries were commercial ventures that charged quarterly or annual fees to borrow books. They helped establish a culture of reading among the masses and formed new avenues of socialization through books. Subscription libraries functioned

similarly but were generally

non-commercial and often had a narrower focus and audience.

The most famous subscription library the began American colonies. In 1731, a group of men in Philadelphia spearheaded by Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) decided to purchase and share themselves among

more books than any of them could afford alone. They called this library "The Library Company," which is still in operation today.

Many early subscription libraries were established exclusively for white men. In response, women and people of color established their own literary societies. Ladies of the Enlightenment period created private salons to discuss books and works of literature. These salons were especially popular in Italy and France. In 1833, a group of free Black men founded the Philadelphia Library Company of Colored Persons, which offered a subscription library for Philadelphia's Black elite and served as a space for intellectual exchange.

The Role of Booksellers

Several British booksellers affiliated with early circulation libraries helped jumpstart the careers of eighteenth-century women writers. For example, publisher and bookseller Thomas Lowndes (1719–1784) operated an extensive circulating library on Fleet Street in Central London and was the first to publish *Evelina* (1778), Frances Burney's inaugural novel.

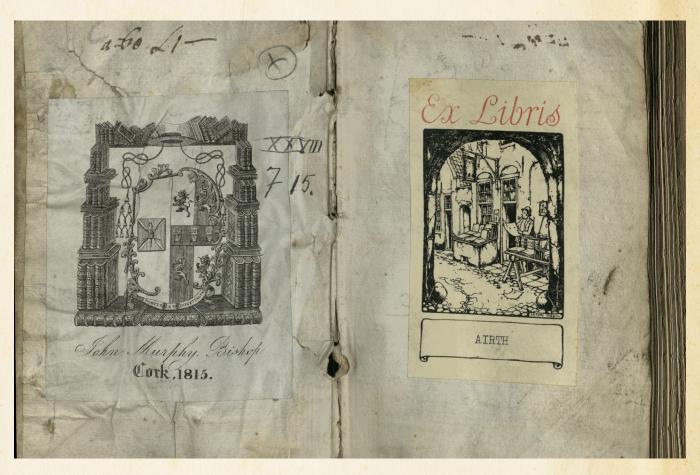


(ABOVE) "Tales of Wonder!" etching by James Gillray, 1802.

Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

"Thys Boke is Myne"

- Written by adolescent Henry VIII inside his school textbook, 1502

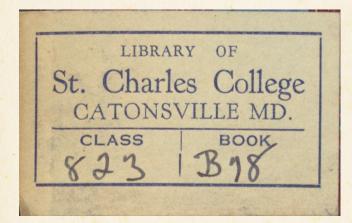


(ABOVE) Bookplates of Bishop John Murray and Airth found in Speculum Missae..., 1572.

(BELOW LEFT) Bookplate from the library of St. Charles College found in The Professor by Charlotte Bronte, 1857.

(BELOW RIGHT) Bookplate of Mary Amelia Lucas Heatherwood found in Life of Lord Lawrence, 1883.

All images on this page are courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum





THE MARK OF A PRIVATE LIBRARY

CONTRARY TO THE WELL-KNOWN ADAGE,

judging a book by its cover can be productive. Prior to the 1830s, all book bindings were handmade, and most were custom. These bindings often indicated ownership by exhibiting a book owner's personal style and social status. People with means generally commissioned fine leather bindings for their books with decorative elements like blind or gold tooling and marbled covers. Some book

(RIGHT & BELOW)
Bookplate of Albert
Quattrochi, Jr. found
in volume one of
Constitutional History
of England, 1882.
Courtesy of the Bentley Rare
Book Museum

owners
selected
matching
bindings
for all the
books in
their library
or opted
for custom
bindings
as a nod
to familial
wealth and
status.



