

La Torfue

in JCB



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

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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.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Although the signs of springtime have revealed themselves only slowly this year in Providence, the JCB has been abuzz with activities these past several months, planting the seeds for future programs and keeping our research fellows and scholarly community busy with a range of exciting events at the Library. From round-table sessions on early environmental history to an extraordinary exhibition on the Haitian Revolution, the reading room has hosted a remarkable array of academic and educational programming whose aim

has been to reach beyond the traditional fields of the JCB's strengths and find new audiences in Providence and beyond. In the pages of this edition of *inJCB*, you will get a sense of all these activities, including some of our new acquisitions, and I hope you will appreciate, as I do, the remarkable curatorial and academic talents that the Library brings together under one collective roof.

As I look back on my first six months as director and librarian, I am most impressed at the number of constituencies that, happily for us, count the Library as their own. Local supporters from Providence have always been key to our ongoing success as a civic institution, from the days of George Parker Winship and his society events in the Library's reading room, and I have enjoyed meeting this segment of our community at our evening readings, lectures, and seminars. We are also most fortunate to have a vibrant group of local researchers and fabulous residential fellows who, together with our assiduous Brown faculty and student participants, make up our ongoing academic cohort. Beyond Providence, our former fellows, members of the Associates, and generous supporters of all ranks continue to engage the Library by using our online resources, perusing our exhibitions, and participating in events outside of Providence—we are deeply grateful to all of them. The JCB is a deeply loved institution and I feel fortunate to have benefitted from the wise counsel expressed so eloquently by so many of you, always concerned that the Library continue to serve as a beacon for scholarship, connoisseurship, and—most importantly—the love of books and history, throughout the Americas and beyond.

Over the next several months, the Library will be taking stock of its past successes and thinking seriously about its future, and I look forward to hearing from you about how you think the Library's activities and programs can be made even stronger in the years to come. I will keep you apprised of this process of stock-taking and assessment as we chart a new course for the Library, ever-conscious of the unique challenges and tremendous opportunities that our own special moment in history has presented to us.

Neil Safier

Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian

Cover details from:

A southwest view of the college in Providence, together with the President's House & Gardens, [Boston?], ca. 1795. This image was drawn by David Leonard, who graduated from the university in 1792, and engraved by Samuel Hill. It was the first published view of the largest building constructed in colonial Rhode Island.

Plan de la Ville du Cap François et de ses Environs Dans l'Isle St. Domingue, Paris, 1786. Engraving with hand coloring.

Carte de St. Domingue ou sont marqués les paroisses jurisdictions, ca. 1770. Manuscript.

FRONT ROW SEATS TO BROWN'S 250TH CELEBRATION

Brown University turns 250 this year, and in addition to being ideally positioned for a great view of the fireworks on and over University Hall, the JCB is contributing programming and exhibitions to the fifteen-month, campus-wide semiquincentenary celebrations. During the grand kick-off weekend, March 7 and 8, a steady stream of over 200 students, parents, alumni, and area residents visited the Library during a **two-day open house**, the highlight of which was a tour of *The Other Revolution* exhibition (see pages 2-3) with guest curator Malick Ghachem (JCB Fellow 1998-99 and Associate Professor of History, MIT). Earlier on March 7, the university hosted more than 250 local

middle schoolers for "A Day of Academic Exploration." Reference librarian Kim Nusco's *Remains of the Revolution: Documents of Haitian Independence, George Washington's signature, and more!* drew enthusiastic tweens to the Library for a first-hand look at one of our copies of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's cash books, and key documents of the Haitian Revolution. Still to come: *Off to College: Higher Education in the Americas, 1551-1825*, an exhibition that will open in late April and run through October 2014—to include JCB materials that chart the founding and development of the earliest universities of the Americas (Lima was first in 1551), not to mention utopian and unrealized proposals and trans-Atlantic debates on curriculum and standards. In partnership with the Department of History, the JCB will also play host to **1764: Brown's Founding in a**

Global Context, a series of seven lectures that will bring leading academic voices to campus to speak about the world at the moment of Brown's founding, focusing on the thematic areas of early modern globalization, the slave trade, education, natives and empires, religion, health and medicine, and politics and governance. Each



A southwest view of the college in Providence, together with the President's House & Gardens, [Boston?], ca. 1795.

lecture will have an accompanying mini-exhibition of related materials at the JCB. The Library has worked closely to coordinate these lectures (underwritten by the Office of Brown's 250th Anniversary) with Linford Fisher (of the Department of History) and a number of Brown departments and institutes, including the Department of Religious Studies, the Department of Education, the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, the School of Public Health, the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and the Watson Institute for International Studies. For a full schedule of 250th events, see 250.brown.edu.



1764: BROWN'S FOUNDING IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

A lecture series in celebration of Brown University's 250th Anniversary:

APRIL 22, 2014 Globalization
Joyce Chaplin, Harvard University

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 The Slave Trade
Craig Wilder, MIT

OCTOBER 21, 2014 Education
George Marsden, University of Notre Dame

NOVEMBER 18, 2014 Natives and Empires
Colin Calloway, Dartmouth College

FEBRUARY 17, 2015 Religion
Catherine Brekus, University of Chicago

MARCH 3, 2015 Health and Medicine
Charles Rosenberg, Harvard University

MAY 23, 2015 Politics and Governance
Gordon Wood, Brown University

Details at: www.brown1764.org

**IMAGINE
BROWN
250+**

WINTER AND SPRING 2014

THE OTHER REVOLUTION: HAITI, 1789–1804



Malick Ghachem (Associate Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) leads a tour of *The Other Revolution: Haiti, 1789-1804* in the MacMillan Reading Room on March 8, 2014, as part of the kickoff weekend to Brown University's 250th Anniversary celebrations.

Malick was a Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellow at the JCB in 1998-99.

