

INFORMATION

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Number 90

For Users
and Benefactors

After a successful debut in New York City,
Odyssey comes home to Washington, D.C.



At the May 15 *Odyssey in Print* opening reception, Smithsonian Secretary Lawrence Small spoke about the genesis of the Institution and the contributions the Libraries has consistently made to the Institution's growth and continued development.

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Having made its successful debut at Manhattan's prestigious Grolier Club in May 2001 under the title *Voyages: A Smithsonian Libraries Exhibition*, a new version, renamed *Odyssey in Print: Adventures in Smithsonian Libraries*, opened to the public on May 16, 2002, in the Smithsonian Libraries Gallery in the National Museum of American History, Behring Center. On display are more than 100 examples of the Libraries' most visually alluring and historically valuable works, organized in three segments: 'Journeys Over Land and Sea,' 'Journeys of the Mind,' and 'Journeys of the Imagination.' So

extensive is this survey of the Libraries' holdings, that the exhibition will be divided into a rotation of three different displays over a period of 18 months. Among the show's highlights are rare books published before the invention of the printing press, works by adventurous explorers like South Pole navigator James Cook and pilot Charles Lindbergh, scientific pioneers such as Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton, and artists such as Albrecht Dürer and Walter Crane. Pop-up and

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Libraries Reorganizes in Response to New Demands



New Assistant Director Sherry Kelley

Readers may recognize Sherry Kelley as a leader in cataloging management, who, with her staff, is responsible for advances made in metatagging data for easy retrieval by researchers and for the careful, orderly integration of acquisitions into the collection. In March, Sherry joined the Director's Office staff as Assistant Director, Technical Services and Administration. She now oversees administrative services, such as human resources, procurement, contracts, statistics and performance measures, and accounting as well as acquisitions, cataloging, and preservation.

Sherry's move is just one of the many changes occurring at SIL, which include, among others, the creation of the New Media Office within the Information Systems Division. The reorganization of internal machinery was sparked by SIL's unique and changing position within the Smithsonian itself. As an internal service provider, meeting the needs of curators and researchers, and now increasingly, a public educator via its exhibitions and Web site, SIL faces exciting challenges in the new millennium. The speed of technology and the competition for resources and audience is effecting a broadening of horizons for SIL, and SIL is responding with increased efficiency, inter-organizational collaborations, and a wealth of new offerings and innovative projects.

from the director's office

Letter from the Director

It's a hot day in July as I write this. The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, this year featuring The Silk Road, is being dismantled out on the Mall. Many of our staff are taking hard-earned vacations. They need them, for the Libraries has accomplished a lot this year with much more to come.

Elsewhere in this issue is a story on the "Galaxy of Knowledge," SIL's portal to the Libraries' collections and services. This completely redesigned website has far more content and can now be easily accessed with superb navigational tools. What an amazing change from our early attempts five years ago to use the Internet as a major vehicle to reach out to a broader public! At that time we produced a planning document that outlined what we thought it would take in terms of staff and resources to add this dimension to our services. It seemed overwhelming.

As in many new enterprises, we had to learn and train ourselves, locating staff from across the Libraries with the interest to forge ahead in this new world, while hiring just one new staff member to bring in new technical skills. A recent reorganization consolidated this fragmented effort into a New Media Office, equipped now with experienced personnel who can produce sophisticated products that are well-designed, visually appealing, and easy to navigate and use. It's still small, but so embedded in our superstructure that we've almost *continued on page 4*



Nancy E. Gwinn

Libraries Bids Rhoda Ratner a Fond Farewell

In March, Rhoda Ratner retired from SIL after nearly 25 years of service. Known Smithsonian-wide for her adventurous sojourns to unusual locations, her keen fashion sense, and her passion for trade literature, Rhoda was an inspirational and enriching figure in the SIL community. She began her SIL career as the librarian in the Museum Reference Center and later moved to the American History Library, where she became Head of the History and Culture Department. Most recently, she served as SIL's Interim Assistant Director for Research Services.

While at American History, Rhoda developed vital connections with curatorial staff and worked to make the library a hub of scholarly activity within the museum. Meanwhile, she

pursued her greatest love, SIL's superb trade literature collection. Thanks to Rhoda's avid collecting, the collection, which currently numbers over 300,000 catalogs from over 30,000 companies, along with a wealth of other related ephemera, is America's largest.