(ABOVE) Bookplate of Edward Ford found in *Castle Rackrent* by Maria Edgeworth, 1832. Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

Marks of ownership are also evident inside of books. Since antiquity, book owners have communicated provenance through custom bookplates and stamps, ownership signatures, and marginal notes written alongside the printed texts called marginalia. By paying attention to subtleties in handwriting, gift inscriptions, and bookplates, book historians can determine who owned a book during a given time and how the book was valued and used.

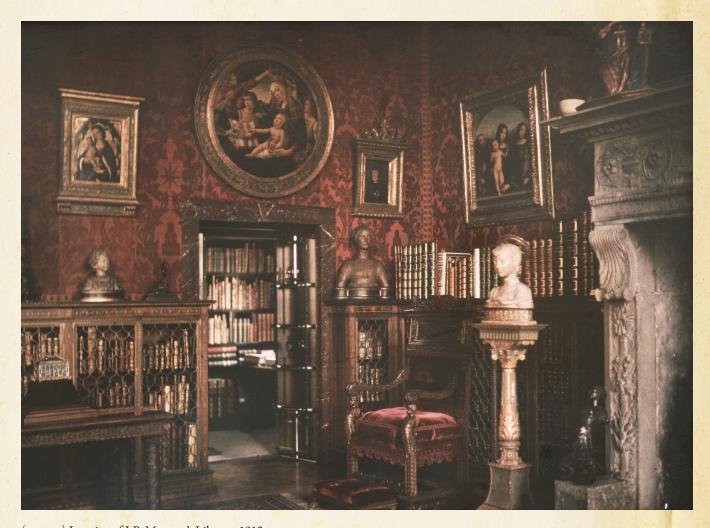
"Most great men have fads, and Mr. Pierpont Morgan's is rare books."

- The Evening Star on J.P. Morgan's rare book collection, 1905



(LEFT) Bookplate of Arturo Schomburg, 1890.

Courtesy of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture



(ABOVE) Interior of J.P. Morgan's Library, 1912. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

FAMOUS PERSONAL LIBRARIES

MANY GRAND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES ORIGINATED FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS.

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) greatly valued books and enjoyed a lifelong love for them. Though his first library was destroyed by fire at his family home in 1770, Jefferson continued amassing thousands of titles and later sold his collection to the Library of Congress after the national library was burned by the British during the War of 1812.

GIFT TO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Carnegie Foundation Buys Schomburg Collection of Negro Works.

The Arthur A. Schomburg collection of negro literature and art, including many rare prints, autographs and manuscripts on the history of the negroes, became the property of the New York Public Library, it was announced yesterday. Mr. Schomburg's collection was purchased for \$10,000 by the Carnegie Foundation, acting on the request of the National Urban League. A part of this collection has been on exhibition since December at the main

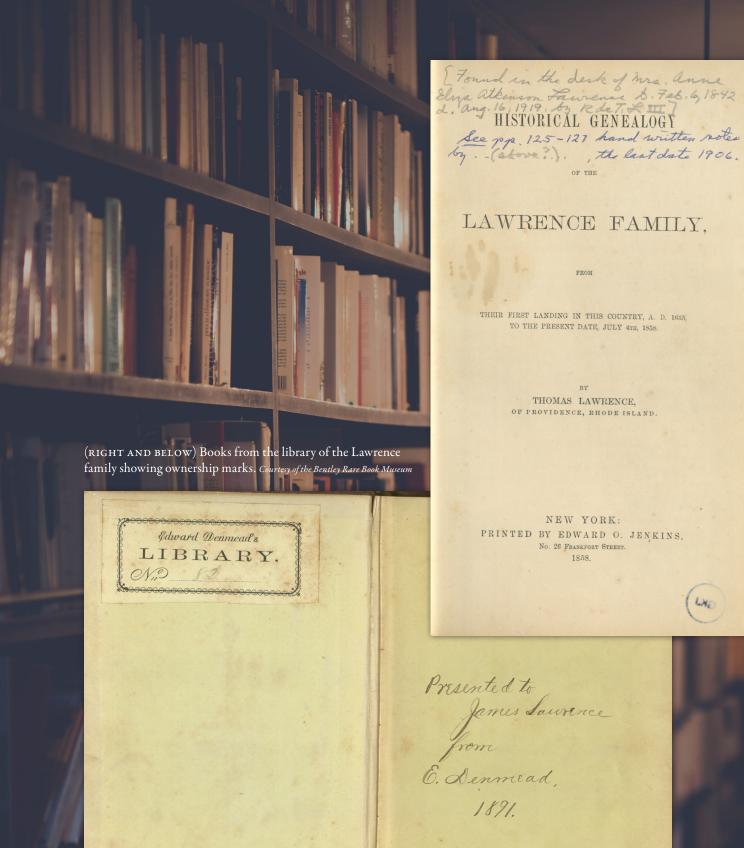
A part of this collection has been on exhibition since December at the main building of the public library. Another section, including 200 volumes on slavery, is a loan to the 135th Street branch of the public library. In addition to American and foreign books, some of them of great age, the collection includes valuable letters and prints recalling notable figures of negro history.

