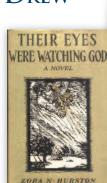
THE GLEN SERGEON COLLECTION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE COMES TO DREW

by Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger

he collection of African American literature created by Drew alumnus Glen Sergeon C'72 is clearly a labor of love. Eclectic and serendipitous, it was shaped by his personal literary interests, rather than with the intention of amassing a checklist of high spots. While at Drew, Sergeon met Professor of English Joan Steiner, who had been tasked with developing curricula that focused on African American literature. As he gratefully recalled, together they became students of that field, which remained a passionate interest. Sergeon also stayed in touch with former Drew professor Calvin Skaggs, and it was in the course of their conversations that he decided to donate his collection to Drew.

Under the guidance of New York book dealer Glen Horowitz, Sergeon learned to narrow his focus and sharpen his collector's eye. The collection's 75 volumes include a number of works by towering figures of the Harlem Renaissance: Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay and Richard Wright. Novelists and poets James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Paule Marshall, Ishmael Reed, Sapphire, Derek Walcott and Al Young are represented, often with signed copies of their works. There are memoirs, biographies, anthologies of black writers, and studies of black culture.

The collection also includes nearly 30 works of fiction and non-fiction (with uncorrected proofs for four novels) by John Alfred Williams, who became a personal friend of Sergeon. Another friend and correspondent was the poet Lucille Clifton, whom Sergeon, as president of Drew's black student association, invited to give a reading at Drew following the publication of her acclaimed volume, *Good Times*. She remained one of his favorite writers.





Three works in the collection are not by African American authors: Helen Bannerman's children's book, *The Story of Little Black Mingo;* George Bernard Shaw's short story, *The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God;* and Rackham Holt's *George Washington Carver: An American Biography.* The first was meant to entertain, the second to persuade and provoke, and the third to instruct and inspire.

continued on page 6



Vivian Bull, honorary chair of the tenth biennial University Library Benefit Dinner, with guest author David Reynolds, and Gala hosts Lynn Heft and Andrew Scrimgeour.

Friends Gala Revisits an American Classic

he night was unseasonably warm, so attendees at the tenth Library Gala on January 19 did not have to brave the usual cold. Many of our friends are saying it was the best Gala yet. The featured author-scholar, David Reynolds, spoke engagingly of the impact of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* on American history and culture. Our guests are saying they are now eager to read his book, *Mightier than the Sword: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Battle for America* and even (re)read *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Professor Reynolds stated that the Q and A session was the best he had experienced in a long time.

The audience walked to Mead Hall along a pathway glowing with luminaria. At the conclusion of the cocktail hour, President Vivian Bull gave greetings, followed by the announcement of the Béla Kornitzer

continued on pages 4 and 5



THE DEAN'S CORNER

BONDS OF AFFECTION



Books have long evoked deep emotion from their readers and owners. Libraries have, too. Especially the public library of one's youth. Even the library where one studied during college days often enjoys similar sentimental status. These bonds of affection also extend to the smaller collections accumulated book by book by scholars over the course of their careers—attachments that abound among their students, colleagues, and families.

spines of my indispensable

library... and wonder how,

when beyond the grave,

I could possibly not care

about it anymore."

I know this to be true, because of the mail that I have received in response to my recent essay in *The New York*Times Book Review—a piece that explored my thoughts and feelings when I dismantle the library of a scholar upon her or his death and prepare it for transport to the Drew University Library.¹ These letters carried such pathos and craft of language that I wanted a larger audience to enjoy a sampling.

A professor league who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had [seeing] a book by startling and jarra about my colleague who had about my colleague

The son of the theologian Robert McAfee Brown wrote:

My dad died in 2001. Almost 10 years later, a librarian at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California dealt with us as though these books were living reflections of him. The process extended our time and enabled us to say goodbye in even deeper and more resonant ways.

