AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

FALL 2010

Remember Haiti

On MAY 7, the former Prime Minister of Haiti, Michèle Pierre-Louis, visited the John Carter Brown Library to speak to the annual meeting of the Library's Associates. Her talk, "The Quiet Power of US Trade Relations with Haiti," presented a deeply informed survey of the economic relationship between the two oldest nations in this hemisphere, from the eighteenth century to the present day. Before a capacity crowd, she also spoke eloquently about Haiti's heroic efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake of January 12. Ms. Pierre-Louis had visited the JCB on a previous occasion in her capacity as the head of the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté (FOKAL), an organization that supports education, libraries, and civil society within Haiti. We hope she returns on many occasions to advance her work.

The former Prime Minister's visit also helped to launch one of the most ambitious digital undertakings in the history of the JCB. *Remember Haiti* was designed to call attention to the JCB's deep Haitian holdings, which range from documents describing the European discovery of

Michèle Pierre-Louis, flanked by Patrick Tardieu, curator of the Bibliothèque Haitienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit (L), and JCB Fellow Carlo Célius, a historian of Haiti (R).



Hispaniola by Columbus, to the emergence as the French colony of Saint Domingue, and finally the achievement of hard-won independence after a revolution that lasted from 1791 to 1804. Each document is presented in its entirety, photographed in color and in high resolution, and easily downloaded. It is a revolutionary step forward, offering one window after another into Haiti's remarkable history, a history that has often been hidden from view because of the difficulty of reading books that are very rare and expensive. Within a week of the launch, *Remember Haiti* was declared "Digital Library of the Week" by the American Library Association.

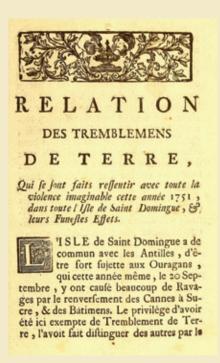
The Remember Haiti site offers an introduction to the JCB's Haiti books, and leads the reader to the Internet Archive, where the entirety of our Haitian collection is stored. The Internet Archive is an online repository, dedicated to open access, and its technicians played a crucial role in creating the site. From the beginning, we wanted to bring the highest possible quality to the scans, and also make

them available for free. Thanks to JCB board member David Rumsey, all costs were defrayed in advance. Nearly 900 works were scanned at a rate of 16,000 pages a month, and by the end of August, visitors to the site had completed 7100 downloads. Although the JCB only recently joined the Internet Archive's deep roster, we are already among the top third of its affiliated libraries in terms of visits and downloads. The most popular work, José de Acosta's 1617 Histoire naturelle et morale des Indes, has been downloaded 93 times and climbing.

The former Prime Minister wrote after the event, "I cannot tell you how pleased and honored I was to be the keynote speaker at the JCB annual event this year. The trustees and the public in general were so enthusiastic about my presentation that I felt encouraged to continue my research along those lines. Moreover, the launching of the website was also a major event. I was once more so impressed with the wealth of documentation on Haiti that the JCB can offer to the world."

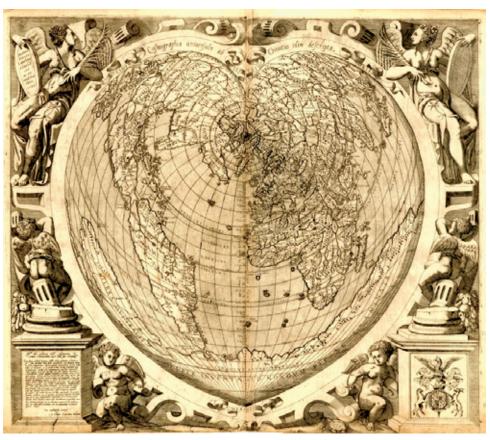
Saving Haiti's Libraries

In the aftermath of the Haitian earthquake on January 12, the JCB extended an invitation to one of Haiti's leading librarians to pay an extended visit. Patrick Tardieu, the curator of the Bibliothèque Haitienne des Pères du Saint-Esprit, Haiti's oldest library, spent the spring of 2010 in Providence, advising the creation of the JCB's Haitian website, and raising awareness for the plight of libraries in Haiti. A quickly-launched initiative called "Saving Haiti's Libraries" proved essential when the BHPSE was in danger of collapse. Thanks to fast work and the generosity of an anonymous donor and the Florence Gould Foundation, funds were raised to move the books of the BHPSE to safety. While in the United States, Patrick became a leading spokesman for the cause of protecting Haitian culture, and was quoted widely in the international press. He will spend the fall in Paris at the invitation of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and will continue to advise the JCB's Haitian projects.