Photo by Scott Kingsley

In the ten years since the bicentennial of Haitian Independence, there has been an explosion of scholarship and increased appreciation of the significant role played by the revolution in Saint-Domingue in the transformation of the Atlantic World in the late eighteenth century. This newer scholarship was in evidence in the New-York Historical Society's groundbreaking 2011-12 exhibition, *Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn*, to which the JCB loaned several items from the American, French, and Haitian revolutions. As a follow up, and in coordination with the N-YHS, the JCB invited guest curator Malick Ghachem to think again about his 2004 presentation of the JCB's Haitian materials in *The Haitian Revolution, 1789-1804*. In his introduction to the present exhibition, he makes the case for further scholarship to recover even more of what was also the only successful slave revolt:

At the start of 2014, Haiti remains marginalized on the world scene and vulnerable within its own borders, painfully so in the aftermath of the terrible 2010 earthquake that struck such a devastating blow to a proud and resilient land.

Even more so than in the American and French contexts, much of Haiti's revolutionary treasure is necessarily lost forever. Few sources survive that record the thoughts and sentiments of the tens of thousands of illiterate slaves who carried out the Haitian Revolution. But some of that treasure, something of the Haitian revolutionary spirit—its stirring promise, and also its tragic disappointments—is still preserved in the books, pamphlets, maps, and prints displayed in this room. In many instances the revolutionary spirit can be only dimly perceived through the eye-witness accounts and recollections of literate white colonists and free people of color, but it is there all the same.

In conjunction with *The Other Revolution*, the Library hosted its first ever artist-in-residence. Haitian-born Edouard Duval-Carrié was here for a week in February, researching in the collection and speaking with curators and scholars in residence. In May he will return to campus, as the guest of Brown's Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ), to install the resulting exhibition—a visual exploration of the conflicting portraits of Toussaint Louverture. The Library also co-organized, with CSSJ and the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Public Humanities at Brown, a symposium on curating slavery, which drew curators and historians from as near as Brown Street and as far as Amsterdam and Nantes.



The Other Revolution: Haiti, 1789-1804 will continue through April in the MacMillan Reading Room. As a special feature of this installation, and as an example of the JCB's continuing commitment to the use of digital technologies for increased access to the collections, visitors can virtually "turn-the-pages." Scanning a QR code attached to each label with a smartphone or tablet device brings up the full digital facsimile of that item in the JCB's Haiti Collection in the Internet Archive. Links are also embedded in the thumbnail illustrations of the online exhibition at: jcb1.org/haitian—or you can scan the QR code to the left.

A SAMPLING FROM THE EXHIBITION

HALF OF HISPANIOLA

Carte de St. Domingue ou sont marqués les paroisses jurisdictions, ca. 1770. Manuscript.

This 1770 map of Saint-Domingue shows the division of the colony into three administrative departments: north, west, and south. (What was called the “western” province at the time is perhaps more intuitively understood as the “central” region). At the right-hand side is a list of parishes and the ten lower-court jurisdictions into which they were grouped. The colony’s leading cities were Cap-Français in the north (capital until 1750) and Port-au-Prince in the west (capital after 1750). As of 1789, the colony’s population consisted of about 30,000 white residents, a similar number of free blacks and people of color (also called “mulattoes”), and roughly 465,000 slaves of African descent. The most fortunate and powerful free people of color were prominent as coffee growers in the southern province and as military personnel in the north.



PARIS OF THE ANTILLES: CAP-FRANCAIS

Plan de la Ville du Cap François et de ses Environs Dans l'Isle St. Domingue, Paris, 1786. Hand-colored engraving.

The clearly delineated grid in this map of Cap-Français (modern Cap-Haïtien), the commercial and cultural capital of French Saint-Domingue at the time of the Revolution, creates a striking visual contrast with the deeply shaded elevations of the surrounding mountains. The exquisitely manicured approach to the Place Royale, the grand open squares, fountains, botanical gardens, and other trappings of a civilized, Paris-like urban setting seem similarly out of kilter with the Bazar pour la Vente des Negres shown apart from the town to the left, above the Chemin du-Port-au-Prince.

LOUVERTURE AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWER

Toussaint Louverture chef des noirs insurgés de Saint Domingue, Paris, 1802. Hand-colored engraving.

This equestrian portrait of Toussaint Louverture, “leader of the insurgent blacks of Saint-Domingue,” was intended to capture a moment when the black general was at the height of his power. In 1800, Louverture had defeated the mulatto forces led by Rigaud in the southern department, thereby giving the black general control over all of the territory of French Saint-Domingue. The following year, 1801, saw Louverture extend his sovereignty over the island’s eastern (or Spanish) side as well. This success proved to be short-lived. Louverture was captured and deported to France in 1802, where he died a prisoner of Napoleon in an Alpine prison near the Swiss border.



EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY MANUSCRIPT ON MINING FROM MEXICO

Among recent acquisitions is a notable Mexican manuscript related to mining, *Medidas de minas y beneficio de los metales según Gamboa* (Mexico, 1789). As the title states, much of the text was extracted from Francisco Xavier Gamboa's *Comentarios a las ordenanzas de minas* (Madrid, 1761), but to that the anonymous compiler added parts of other texts on the topic. What makes this particularly attractive, both visually and intellectually, is the inclusion of eight folded sheets bearing watercolor drawings. The images depict scientific measuring instruments, mountains, buildings, and mine shafts—many of them vernacular versions of Gamboa's engraved illustrations.

The compiler of the manuscript adapted Gamboa's plates making them even more appropriate for the Mexican context. In this example they are numbered according to the same sequence used by Gamboa (see below).



FOR COMPARISON:

Detail from a series of diagrams illustrating Gamboa's treatise on subterranean geometry. Francisco Xavier Gamboa, *Comentarios a las ordenanzas de minas*, Madrid: Joachin Ibarra, 1761, Plate 1.