(ABOVE) Article announcing the Carnegie Foundation's purchase of Arturo Schomburg's private collection on African Americana, 1926. Courtesy of the New York Times

Today, Jefferson's collection is the cornerstone of the Library of Congress' holdings.

Other collectors, such as Arturo Schomburg (1875–1938), Henry Folger (1857–1930) and Emily Folger (1858–1936), and J.P. Morgan (1837–1913) spent the better part of their lives developing premier collections in African Americana, Shakespeareana, and rare books and manuscripts, respectively. The name-bearing institutions built from these collections are now considered some of the most distinguished research libraries in the United States.

Some of the most famous private libraries, however, are yet to be found. The most infamous missing library is that of William Shakespeare (1564–1616). Scholars believe that Shakespeare owned and read many books, though no one has uncovered a volume bearing a unique Shakespearean bookplate, ownership signature, or inscription. Today, most scholars believe that Shakespeare's library was sold after his death and has become widely dispersed among private and public collections over the last four hundred years. The hunt for the Bard's library continues to tantalize and elude Shakespeare fans around the globe.



EX-LIBRIS ROBERT DE TREVILLE LAWRENCE III

PRIVATE LIBRARIES THAT WERE PASSED DOWN AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS can serve as rich sources for genealogical research. Robert de Treville Lawrence III (1915-2007), a native of Marietta, was born into a family with ancestral ties throughout Georgia and South Carolina. In 1996, Mr. Lawrence (also known as "Treville") donated his family's manuscript collection to the Bentley Rare Book Gallery alongside the family's private library of 261 books published during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The books cover many subjects including classic literature, history, politics, and religion, yet their greatest attributes are the ownership marks and signatures penned by members of the Lawrence family including Treville's uncle James B. Lawrence and his grandmother Anne Eliza Atkinson Lawrence. These markings provide evidence of familial relationships and show that books were items of value, frequently traveling through several generations of relatives.



(ABOVE) Dr. Thomas Scott (left), Robert de Treville Lawrence III (center), and Robert Williams (right) reviewing historical documents, 1994. Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ron McKee

(ABOVE AND RIGHT) Cover and inscription from a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. owned by Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

To Warten Fether They Sr. —

Some men merely have

sone; others are blessed with

sons, but few men in history

gave to the world such a

gipt as the parente of Manten

Juther King Jr.

In behalf of the human

race, I thank you.

lind I remembe the work

he often gented and I believe,

with you, "We shall be

free — some day."

Block and white together.

Jon the botherhood of men.

