

# LUCE LIBRARY BULLETIN

News of Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary Libraries  
Volume 3, No. 1, Spring 2006

## The Digital Library

Robert Benedetto

Some people talk about the coming demise of theological libraries in the age of the Internet. The Google project to digitize books has left many of us wondering about the future of theological books and theological libraries. Will our libraries become relics of the past, containing books that people will only read online, and irrelevant to the new style of web research?

While the Internet poses challenges to traditional theological libraries, it also opens up new opportunities. In the past, theological libraries distinguished themselves by the number of volumes held—that is, by their comprehensiveness. In the future, the number of volumes may be less important as more digitized books come online. What will likely distinguish theological libraries in the future are their unique holdings, that is, their special collections. Librarian James G. Neal of Columbia University recently told an audience that “in the digital age, librarians are poised to enter a new ‘Golden Age’ of special collections, spurred by digitization and greater online access to primary sources.”

While the Golden Age of special collections may not have come to Princeton Theological Seminary just yet, the staff of Special Collections is preparing for it. The term we are now using to describe this new age is “digital library.” While the creation of a digital library means much more than digitizing the holdings of Special Collections, such digitization is at the heart of any digital library program. We are still in the early stages of our own program, but already results are evident on our web site: [scdc.library.ptsem.edu](http://scdc.library.ptsem.edu).

With this issue of the *Luce Library Bulletin* we announce the following accomplishments: the posting on our web site, under “Digital Collections,” of the full text of a number of manuscripts from the papers of Charles Hodge, including his “Journal of European Travels” (1827–1828); the full text of the *Princeton Review*, 1825–1929; the *PTS Biographical Catalogue*, 1815–1954; and the full text of several historical documents related to the history of the Seminary, including *The Plan of a Theological Seminary* (1811). In addition, we have posted three visual collections, the “Moffett Collection” of Korea photographs; the Seminary’s “Portrait Collection,” containing digital images of faculty, trustee, and other portraits on campus; and photographs of buildings from the “PTS Photograph Collection.” We have also posted, under “Exhibitions,” a “Historical Tour of Princeton Theological Seminary,” for those interested in the history of the campus and its buildings, and “The Transmission of the Greek Text of the Bible,” a specially designed exhibit for beginning students of the Greek language. These texts and images total about 90,000 pages. More and fuller texts, images, and exhibitions are planned using the materials in Special Collections. A few years ago, such materials could only be consulted in person; we now make them available to the world.

*Special Collections serves as the official repository for the archives of Princeton Theological Seminary and houses rare books, personal papers, manuscripts, and special research collections that document the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition and ecumenical Christianity in the United States and abroad.*

*Supported by the vision and resources of Princeton Theological Seminary, the collections are located in the Henry Luce III Library, joined to Speer Library on the Seminary campus.*

*For more information about the facilities and collections of Luce Library, see the Special Collections web page on the Speer Library home page: <http://library.ptsem.edu/collections>.*



## New Acquisitions

Special Collections recently purchased the papers of **Edward Warren** (1789–1818), American medical doctor and missionary in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), from 1816 to 1818. The papers consist of his letters and journal, totaling about 130 handwritten pages. Warren was one of the early founders of the Ceylon mission under the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions. The letters and journal describe his journey to Ceylon, the conditions of the country, and the work of the Ceylon mission. Warren died in Ceylon in August 1818 at the age of 29. He was buried there by coworker James Richards, the only member of the Yale Haystack Prayer Meetings to actually go abroad as a missionary, and the older brother of William Richards, who enjoyed a famous missionary career in Hawaii. The papers have been in the hands of the Warren family and were unknown to researchers until now.

Several items of **Calviniana** have been purchased during the past few months. Among these are a first edition of Calvin's exposition of Jeremiah and Lamentations, *Ioannis Calvini Praelectiones: In Librum Prophetiarum Jeremiae, et Lamentationes* (1563). Special Collections acquired a Latin translation of Jérôme-Hermès Bolsec's French life of Calvin, *De Ioannis Calvini, magni quondam Genevensium ministri, vita* (1580). The small book contains two engraved portraits of Calvin (one folding), in addition to a woodcut portrait on the verso of the title page. A seventeenth-century vellum folio edition of Calvin's Institutes, *Institutionvm Christianae Religionis* (1654), was also purchased.