Born in Guadalajara in 1717, Francisco Xavier Gamboa would become one of the foremost colonial Mexican lawyers and one of the few Spanish legal experts at that time on mining engineering and geology. Having litigated mining cases in the courts of Mexico City for almost fifteen years in the 1740s and 1750s, his Comentarios, dedicated to King Carlos III, were informed by an intimate knowledge of the Mining Ordinances of 1584, the governing statute at the time, and made such an impression on the councillors of the Indies that they appointed him in 1764 as judge to the high court of Mexico, an exceptional honor for a creole in the 1760s.



See Christopher Peter Albi, "Derecho Indiano vs. the Bourbon Reforms: The Legal Philosophy of Francisco Xavier Gamboa," in Gabriel B. Paquette, ed., *Enlightened Reform in Southern Europe and Its Atlantic Colonies, c. 1750-1830* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009), ch. 14, 229-249.

ACCIDENTAL ADDITION TO HISTORY OF THE BOOK HOLDINGS



Indigenous American language material remains an important focus of collecting at the JCB, and we recently had the opportunity to add to our holdings in *Pokonchi or Pokomchi*, a Mayan language spoken in Guatemala and Honduras. The author-publisher Christian Friedrich Gessner provides an analysis of its grammar and a glossary of 46 words in his *Der in der Buchdruckerei wohl unterrichtete Lehr-Junge* (Leipzig, 1743), a manual for the printer's apprentice. While the Americana content is what brought this book to our notice, Gessner's marvelous compendium also enriches our holdings in the history and art of the book, providing sample layouts for printing formats (folio, quarto, octavo, etc.) and their variants, and a range of typefaces, including for Hebrew and other languages of the Levant and Near East. Bound with this volume is another instructive manual published by Gessner, Hieronymus Hornschuch's *Wohl unterwiesener Corrector*, which brings home the importance of corrected copy to any successful publication and is completed with a celebration in verse of the printer's valued craft.

HORNSCHUCH, Hieronymus, *Wohl unterwiesener Corrector*, Leipzig: C. F. Gessner, 1743. *The engraved frontispiece showing a proof corrector, comfortably attired and smoking a pipe.*

MASTER OF MEXICAN MAPPING AND METEOROLOGY

The Mexican-born cleric and scientist, José Antonio de Alzate y Ramirez (1737-1799), embraced the ideas of the Enlightenment and devoted his life to the study of all branches of science. Educated at the *Colegio de San Ildefonso* in Mexico City, his reputation as a zoologist and botanist earned him a corresponding membership in both the French and Spanish academies of science. Alzate y Ramirez was also one of the earliest observers of Mexican meteorology and the most important mapmaker working in Mexico in the latter part of the eighteenth century. We have recently acquired a piece that demonstrates both of these abilities, a map on which he notes temperature variations recorded at numerous points in the Archbishopric of Mexico. This manuscript map, still mounted on its original linen backing, is attached to wooden supports so that it can be rolled up for storage or hung on an office wall for consultation. The stains along the right-hand side suggest that it did, in fact, spend some time hanging on somebody's wall.

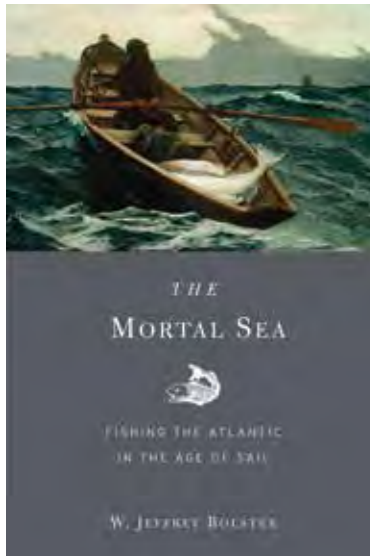


Detail from José Antonio de Alzate y Ramirez, *Mapa Geográfico del arzobispado de Mexico*, Mexico, 1772. Manuscript.

RECENT PURCHASE FILLS IN FACTS OF FIRST BROWN BROTHER



James Brown, first-born son of Captain James (1698-1739) and Hope (Power) Brown (1702-1792), died in Yorktown, Virginia in 1750, leaving control of the family's business ventures to his four younger brothers: Nicholas, Joseph, John, and Moses. The Library holds Captain Brown's copy of the *English Pilot*, a navigational text, which contains his sailing notes and ends with a notation of his death, but our collection of Brown family business records held little about his final voyage—until now. A recent fortuitous purchase sheds light on his fate. Tracing the business transactions of Brown's sloop *Freelove* as it traveled from Providence to Virginia and Maryland on its way to Jamaica, this small collection of documents also includes a doctor's bill detailing the medical treatment Captain Brown received at Yorktown. The administration of a "febrifuge" of "cephalick powders" indicates that he suffered a fever, "catharrick pills" suggest chest congestion, and the charges for "attending him at Mr. Archer's ten days, four & sometimes five times a day" reveal the severity of the illness that took James Brown's life on February 15th, 1750.



Jeffrey Bolster's 2012 book, the source for this year's Galletti Lecture at the JCB, has won no fewer than four prestigious literary prizes: The John Lyman Book Award for best book in U.S. Maritime History from the North American Society for Oceanic History; the Albert J. Beveridge Prize; the James Rawley Prize in Atlantic History; and the Bancroft Prize, awarded annually by Columbia University for the most distinguished work in American History. Bolster is Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire. The book emerged from his decade-long involvement with the Census of Marine Life, an interdisciplinary, international research project, working on marine environmental history and global historical ecology.

EARLY OCEANIC HISTORIES

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014

A series of three events in early February kicks off a new initiative in environmental studies at the John Carter Brown Library.