Relation des tremblemens de terre, Rouen, 1752. This brief pamphlet describes a series of earthquakes and aftershocks on the island of Saint Domingue that began on October 18th and continued until November 8th, 1751.

Seeing Maps Anew



Giovanni Paolo Cimerlino, Cosmographia universalis ab orontio olim descripta, [Venice], 1566. This cordiform or heart-shaped map is a copy of a 1536 Oronce Finé woodcut map.

•HANKS TO THE generosity of our board f I member David Rumsey, we've been able to proceed with our plans for a Map Recon Project. The Donohue Group was hired to do the work of transforming our map card catalogue into MARC records, and we are happy to report this phase of the project has just been completed. Now we will focus our efforts on connecting each of those MARC records with a digitized map image, which will be accessible through the JCB web site. This is part one of a proposed three-part program to make all JCB maps accessible with images and metadata. We are now turning our attention to part two of the project, which will focus on maps in atlases. This will be followed by part three, which will focus on maps in books.

To explore ways to increase the visibility of the JCB map collection, David Rumsey hosted a day-long meeting at the Library on April 2, attended by Ron Grim, Curator of the Leventhal Map Collection at Boston Public Library, Matthew Edney, Faculty Scholar at the Osher Map Collection, University of Southern Maine (and former JCB Fellow), John Hébert, Head of the Map Division at the Library of Congress, board member David Parsons, JCB Fellow Karl Offen, and interested JCB staff members. Discussion was wide-ranging, focusing on issues such as improving access to the JCВ map collection, space issues and their impact on users of the map collection, creating effective map records, digitization, exhibitions, and issues of accessibility to students and scholars.

Oxford Meets Providence

NE OF THE world's great publishing houses, the Oxford University Press has announced its plan to create a new publishing venture with the JCB that promises to dramatically expand the Library's international presence. The "John Carter Brown Library Series" will produce superb works of scholarship pertaining to the history of the Americas and to the strengths of the Library's holdings. Approximately one book a year will be issued by OUP, with suitable fanfare and public events hosted by the JCB. The new series will be edited by Joyce Chaplin, the James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History at Harvard University (JCB Fellow in 1998), and by Ted Widmer (JCB Fellow in 1994). A committee of distinguished scholars will advise the series. Susan Ferber, the Executive Editor for History at OUP (and a Brown alumna), said, "Oxford University Press is delighted to be joining forces with the premier research library on the early Americas and to be working with Ted Widmer, Joyce Chaplin, and JCB Fellows in expanding scholarship on the Americas and the Atlantic world. On a personal level, it will be wonderful to visit the Green again to celebrate new titles."





to be part of the mission of providing the wonders of the JCB to readers worldwide. Here's hoping many more books will be cherished by readers everywhere."

Xephyr and the Scribe

THE WORK OF digitizing can seem highly futuristic A at times, but at the end of the day it is still work, performed on machines by highly-trained operators. Readers of the perfect versions of our books that show up inside their laptops, iPads and Kindles will rarely know how long a journey these images have been on already by the time they are read online. The journey begins with Xephyr Inkpen, the mellifluously-named technician who converts our books into scans composed of high-resolution photographs, taken one page at a time (or more specifically, one two-page spread at a time). Xephyr is a recent RISD graduate with a talent for illustration, fashion design, and Renaissance Fairs. Doubtless her digital work would have struck a Renaissance book-maker as a form of sorcery, but similar accusations were leveled at Gutenberg and other advocates of progress. The machine she works on, located in the JCB's former photo dark room, is known as a "Scribe," another name with roots in earlier systems of writing. In order

to bring the Scribe through the JCB's narrow hallways to its current location, it had to be completely disassembled, a laborious process that consumed two days and nearly unraveled the entire project of digitizing Haiti's books. We are grateful to the Internet Archive for its refusal to let the small obstacle of a 1904 door frame prevent the work from going forward.

