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# IN JCB

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AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

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## Maps for Sale

THE JCB has been selling high quality facsimiles of rare maps in the collection for many decades. It is a service to learning when the reproductions are actual size and printed at the highest possible resolution, since scholars can consult them as though they were the originals. Well-reproduced antique maps also delight the consumer looking for attractive wall decorations.

We have at present about seventy facsimile maps in print and regularly add to the inventory. We distribute an illustrated sales catalogue of available maps, and the maps are also featured on our website, found on the main menu under “Publications.”

Ordering these maps has hitherto been by traditional means—telephone or the U.S. Postal Service, with a credit card number or a check. This fall, however, we are entering the world of e-commerce fully, with a domain name pur-

chased solely for the purpose of selling facsimile maps and allowing direct ordering online with a credit card. The domain name is

[www.antiquemapfacsimiles.com](http://www.antiquemapfacsimiles.com)

and we encourage our readers to check it out, although it may not be fully operational until the middle of October.

## Donated Income

THE LIBRARY has only three sources of income: what we can earn (as by the sale of facsimile maps); what we receive in the form of gifts (such as annual contributions by our Associates); and what our endowment yields from year to year (limited to no more than 5.25 percent of the average market value over the preceding twelve quarters).

We hope to increase our earned income somewhat by means of e-commerce, and our new online Archive of Early American Images



Nicolas Sanson d'Abbeville. *Les Isles Antilles &c* (Paris, 1656). In the seventeenth century, English and French cartographers were heavily dependent on the Low Countries for their cartographic view of the world. This Sanson chart of the Caribbean was based upon Dutch maps in circulation at the time. 15 $\frac{1}{8}$  × 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Available in color facsimile.

is already generating higher revenues from the sale of images to publishers and others. Book publications also bring in some money. Our target is to raise our earned income up to at least \$100,000 annually. It is now about \$60,000.

Annual donations from the Library's Associates total almost \$100,000, which is generous and essential support from some 900 people, constituting approximately 4 percent of our annual budget of \$2.5 million.

The most vital revenue stream is from the Library's endowment, which is reliable over the long run but subject to the vicissitudes of the market. Although our endowment has a market value at the moment of \$44 million, the Library's Board of Governors believes that that

sum is not adequate for the demands on the JCB over the coming decade. Hence we launched in the spring a campaign to raise an additional \$7.5 million in new endowment for the purpose of "Ensuring the Future."

It is our fervent hope that *all* Associates will contribute to the campaign in the course of this year. With only a relatively small number of donors, we have already secured \$3.5 million towards the goal, in both cash and pledges, but there is no doubt that the next \$4 million will be far more difficult to find.

Below is a record of donations to the Campaign, including pledges, as of September 1, 2005. To these early givers, we express our deepest gratitude.

## GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO THE JCB ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

*as of September 1, 2005*

### UP TO \$499

Prof. James Axtell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles  
   F. Baker III  
 Mr. Roger Brandwein  
 Mr. Francis A. Brooks, Jr.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas  
   W. Brown  
 Prof. Margaret Cohen  
 Mr. Joel Davis  
 Prof. William E. Doolittle  
 Sir John Elliott  
 Prof. Violet Halpert  
 Mr. Albert Klyberg  
 Prof. Murdo Macleod  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael  
   H. Mariner  
 Mr. Duncan H. Mauran†  
 Prof. and Mrs. David  
   E. Pingree  
 Dr. Lawrence R. Ross  
 Mrs. Dorothy Rouse-  
   Bottom  
 Mr. Timothy R. Schantz  
 Mrs. Mary C. Tanner  
 Profs. Leonard Tennenhouse  
   and Nancy Armstrong  
 Prof. Richard W. Unger

### \$500 TO \$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas  
   R. Adams  
 Mr. Plácido Arango  
 Mr. Robert G. Berry  
 Mr. Gordon E. Cadwgan  
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman  
   Fiering  
 Dr. Francisco Guerra  
 Prof. Jerome S. Handler  
 Mr. H. Dale Hemmerdinger  
 Ms. Elizabeth E. Meyer  
 Hon. J. William  
   Middendorf II  
 Prof. Anthony Molho  
 Prof. James Muldoon and  
   Mrs. Judith Fitzpatrick  
 Mr. Guy Nichols  
 Ms. Joanne Pillsbury  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart  
   B. Schimmel  
 Dr. Thomas Sculco  
 Mr. Ronald M. Senio  
 The Stuart Foundation  
 Prof. Harrison M. Wright