The Library has long dedicated itself to collecting, publishing, and programming in the field of maritime history. Witness, for example, the publication—and recent re-publication—of Lawrence Wroth's *The Way of a Ship* (1937; 2011, with a new introduction by naval historian John Hattendorf), the extraordinary catalogue of *English Maritime Books Before 1801* by Tom Adams and David Waters, and the 2003 exhibition and catalogue, *The Boundless Deep*, showing in vivid colors the extraordinary array of maritime treasures housed under this roof. One aspect, in particular, that has distinguished maritime collecting at the JCB is its pan-European approach. As former director Norman Fiering pointed out in the foreword to *Boundless Deep*, “At the JCB, we acquire maritime books indifferent to their national origins, which results, in fact, in a picture truer to the reality of the early modern period.” The natural environment and the oceans are, of course, also indifferent to national boundaries. For this reason, maritime history and the collections on oceanic topics at the JCB seemed a natural springboard from which to launch a new initiative that will examine American contributions to the field of early environmental history. Over three days in February, we set out to explore this exciting field, with the anchor event being our annual Sonia Galletti Lecture, delivered by W. Jeffrey Bolster, author of *The Mortal Sea: Fishing the Atlantic in the Age of Sail* (Belknap Press, 2012).

In the JCB's collection of maritime maps, charts, texts, and images, it is easy to recognize the human desire to name and control the oceans, which were understood for much of history to be an unlimited, if formidable, natural resource. As Jeffrey Bolster's lecture made clear, however, many human societies seem to have known that the oceans were, in fact, quite limited—in what they could provide and in how they could be managed. The story we heard from Bolster was not one of swashbuckling conquistadors or briny sea captains, but rather a more humble story of fisherpeople and commonfolk who made their life's work at the water's edge: a tale not of conquest, but of depredation. Rather than being boundless, the sea in Jeffrey Bolster's retelling is a living and limited entity. And, as it turns out, a mortal one.

The Galletti Lecture was preceded the evening before by the screening of a challenging documentary, *Leviathan*, on the grueling realities of contemporary commercial fishing in the Atlantic, which included a lively Q-and-A session with one of the directors, Lucien Castaing-Taylor. The day following Bolster's lecture, the Library held a roundtable discussion, “American Oecologies,” on a range of broader issues of concern to environmental historians. It included commentary by Jeffrey Bolster on six short presentations by scholars working on topics as varied as indigenous contributions to Euro-American environmental science, historical relationships between humans and animals, patterns of natural resource exploitation in the early Spanish Caribbean, and the intersection of historical ecology and marine conservation.

Stay tuned for more JCB events that explore early environmental history. In the meantime, videos of Jeffrey Bolster's Galletti Lecture and the “American Oecologies” roundtable can be found on the “Multimedia” page at jcbi.org.

DOCUMENTING THE SEAS

Leviathan, directed by V erena Paravel and Lucien Castaing-Taylor, provides an immersive cinematic experience unlike any other documentary about humans and the sea. With no dialogue, just sights and sounds, it was shot entirely aboard a New Bedford, Massachusetts fishing trawler with small, waterproof digital cameras, often from the viewpoint of the fish or the seagulls that circle the catch. At the time of its release in 2012, it was described perhaps most poignantly by Denis Lim, writing for the *New York Times* (“The Merger of Academia and Art House,” August 31, 2012):

A portrait of commercial fishing in the North Atlantic as the written word alone could never render it, Leviathan conveys the brutal toll that the enterprise takes on the workers and on the ocean, and it could even be read as an environmental parable in which the sea threatens to exact its revenge on humanity. But none of this is explicit in the film, which avoids exposition and context, unfolds almost entirely in the dark and often verges on hallucinatory abstraction.

Paravel and Castaing-Taylor are both members of Harvard’s Sensory Ethnography Lab, established in 2006 by Mr. Castaing-Taylor as a collaboration between the departments of anthropology and visual and environmental studies.



IMAGINING MELVILLE IN THE READING ROOM



“Dangers of the Whale Fishery,” in William Scoresby, *An account of the Arctic regions, with a history and description of the northern whale-fishery ...* Vol. II, Edinburgh, 1820. Engraving.

This plate illustrates an incident related on p. 368 of the text in which a whaling boat from a ship out of Leith was tossed into the air by a whale. All but one of the crew (the man in the boat) was rescued. The event took place off the coast of Labrador in 1802. William Scoresby, born in Yorkshire of a father who made his fortune in whaling, became an Arctic explorer and, later, a clergyman. His observations of natural phenomena contributed greatly to the understanding of Arctic conditions. He also mapped and charted the east coast of Greenland on his voyage there in 1823. The book is acknowledged as an important source for Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*. The historical antecedents for another of Melville’s classics, *Benito Cereno*, will be explored in the JCB’s annual Bromsen Lecture, to be given this year by Greg Grandin (New York University) on May 29 (see back cover).



Watts workshop instructor Suzi Cozzens demonstrates the Smyth Sewn binding technique.

WATTS STUDENTS LEARN BY MAKING

Among the most popular activities offered by the Watts Program are the studio workshops where students are exposed to a variety of techniques used to make books by hand. The workshops are free and often have long waiting lists. In Fall 2013, Suzi Cozzens (Graphic Design, RISD, and former Watts Coordinator) taught “Three Sundays of Bookbinding,” in which students learned firsthand the differences between Japanese Stab and Smyth Sewn bindings. More recently, undergraduates met in the intaglio printing studio at the Rhode Island School of Design for a demonstration of copperplate engraving from Andrew Raftery, one of the few and most accomplished contemporary artists working in the medium. The mechanics of letter press and other print technologies are the focus of the final workshop of the year at the AS220 Printshop in downtown Providence. While most of these workshops take place away from the JCB, they help to build awareness of the Library’s unique collections and bring a new generation to an appreciation of print culture, in line with the library’s “New World of Books” program inaugurated by new director Neil Safier.