It's a sad business — the wrapping up and the transposing of something that mirrors the heart of someone you love — but [he] made us feel as though the books, and the thought they represented, were still intricately connected to the mind and soul of our Papa.

Several writers sent me copies of books and articles they had published. Among them was Christopher De Vinck. He sensed what had prompted my written meditation:

To know that we are living a unique experience not to be lived again gives us a sense of immediate contemplation.

The daughter of a rabbi wrote:

The house of my parents had an entire floor designated as "Abba's Library".... It was there that so many of the mysteries of the world were resolved with books, and questions that my school-teachers did not answer to my satisfaction were clarified with the guidance of my father and his library.... When I randomly take one of his books in my hands and begin to read, I am reconnected with [him]....

The former provost of Lafayette College, June Schleuter, wrote:

When I peruse my 12-foot wall of Shakespeare books or feel the warmth of my "scriptorium" envelop me as I struggle with the next academic essay or book, I look with affection at the spines of my indispensable library—perhaps the best of its kind—and wonder how, when beyond the grave, I could possibly not care about it anymore.

Michael Lydon paid tribute to the library of an historian that filled an old white house in the New Hampshire countryside and mused: "What is a book? Why is a book? How do books survive the long years when no one opens their pages? How from this sleep can they spring to life the moment our eyes take in their opening words?"

A professor in Michigan wrote about a faculty colleague who had extreme eclectic tastes: "The experience of [seeing] a book by Lenny Bruce right next to a Greek lexicon was startling and jarring, but also made me sense something new about my colleague and his pattern of thought."

And the mail was not without humor. A professor

wrote that his wife said that he had enjoyed my essay because he wanted to be a scholar whose personal library would be sought out by others. "Want to be?" he retorted. "I thought I already was!"

I chuckled when I read the perspective of a used bookstore owner:

At parties, or when visiting a new friend's apartment, I forgo the awkward introductions and small talk and beeline for

the bookshelf. Not only is it a good place for a socially awkward person to hide while appearing engaged and intelligent, it's also—as any good sleuth knows—the best place in a person's apartment to suss her out as a potential friend, lover, stalker, or bore. A cursory glance suggests her interests and tastes, but an informed investigation of a bookshelf is often more revealing than talking.

One scholar chided me for ruining an otherwise fine essay by mentioning the growing popularity of e-books. Interestingly, no one wrote about the delights of reading on a Kindle or iPad. Can there be abiding affection for things that are not meant to last but a few years, even if they reside in designer cases? I wonder.

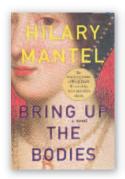
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¹December 30, 2012.

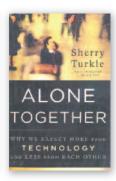
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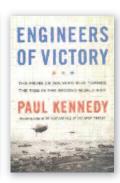
WHAT WAS THE BEST BOOK YOU READ IN THE PAST YEAR?

Here are Responses from the Drew Community









Jason Fein, Director of Athletics

A great novel called *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach (Little, Brown, 2011). On the surface, it's a story about a baseball team and the administration, specifically the President, at a small liberal arts college (sound familiar?). But beneath the surface, it's really an in-depth story about family, friendship and commitment. It's a great read.

Perry Leavell, Professor of History, Emeritus

I loved Hilary Mantel's *Bring Up the Bodies* (Henry Holt, 2012). She brings historical fiction alive, mingling drama and the past in a style that somehow combines the distance of the 16th century with the clarity of the 21st.

Gamin Bartle, Director, Instructional Technology Services

Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other by Sherry Turkle (Basic Books, 2011). I had the chance to read it carefully during the power outage after the hurricane last fall, sometimes by candlelight. For me, this book is meaningful because it speaks to the intentional use of technology. We are letting it use us instead of the other way around, and, as Turkle concludes: "We deserve better. When we remind ourselves that it is we who decide how to keep technology busy, we shall have better."