Frontispiece from Bolsec's Life of Calvin

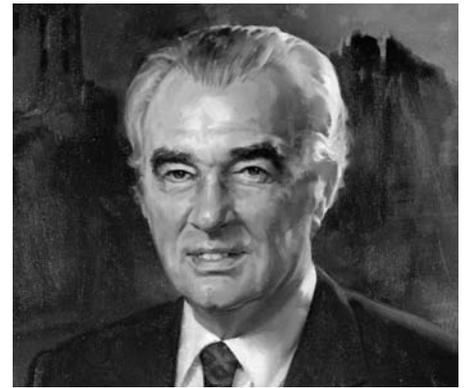
## In Memoriam Henry Luce III (1925–2005)

James F. Armstrong  
Dean of Academic Affairs Emeritus

We take the opportunity in this issue to pay special tribute to Henry (“Hank”) Luce III, a trustee since 1965 and a generous supporter of the Seminary and the library, who died on September 8, 2005, at his home on Fishers Island, New York.

The elder son of Henry Robinson Luce, cofounder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., and Lila Ross Hotz Tyng, Hank had a distinguished career in journalism, corporate leadership, public service, and philanthropy. After a period in the navy as a destroyer officer in the Pacific theatre, he completed a degree at Yale University. He then went on to serve as a commissioner's assistant to the Hoover Commission, a reporter for the *Cleveland Press*, a Washington correspondent for *Time* magazine, and a foreign news and national affairs writer for that magazine. After heading a team that planned and supervised the construction of the Time and Life Building in New York City, he held a series of positions at Time Inc., culminating in his being named publisher of *Fortune* in 1968 and publisher of *Time* the next year. Hank is perhaps best known by many of us, however, for his energetic leadership of the Henry Luce Foundation, where as president and chief executive officer he encouraged support for programs in higher education, Asian affairs, American art, environmental and public policy, theology, and women in science and engineering.

Princeton Seminary is indebted to Hank both as a wise counselor on the Board of Trustees, where he served at one time or another on most of its committees, and as a strong financial supporter. He carried forward a family concern for the worldwide mission of the church by establishing the Henry Winters Luce Chair in Mission and Ecumenics, named



Henry Luce III

in memory of his missionary grandfather (PTS M.Div., 1896). This gift was so robust that the endowment later “split” and funded a second position in the related area of missional theology. One of his great passions was the arts, to which the Luce Foundation made many contributions, and his retirement at age 75 from active service as a Seminary trustee was commemorated by the foundation through a gift to establish the Henry Luce III Chair in Philosophy and the Arts, filled for the first time in January 2006 by Dr. Gordon Graham.

Henry Luce was also instrumental in establishing our sister institution, the Center of Theological Inquiry, and provided a grant that covered the construction of the building. This structure, named for his father, offers study facilities for a dozen resident scholars, meeting rooms for workshops and consultations, and space for the director and supporting staff. Speaking at the dedication of the building, Hank highlighted his father's conviction of the “unity of truth,” a theme that manifests itself in various ways throughout the center's programming.

We are, of course, particularly grateful to Hank for providing the leadership gift that made possible the construction of Luce Library, and for increasing the grant

(continued on page 4)

### Special Collections Staff

Director: Robert Benedetto  
Curator of Reformed Research Collections: Clifford Anderson  
Technical Services Librarian: Michael Paulus  
Special Collections Assistant: Ken Henke



Stephen D. Crocco, James Lenox Librarian

The *Luce Library Bulletin* is published two times a year (spring and fall) in cooperation with Speer Library. Current and back issues are available online.



## Building a Digital Collection

Clifford B. Anderson

Special Collections has a wealth of rare monograph, manuscript, and photograph collections. Unfortunately, the only way to see most of them is to travel to Princeton. After arriving in 2002, Robert Benedetto, director of special collections, began planning to expand scholarly access to selected materials by posting them on the web. The route from the analog to the digital world sometimes proved challenging to navigate, but, with the help of many partners in the library world, Special Collections has now arrived in the digital universe.