WATTS LOOKS AT THE HISTORY— AND FUTURE—OF THE BOOK

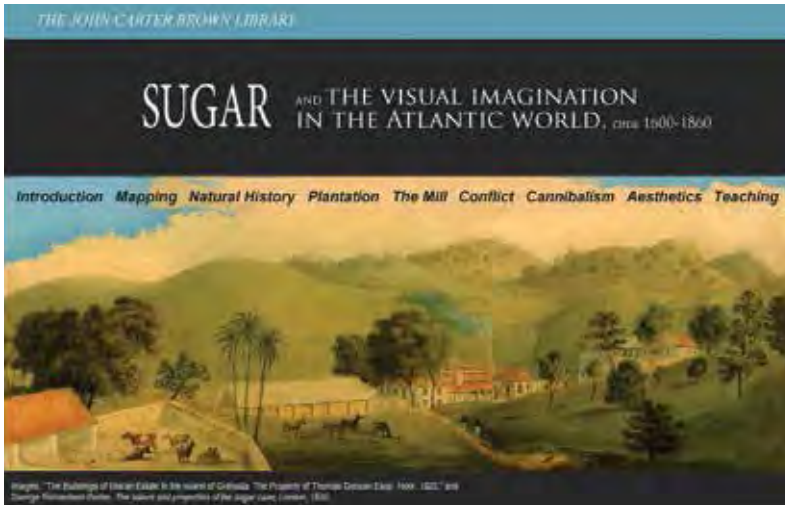
This year the Charles H. Watts II History and Culture of the Book Program once again reached out to dozens of Brown and RISD undergraduates through events and activities that explore books and prints as reflections of culture, past and present. In Fall 2013, with a focus on the practice of the History of the Book as a discipline, students participated in tours of the JCB’s German Americana exhibition, the Providence Athenaeum’s Founders’ Collection, and the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair. In November, they were treated to a lecture and seminar by Rare Book School Director, Michael J. Suarez, S.J. The lecture, “The Print that Changed the World: The Description of the Slave-Ship Brookes,” gave a preview of one topic Suarez is developing for his Lyell Lectures at Oxford in Spring 2015. The seminar brought students into closer contact with objects at the JCB to consider color in early print illustrations (e.g., in editions of Merian and Catesby) and explicit dedications to patrons, real and desired, in engraved plates. Other seminars—all equally popular—were led this year by Emily Kugler (Assistant Professor of English, Colby College) on the publication history of slave narratives and Ann Blair (Henry Charles Lea Professor of History, Harvard) on annotations in printed books and other forms of note-taking.

The spring semester’s theme, “The Future of Books—Past and Present,” brought Willa Z. Silverman (Professor of French and Jewish Studies, Penn State) to the JCB to talk about the surprisingly prescient musings of nineteenth-century writer, publisher, and bibliophile Octave Uzanne in “The End of Books? French Fin-de-siècle Imaginings of the Future of Print,” which included a visit to RISD’s Special Collections for students to see Art Nouveau materials, including several editions by Uzanne. In April, Daniel Raff (Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania) posed the question “What Became of Borders?” as a springboard for a larger discussion of the transformation of bookselling and the form of the book in our time, “from superstores to the immaterial text, and what these developments will mean for the personal and social experience of readers.” Finally, Watts played host to the Stillwell Book Collecting Prize ceremony, co-presented by Providence’s John Russell Bartlett Society. Nicholas Basbanes spoke at the event, held annually in the JCB’s MacMillan Reading Room, and if last year’s sixteen entries are any indication, there is hope for the future of book collecting, at least among the undergraduates of Rhode Island.

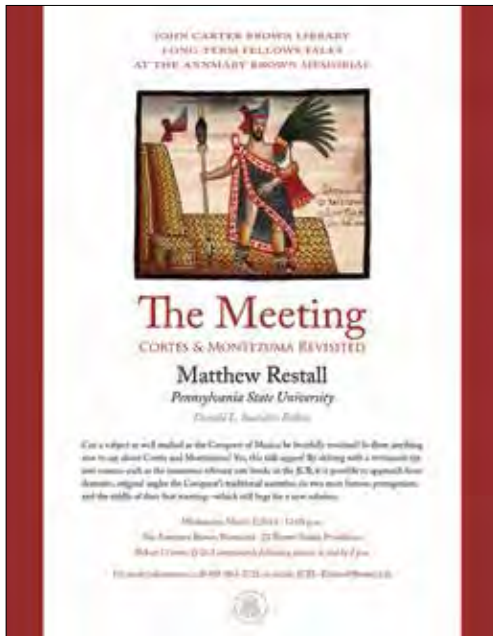


“An Acaurana.” Mark Catesby, *The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands...*, Vol. 2, London, 1743, plate 31. The case of hand-coloring by author/artist/publisher Catesby of his own engraved plates was one of the subjects covered by Michael Suarez in his November seminar for the Watts Program.

WEBSITE FOR SUGAR EXHIBITION WINS TOP PRIZE FROM THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



A NEW KIND OF WEDNESDAY AT THE JCB (AND THE ANNMARY BROWN MEMORIAL)



The focus on work-in-progress remains the same, but the weekly JCB Fellows' Talks underwent a change this winter that puts greater emphasis on showcasing material evidence from the Library's collections. The first Wednesdays of the month now feature noon-hour talks by long-term fellows at the historic Annmary Brown Memorial, just a few minutes' walk from the JCB on the Brown campus, followed by a lunch for fellows, staff, and invited guests at the same venue. All other Wednesdays, apart from the first of each month, are now reserved for informal afternoon talks (at 4pm) by our short-term fellows in the MacMillan Reading Room of the Library (followed by a visit to a nearby pub for further conversation). In this new format, which is designed to maximize dialogue between fellows and the Brown community, we will be highlighting fellows' research and JCB materials side-by-side. Books, manuscripts, maps, and images from the Library's collection will take center stage alongside the questions, approaches, and preliminary results presented by our fellows. In the past couple months, talks have focused on new ideas about the historic meeting of Montezuma and Hernán Cortés, Creole rights in colonial Peru, and "Calamity Economics"—U.S. provisioning of enslaved workers in the Caribbean. We hope you'll join us for a future Wednesday talk. If you are not already receiving e-mailed announcements, please send your address to jcb-events@brown.edu.