Highly respected for her pragmatism and organizational acumen, Rhoda will be deeply missed by both SIL and by those who have worked with her so closely over the last quarter century.



At a party held in her honor, Rhoda Ratner felt the gratitude of friends and colleagues with whom she worked during her nearly 25 years at SIL. Above, Director Nancy E. Gwinn presents Rhoda with one of many mementoes.

from the new media office

'Galaxy of Knowledge,' a Digital Portal to the Collections

Ranging from art to zoos, SIL collections mirror the variety and depth of the Institution's museum and research centers. Likewise, SIL's digitization efforts range over a diverse body of materials. With its new Website, 'Galaxy of Knowledge,' SIL can now present its collection in a format and context that aids teaching, research and exploration.

SIL's Digital Editions collection features an ever-growing assortment of rare volumes from the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and SIL's natural history collections. To date these include nine titles, notably: Tycho Brahe's *Astronomiæ instauratæ mechanica* (1602), which focuses on astronomy; Jacques Dauphinois Besson's *Theatrum instrumentorum et machinarum* (1578), which features engineering; and Joachim Johann Nepomuk Spalowsky's *Prodrromus in Systema Historicum Testaceorum* (1795 [1801 issue]), an important work on mollusks, of which only a dozen copies



The new SIL Web site, 'Galaxy of Knowledge'

are known. Though the primary audience for these editions is scientific researchers, the lavish illustrations offer a wide variety of cross-disciplinary uses.

Forthcoming digital editions include additional rare titles in natural history, over 900 portraits of scientists and inventors, selections from the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology series, nearly 1,000 items from Smithsonian trade literature collections relating to

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The Technology Behind Digital Editions

Just how do rare books get from the shelf to the Internet? The process starts in an erstwhile factory building in Northeast Washington, which is home to the SIL Imaging Center. Using an adjustable book stand, so that fragile volumes can be opened at angles that



Technician David Holbert uses sophisticated scanning equipment to digitize rare and out of print books.

pose no danger to their bindings, David Holbert and Imaging Center technicians use a Hasselblad 35mm medium format camera with an 80mm or 150 mm lens to take images of at least 400 dpi. Each super-TIFF image is then sent to a Power Macintosh G3, where it is burned onto CD. One volume alone may necessitate the use of 100 or more CDs, which can each hold only four or five pages, depending on the size of the files. Martin Kalfatovic, Digital Projects Librarian and Head of the New Media Office, oversees the workings of the Imaging Center from his office on the Mall and regularly harvests this 'raw material,' the high resolution scans, which his office will turn into the digital editions available online. Web designer Nicole Van Doren creates a visually appealing framework for navigating each book. It is a lengthy and costly procedure. One page can take several minutes to process, and SIL relies heavily on gifts and grants to subsidize the digitization of each volume or series. However, such offerings are crucial to making vital research materials available on an international level, one of SIL's principal goals.

Meet Digital Imaging Specialist Nicole Van Doren

Nicole Van Doren joined SIL's Information Systems Division in September 2001 as the Digital Imaging Specialist. Although relatively new to SIL, she has quickly become integral to the workings of the New Media Office and will play a tremendous role in the look and feel of the new Smithsonian Libraries' Web site. Her job is crucial, as the newly redesigned 'Galaxy of



Nicole Van Doren produced the new design for 'Galaxy.'

'Knowledge' is SIL's chief public presence.

Nicole is a Web-design veteran with impressive credentials. She has worked for such organizations as Sylvan Learning Systems, Verio Interactive and, most recently, e-advocates, a small online advocacy firm, where she was the creative director. While at e-advocates she designed and developed web sites for a variety of clients including Yahoo!, the National Park Safety Campaign, and the Stop Family Violence Campaign whose site went on to win the 2001 Pollie Award (the American Association of Political Consultants' highest award).

Nicole takes evening classes at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and loves to read, journal, and paint furniture. She lives in Annapolis, Maryland with her husband, Jon and a white German Shepherd named Zoe.

Letter from the Director

continued from page 1

forgotten the move from wondering "how can we do this?" to the realization that the digital world has become a routine aspect of our collections and services.