The JCB and the World Digital Library

This May the World Digital Library (an initiative sponsored by the Library of Congress) convened in Mexico City to discuss the digitization of Meso-American Codices, pictographic manuscripts that have been the object of intense scholarly research for centuries. Ken Ward, Maury A. Bromsen Curator of Latin American Books, represented the JCB. Narrowly defined, the Meso-American Codices are the few surviving pictographic manuscripts that were produced during the pre-contact period. Although once quite numerous, untold numbers of them were destroyed following the conquest, because they were seen to be, as Diego de Landa reported in his Relación de las cosas de Yucatan (1566), "lies of the devil." Nevertheless, more than thirty have survived, and they are complemented by post-conquest manuscripts, such at the Florentine Codex produced by Bernardino de Sahagun. The JCB holds several items that will make a strong contribution

to the WDL project. These include the Boban Calendar Wheel, a single circular sheet of amatl paper with calendric glyphs on the periphery. In the center of the wheel, three historical moments are described in text and images, and while the time period of these moments runs from pre- to post-conquest, there is no mention of the conquest itself. In other words, despite the disruption of the conquest, the Boban Wheel emphasizes continuity over change. The JCB also holds the well-known Tovar Codex, which includes a manuscript history of the arrival of the Mexica in Tenochtitlan, accompanied by watercolor images that look as fresh as if they were painted yesterday. In addition, the Library holds three Testarian, or pictorial, catechisms, and one of the Techaloyan codices. The latter are landclaims from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that were produced using the same techniques as the pre-Colombian codices.

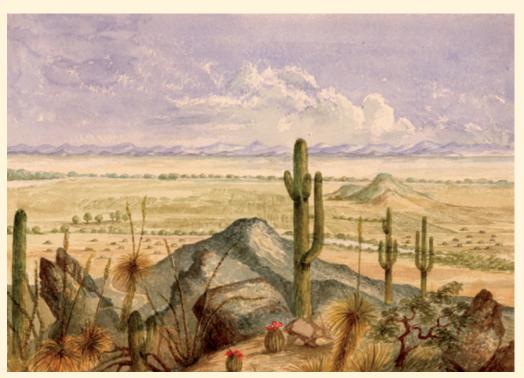


JCB on TV

¬HE JCB'S COLLECTION of artwork from the US-Mexico Boundary Commission received Hollywood (or at least public television) treatment in July, as a focal point for the PBS show, The History Detectives. Host Eduardo Pagan, with the help of art historian Gray Sweeney, used items from the Library's holdings to determine if a sketchbook owned by a private collector might have been created by Henry Cheever Pratt, one of the artists on the survey. The Library holds a remarkable collection of drawings and sketches from the Boundary Commission because of our connection to John Russell Bartlett, who served as Boundary Commissioner from 1850 to 1853. Charged with surveying the boundary between the United States and Mexico under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the commission involved a team of 111 civilian engineers, workers, and artists, with a military escort of 85 soldiers. Their mission was to not only establish the

boundary line between the two nations, but to gather information about natural resources, the terrain, and to explore the possibilities or westward routes, particularly for the development of the rail system.

Bartlett brought his personal passion for languages and ethnology, and spent a good deal of time and resources in studying the Native peoples of the Southwest. Artists were an essential part of this endeavor, and the JCB holds over 100 drawings and sketches documenting the landscape, people, flora, and architecture of the region. Many of the drawings were executed by Bartlett, a talented artist himself, but several have also been attributed to Henry Cheever Pratt, the subject of the *History Detectives* episode. The Detectives also visited New Mexico to speak with former JCB researcher, Jerry Mueller, an expert on the Boundary Commission artwork and the editor of our published Autobiography of John Russell Bartlett. The episode aired July 19th, and can now be viewed on the show's website at: http://www.pbs.org/pb/historydetectives/ investigations/805_bartlettsketchbook.html. The website also offers several examples of Boundary Commission artwork from the Library's collection.



Watercolor of a view of Arizona with the Gila River in the distance by Henry Cheever Pratt, ca. 1850, from the collection of John Russell Bartlett drawings and watercolors at the John Carter Brown Library.

GRISO and **SALALM**

¬нія summer, the јсв hosted two gatherl ings of international specialists. In June, a group of scholars attended a seminar on "Viejo mundo y nuevo mundo en las crónicas de Indias," organized by the JCB, Brown's Department of Hispanic Studies, and GRISO (the Groupo de Investigación Siglo de Oro at the University of Navarra). Fully half of the participants were former fellows of the Library. The conference was accompanied by an exhibit, curated by Angel Delgado Gómez and Susan Danforth, that resurrected an exhibit, "Spanish Historical Writing about the New World," that was mounted as a part of the quincentenial celebrations of 1992.