FELLOWS' SPOTLIGHT

BENJAMIN P. BREEN: DIGITAL HUMANITIES PIONEER



Benjamin Breen, Almeida Family Fellow,
2012-13.

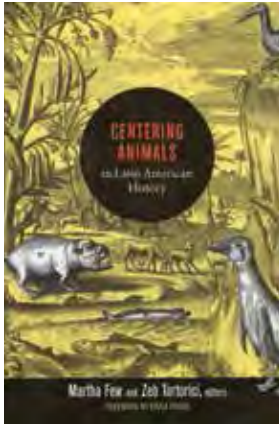
A PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Austin, working under two other former fellows, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and Neil Kamil, Benjamin Breen studies New World *materia medica* and the early modern drug trade in the Portuguese and British Empires by day and experiments with novel ways to bridge popular and academic history at night. His most recent platform for the latter is the online journal *The Appendix*, which he founded in 2012 with three other U.T. grad students, including Brian Jones, another former JCB Fellow, and for which he now serves as editor-in-chief. Using highly flexible short and long forms, and hide-and-seek features not possible in the fixed world of print, *The Appendix* delivers the conventional in innovative and inviting packaging along with the scholarly equivalent of the *amuse-bouche*—fresh morsels of intriguing archival discovery from all time periods with wide appeal, if not yet a full blown chapter or article to call home. Ben has tapped several other JCB fellows for *The Appendix*, including Allison Bigelow and Julia Gaffield, who both contributed to the current issue devoted to "Digs," the former with an article on the language of mining in the early Americas for the chapter "Digging in the Dirt," the latter with the story of her discovery of the only known copy of the 1804 Haitian Declaration of Independence for the chapter "Digging in the Archives"—for which there is a translation in Haitian Kreyòl just a mouse click away. Proof that Ben's efforts are expanding the audience for history? His own contributions have been excerpted or syndicated no fewer than twelve times by *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review online*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Jezebel*, and *AHA Today*. But there's even more by Ben, including a recent post on the vexing issue of the "long" S, on his own blog begun in 2010, *Res Obscura. A catalogue of obscure things* (resobscura.blogspot.com), which you also won't want to miss.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FORMER JCB FELLOWS

Martha Few and Zeb Tortorici, *editors*

CENTERING ANIMALS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

Duke University Press, 2013



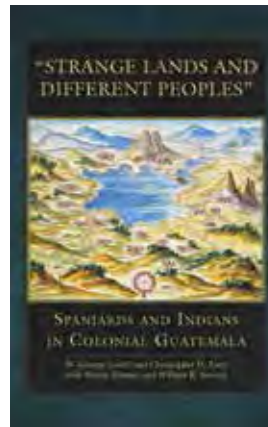
This collection reveals how interactions between humans and animals have significantly shaped Latin American cultures and histories. Topics range from canine rites in Bourbon Mexico to imported monkeys used in medical experimentation in Puerto Rico. Martha Few is Associate Professor of Colonial Latin American History at the University

of Arizona, Tucson, and was twice a Ruth and Lincoln Ekstrom Fellow (1995-96 and 2005-06). Zeb Tortorici is Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures at New York University, and was also an Ekstrom Fellow (2011-12).

W. George Lovell and Christopher H. Lutz,
with Wendy Kramer and William R. Swezey

“STRANGE LANDS AND DIFFERENT PEOPLES”: SPANIARDS AND INDIANS IN COLONIAL GUATEMALA

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2013



With a focus on the first century of colonial rule (1524-1624), the authors of “*Strange Lands*” reconsider the complex relationship between Spaniards and Indians, document the excesses of Spanish exploitation, and reappraise the devastating impact of epidemic disease—ultimately making the argument that deep divisions and injustice in Guatemala today are

best understood in light of the colonial experiments that forged it. W. George Lovell is Professor of Geography at Queen’s University, Canada and was twice a JCB Fellow (Helen Watson Buckner Memorial in 2003-04 and Maury A. Bromsen in 2010-11).

Benjamin P. Breen, *editor-in-chief*,
and Brian Jones, *publisher*, et al.

THE APPENDIX

A reader-supported quarterly journal of experimental and narrative history, published online from December 2012



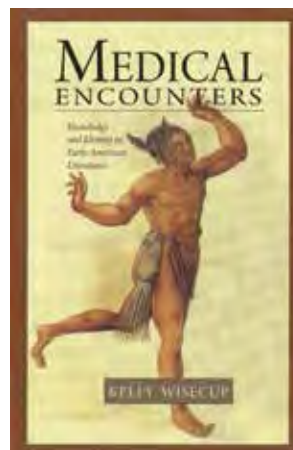
From the “About” page: *...though at times outlandish, everything in its pages is as true as the sources allow. The Appendix solicits articles from historians, writers, and artists committed to good storytelling, with an eye for the strange and a suspicion of both jargon and traditional narratives. A creature of the web, its format takes advantage of the flexibility of hypertext and modern*

web presentation techniques to experiment with and explore the process and method of writing history. Benjamin Breen was an Almeida Family Fellow in 2012-13; Brian Jones was a Hartland Fellow in 2010-11. Read *The Appendix* online at theappendix.net.

