

Council on the Libraries
Meeting of June 5, 2008

Present: Robert Graves, Mikhail Gronas, Jeffrey Horrell, Hussein Kadhim, Elizabeth Kirk, Cynthia Pawlek, Jay Satterfield, Barry Scherr, David Seaman, David Webb, Kent Yrchik-Shoemaker, Walter Simons.

Excused: William Hickey, Alisa Koonce, Ellen Waite-Franzen.
The meeting opened at 12:10pm.

1. Introductions of attendees.
2. Minutes of the April 3 and May 1, 2008 meetings were approved.
3. Discussion of Special Collections in the Library (Jay Satterfield, Librarian, Special Collections)
Dartmouth's Special Collections are extraordinary for an institution of its size: in addition to the College's archives, they contain about 100,000 books, 0.5 million photographs, and 6 million manuscript pages, illustrating the history of writing since the 20th c. BC and the history of printing since the 1470s. Given that the primary goal is of course to assist teaching, the holdings are maintained and expanded with accessibility for students and class room use in mind. In 2003-04, eight classes visited Special Collections. In the past year, seventy-nine classes did so, from twenty-five different departments. However, the collections do not only serve undergraduate and graduate programs; they are also important for local and regional scholars working on New Hampshire/New England culture and history, and a few collections, notably those on polar research, the Robert Frost and Daniel Webster collections, as well as the White Mountains collection, are used in international scholarship. With space limited and the cost of preserving material in optimal condition always a concern, the Library must be selective in purchasing new items or accepting donations. The main criteria are currently: potential classroom use of the item or collection, its intrinsic significance, quality of documentation, and relevance within the context of the existing holdings. In conclusion, the Council greatly appreciated the opportunity to view in situ some of the new acquisitions: items from the Budd Schulberg (Dartmouth '36) and Pilobolus papers, an early 16th-century manuscript Book of Hours made for a young, French princess; a manuscript of the English *Brut* Chronicle from the 1470s, and a William Blake engraving illustrating the Canterbury Tales.
4. Announcements

The Library just completed is 2008-09 goal setting process; the document is available at

www.dartmouth.edu/~library/home/about/mission.html.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.