



FRIENDS

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Three Recent Webster Acquisitions

IN the last 18 months, Special Collections has acquired three Webster manuscripts of great interest and lasting importance. The first is the diary of Caroline LeRoy Webster (1797–1882), the second wife of Daniel Webster, written while she and her husband were in Europe in 1839. The Websters were traveling to England and the Continent as a result of the controversy in February and March of that year known as the “Aroostook War,” a boundary dispute between Maine and New Brunswick that made diplomacy and a northeast boundary settlement urgent. The trip was to lay the groundwork for the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 that finally settled the boundary between the United States and Canada. While in England, the Websters were able to become acquainted with many British political leaders and this preparation made negotiating the later treaty easier.

In 1998, the diary of Mrs. Webster for the 1839 trip was placed at auction in Philadelphia. Through the good offices of David J. Holmes, Autographs, we learned of the sale and were able to successfully bid on the diary. Funds from the Benz Fund, a major endowment of Special Collections that has provided resources for acquisitions for over fifteen years, were used to acquire the diary.

Mrs. Webster’s diary begins on 18 May and continues through 28 September. It provides a very full account of what was visited and whom they met.

The Websters were accompanied by Julia, Daniel’s daughter, and Henriette Story Paige, the wife of Webster’s brother-in-law James Paige. Of the ball at Buckingham Palace on 17 June, Caroline wrote:

We all assembled in one room, but she [Queen Victoria] escaped us & danced the second time which was an unusual thing.

After this Mrs. S[tevenson, the wife of the U. S. Minister] curtseyed to her and introduced me. She asked me how long I had been in the country and how I was pleased.

The entry continues with a long description of the ball. Caroline Webster’s diary, in a hand only slightly more legible than her husband’s infamous handwriting, provides exceptionally valuable insight into the pace of diplomacy as well as the life of a traveler in England. The diary was published from a fair copy in 1942 with some omissions and errors in transcription. The acquisition of the original will allow the historical record to be corrected.

Within days of the acquisition of the Caroline Webster diary, David Holmes called again, this time to inform us that Daniel Webster’s diary of the same trip had been located and inquired of our interest. We naturally wanted this entirely unpublished document to augment our Webster holdings. The Daniel Webster diary covers only the sea voyage from New York to London, 18 May through 3 June, with a few entries relating to the return voyage. As Webster rarely kept a diary, even these few entries are of great value. Webster was interested in sailing, wind direction, and shipboard functions. There is no entry for 22 May; the entry for the following day explains why:

Thursday, May 23. I was sick yesterday, I did not open this Book.

Other entries show Webster’s interest in the ship, such as the description of it, the passengers, and the ship’s crew on 25 May, or the following:

Liverpool, June 3, 1839. The Liverpool Docks are worthy of all admiration. By nature, this is a very poor Harbour. The Mersey is a small & shallow stream, with

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Hanover, Nihonmatsu, Asakawa, and the Library

DARTMOUTH and Hanover have taken pride in the positive town-gown relations which have been cultivated over the years. The Library, too, has strengthened the relationship by taking a role providing access to and preserving town municipal records, thanks to Hanover's support. (See Daniel Daily's "A View from Town Hall" in the July 1997 issue of this newsletter.) The relationship was further strengthened with library representation with the Hanover-Dartmouth delegation on a visit to Hanover's friendship city, Nihonmatsu, Japan.

Three years ago the city government of Nihonmatsu, Fukushima Prefecture, approached Hanover about allying as friendship cities. Their most famous and influential citizen, Asakawa, Class of 1899, was the common bond. Nihonmatsu has sent a delegation to Hanover each summer since 1996. In return, they have hosted a delegation of Hanover and Dartmouth College representatives. This year, I received an invitation to join the delegation and represent Dartmouth College Library as the "keeper of Asakawa papers."

Hanover Selectboard member Marilyn "Willy" Black warned me as we left Hanover, starting our 36-hour journey to Nihonmatsu, that the trip would take on a dream-like quality. Jet lag and sleep deprivation in combination can do funny things to the mind. Indeed, my recollections of Nihonmatsu have the episodic quality of a dream, the details remaining bright and vivid.

The formal signing of the agreement to become a friendship city was central to the delegation's visit. Celebrated over a luncheon for more than 300 guests, the Hanover-Dartmouth delegation were given positions of honor at three head tables, hosted by officials of Nihonmatsu as well as members of the Dartmouth Club of Japan. The sumptuous meal was followed by talks and a formal exchange of gifts.