Kelly Wisecup

MEDICAL ENCOUNTERS: KNOWLEDGE AND IDENTITY IN EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURES

University of Massachusetts Press, 2013

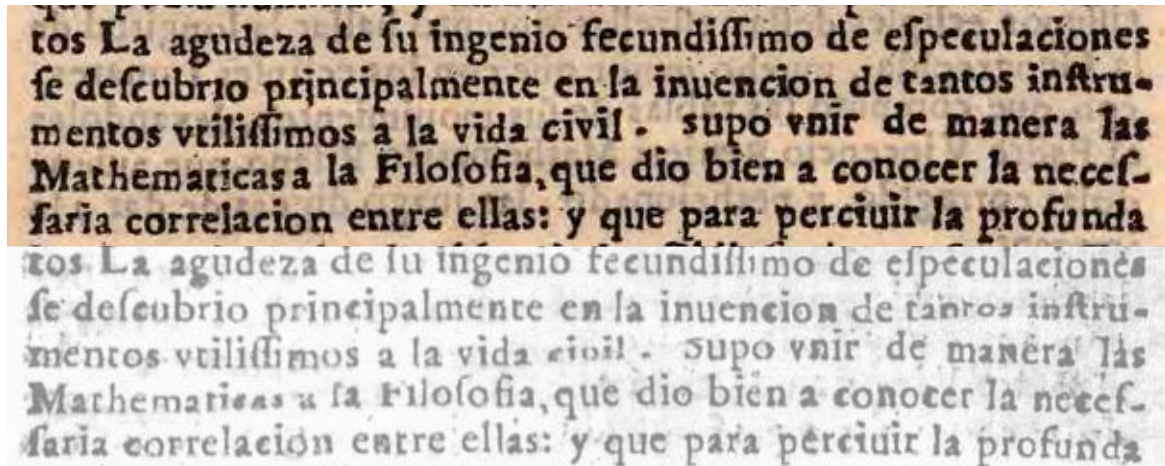


This book is about the exchange of medical knowledge in early America and the varied forms in which British colonists represented what they learned from natives and others. Against the prevailing view that these texts provide insight only into their writers’ perspectives, Wisecup demonstrates that Europeans, Natives, and

Africans held certain medical ideas in common, including a conception of disease as both a spiritual and a physical entity, and a belief in the power of special rituals or prayers to restore health. Kelly Wisecup is Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Texas, and was a Barbara S. Mosbacher Fellow in 2008-09 and a John Alden Memorial Fellow in 2011-12.

A GALILEO TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

by Kenneth Ward



ANATOMY OF A FORGERY

It is likely that the forger of the JCB Galileo worked from a photographic negative of the original (shown in the lower of the two details here), attempted to “clean up” the text, and then printed a positive in the correct size. (A common technique—copies of the Texas Declaration of Independence made in this way were discovered in the 1980s because the forger erred in resizing). Because of a crimp at the words *a la vida civil. Supo vnir*, the forger had to guess at reconstructing the exact typography, and in the process introduced mistakes. The lower case *s* of *supo* in the JCB copy—strange because the word is at the beginning of a sentence—always disturbed the author of this article, and turned out to be one of several telltale errors. In addition, the forger changed the *u* in the folded *ciuil* to a *v*, making it *civil*—further evidence that he was not familiar with typesetting conventions from the seventeenth century, in this case the use of *u* in the middle of words where we now use a *v*, as in the line above in *inuencion*.

To search for further clues, you can compare digitized versions of JCB’s fake Galileo and the original in the National Library in Lima online at <https://archive.org/details/galileogalileifooovz> and <http://bibdig.museogalileo.it/Teca/Viewer?an=00000410867&lng=en>

In 2004, the JCB acquired what was then only the second known copy of Juan Vázquez de Acuña’s *Galileo Galilei, Filosofo, y Mathematico*. A brief four-page biography of Galileo and his principal accomplishments, the original imprint was published in Lima in 1650. Rick Ring, then acquisitions librarian, pointed the Galileo out to me on my first day at the JCB in 2007. Something always bothered him and then me about it.

Readers of the *New Yorker* will be familiar with the nefarious Marino Massimo de Caro, his systematic despoiling of the Girolamini Library in Naples, and the case of the fake *Siderius Nuncius* (Nicolas Schmidle, “A very rare book,” December 16, 2013). There’s more to this story. In June 2012, Nick Wilding (Georgia State University) announced to readers of *EXLIBRIS-L*, popular electronic discussion list for rare book librarians, dealers, and collectors, the discovery of a number of forgeries all related to Galileo and all tracing back to De Caro. Rick Ring contacted me the same day suggesting that I “revisit” the Vázquez de Acuña. In little time, I had confirmed that our copy was a fake and that two other copies were likewise forgeries, one held by the National Library of Spain, the other by a dealer. While the previous two have now disappeared, and may surface on the market again, the JCB has been reimbursed for its copy and allowed to retain it as a wonderful teaching tool.

From the outset, the binding of the JCB’s Galileo just did not feel right; the repurposed endpapers make reference to prices in *maravidies*, not *reales* (which one would have expected for colonial Peru), and are dated thirteen years after publication. Close analysis of the text in comparison with the original reveals much more. Our forger clearly had access to the one surviving original copy of the 1650 Lima Galileo, now at the National Library of Peru, but only through a photo or digital image, and several obscured or damaged areas of text, including a small crimp in the first page, threw him off (see caption to left for explanation of the likely technique he used and the resulting errors). Including the mistakes visible in the detail above, I have identified well over a dozen instances of botched retouching of typography in the Vázquez de Acuña forgery. In a report that I presented to our Board of Governors, I detailed only 11, knowing that it would circulate, and I wanted to keep some of them secret in case a “new and improved” forgery comes along. One of my favorites is where, on another page, *Florenzia* was changed to *Fiorenzia*, perhaps supporting the argument that our forger, like Marino Massimo de Caro, is Italian.