Dre 24, 1969

EX-LIBRIS THE KING FAMILY

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER

KING JR. would not be what it is today without books. Dr. King (1929–1968) wrote five books during his lifetime and owned more than one thousand. His scores of speeches are preserved in countless anthologies and scholarly editions that now line the shelves of libraries and classrooms. Less studied, however, are the books that belonged to people Dr. King loved dearly. Thanks to a donation from Frank and Betty Sparti in 2003, the Bentley Rare Book Museum owns a selection of books that were once part of the King family library. Several of these books contain ownership signatures of Dr. King's wife Coretta Scott King and his mother Alberta Williams King. Other books contain heartfelt inscriptions from authors to Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King shortly after their son's assassination. Books from the King family library offer a unique and precious view into the life of an influential family and demonstrate how important books were not only to Dr. King but also to his beloved family members.



(ABOVE) From left to right, Martin Luther King Sr., Alberta Williams King, Coretta Scott King, and Christine King Farris, 1964. Courtesy of Getty Images



EX-LIBRIS DR. HORACE W. STURGIS

PRIVATE LIBRARIES ARE WINDOWS INTO PERSONAL INTERESTS AND AMBITIONS.

Dr. Horace Wilbur Sturgis (1912-1990) was a lifelong educator who served as the inaugural president of Kennesaw Junior College from 1965 until his retirement in 1981. While an abundance of archival sources document Dr. Sturgis's professional accomplishments science, mathematics, and higher education, few sources speak to his interest in rare books. With discriminate taste, Dr. Sturgis collected finely bound nineteenth-century books on British literature and history. Dr. Sturgis acquired several of these books during his trips to the UK with his wife Sue while they pursued family history research. Dr. Sturgis bequeathed his rare book collection to his nephew James Kaebnick who later donated the books to his uncle's eponymous library. These books offer unique insight into one of the most important figures in Kennesaw State University's history.



(ABOVE) Portrait of Dr. Horace Sturgis, circa 1970.

Courtesy of Kennesaw State University Archives and Special Collections



EX-LIBRIS DORIS PRESTON RAMSAY

WHEN A PRIVATE LIBRARY IS AMASSED OVER

A LIFETIME, its books provide a snapshot into an individual's evolving interests and circumstances. Mrs. Doris Preston Ramsay (1929-2023) was a native of Pennsylvania who developed a love of literature at an early age by reading children's books such as the Nancy Drew Mystery Series and Brittanica Junior Encyclopedia for Boys and Girls. As an adult, she continued to read and collect hundreds of books ranging from early twentiethcentury romance novels to literary classics and historical nonfiction. Her career in education and her husband's career in medicine are also represented in the library through antiquarian schoolbooks and medical detective novels. Despite numerous moves and international travels, Mrs. Ramsay's collection remained intact until her death. Mrs. Ramsay's daughter, Mrs. Robin Revennaugh, donated a large portion of her mother's personal library to the Bentley Rare Book Museum in 2023.



(ABOVE) Photograph of Doris Preston Ramsay, 2009.

Courtesy of Robin Revennaugh

Ch. Lxvil. 7.

"commanded you." In sum, "As my Father sent me, so "send I you." Whereunto St. John doth add farther that "having thus spoken he breathed on them and said, Receive "the Holy Ghost*." By which words he must of likelihood understand some gift of the Spirit which was presently at that time bestowed upon them, as both the speech of actual delivery in saying Receive, and the visible sign thereof his breathing did shew. Absurd it were to imagine our Saviour did both to the ear and also to the very eye express a real donation, and they at that time receive nothing.

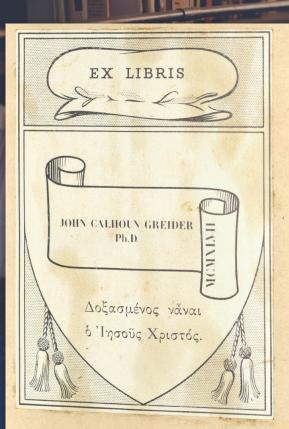
[7.] It resteth then that we search what especial grace they did at that time receive. Touching miraculous power of the Spirit, most apparent it is that as then they received it not, but the promise thereof was to be shortly after performed. The words of St. Luke concerning that power are therefore set down with signification of the time to come † : " Behold I will send "the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry you in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on "high." Wherefore undoubtedly it was some other effect of the Spirit, the Holy Ghost in some other kind which our Saviour did then bestow. What other likelier than that which himself doth mention as it should seem of purpose to take away all ambiguous constructions, and to declare that the Holy Ghost which he then gave was a holy and a ghostly authority, authority over the souls of men, authority a part whereof consisteth in power to remit and retain sins ‡? "Receive the Holy Ghost: whose sins soever ye remit they are remitted; whose sins ye retain they are retained." Whereas therefore the other Evangelists had set down that Christ did before his suffering promise to give his Apostles the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and being risen from the dead promise moreover at that time a miraculous power of the Holy Ghost, St. John addeth that he also invested them even then with the power of the Holy Ghost for castigation and relaxation of sin, wherein was fully accomplished that which the promise of the keys did import.