In July, the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) held its 55th annual meeting in Providence. Organized by Patricia Figueroa, Curator of the Iberian and Latin American Collections at Brown, the conference brought together librarians, booksellers and scholars from around the

world for a five-day meeting. The JCB hosted an opening reception on the first night of the meeting, and mounted a joint exhibit with the John Hay Library that partially recreated the famed library of Melchor Pérez de Soto, architect of the Cathedral of Mexico, who was brought before the Inquisition in 1654 for practicing astrology. Pérez de Soto's library contained over 1,500 books, of which the combined collections of the Hay and the JCB hold roughly half. Both of the summer exhibitions can be seen on our website.



Francisco Vicente de Tornamira, Chronographia, y repertorio de los tiempos, Pamplona, 1585. The Inquisition disapproved of Tornamira's astrological and astronomical text. The JCB exemplar of Tornamira's book (which was also owned by Perez de Soto) has annotations indicating that it was censored in 1632, 1640, and 1707.

Carlos Fuentes



Carlos Fuentes

In April 2010, the distinguished Mexican writer and statesman, Carlos Fuentes, gave four lectures on successive nights at the JCB. Mr. Fuentes, a Professor at Large at Brown University, dazzled audiences with a panoramic history of Latin American Literature. The first lecture described "Utopia and the Epic of the Conquest," the second, "The Century of Independence: Looking for Identity," the third, "The Novel of the Mexican Revolution," and the concluding lecture was succinctly titled, "Adding Magic to Realism." We are delighted that Mr. Fuentes will return to deliver another series of lectures in the spring of 2011.

Judaica

JOHN CARTER BROWN determined in 1846 to focus his collecting on the field of Americana. In that same year he bought three related works of Judaica, including Thomas Thorowgood's Jewes in America, or Probabilities that the Americans are of that race (London, 1650). By then he also owned two fine Polyglot Bibles. Brown, his family, and successive librarians continued to buy Judaica, and those holdings roughly doubled between 1983 and the present. One of the prized books purchased under the administration of Thomas R. Adams was Martin del Castillo's Arte hebraispano (Madrid, 1676), a Hebrew grammar for Spanish readers.

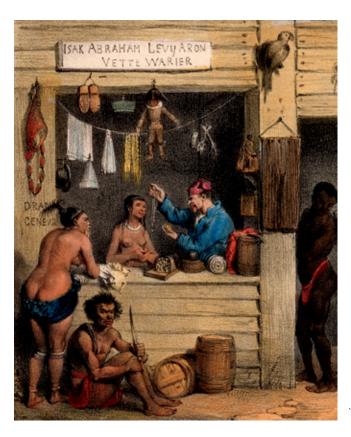
The breadth of research possibilities was documented by Paolo Bernardini and Norman Fiering in the collection, *The Jews and the Expansion of Europe to the West, 1450 to 1800* (2001), based on papers delivered at the Library's landmark 1997 conference. In his preface, Fiering argued for a Jewish Atlantic history that includes the Christian descendants of Jews in the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Fiering hoped that the essays would "be useful and suggestive to a wide range of historians of

the Americas who have no particular interest in Jewish history per se."

Paolo Bernardini also laid the initial ground-work for a Judaica exhibition, and Moises
Orfali later offered new insights into how such an exhibition might be composed. A succession of research fellows funded though the vital assistance of the Touro National Heritage Trust served to amplify our awareness of the collection. Dennis Landis took over development of the exhibition in 2006. Opening on October 21, it focuses first on the role of Jewish intellectuals in the dissemination of information about the Americas, and second on the roles of Jewish émigrés in the settling of the American colonies.

The rapid development of what may be the finest institutional collection of early Judaica Americana is in itself a reason for celebration. In this past year, further treasures were added, including David Gans's *Zemah David* (Frankfurt, 1692), an edition of the first Hebrew book to provide a substantial reference on North America. We also secured the very rare *Publicatie en provisioneel reglement* (The Hague,

Orange and Nassau. The Prince's judgement, published in Dutch and Portuguese, granted self-government to Curacao's second synagogue. The congregation had been under the jurisdiction of Curacao's original synagogue, and the Jews of the Dutch island valued self-government as much as did the Congregationalists of New England.



Detail showing a Jewish retail shop from Pierre Jacques Benoit, Voyage à Surinam, Brussels, 1838.