JCB RARE BOOK DINNER 2014, NEW YORK

On April 4, forty JCB Library friends, supporters, and newcomers gathered in the NY Union Club's beautiful library for a celebratory dinner, scheduled to coincide with the 2014 New York Antiquarian Book Fair. All attendees were treated to an opportunity to exchange stories from the Book Fair over drinks and then dinner in a venue exclusively available to the JCB for elegant dining, thanks to the kindness of John Steele Gordon, author and Chair of the Union Club's Library Committee, and the efforts of JCB Governor and Vice Chair Clinton I. Smullyan, Jr. Guests not only met the Library's new Director, Neil Safier, who spoke eloquently and with deep enthusiasm about new possibilities for the JCB; all were spellbound by the evening's guest speaker, Anthony Grafton, the Henry Putnam University Professor at Princeton, who, in his talk "Life in the Margins," elaborated on what he has learned from studying the handwritten notes recorded in the margins of books that collectors have often preferred to acquire in pristine condition. Whether describing what he calls "reading to annihilate" (adding marginalia that negates the underlying text by crossing or blacking it out like Joseph Scaliger was wont to do) or "reading for mastery" (following the trail of marginalia that reveals a scholar's deep commitment as in the case of Casaubon's close reading of his Flavius Josephus), Grafton was mesmerizing. No one who enjoyed the NY evening will look at scribbles in a margin in the same way ever again. All funds raised at the dinner will support the John Carter Brown Library's Director's New Initiatives Fund.

ANNUAL ASSOCIATES MEETING, MACMILLAN READING ROOM, MAY 9, 2014

On May 9, the JCB's Associates will hold their 71st Annual Meeting. Chairman Bill Twaddell will update guests on the latest conservation initiatives, acquisitions, and fellowships supported by dues. In addition, we will welcome John Demos, the Samuel Knight Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University. Professor Demos will present "On the Trail of the Heathen School: Local History, American History, World History," based on the subject of his recently released

book, *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic*. The talk will touch on the story at the heart of the book, but also reflect on its discovery and the process of writing about it.

A reception will follow during which attendees can purchase a copy of *The Heathen School* for Professor Demos to sign. There will also be an optional dinner at the Hope Club following the reception, which will require a minimum donation of \$100.

For more information or to purchase a ticket to the dinner, call Maureen O'Donnell at 401-863-1553.



John Demos
Photo credit: Michael Lionstar

JOIN THE ASSOCIATES

"French Travel Narratives and the Early Modern North Atlantic," "The Politics of Nature at Hacienda Quispicanhis, Cusco, Peru," and "Southern Athapaskans and Western Science: Mapping an Ethnological History of the US-Mexican Borderlands, 1767-1887" are all recent projects of JCB Fellows supported by Associate membership dues. In the past year Associates have also supported the acquisition of rare material and the rebinding of particularly fragile books in the collection. The Library's Associates are a deeply valued underpinning of all that is at the heart of the JCB. Associates are invited to special events, receive the Library's newsletter, *inJCB*, enjoy discounts on books, maps, and posters published by the Library, and are eligible to attend field trips to New York and other special destinations.

Attend our Annual Associates meeting on May 9 to learn more. Or, subscribe today to immediately join our community of bibliophiles and library enthusiasts. For more information, see www.jcbl.org or call Maureen O'Donnell at 401-863-1553.

inJCB is published for Associates and friends of the John Carter Brown Library

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APRIL 4 Rare Book Dinner at the Union Club in New York City: Guest speaker Anthony Grafton, Henry Putnam University Professor of History and Humanities, Princeton University, "Life in the Margins," a talk about books he has known and how they've been read through history.

APRIL 6 Annual Freda Bromsen Bolster Concert: Community MusicWorks playing Bach and Vivaldi. MacMillan Reading Room, 3:30 p.m. Free, but registration required through Community MusicWorks at 401 861-5650.

APRIL 10 Watts Program Lecture: Daniel Raff, Associate Professor of Management, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, "What Became of Borders Bookstore?" MacMillan Reading Room, 6:00 p.m.

APRIL 14 The Margaret B. Stillwell Book Collecting Prize Ceremony and Lecture: Nicholas Basbanes, author of *On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013). MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Watts Program and the John Russell Bartlett Society.

APRIL 22 Joyce Chaplin, James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Harvard University, "The World is Not Enough: Brown circa 1764 (and circa 2014)." MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. (See page 1 for more information.)

APRIL 24 JCB/Brown British Atlantic Seminar (JBBAS) presentation: Carla Pestana, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles, "The Initial Vision for an English Jamaica," MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Registration required: blogs.brown.edu/british-atlantic-seminar

APRIL 27 Watts Program Film Screening: *Out of Print*. Followed by panel discussion with director Vivienne Roumani. Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Center for the Book.

MAY 9 Annual Associates Meeting and Lecture. John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor Emeritus of History, Yale University, author of *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic* (2014). MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Annual Associates Dinner at the Hope Club at 7:30 p.m. – \$100 per diner. Reservations and payment, call Maureen O'Donnell at 401 863-1553.

MAY 29 Annual Maury A. Bromsen Lecture in Latin American History and Culture: Greg Grandin, Professor of History, New York University, "The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World," a talk on the true story that inspired Herman Melville's other masterpiece, *Benito Cereno*. MacMillan Reading Room, 5:30 p.m. Reception to follow.

NEW FORMATS FOR FELLOWS' TALKS

First Wednesdays at Noon

The first Wednesdays of the month are now reserved for noon-hour talks by long-term fellows, followed by a lunch for fellows, staff, and invited guests, at the historic Annmary Brown Memorial, 21 Brown Street. If you would like to be included on the guest list for the lunch following a given talk, please contact Valerie Andrews at 401 863-5010.

Other Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.

All other Wednesdays, apart from the first of each month, will now be reserved for informal afternoon talks by short-term fellows in the MacMillan Reading Room of the Library. In this new format, which is designed for maximum dialogue between fellows and the Brown community, we will be highlighting materials from the JCB collection.

For a complete listing of upcoming speakers and titles of their talks, please see the Events page on the JCB website at jcb.org or call 401 863-2725.



Did you know you can now Follow the JCB on Facebook? Just search "The John Carter Brown Library" from your Facebook page to join our growing community of "friends" and get up to the minute information on events, publications, new acquisitions, and occasional notes of interest from our peer institutions.