Ernest Rubinstein, Theological Librarian

Moby Dick by Herman Melville. Finally, after many past attempts. Forget Ahab and the white whale and read for the undulating evocations of life at sea.

Norman Tomlinson, Retired Publisher and Donor to the Drew Library

Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned the Tide in the Second World War by Paul Kennedy (Random House, 2013). I liked this book because it didn't focus on generals and heads of state but rather on the unsung people who had great expertise in tackling a particular problem and who were closer to the action.

Kenneth Alexo Jr., Vice President, University Advancement

Nietzsche: The Ethics of an Immoralist by Peter Berkowitz (Harvard University Press, 1995). Berkowitz presents a textually faithful, provocative, and eminently readable interpretation of Nietzsche's ethical and political thought, challenging the now orthodox view that Nietzsche is the prophet of perspectivism—and the source of today's postmodernism. He convincingly shows that Nietzsche is more than just a little bit of a Platonist.

Sara Webb, Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper, 2012). Kingsolver is both a novelist and a scientist, and her most recent novel is an engaging read. Here she weaves a story grounded in the beauty of nature, specifically the remarkable but fragile migration of butterflies, and in the conflict between protecting biodiversity and making ends meet. The book offers a not-so-subtle reminder to environmental scientists to get our heads out of the sand.

Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger

Portrait of a Turkish Family by Irfan Orga (Eland, 2002, first published in 1950, later revised and enlarged). A riveting memoir of Orga's family during the last days of the Ottoman Empire and their experiences during World War I and after.

Catherine Keller, Professor, Constructive Theology

A World of Becoming by William E. Connolly (Duke University Press, 2010). Enfolding questions of planetary politics, global economies, perilous ecologies in a meditation on becoming, the political philosopher draws from philosophy, biology, films and even theology to stimulate reflection on the entangled force fields that make us up. The dangers of the "capitalist-evangelical resonance machine" are countered by the resonances across disciplines, movements and species that foster a world of differential pluralism.

Dean Criares C '85, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Drew University

Pinstripe Empire: The New York Yankees from Before the Babe to After the Boss by Marty Appel (Bloomsbury, 2012). Any Yankee fan will appreciate the complete detail and history of the Pinstripes' organization.

Sean Nevin, Director, MFA in Poetry and Poetry in Translation

The Stick Soldiers by Hugh Martin (Boa Editions, 2013). Martin's first full-length collection of poetry won the A. Poulin Jr. Prize from Boa Editions. It presents the stark witnessing of an Iraqi combat veteran trying to negotiate cultures in a time of war. This important book reminds us not only of the human costs of war but the power of the unflinching poetic eye.

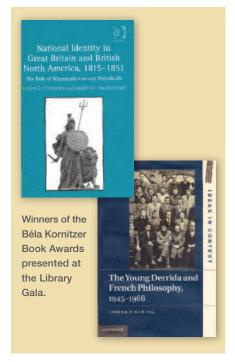


GALA CELEBRATION

continued from page 1

Book Awards. That announcement will long be remembered as unique, for Noémi Neidorff, whose parents established the award, greeted us and named the winners from her home in St. Louis through the magic of video technology.

The outstanding book by an alumnus went to Linda E. Connors C'64 for National Identity in Great Britain and British North America, 1815–1851: The Role of Nineteenth-Century Periodicals (Ashgate, 2011). And the outstanding book by a faculty member was awarded to Edward Baring, assistant professor of Modern European Intellectual and Cultural History, for The Young Derrida and French Philosophy, 1945–1968 (Cambridge University Press, 2011).



The book endowment that the Friends of the Library established under the leadership of Dr. Lynn Heft, grows with each Gala. That largesse has enabled the Library to add books to the stacks, and now e-books to the virtual stacks, beyond the purchasing power of the Library budget. At the last Gala, Dean Scrimgeour reported that the endowment had contributed \$38,000 to the book budget in 2010–11. This year it is adding \$112,000 to the budget. What a difference the growing endowment makes.