With the initial learning curve behind us, SIL is leading in several partnership projects with Smithsonian museums. With the assistance of curators in the National Museum of American History, SIL is mounting portions of our fascinating trade literature collection on the Internet. Sewing machines and scientific instruments are the first two categories, but there will be more to come. With the National Museum of Natural History, SIL has embarked on preparing a digital edition of a 63-volume set called the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, the seminal work on the flora and fauna of Central America. These projects will create entirely new audiences for works that are fragile and unavailable to most of the population. What an exciting business to be in!

On my desk is a saying: "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence." Our experience in the digital world proves the truth of these words.

~ Nancy E. Gwinn

Odyssey in Print Opens

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artist books from the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library provide a glimpse of yet another imaginative realm.

Odyssey in Print runs until December 2003. Enjoy a digital version at:

www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/odyssey

development watch

Meet the Libraries Board

Margery F. Masinter

Margery F. Masinter of White Plains, New York holds a Master's Degree in the History of Decorative Arts from the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum/Parsons School of Design and is an active volunteer in both the Cooper-Hewitt Library and the Museum's Drawings and Prints Department. She is a former trustee and past president of the Neuberger Museum of Art and a former trustee of the Westchester Arts Council, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum at Connecticut College, Grand Street Settlement in New York City, and Snake River Institute in Wilson, Wyoming. She was also a Public Relations Manager with Neiman-Marcus and a founder/producer of the Playmakers Theater for Children. Her husband, Edgar M. Masinter is a retired partner of Simpson, Thatcher and Bartlett in New York City and is currently a Managing Director at J. P. Morgan, Chase & Co. He joined the



Margery Masinter

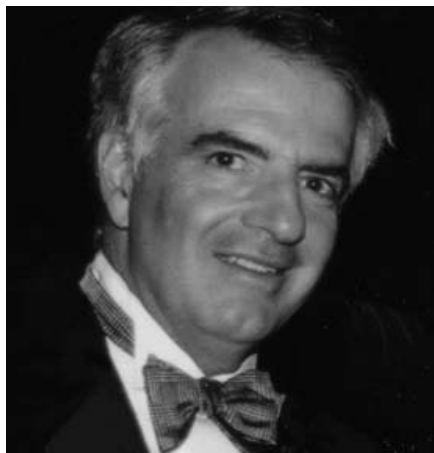
Smithsonian National Board in 2001.

The Masinters have been among the Libraries Board's most generous donors to date. A member of the Libraries' Campaign Steering Committee, Margery has recently completed a three-year pledge to support activities of the Cooper-Hewitt Library. In response to the launch of the Libraries' Partners in Discovery campaign, the Masinters have recently made a commitment to

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Frank J. Quirk

Frank J. Quirk of Alexandria, Virginia is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Macro International Inc., a business, research and technology consulting company he helped to found. He has been CEO since 1980. Since 1999, he has also been Executive Vice President and Director of Opinion Research Corporation, and he is a past Director of Ameribank (1992-1995). He received undergraduate and Masters of Business Administration degrees from Cornell University and is serving his



Frank J. Quirk

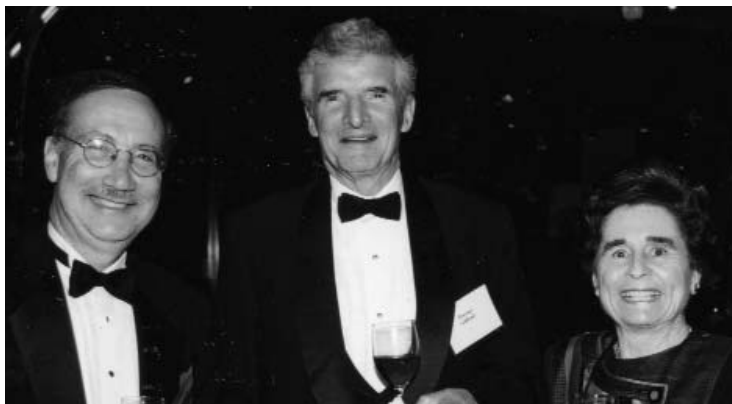
third term on the Cornell University Council (1999-2003). Frank is also on the Board of Directors of the Professional Services Council, a trade association in the Washington metropolitan area representing over 130 professional and technical services firms. He and his wife Betty are very interested in the Smithsonian Institution and have

recently established The Frank J. and Betty M. Quirk Endowment at the Libraries, income from which will be used to support technology activities, programs, and equipment to further the goals of the Libraries' New Media Office.