### \$5,000 TO \$49,999

Prof. José Amor y Vázquez  
 Dr. Alfredo Cassiet  
 Mr. William Ginsberg  
 Mr. Sidney Lapidus  
 Mrs. Frances López-Morillas

### \$50,000 TO \$99,999

Mr. T. Kimball Brooker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln  
   Ekstrom  
 Mrs. Angela Brown Fischer/  
   Hope Foundation  
 Mr. Robert N. Gordon  
 Mr. Robert A. Robinson

### MORE THAN \$100,000

Mr. John R. Bockstoce  
 Mr. Vincent J. Buonanno  
 Mr. Gilbert C. Meister, Jr.  
 The Andrew Mellon  
   Foundation  
 Mr. R. David Parsons  
 Mr. Jean René Perrette  
 Mrs. Jane Gregory Rubin/  
   Reed Foundation  
 Mr. David Rumsey  
 Mr. Donald L. Saunders  
 Mr. Clinton I. Smullyan, Jr.

## Heritage vs. History

ONE OF THE PROFOUNDTEST questions in the telling of history is who gets to tell it. He who controls the past controls the future, is a maxim from the Orwell novel, *1984*, and to the extent that it is true, there will always be intense battles over exactly what happened “back then.”

Examples of such controversy abound, but we were reminded of its salience this summer at the JCB when for five weeks we hosted a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on the subject of “British and Indigenous Cultural Encounters in Native North America, 1580–1785.” The participants consisted of twenty-four professors, at different levels, from colleges and universities around the country. Prof. Scott Stevens from the University of Buffalo was the Institute director, and he was assisted by four other Institute faculty members, each of whom came for a week to lead discussions and offer expertise.

Both the victors and the victims in the propagation of historical narrative want to tell the story, and usually that story sharply differs depending upon who is telling it. A clear theme in the Summer Institute was the necessity of apprehending the encounter between Europeans and Native Americans on this continent from the Native American point of view, to the degree possible.

So much of what we know about the indigenous peoples of the Americas is known solely through sources composed by Europeans, and it is seldom easy to look behind those sources somehow and uncover who did what to whom and who is to blame for the multiple injuries that Indian culture and society suffered.

As always, the words we commonly use make an immense difference. It was a shock to many readers in 1975, for example, when Francis Jennings published a book about the New England Puritans and other seventeenth-century English “settlers” entitled *The Invasion of America*. Did the Europeans *invade* Massachusetts? The Span-



Detail from a map entitled “A description of part of the adventures of Cap: Smith in Virginia,” from John Smith’s *The generall historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles* (London, 1624).

ish were the so-called conquistadors. The British were merely innocent and benign “settlers.” And so forth.

Histories often glamorize and sanitize the past, making “our” side look good. The contending histories undermine each other, and the struggle is often over control not so much of the history as of the heritage. What do we tell the children? What do we teach in school? So-called “scientific” history, what scholars are taught to do in graduate school, in theory employs cold critical analysis, detachment, dispassionate objectivity—and prides itself sometimes on undermining the trust of generations in a particular story. Those concerned about their heritage, on the contrary, are never dispassionate about the recounting of the past.

One could fall into despair about this irreconcilable battle, in which both sides have strong claims: it is urgent that scholars work freely and critically to determine the truth, to the degree it can be known; yet all groups, all peoples, need a heritage as a source of unity, pride, confidence, and identity.

One salvation in all of this is that much academic history, no matter how well crafted and reliable in content, has little impact on heritage. For better or worse, it lives in a separate universe. Another is that ethnic groups or representatives of particular cultures may themselves enter the arena of scholarly history. Native Americans get doctoral degrees and write Indian history with a passion, insofar as passion is allowed in academic discourse. Professor Stevens, the Institute director, is himself a representative figure, since although he is armed with a Ph.D. from Harvard in Renaissance literature, he is also a Mohawk Indian.