Seeing therefore that the same power is now given, why should the same form of words expressing it be thought foolish? The cause why we breathe not as Christ did on

* John xx. 22.

† Luke xxiv. 49.

‡ John xx. 23.



(ABOVE AND LEFT) Annotated page and bookplate found in books from Dr. John C. Greider's library.

Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

EX-LIBRIS DR. JOHN C. GREIDER

'N TODAY'S SEEMINGLY ENDLESS REALM OF DIGITAL RESOURCES, it can be easy to forget the role that physical books once played in the lives of past scholars. For humanists like Dr. John C. Greider (1928–2022), collecting books was a necessity rather than a hobby, as books were the keys that unlocked scholarly investigation. Dr. Greider was a founding member of the Kennesaw Junior College faculty in 1966 serving as the first chair of the humanities division and later the chair of the English department. Dr. Greider's vast personal library demonstrates his lifelong dedication to the study of English literature, theology, and classical languages. Bookplates and ownership markings reveal his expertise in Greek and German and prove that several titles were once housed in a church library. The rich collection that enabled Dr. Greider's erudition now partially lies within the Bentley Rare Book Museum thanks to the generosity of Dr. Greider's two children, Wendel Greider and Courtney Greider Sansam.



(ABOVE) Portrait of Dr. John C. Greider, circa 1960.

Courtesy of the Greider Family and Kennesaw State University

Archives and Special Collections

WORDS FROM OUR DONORS

THE BENTLEY RARE BOOK MUSEUM TAKES PRIDE IN PRESERVING AND ACTIVATING THE PERSONAL LIBRARIES OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS. Bentley staff members and assistants take the time to meet with donors, learn the unique stories behind their books, and offer these treasures to the public through teaching, research, and exhibitions. The images and quotes presented here demonstrate the Bentley Rare Book Museum's commitment to thoughtful and community-driven stewardship.

To inquire about making your own donation to the museum, please contact JoyEllen Williams at jfree110@kennesaw.edu.



(ABOVE) Rare book collection of Dr. Horace W. Sturgis housed in the stacks of the Bentley Rare Book Museum, 2024.

"My motive for donating to the Bentley Rare Book Museum is to preserve the legacy of Dr. Sturgis by housing his collection in the climate-controlled KSU Library for all to enjoy. I especially appreciate the diligence and attention to detail of the Special Collections Curator JoyEllen Williams throughout the project. Horace and Sue would be very proud!"