The Library and Town's gift reflected the high value placed on the relationship with Nihonmatsu. (A facet of Japanese culture is gift exchange; the gift presentation reflects the value of the relationship as well as the status of the recipient.) A handmade clamshell box of green Japanese silk was inlaid with a green leather label embossed with gold-leaf letters noting: "A gift of Asakawa manuscripts to Nihonmatsu from the Town of Hanover and Dartmouth College," and contained reproductions of Asakawa's manuscripts in the Archives. The Dartmouth

Club of Tokyo was appreciative of and fascinated by the gift to the city. (Eric Alstrom, the Library's Collections Conservator, is credited with designing and constructing the much-admired presentation box, shown below.)

The Hanover-Dartmouth delegation's visit was scheduled to coincide with the town's annual Festival of Lights. The three-day holiday carries religious overtones, agrarian meaning, and a small element of competition. The Festival takes place in a five-block area; vendors line the streets; strolling families fill the blocks; schools are on holiday. Each of the seven hamlets (or neighborhoods) has a shrine on a wagon. The wagon has space for drummers and musicians below, a platform for dancers above, and is panelled by 360 paper lanterns (representing ripe rice). It is a spectacular celebration. The smell of grilled fish, pounding drums echoing, colorful costumes, free-flowing saki, and a growing crowd—First Night, Mardi Gras, Winter Carnival, and the Fourth of July rolled into one event—begins to capture the remarkable experience of sight, sound, and smell of the event.

Next summer a Nihonmatsu delegation will visit Hanover. They will be wined and dined by the town of Hanover. College administrators will greet them. One of their highlights will be their visit to Rauner Special Collections Library, seeing manuscripts written by their hometown son, Asakawa. ☺

—ANNE OSTENDARP



Kan-ichi Asakawa enrolled at Dartmouth College in 1896 in order to earn a western-style education. Asakawa (as he preferred to be addressed by Americans) left Hanover after graduating in 1902 to teach what today's world describes as Asian Studies. From Dartmouth, he moved on to Yale University, teaching Asian Studies and building a library of Japanese and Chinese texts and artifacts. Asakawa chose to remain in this country until his death in 1948. More information may be found in Asakawa's alumni file in the Archives and at the Prefecture's website dedicated to Asakawa at: www.kyonkai.pref.fukushima.jp/list_e/yyme_le.html

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Tinkering With Holy Writ

TANAKH and Testament: A Reprobate Tinkers with Holy Writ" was the title of the eleventh annual Stephen Harvard Memorial Lecture delivered at the College in October by Barry Moser. One of the most acclaimed artists and bookmakers working today, he is the designer/illustrator of the recently published Pennyroyal Caxton Bible, the first Bible to be illustrated by a single artist since Gustave Doré's edition of *Le Saint Bible* in 1865.

As Moser has written, "The history of great printing is stamped on the spines of great bibles. From Gutenberg onward, Bibles have been the crowning masterpieces of the world's best typographers, printers, and illustrators." It seemed an appropriate challenge.

Moser brought many years of artistic accomplishment to the Pennyroyal Caxton project. A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, he moved to New England in 1967, studied printing and typography at the Gehenna Press with master printer Harold P. McGrath, and established the celebrated Pennyroyal Press in 1974. The rest, as they say, is history. He is a master of the traditional art of wood engraving, where an image is carved into end-grained boxwood (or, more recently, an

artificial medium called Resingrave) and then printed from the block. There are over 234 such images in the Pennyroyal Caxton Bible, and they are truly remarkable,