Natalie Zemon Davis

The JCB is always grateful for any form of remembrance from the scholars who consult our collection. Usually, this takes the form of kindly-worded acknowledgments, tucked away at the back of the works that ensue from years of diligent research, or in the notes added to checks that accompany membership in the Associates. But this summer, we received an unusual tribute from the celebrated historian Natalie Zemon Davis, a long-term friend of the Library. In March, Professor Davis received

Norway's Holberg Prize as "one of the most creative historians writing today," and that prize carried with it an award of 4.5 million kroner, or \$680,000. Her letter to the JCB announced that she wanted to remember the archives that had been essential to her work, and included a check for \$5000. She added a thoughtful comment by email, that will resonate with all of the scholars who have passed through these halls, and who form a living chain connecting current generations with earlier ones:



Natalie Zemon Davis

"I am happy to think that my gift can be of use to the JCB, which has been so very important in my own research over the years. I already was using the library when we first moved to Providence in the late 1950s. Among other riches, JCB editions were of importance for my research for *Women on the Margins*, for both the chapter on Marie de l'Incarnation and the indigenous peoples of North America and for Caribbean materials relevant to Maria Sibylla Merian's time in Suriname in the late 17th and early 18th century. And I've been back for much research in connection with my current book, *Braided Histories*, on slavery and sociability in colonial Suriname. Often when I'm looking at my notes from primary sources over the years, I'll see at the top of the page (where I always indicate the library and the call number), JCB or John Carter Brown and the call number. I should add that Nancy Lyman Roelker was a dear friend of mine; she was a loyal supporter of the JCB for many years until her death."

Watts Program in the History of the Book



Charles H.Watts II

Since 2003, Brown undergraduates have been offered a wide variety of courses on bibliography and the history of the book, taught by distinguished visiting professors. They have been brought to campus through the generosity of a fund created in 2001 by three donors, Finn H. W. Caspersen, Robert A. Tucker, and William B. Warren, to honor the late Charles H. Watts II, a longstanding member of the JCB Board. In recent years, however, the relatively small numbers of students enrolled in these courses led the Board of Governors to rethink the program. Beginning in 2010, the new Watts Program in the History of the Book will expand its mandate, holding public events about the history of the book and engaging students from Brown and RISD. Stay tuned to the JCB website for more details.

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New European Americana Database Launched:

N KEEPING WITH the JCB's commitment f I to expand access to our collection, we have teamed up with the digital publisher EBSCO to create a free online resource for scholars worldwide. European Views of the Americas, 1493–1750 will offer a rich bibliography of all records relating to the Americas that were printed in Europe between those years. Based on the great bibliography European Americana, developed by John Alden and Dennis Landis between 1980 and 1988, the new database is the latest extension of a project that originated with a conversation at the JCB in 1967, and was originally funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Readex. Even in those pre-Internet days,

there was a feeling that a catalogue ought to be available to as many readers as possible, in keeping with a tradition going back to the grand bibliographies of the 19th century and before. As Thomas R. Adams explained in his preface to the first volume of *European Americana*, the tradition of listing books about America goes back nearly as far as the discovery of America itself. The database will be accessible to libraries and the scholarly community at large through EBSCOhost, and we are grateful to EBSCO for their generous support.

Please visit www.europeanamericana.com for more information.

In Memoriam: Dr. Gabriel Najera

The JCB community was saddened to learn of the recent death of Dr. Gabriel Najera. Gabe, as he was known far and wide, was always a welcome visitor to the Library, where his courtly manners and generous spirit endeared him to all of the JCB's staff and Fellows. He once sent a charming memo that listed the rules governing the use of the Biblioteca Turriana, a library donated to the Cathedral of Mexico City in 1788. In tribute to him, we offer those rules again. Rule 15 refers to "the book of friends," where Gabe permanently resides.

- Do not treat the book as your slave, it is free, therefore, do not mark it in any way.
- Do not injure it with sharp points, it is not your enemy.
- 3. Do not draw on its pages or its cover.
- 4. Do not crease or fold or crumple the pages.
- 5. Do not scrawl in the margins.
- 6. Keep the ink away. It prefers to die than to be stained.
- 7. Do not lend it to others, but do not hide it either
- 8. Do not insert any objects in it, unless it is clean paper.

- Keep it away from: rodents, termites, flies or pickpockets.
- 10. Keep it away from: water, oil, fire, mildew, or dirt.
- 11. Use it...do not abuse it.
- 12. It is legal to read it, and to take notes of what you want to learn.
- 13. Once you have read it, do not keep it indefinitely, return it.
- 14. Return it as you received it. Do not mistreat it.
- 15. Those who follow these rules, will be placed in the book of friends.
- 16. Those who do not return it, will have their names erased from the list.