– Jim Kaebnick, nephew of Dr. Horace W. Sturgis and Mrs. Sue Sturgis

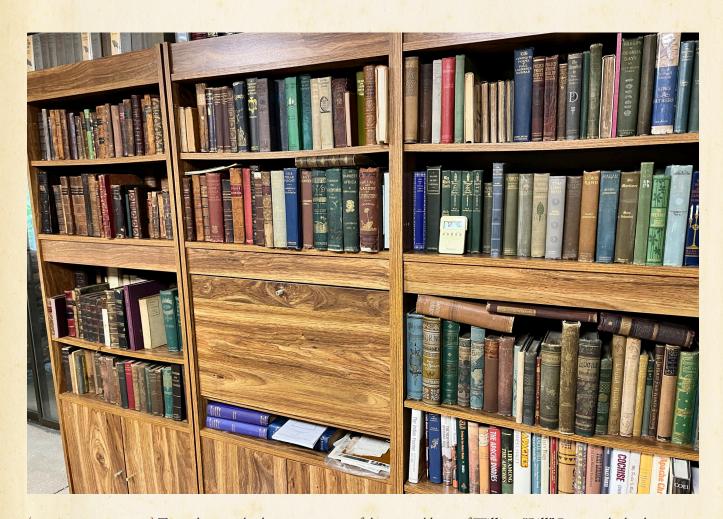


(ABOVE) A photograph of Jim Kaebnick and JoyEllen Williams completing donation paperwork in his home.



"I began to realize that certain parts of my extensive book collection needed to find a home where they would be available to the public. Having already donated to university libraries, my research brought me to the Bentley Rare Book Museum where I worked with JoyEllen Williams to determine the Museum's needs. My first donation included books by prominent Black authors, followed by unique religious books. Most recently, I added textbooks from the late 1800s to the budding collection."

– William Berger, Book collector and Bentley Rare Book Museum donor



(ABOVE AND OPPOSITE) These photographs show two sections of the private library of William "Bill" Berger, who has been donating books to the Bentley Rare Book Museum since 2019. Courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum

IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SUCCESS

THE BENTLEY RARE BOOK MUSEUM IS EXCEEDINGLY GRATEFUL TO DRS. CAROLA AND HERB MATTORD for endowing the rare book room with a scholarship for undergraduate students. The Mattord Family Scholarship enables English and humanities students at KSU to engage in guided rare book research and produce publishable work on a topic of their choice. Learn more about the Mattord Family Scholarship by scanning the QR code, and read the image captions here to see how KSU students engage with rare books.

SCAN HERE:



(BELOW) Alyssa Casey '26 is the inaugural recipient of the Mattord Family Scholarship for the Bentley Rare Book Museum.

All images on this spread are courtesy of the Bentley Rare Book Museum





(LEFT)

Tatiana Reyes '22 studies a nineteenthcentury text on the Greek War of Independence.

(BELOW)
Abigail Mead '21 and
Morgan Bendzinski

'21 create a custom phase box for a rare book.





Final Acknowledgments

This exhibition celebrates the work of many people. First and foremost, I'd like to thank every donor who has trusted the Bentley Rare Book Museum to nurture their personal library or the personal library of a relative. We promise to always do our best to serve you and the books you've generously shared with us. Thank you for making the Bentley Rare Book Museum a library of libraries.

Next, I would like to acknowledge the Bentley Rare Book Museum's founding curator, Mr. Robert Williams, and the collection's namesake, Mr. Fred Bentley Sr., for envisioning a rare book collection at Kennesaw College and making this vision a reality. I also thank the current leaders of KSU's Museums, Archives, Rare Books, and University Libraries (MARBL) including Dr. Catherine Lewis, Dr. Tamara Livingston, Dr. Jennifer Dickey, and Stefanie Green. Many thanks to you all for leading such a dynamic department and for enabling me to do the work I love.

I extend a tremendous amount of thanks to Mad Dworschak and Tony Howell for designing and installing this exhibition, respectively. I heavily thank Kelly Hoomes, Adina Langer, and Kate Matheny for research assistance and editing. I am exceedingly grateful to Katie Hegebarth for providing administrative support throughout the exhibition process and to Courtney Gardner for promoting the exhibition and coordinating the opening reception. Many thanks to all the members of MARBL who assisted with this exhibition in any way. I appreciate you all so much.

Finally, I would like to thank President Kathy Schwaig and Provost Ivan Pulinkala for their strong and excellent leadership of Kennesaw State University. Thank you for supporting the Bentley Rare Book Museum and its initiatives.

Sincerely,

JoyEllen Williams, Curator









KENNESAW STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y
MUSEUMS, ARCHIVES
AND RARE BOOKS