Frank is an active member of the Libraries' Campaign Steering Committee.

development watch

2002 Baird Society Benefactors Dinner



Acting American History Director Marc Pachter with Libraries Board members, Mr. and Mrs. Prosser and Shirley Gifford at SIL's annual Baird Society dinner.

Harkening back to the beginning of the 20th century, the 3rd annual Spencer Baird Society Benefactors Dinner on April 22, 2002, featured a highly entertaining presentation on Theodore and Edith Roosevelt's Washington by Edmund Morris and Sylvia Jukes Morris at the National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Baird Society members and guests of the Museum were welcomed first with a reception held at the exhibition *The American Presidency, A Glorious Burden*. After the reception, guests were escorted back in time to a gold-washed setting in the Museum's Flag Hall, at the entrance to the Roosevelt-era façade of the White House opening into the Hall of First Ladies.

After consuming wild mushroom salad, herb encrusted sea bass and asparagus, and bittersweet chocolate pecan bourbon cake with homemade vanilla ice cream, Benefactors and guests were treated to a rare dual talk by the Morrises, both renowned biographers, he of Theodore Roosevelt and she of Edith Kermit Roosevelt, among others. Seamlessly moving back and forth between them, the Morrises painted a lively picture of life in Washington during the Roosevelts' tenure in the White House. Complete with excerpts from their correspondence and the liberal use of period accents and even snatches of song, the presentation highlighted an era when all seemed possible.

The Morrises were introduced by Nancy

Gwinn, Director of the Libraries, and Marc Pachter, Acting Director of the National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Both directors noted the synergy between the Smithsonian Libraries and the Institution's museums with respect to both research and exhibition/public outreach. The Spencer

Baird Society enables the Libraries to advance its ability to care for and enhance the nation's collections in support of the Smithsonian's mission.

- Gwen Leighty



Board member Dr. Beatrice Taylor and her husband, Norman O. Taylor.

Margery Masinter

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establish the Margery F. and Edgar M. Masinter Endowment for Illustrated Books, a fund that will enable the Libraries to acquire and preserve illustrated works in all subject areas of the Libraries' holdings. Libraries Director Nancy E. Gwinn called this pledge "an inspired and generous gift, showing clearly that Margery and Edgar Masinter understand the nature of our museum library collections and our need to continually enhance and protect our books for the use of future generations."

Partners in Discovery Campaign Receives Major Board Gifts

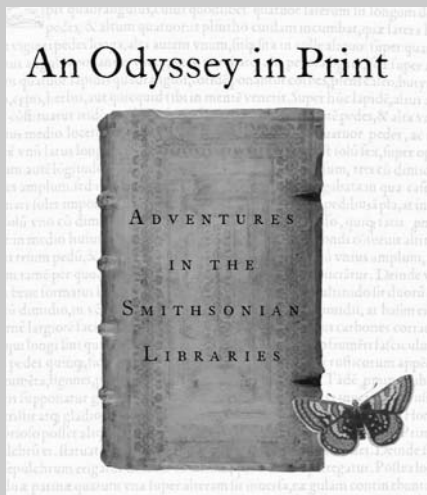


Jay W. Freedman is one of several Board members, who have made generous gifts to the Libraries

Members of the Smithsonian Libraries Board have made gifts and pledges in recent months totaling \$500,000 in support of the Libraries' \$20 million capital campaign, 'Partners in Discovery.' Board Chair Rosemary Livingston Ripley has pledged to support the S. Dillon Ripley Library Endowment, an acquisitions endowment established in honor of her father's 80th birthday in 1993. Vice Chair Brian J. Heidtke and his wife, Darlene, have made a pledge over five years to support the Libraries' book preservation program. Frank J. Quirk and his wife Betty have made a pledge to increase their technology endowment, established in 2000. Margery F. Masinter and her husband Edgar have made a five-year pledge to establish an endowment supporting the acquisition and preservation of illustrated books in the Libraries' collections. And Jay W. Freedman has made an unrestricted five-year pledge to the campaign, the first installment of which will be used to help purchase a second high-end camera for the Libraries' Imaging Center.

For information on supporting the Partners in Discovery campaign, please contact Gwen Leighty, Development Officer, at 202-786-2875 or via email at leightyg@si.edu.