Special Collections designed and implemented its own system for digital collections. One of the early decisions the staff made was to hew as closely as possible to widely endorsed standards. There were vendors who offered to digitize our collections for us. However, we preferred to avoid becoming locked in to any single vendor's technological solutions. Instead, we turned first to the Library of Congress, which is developing open standards for the digital era. We decided to use the Library of Congress's *Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard* (METS) as the backbone of our digital collection. The METS standard provides a flexible and open data structure on which, metaphorically speaking, we could hang our digital objects like so many coats on a rack. We adopted the widely used *Tagged Image File Format* (TIFF) for our digital images and the *Text Encoding Initiative* (TEI) standard, designed by scholars in the humanities, for our digital texts. Finally, we selected Dublin Core as our metadata standard (that is, for our record-keeping data). METS provided us with an elegant way to hold together all these digital objects.

Our next step was to bring these standards to life. For that, we needed to develop a software system. Fortunately, we could build on the work of others. The Digital Library Team at New York University freely offered stylesheets for

transforming METS—an XML-based format—into HTML for display on Internet browsers. The staff of Special Collections customized these stylesheets until the web pages they generated looked pretty much like other pages on the Seminary's web site. Finally, we wrote a custom web application using the Microsoft Corporation's .NET Framework to run the whole system. After plenty of "beta-testing," the Seminary's Department of Information Technology assisted us with copying the system from a test server to a live server, and we opened the system to the public.

With everything up and running, our next challenge was to produce content. Special Collections does not have the staff to digitize large quantities of material. The process of photographing objects and creating metadata is simply too time-consuming for all but the most precious objects. So we decided to outsource the vast majority of our digitization. We have developed a good relationship with codeMantra, which has front offices located in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, and back offices in Chennai, India. It is exciting to pack up boxes of nineteenth-century literature in Princeton and receive digital images back from India only a few weeks later!

We also acquired content by exchanging objects with other digital collections. For example, we contacted Perry Willett, the head of digital library production service at the University of Michigan, about the possibility of exchanging digital images of the *Princeton Review* from the "Making of America" web site in return for providing digital images and metadata for volumes of that journal which had not yet been digitized. This agreement provided both institutions with digital representations of the entire run of the journal from its inception in 1825 to its conclusion in 1929.

Special Collections now provides a growing collection of approximately 90,000 digital images to researchers who—for one reason or another—cannot make the physical journey to Princeton. We look forward to your visit to our little digital universe!

## Luce News

**Recent Class Exhibits.** One of the most important missions of Special Collections is to support the Seminary's teaching program. One way this is accomplished is through special exhibitions. On a recent afternoon, three groups of students in the first-year church history class attended a guided exhibition of medieval and Reformation literature on display in Special Collections. The exhibition included historic Bibles, including leaves from medieval manuscript Bibles and from the Gutenberg Bible, an illustrated Lubeck vernacular Bible from 1494, and copies of the Luther Bible, the Geneva Bible, and the first edition of the King James Bible (1611). Also on display were examples of theological textbooks and devotional and liturgical books from the Middle Ages and early Reformation. Of special interest to students were two sixteenth-century Czech Bibles from the followers of John Hus, whom the students had recently studied. Other special exhibits were prepared this fall for classes on the British Reformation and Puritanism, and on the history of Christian worship

**Special Collections Intern.** During the fall semester Elaine LaRose, a Rutgers University public history intern, created two new exhibits of special collections materials. One, on display at the entrance to Speer Library, focuses on the founding of the Seminary. The other, on display at the top of the central staircase in Speer, offers highlights of some of the 3,000 cuneiform tablets curated by Special Collections. Elaine also processed the personal papers of the Seminary's first female graduate, Muriel Joy Van Orden Jennings (Th.B., Th.M. 1932).

**Karl Barth Conference.** Special Collections is cosponsoring a conference on Karl Barth, "Thy Word Is Truth: Reading Scripture Theologically with Karl Barth," May 21–24, 2006, at the Seminary. For more information, including a brochure and registration form, contact the Center for Barth Studies, P.O. Box 111, Princeton Theological Seminary Libraries, Princeton, NJ 08542-0111, <http://library.ptsem.edu/collections/barth>.