Business Pamphlet

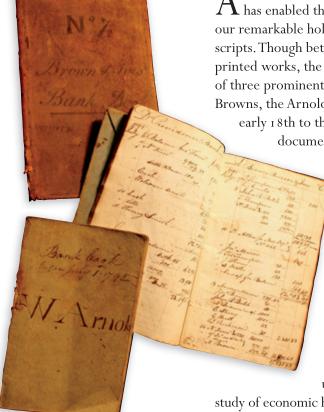
A has enabled the Library to produce a booklet describing our remarkable holdings of early American business manuscripts. Though better known for our spectacular collection of printed works, the JCB is also the repository for the records of three prominent Rhode Island merchant families: the Browns, the Arnolds, and the Tillinghasts. Spanning from the early 18th to the early 20th centuries, these collections document nearly every aspect of economic life

in North America—from maritime trade to the manufacturing of spermaceti candles, the distilling of rum and the production of cotton textiles, as well as banking, insurance, real estate and speculation in western lands.

The booklet includes brief histories for each of the companies, as well as images of documents illustrating the striking breadth of the materials. In addition to describing these large business record collections, the booklet also allows us to publicize our other resources for the

study of economic history; from individual account books (such as the cash books of George Washington) to West Indian plantation records, the manuscript holdings of the Library offer rich evidence of financial and social life in the Atlantic world.

The publication, *Business Papers at the John Carter Brown Library*, can be requested by writing to Kimberly Nusco at the JCB.



IOIN THE ASSOCIATES

Account books from

the Welcome Arnold

Business Papers.

The JCB associates has increased substantially in membership over the past fiscal year, with 96 new enrollees! Please encourage your friends to join, and consider donating a gift membership as we approach the holiday season. Student memberships are especially attractive—for a mere fifteen dollars *per annum*, college undergraduates at Brown or any other university may join the Associates, receive all of our publications, and form what we hope will be a lifelong engagement with this world-class collection.



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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.

CALENDAR

September 15 Cynthia Radding, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "Imperial Frontiers and the Creation of Desert Landscapes in Northern Mexico," MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 pm. Reception follows.

September 27 Sucheta Mazumdar, Duke University, "Slaves, Textiles, and Opium: The Other Half of the Triangular Trade," MacMillan Reading Room, 4:00 pm. Reception follows.

September 30 Watts Program/History of the Book: Sam Ellenport, Harcourt Bindery, "Bookbinding Techniques: Bottlenecks and Breakthroughs," MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 pm. Reception follows.

October 12 Annual Lefty Lewis Dinner, Club of Odd Volumes, Boston, MA, 7:30 pm. Dr. R.S. Taylor Stoermer, "Lefty's Last Legacy: Wilmarth Lewis, Horace Walpole, and New Directions in Eighteenth-Century Studies." (To make a meal reservation please call Maureen O'Donnell.)

October 19 Andrew Laird, University of Warwick, "The Civilization of the Renaissance in America: Transformations of European Knowledge in 16th-Century Mexico," 5:30 pm., MacMillan Reading Room. Reception follows.

October 28 Watts Program/History of the Book: Nicholas Basbanes, award-winning author on "The History of Paper," 5:30 pm., MacMillan Reading Room. Reception follows.

November 20 Annual Freda Bromsen Bolster Annual Concert featuring Community Music-Works, 4:00 pm., MacMillan Reading Room. Tickets available through Community MusicWorks (401 861-5650).

December 2 Watts Program/History of the Book: Stan Nelson, Typographic Historian and Practitioner, 5:30 pm., MacMillan Reading Room, Reception follows.

December 7 Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, University of Texas, Austin, "The Old Testament in Spanish America from Conquest to Independence," 5:30 pm., MacMillan Reading Room. Reception follows.

Every Wednesday at noon, please join us for our weekly JCB Fellows Lunch in the Parish Center Auditorium on the second floor at the First Unitarian Church in Providence. Use the entrance on Benevolent Street, between Benefit and Magee Streets. A catered lunch is available from Geoff's Superlative Sandwiches for the cost of \$10.00 but feel free to bring a brown bag lunch if you prefer. Check our website at www.JCBL.org for a schedule of speakers and their topics.



This issue of IN JCB is printed on paper made entirely from postconsumer waste. This 100 percent recycled paper reduces solid waste disposal and lessens landfill dependency. By using this paper,

- 6.9 trees were preserved for the future,
- 4,896,000 BTUS of energy were conserved,
- 19.96 pounds of waterborne waste were not created,
- 325 pounds of solid waste were not generated,
- · 2,936 gallons of wastewater flow were saved,
- \bullet 640 pounds net greenhouse gasses were prevented from forming.