Odyssey in Print, a companion to the exhibition



Odyssey has garnered a number of prestigious awards since its release in May 2002.

In May 2002, to coincide with the opening of the exhibition *An Odyssey in Print*, SIL published an accompanying book. It features a history of SIL, written by exhibition curator and Assistant Director for Reader Services and Strategic Planning, Mary Augusta Thomas, as well as essays by Michael Dirda of *Washington Post Book World* and Storrs Olson of the National Museum of Natural History. A foreword by Director Nancy E. Gwinn launches the journey through the SIL collection.

Odyssey won top honors at the 2002 Washington Book Publishers Design Competition. Of 37 award categories, *Odyssey* received two 'First Place' awards, one for its interior design and another for cover design. *Odyssey* also took home the competition's 'Best of Show' award. In early June, the book won an Honorable Mention in AAM's Publications Design Competition.

To purchase a copy of *Odyssey*, please contact Smithsonian Institution Press at (800) 782-4612 or visit the Web site at: www.sipress.si.edu

libraries news digest

New and Award-Winning Staff Publications



Martin R. Kalfatovic

Head of SIL's New Media Office, Martin Kalfatovic is a prolific writer. In addition to his regular book reviews for *Library Journal* and many field-related articles, he has authored three books. The first, *Nile Notes of a Howadji* (1992) is a definitive bibliography of published literature on Egypt up to 1918. His *New Deal Fine Arts Projects* (1994) has proved to be a vital reference tool for researchers. Most recently, American Library Association Editions released *Creating a Winning Online Exhibition: A Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums* (2002). It features a foreword by SIL's Diane Shaw of cataloguing services. *Nile Notes* and the *Guide for Libraries* are currently available on Amazon.com.

Elizabeth Broman's article, "Egyptian Revival Funerary Art & Architecture in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY," which appeared in vol. XVIII of *Markers, Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies* (issued by the Association for Gravestone Studies, 2001) recently won the 2002 Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Publication Award. The award recognizes outstanding publications by individual members of ARLIS/NA in librarianship or visual resources curatorship, and the arts. Elizabeth works at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum Library.

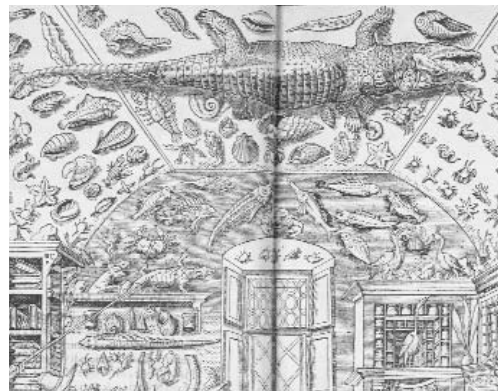


Elizabeth Broman

Wonder Bound relates a fascinating museological history

The new exhibition, *Wonder Bound: Rare Books on Early Museums*, a collaboration between the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, relates the fascinating and complex story that lies behind the development of natural history museums.

Curated by Leslie Overstreet, Curator of Natural History Rare Books, *Wonder Bound* includes illustrations of Renaissance-era "cabinets of curiosities," also known as "Wunderkammern," and features 18th and 19th century publications containing specific instructions for collecting and documenting specimens. Such pamphlets were given to adventurers, merchants, and sailors in hopes of their returning with new specimens and materials for museum collections. The historical survey continues into the present day, with illustrations of curators from the National Museum of Natural History engaged in similar activities.



Crocodiles on the ceiling? Learn about 'cabinets of curiosities' and other early collecting practices.

Wonder Bound will be on display in the National Museum of Natural History, Constitution Avenue Lobby through October 31, 2002. Enjoy a digital version of *Wonder Bound* at: www.sil.si.edu/exhibitions/wonderbound

from the special collections department

Dibner Library Resident Scholars



Jen E. Boyle

Jen E. Boyle, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine, is currently working on a dissertation titled, "Anamorphic Imagination and the Empirical Body: Perspective and the Embodiment of Space and Text in Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Science." At the Dibner Library, Boyle studied 18th-century perspective manuals and the exchange of mathematical theories and the technologies of perspective between England and France.