The participants in the Summer Institute spent much of their time on questions of interpretation. They will surely return to their home institutions after five weeks here as better teachers because they will know more about the complexity of human affairs and be less accepting of easy answers. The students in their classes will also emerge as better citizens, one trusts, because their critical faculties will have been strengthened, their capacity for understanding enlarged.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an agency of the Federal government. In 2004–05 it had a total budget of about \$133 million, and \$2.1 million was allocated for Summer Institutes for College and University Teachers. This is taxpayers’ money, but without question a vital contribution to the health of our republic and hence money well spent.

## Haitian Acquisitions

HISTORICAL scholarship is generally dependent upon printed or manuscript sources, and it is the mission and the passion of the JCB to acquire those sources and preserve them. Our passion for collecting sources from and pertaining to Saint-Domingue, later Haiti, in particular, is insatiable, and this summer we added substantially to holdings that are already superb.

The Haitian Revolution between 1789 and 1804 was one of the most revealing events in all of human history, we believe, an aperture exposing to bright light many obscured aspects of human affairs—political, economic, social, diplomatic, racial, military, and more.

In 2004 the Library sponsored an international conference on the Haitian Revolution, and we have since mounted on our website a list of about 500 items from our collection on Haiti. Most of this material is printed in France, and most of it is post 1791, inevitably. Printing presses on any of the islands in the West Indies during the colonial period were not common, and at best their output was small. The JCB has



Proclamation from the Governor Lieutenant General of the French Islands in America, Count Peinier, concerning the troubles of the colony of Saint-Domingue, issued at Port-au-Prince on July 29, 1790, from the press of Mozard. Encountering resistance to the royal government, Peinier announces that “the time for moderation and indulgence has passed” and that he will use “rigorous means to pave for France its most important overseas colony.”

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been searching for items printed in the West Indies for a century, yet for the period before 1790, our holdings are pathetically weak: 2 pieces printed in Jamaica, 10 in Barbados, 9 in Cuba, for example, and for Saint-Domingue, none at all.

Consider our delight, then, when in May we were offered sixty-two items printed on the island of Saint-Domingue between 1789 and 1791, just at the beginning of the intensity of the revolutionary period on the island. The governor-general between August 1789 and November 1790 was the Comte de Peinier, and it was apparently he who collected these pieces, ranging from 2-page leaflets to substantial pamphlets, one as long as 70 pages. The subject matter of the collection is primarily political, concerning the acts of the local assemblies, and the interchanges with Paris over the status of the colonial elite, both white and mulatto.

Most of these works were printed in Port-au-Prince, where there were two printers, some in Cap-François, and several in Saint-Marc. Given the enormous wealth in Saint-Domingue in this period, it should not be entirely surprising that the island had four printers at work at this time.

## Sponsored Research

THE LIBRARY has appointed thirty-three research fellows for 2005–06. Several began their tenure here as early as June 2005, others will be coming in the fall and spring of this academic year, and some we will not see until as late as the summer of 2006. Ten scholars received long-term appointments (five to ten months) and twenty-three short-term (two to four months). Throughout the year, there will always be between eight and thirteen fellows in residence, creating a lively work environment, with much mutual learning and encouragement.

As usual, about 20 percent are visitors from foreign countries, including such distant places as Japan and Chile, and about a third are graduate students completing their dissertations. The recurrent themes of colonial studies are much in evidence in the projects of these thirty-three scholars: imperial administration and economics, whether Spanish, English, or French; missionary endeavors towards the Indians; slavery and race. But there are also fellows engaged in the study of literary works, and two scholars working on aspects of the mining of precious metals, obviously a matter of crucial importance in the era.

The mining of the pharmaceutical riches of the Americas will also receive attention, with one scholar looking at Indian medical practices in Guatemala and another at the European hope that the New World will be the source of magical elixirs curing all ills.

A complete list of the 2005–06 fellows has been mailed to our constituency, and it can also be found on our website, linked to the Research and Fellowships page.

## Publications

THE LIBRARY will be issuing three new books in the next six months, all centered quite directly on the history of this esteemed institution and its holdings. In order of appearance they are: *Maritime History: A Hand-List of the Collection in the John Carter Brown Library, 1474 to ca. 1860*, revised edition, compiled by Danial Elliott with additions by Everett C. Wilkie, Jr., and Richard Ring; *The Young John Carter Brown in Europe: Travel Diaries, 1823–1824*, edited by Donald G. Rohr; and John Russell Bartlett, *Autobiography*, edited by Jerry E. Mueller.