Dean Scrimgeour brought the program at the cocktail hour to an end with these words:

In this bleak mid-winter,
darkness stretching longer than day,
lights blaze in the library
where books surrender
to eager hands on the over-sized tables
and scoot up and down and sideways
on the luminous screens of portable
plastic libraries—

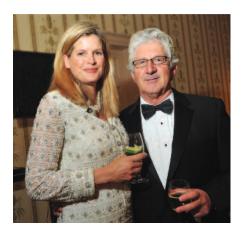
places all where authors are at the beck and call of readers

at any hour, heat wave or hoarfrost.

He continued, "You make it so. May it always be so. Thank you for being part of this tradition. Let's go down to dinner."









(Above) Kornitzer Awards: Benefactor Noémi Neidorff presented the awards via video from her home in St. Louis to alumna Linda E. Connors C'64 (center) and to History Professor Edward Baring. (Left) Professor Lillie Edwards accepted the faculty award on behalf of her colleague Professor Baring.









Advice For Constant Readers

by Jennifer Heise, Reference Librarian and Web Manager

hat shall I read next?" is a question that confronts voracious readers a few times a month, week, or day. Even if we have a teetering to-read pile on our bedside table, which ones will fit our reading mood?

Many years ago—when library floors were still marble, reference desks still mahogany, and computers a distant dream of the future—librarians tackled that "What's next" question with a service called "Readers' Advisory," designed to help match readers with "read-alikes" and themed fiction.

The advent of the Internet—connecting librarians and bibliophiles world-wide—offered a great opportunity. Information about books and their readers' preferences could not only be collected, but also conglomerated into databases and made accessible to help other readers pick books! Advanced "web 2.0" social media powered these applications. Now readers' advisory and recommendation tools proliferate. Allow us to recommend a few!

NoveList

bit.ly/13KkKPJ

This subscription service, available to those with NJ Library cards, is the online equivalent of the books librarians use to bolster their own experience in readers' advisory. Look up an author or title to find reviews, popularity ratings, and suggested read-alikes for the author, title, and, if applicable, series. Not too flashy, but comprehensive and solid.

Goodreads

goodreads.com/

Goodreads—now owned by Amazon—is the giant of the online reading communities. Users rate books, post reviews, and make subject lists. Looking up a book or author lets you see reviews and ratings as well as "Readers also enjoyed" suggestions. You can search and view information without an account, but setting one up lets you save your book lists and target recommendations from people you know.

Literature Map

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If you like your suggestions visual—or are interested in a map of the literary world—try Literature Map. In the mood for something like Trollope? Enter Trollope, and the system displays a visual constellation of authors that others who enjoy Trollope also read. The closer the correspondence, the nearer the other author's name; to explore further, click on a related author—say, Patricia Wentworth—to see a map of books similar to hers.

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SERGEON continued from page 1

The personal interests and private experiences that led to the formation of Glen Sergeon's collection lend an air of intimacy to the whole. His deeply felt pleasure in these books, as well as his admiration for and empathetic understanding of the authors, seem almost palpable. In the words of Langston Hughes:

"Dream singers,/Story tellers,/ Dancers,/Loudlaughers in the hands of Fate—/My people."

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Enclosed is my/our gift to the Drew University Library at the level of:		Name (please print)
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SCIENCE LIBRARIAN CATHY RYAN RETIRES

Cathy Ryan, the Science Reference Librarian since 2005, retired in November, starting a new phase of her life in upstate New York. She began her affiliation with the Library

in 2004, working in the Government Documents office as an associate, but, with an MLS and a degree in biology, she stepped into the position of Science Reference Librarian



when it became vacant.

Under her aegis, the library in Hall of Sciences was shifted into the Library, relationships with the University's RISE program were strengthened, and the science faculty's use of the Library for both their own research and that of their students expanded. Ms. Ryan often attended poster sessions, honors defenses and honor society meetings, forging strong bonds with students in the sciences. In fact, in the Library's community survey last year, in response to the question, "What should NOT be changed?" one student answered forcefully, "The library should not change Cathy Ryan. She's amazing." We agree.



UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

Conversations on Collecting

Hosted by the Friends of the Library, 4 – 5 p.m., Pilling Room, Rose Library

September 18

"Remembering and Collecting Doris Lessing" Paul Schleuter

Dr. Schleuter, an independent scholar, will reflect on how "The Golden Notebook" captured his interest in Lessing in 1964, flowered into a friendship with her that's endured almost a halfcentury, and shaped his collecting. Schleuter was initially introduced to Lessing's work by Harry T. Moore, the D. H. Lawrence biographer. Moore became Schleuter's doctoral advisor. That same year, when the author of a planned essay on Lessing suddenly died and the book the essay was intended for was ready for Southern Illinois University Press, Moore asked Schleuter to read everything by her that had been published, write the essay, and submit it to SIUP-all within two weeks.

October 23

"Jacob Landau, Illustrator: The Counterpoint of Painter and Poet" David Sten Herrstrom

A conversation to revolve around Landau's illustrations to writers from

Dante to Hawthorne, all of which reside in the Drew University Archives. As Landau has said, "Rhythm drives my work. ... I feel the need for a rhythmic correlation with other rhythmic aspects of the composition." Talking about some of these correlations, Dr. Herrstrom will invite everyone to see the music.

Book Receptions

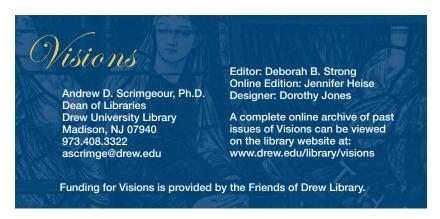
Hosted by the Theological School and the Drew University Library, 4 – 5 p.m., Library Lobby

April 24, 2013

Book Reception celebrating the publication of two books by Chris Anderson, Methodist Librarian and Coordinator of Special Collections: The Centenary Celebration of American Methodist Missions: The 1919 World's Fair of Evangelical Americanism (Edwin Mellen Press, 2012) and Voices from the Fair: Race, Gender, and the American Nation at a Methodist Missionary Exposition (Emeth Press, 2012).

October 16, 2013, 4 p.m.

Book Reception to mark the publication of John McEllhenney's *A Masterwork of Doubting-Belief: R.S. Thomas and His Poetry* (Wipf & Stock, 2013).



LIBRARY EXHIBITS

MAIN LIBRARY

Thomas H. Kean Gallery

The Library is featuring an exhibit honoring Thomas H. Kean, former governor of New Jersey (1982 – 1990) and president of Drew University (1990 – 2005), in the newly completed Thomas H. Kean Reading Room and Gallery. Curated by Masato Okinaka, Library Conservator.

The Glen Sergeon C'72, Collection of African American Literature

February 28 - August 15, 2013

The collection of African American literature donated by Drew alumnus Glen Sergeon C'72 was shaped by the literary interests he formed while a student of the late Professor Joan Steiner. A representative selection on display in the library entrance includes important works from the Harlem Renaissance, first editions of Ralph Ellison and Zora Neale Hurston, modern poetry, studies of George Washington Carver and Martin Luther King, Jr., an early children's book, and a lesser-known short story by George Bernard Shaw. Curated by Lucy Marks, Special Collections Cataloger.

METHODIST LIBRARY

"... For the Cause of Freedoom": The Prophetic Ministry of Bishop Gilbert Haven and the Rev. Frank Mason North

February 28 - September 30, 2013

The General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church has mounted an exhibition which highlights the writings and work of Bishop Haven of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was a strong abolitionist and an advocate for civil rights following the Civil War, and the Rev. North, who was involved in developing an urban ministry to the poor and the creation of the Social Creed during the Progressive Era. The exhibit showcases documents from the recently acquired papers of Bishop Haven.