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings obtained her Ph.D. in the history of technology and science from Iowa State University in 2000. Her project at the Dibner Library is an expansion of her doctoral dissertation and is titled, "American Geometry Teaching, 1750-1850." It explores the American approach to geometry instruction and its indebtedness to European methodology and thought. Her work examines the use of Euclid's *Elements* as a standard didactic text, how American text-



Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

book authors have traditionally followed European developments in geometry teaching, and whether advances made abroad should serve as models for American education.

Guido Giglioni is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at The Johns Hopkins University, where he is writing a dissertation on the work and life of the English anatomist, physician, and philosopher, Francis Glisson (1598-1677). At the Dibner Library, Guido's research project titled, "Motion, Life, and Perception in Early Seventeenth-Century England," concentrates on the authors Francis Bacon, William Gilbert, and William Harvey. These three figures espoused theories of vital naturalism that influenced Glisson and his theory of life, which was based on the belief that there are perceptive powers inherent in matter.



Guido Giglioni

Parting Shots

Author Mary Augusta Thomas of SIL and contributing essayist, *Washington Post Book World* critic Michael Dirda recently completed a whirlwind tour of publicity engagements related to the release of *Odyssey in Print*, the book. Below, Mary Augusta and Michael are seen resting their hands at a recent signing event held for the Institution's contributing members.

Parting Shots will be a regular feature of *Information* and will provide a glimpse of the world in and around SIL.



SIL's Mary Augusta Thomas and *Washington Post Book World* critic Michael Dirda

'Galaxy of Knowledge'

continued from page 3

the sewing machine industry (1846-1960s). A new category, Art and Design, will debut with *Le Garde-meuble, ancien et moderne*, a French serial publication depicting interior design and furnishings published between 1839-1935.

- Martin R. Kalfatovic
Head, New Media Office

Photography Credits

SIL is grateful to the following people for images provided in this issue: Harold Dorwin for Small, p. 1; Don Hurlbert for Gwinn and Kelley, p. 2; Savannah Schroll for Ratner & Gwinn, p. 2; Nicole Van Doren for 'Galaxy' page, p. 3; Martin Kalfatovic for Van Doren, p. 3; Jon Goell for Holbert, p. 3; Savannah Schroll for Masinter, p. 4; Harold Dorwin for Quirk, p. 4; Harold Dorwin for Pachter & Giffords and Taylors, p. 5; Savannah Schroll for Freedman, p. 5; Don Hurlbert for Kalfatovic, p. 6; Jill Bloomer for Broman, p. 6; OIPS staff for Crocodiles, p. 6; Savannah Schroll for Boyle, Hastings and Giglioni, p. 7; Bruce Guthrie for Dirda & Thomas, p. 7.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries

INFORMATION is published semi-annually to inform users and benefactors about SIL's services and programs and about issues affecting the Libraries.

Savannah Schroll, *Editor*

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New, Ongoing, and Upcoming from Smithsonian Libraries:

Smithsonian Libraries Exhibitions & Events

**May 16, 2002 through
December 2003 ~**

*An Odyssey in Print: Adventures in the
Smithsonian Libraries*

Curator: Mary Augusta Thomas,
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Smithsonian Libraries Gallery, first floor
National Museum of American History,
Behring Center
14th Street & Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C.

Through October 31, 2002 ~

Wonder Bound: Rare Books on Early Museums

Curator: Leslie Overstreet,
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Constitution Avenue Lobby, west
National Museum of Natural History
10th and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

Smithsonian Libraries in the Media

Eunice Moscoso. "Irradiation Harms Books and
Gems as well as Germs." *Cox News Service*. January
28, 2002.

CNN with Aaron Brown. "Irradiated Mail." February
4, 2002.

Segment features interview with Book Conservator,
Eliza Gilligan.

Fox 5 Morning News, Washington, D.C. "Irradiated
Mail." February 14, 2002.

Features interview with Book Conservator, Eliza Giligan.

Hal Stucker. "Let's Get Digital." *Photo District News*.
(March 2002).

Ann Geracimos. "Rare Books Revealed." *Smithsonian
Magazine*. (April 2002).

Susan Menke. "Hi-res Scans Save Rare Books."
Government Computer News. April 15, 2002.

Christian Toto. "Bytes of Memory." *Washington Times*.
April 25, 2002.

Michael Menduno. "Library Preservation Issues."
Wired Magazine. (June 2002).

Evelyn Vuko. "Smithsonian in Your Classroom."
Washington Post. Style Plus. June 18, 2002.



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