### *Maritime History*

The maritime history hand-list compiled by Dan Elliott was first published in 1979, occasioned by a significant acquisition of maritime materials. It was the first such comprehensive catalogue published by the Library of a subject area of the collection, exclusive of exhibition catalogues, which are merely selections. The book announced to the world that maritime history was a specialty of the JCB and that we had distinguished holdings in the field.

In 1984, Everett Wilkie produced a *Supplement* to the original 1979 hand-list, bringing it up-to-date, and then in the past few years, Richard Ring, the JCB Reference and Acquisitions Librarian, once more updated the work. For this edition, as well as incorporating new acquisitions, we have also greatly improved the format of what was initially only a spiral-bound publication—it is now sewn within boards—and corrected other deficiencies.

This revised edition will be a proper companion to another JCB publication, *English Maritime Books Printed before 1801 Relating to Ships and Their Construction and Operation at Sea*, compiled by Thomas R. Adams and David W. Waters (1995), which we published jointly with the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich,

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England, and it serves also as a back-up to our exhibition catalogue of only two years ago, “*The Boundless Deep...: The European Conquest of the Oceans, 1450 to 1840*,” by John B. Hattendorf (Providence, 2003).

### *Travel Diaries*

When John Carter Brown (1797–1874) was twenty-six years old, he was sent on a business trip to Europe by the family firm of Brown and Ives in Providence. The trip evolved into a Grand Tour for the young man, who had graduated from Brown University in 1816. Happily, the itinerant, who two decades later in 1846 would found this Library, kept diaries of his touring in Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands.

These manuscript notebooks, five of them in all, came to light only a dozen years ago. They were largely hidden from view amidst the family papers stored at 357 Benefit Street, the family home, which is now a part of Brown University as the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization.

Aside from the personal connection to this institution, the diaries are valuable as historical documents in their own right, not so much because of what they tell us about Europe but because of what they reveal about the United States, or New England, in this period. Records of the impressions of young Americans in Europe in the 1820s are hardly commonplace,

and the young John Carter Brown was highly articulate.

Whatever the merit of these manuscripts, their value has been trebled by the brilliant editing of Donald Rohr, a Brown history professor emeritus, who in a fifty-page introduction and with many informative annotations, illuminates a lively text without pedantry.

### *John Russell Bartlett (1805–1886)*

Bartlett was one of those bookish nineteenth-century luminaries who made cultural contributions in a half-dozen areas but who will never get his due, although we hope this book will help. Among his minor roles, which explains his connection to us, he was John Carter Brown’s personal librarian and the compiler of the first catalogue of the collection, *Bibliotheca Americana: A Catalogue of the Library of John Carter Brown of Providence*, which appeared in 1865 and was probably the first published catalogue of a private library in the U.S. intended to serve historical research.

While Bartlett was serving John Carter Brown in this fashion, he was also Secretary of State of Rhode Island, an elected position he held for seventeen years. During his tenure he collected for the first time, and published in ten volumes, the essential papers of the state, among them an edition of the letters of Roger Williams.

But lest one think that Bartlett was merely a New England figure with historical interests, it should be known that between 1850 and 1853 he was the head of the Commission that established the boundary between Mexico and the United States following the Mexican War. This sojourn in the Southwest resulted in a classic document of western Americana, Bartlett’s *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Connected with the United States Boundary Commission during the years 1850, 1851, 1852, and 1853* (New York, 1854), in two volumes, and also in some 250 Bartlett drawings in pencil, ink, and watercolor, which provide unique information about settlements, terrain, and Indian life in this period.

There is a good deal more, including Bartlett’s *Dictionary of Americanisms: A Glossary of Words and Phrases Usually Regarded as Peculiar to the United States* (1848), which has appeared in many editions up to the present, and his role in the founding of the Providence Athenaeum. But to add just one more dimension, between 1840 and 1849 Bartlett was the proprietor with



Five travel diaries kept by John Carter Brown, 1823–1824.