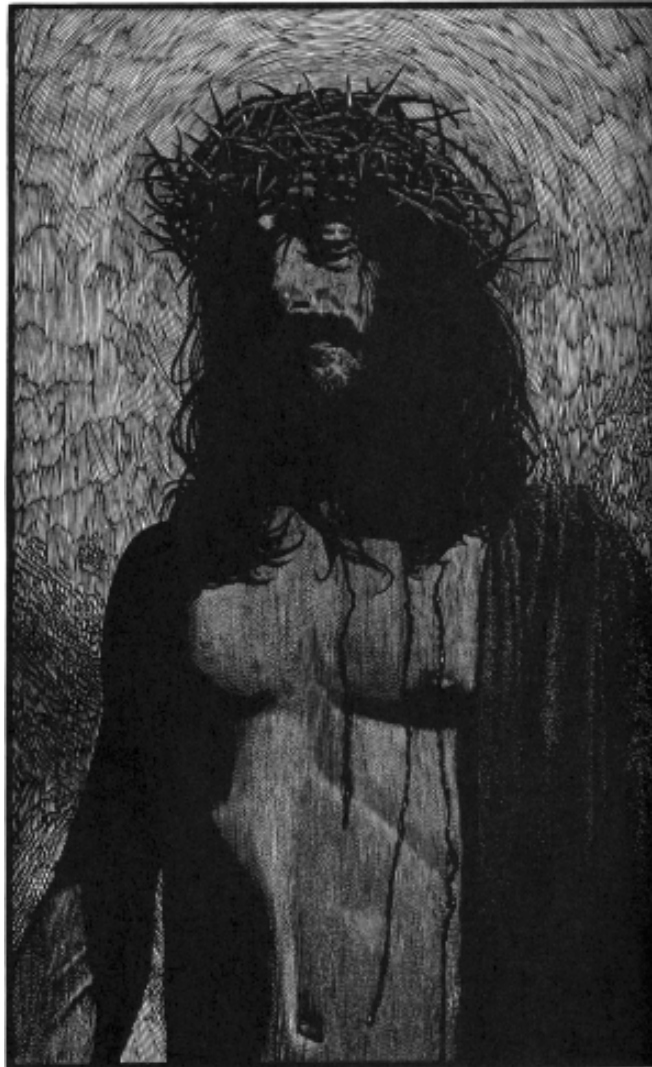
as the sample shown here (the *Ecce Homo* of John XIX) testifies.

The Bible was a project of many years' deliberation (Moser was, for example, at one time a Methodist preacher), many months of research (much of it, we're happy to report, at the Dartmouth Library), and four solid years of ten-hour days at the engraving table. His patron is New York investment banker and bibliophile Bruce Kovner, who generously supported the venture without impinging in the slightest on the artist's freedom to accomplish this extraordinary—and, to many, controversial—work.

Those wishing to learn more about Moser and The Pennyroyal Caxton Bible are encouraged to visit www.pennyroyalcaxton.com.

The lecture series honors the memory of Stephen Harvard, Dartmouth Class of 1970, an accomplished and superbly talented printer, painter, calligrapher, illustrator, stone carver, and book designer.

A former student of Ray Nash, he was vice president of The Stinehour Press at the time of his death in 1988. ♣



BEHOLD THE MAN

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 Richard Thorner '86, *Manchester, NH (Vice Chair)*

Webster, *continued*

sand bars near its mouth. Ships in the stream, must take the ground at low water . . .

This diary, too, was acquired with resources from the Benz Fund. As it was an entirely unknown document, its acquisition is of great importance for our understanding of Webster as he prepared to begin negotiations with the British government.

The third and most recent—and most exciting—of the Webster acquisitions is Daniel Webster's autobiography. In 1829, Webster was asked by a very close family friend, Eliza Buckminster Lee, to write his autobiography. This he did, in 60 pages of remarkably difficult handwriting. The diary begins with a brief description of his forebears, continues with his birth and early education, mentions his family, and, in several short paragraphs, treats his college career. Of the latter, he wrote:

My College life was not an idle one. Besides the regular attendance on prescribed duties & studies, I read something, of English history, & English Literature. Perhaps my reading was

too miscellaneous. I even paid my board, for a year, by superintending a little weekly newspaper, & making selections for it, from books of literature, & from the cotemporary [sic] publications. I suppose I sometimes write a foolish paragraph myself. While in College, I delivered two or three occasional addresses, which were published. I trust they are forgotten.

The autobiography makes only brief reference to his work on the Dartmouth College Case, begun in 1817, and ends in that same year. Unfortunately, it does not detail his brilliant strategy and oratory found in the arguments before the U. S. Supreme Court in defense of Dartmouth. What it does do, however, is to provide the reader with a wealth of detail and insight into Webster's formative years and his early career as a lawyer.

This holograph autobiography remained in the hands of descendants of Mrs. Lee until very recently. Special Collections was able to acquire the manuscript through the remarkable generosity of John H. Freund 1954, a member of the Friends of the Library Executive Committee and a most generous donor to the Library. ♣

—PHILIP CRONENWETT

An Announcement From Margaret A. Otto

I HAVE decided to step down from my position as Librarian of the College at the end of October 2000. I arrived at Dartmouth in July of 1979. During the ensuing years I have had the privilege of working with many talented colleagues and have witnessed a multitude of dramatic changes and exciting advancements in this area of the College in which we all share a role.

We have moved from a library world almost wholly in print format to one of ever increasing electronic resources and computer-based support systems. We have added libraries to our system and enlarged or renovated others. We have reinvented ourselves and the Dartmouth College Library many times, yet through it all we have continued to provide the highest standard of service and academic support. ♣



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