(continued from page 2)

when it became clear that code restrictions on renovation had preempted earlier assumptions about the ultimate capacity of the Speer facility. His interest, and considerable knowledge, in matters architectural quickly became evident during the design phase, and on more than one occasion he hosted discussions with the design principal and the librarian regarding how such a building ought to look, discussions that proved both educational and fruitful. Dedicated primarily to research at all program levels, Luce Library made readily available, for the first time, the institution's extensive archival and rare book

collections and encouraged the enhancement of these valuable resources. Hank also contributed to this enhancement, especially through a grant that enabled the library to secure the Abraham Kuyper Collection of Dutch Reformed Protestantism. He also supported the preparation of Archie R. Crouch's monumental guide to library and archival resources, *Christianity in China*, the offices of which were for many years located in the library.

Among the organizations with which Henry Luce was actively engaged were A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, the New York Historical Society, the

United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, the Yale-China Association, the American Russian Youth Orchestra, the Foreign Policy Association, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. His strong commitment to art and architecture in New York led to his election as a Living Landmark of that city, a celebration to which several members of the Seminary community were invited. These brief comments highlight only a fraction of Henry Luce's commitments and honors; he was indeed a person of cosmopolitan interests, interests that were pursued to remarkable depth. We mourn his passing, but rejoice in his memory.

## From the Archives Missional Libraries

Michael Paulus

Christianity is a publishing faith. The earliest Christians adopted and advanced the newest publishing technology of the Greco-Roman world—the codex—to disseminate their texts (see Figure 1). Later innovations, such as movable type (see Figure 2) and steam-powered printing, were also exploited to communicate the Christian message. The church's mission to publish continues to manifest itself in our emerging digital culture.



**Figure 1** The opening leaf of Lectionary 303, ca. 11th century. This manuscript codex was made for a church or monastery in or near Constantinople. (SCL #1033)



**Figure 2** A leaf from a Gutenberg Bible, ca. 1450, one of the first books printed with movable type. (SCI #1028)

recognized as vital for the life of the church. Eusebius's prolific literary output was made possible by the existence

of large libraries in Caesarea and Jerusalem. In the middle of the sixth century, Cassiodorus designed a library for monastic education that became a model for libraries throughout the medieval era (see Figure 3). The library at Wittenberg, transformed by Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon from a scholastic center into one of biblical humanism, became a workshop for the German reformation.



**Figure 3** The opening of Cassiodorus' *Institutions*, 1609. The *Institutions* functioned as a bibliographic guide to divine and secular literature. This copy was owned by William Henry Green (1825-1900), professor of Old Testament and second Seminary librarian. (SCB #3507)

And the establishment in 1636 of Harvard, named for the minister who left the school his well-selected library in 1638, signaled the importance of theological education and books at the frontier of Western civilization.

Charles Hodge is said to have regarded a theological seminary as the organ of communication between the church of the past and the rising ministry of the present. At Princeton, the Seminary library has always had a central role in mediating the collective wisdom of the past to students and scholars. This role is evidenced by the library's collection, as well as by the services and spaces that have been developed to support its use (see Figure 4).

In 1961, the year before Princeton

Theological Seminary reached its sesquicentennial, librarian Kenneth S. Gapp drafted a detailed proposal titled "A Special Collections Program for Speer Library." Gapp wrote that the Seminary library's rare books and manuscripts provided "an extremely important and valuable basis for the library's scholarly resources." A special collections program, he argued, would make these



**Figure 4** The New Lenox Library, ca. 1879. The Seminary's second library building initially provided ample space for study. Like ancient Greco-Roman libraries, the reading room was decorated with representations of revered authors, which were meant to invoke a literary tradition and inspire readers and writers.

materials "as readily accessible as possible." "It is not a paramount interest of [Special Collections] to function as a museum," Gapp wrote. "Instead, its resources are maintained only to be used for the promotion of theological studies and research."

In continuity with the mission of the Seminary and the church, the Special Collections program that Gapp imagined and that eventually took form is now using new technologies to make accessible many of its unique and rare resources in digital form over global networks.