*Guadalupe Pass, on Cooke's Road—Sonora*, a sepia and wash dated August 4, 1852, is drawing number 41 in the Bartlett Collection at the JCB. Cooke's Road is a famous wagon trail constructed in 1846 by Col. St. George Cooke and his Mormon Battalion on their march to California during the Mexican-American War.

Charles Welford of a bookstore in New York City much frequented by literary figures, including Edgar Allen Poe, and in this period, too, Bartlett, with Albert Gallatin, re-vivified the moribund New-York Historical Society.

The JCB owns most of what has survived of Bartlett's papers and virtually all of his western drawings and paintings. His brief "Autobiography" had languished here for many years until Jerry E. Mueller, a geologist from the Southwest, who has done the definitive cataloguing of Bartlett's art, offered to edit the autobiography for publication. The result is splendid.

## The Succession

AS OF THIS writing, no choice has yet been made of a successor to Norman Fiering as Director and Librarian. But that moment will come within the next six months, it can be supposed. Mr. Fiering will have been director for some twenty-three years. The JCB has been blessed in that each of its librarians has served

for a fairly long period—only six people in a century-and-a-half have held the job, with five being in office for more than twenty years. This singular devotion to the institution has undoubtedly contributed to its stability, its solvency, and its sense of its own history.

John Russell Bartlett, whose brief autobiography we are publishing this winter, served as librarian from 1853 until his death in 1886. George Parker Winship, who succeeded Bartlett in 1895, is a legendary figure who after he left the JCB in 1915 went on to a distinguished career at Harvard. Winship had been hired by John Nicholas Brown, and after Brown's death in 1900, it was he who oversaw the transition of the JCB from a private to an institutional library located at Brown University.

At the time of World War I, there was an interlude of some uncertainty. For five years there was only an acting librarian, Worthington C. Ford, who served from 1917 to 1922 and who was simultaneously editor of publications at the Massachusetts Historical Society. (Champlin Burrage was appointed Librarian in 1916, but held office for just a year.)

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Then in 1923, Lawrence C. Wroth took over, a person of extraordinary capability who became probably the most important rare book librarian in the United States during the height of his powers. Wroth was Librarian for thirty-three years, from 1923 to 1956. He was followed by Thomas R. Adams, Librarian for twenty-five years, 1957 to 1982, and one of the leading bibliographers in the past half century. Each Librarian has made distinctive contributions without deviating from the JCB's core purpose, which is to continue to build this peerless collection and facilitate its use.

## Exhibitions

OCTOBER 2005 TO JANUARY 2006

“Spanish Historical Writing about the New World, 1493 to 1700”

*Don Quixote* was published in 1605, and we are honoring the 400th anniversary of that event by reviving an exhibition we first mounted in 1992. The research and writing of the text of the exhibition was undertaken for us by Angel Delgado-Gomez, who at the time was a professor at Notre Dame University. The Library published a catalogue of this exhibition, which has been widely praised. Part of Cervantes's inspiration was the exploits and follies of the

conquistadors in the New World as recorded in these histories or chronicles; so the exhibition nicely ties into the celebration this year.

But we have another motive. The British microform publisher Adam Matthew will be issuing next spring a collection of microfilmed titles taken directly from *Spanish Historical Writing about the New World, 1493-1700*—approximately 85 titles captured in about 35 reels of film. We are thus promoting that happy development.

This is our second project with Adam Matthew. Last year the company published *Africans in the New World, 1493-1834*, over eighty rare books on film, based upon a JCB exhibition catalogue published in 1988, the text for which was written by Larissa Brown. The microfilm set is priced at \$4,500, but sales have been brisk. The Library receives welcome royalties from this package.

The Library mounts exhibitions for different purposes. Many are designed specifically to provide for scholars a coherent sampling of the unique resources at the JCB pertaining to a particular subject area, as in the two instances mentioned above. If we do our job well, a publisher like Adam Matthew will come along and ask to make the full texts of the books in the exhibition available in facsimile, whether the format be print on paper, microfilm or fiche, or digital.

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John Carter Brown Library  
Box 1894  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

T: 401 863-2725  
F: 401 863-3477  
E: JCBL\_Information@brown.edu  
W: www.JCBL.org

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*The John Carter Brown Library is an independently funded and administered institution for advanced research in history and the humanities founded in 1846 and located at Brown University since 1901.*

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