Major American poet’s rare text featured in Digital Library

One notable item recently digitized and on display in the Villanova University Digital Library is a signed copy of Walt Whitman’s Memoranda During the War, which contains edits that Whitman penned into the margins. A family heirloom belonging to Andrew Nagy, Falvey’s technology development specialist, the book’s digital copy was donated to the Digital Library by Nagy.

Andrew Nagy’s comments on acquiring this unique copy of Memoranda During the War:

Walt Whitman published Memoranda During the War in the latter part of 1875. It is a record of his dedication to his comrades during the Civil War a decade earlier. Although we are uncertain how the book actually came into our family’s possession, through some research we discovered that it was given to a distant relative as a gift.

When my grandmother cleaned out her attic ten years ago, she gave the book to my father, an amateur history buff. Attempting to verify the book’s publication history, he contacted Ed Folsom, a professor of American literature at the University of Iowa and a well-known Whitman scholar.

Dr. Folsom told my father that Whitman self-published Memoranda During the War, instead of the official title of the book, making this copy even more unique.

To see Memoranda During the War in its entirety, please view it online in the Villanova University Digital Library, accessible through the library homepage. Our family has donated this digital copy for all to study and enjoy.

For more information, see Basler, Roy P., ed. Walt Whitman’s Memoranda During the War [&] Death of Abraham Lincoln. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1962.)

Villanova’s second librarian, Rev. Francis E. T ourscher, O.S.A., served from 1923 to 1939. At this time, the Villanova College library was housed in the east wing of Austin Hall. The library was completed in 1924, but proved to be too small almost as soon as it was finished. In 1934, an iron fence that had separated the readers from the books was removed, and the collection was open to all!

During this time, Father T ourscher oversaw the reorganization of the library collection. A dictionary card catalog was installed, and books were reclassified according to the Library of Congress system. These changes made materials easier to find, and the library became a popular place to research and study. The library grew at a rapid rate, and, by 1937, housed over 35,000 books and 150 journal subscriptions on literature, philosophy, engineering and education.

Father T ourscher was a familiar figure on campus as well as in the library, where he spent much of his free time. He was interested in people regardless of their station in life, and he recognized students and alumni alike. He was often seen strolling the campus with his cane; he chose his clothing for practicality and comfort rather than appearance.

He was protective of the campus landscape. Anyone who damaged a tree or harmed a bird could expect a scolding from Father T ourscher, and he frequently reprimanded litterbugs.

Father T ourscher was a scholar, translator, historian and poet, and numerous books in the current library collection bear his name. Over the years, he also served as secretary and archivist of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. At the time of his death, January 30, 1939, Father T ourscher was secretary of the Board of Trustees of Villanova College, as well as college librarian.

Born May 10, 1870, at Dushore (Pa.), in his early years Father T ourscher wanted to become a carpenter. However, with the guidance of his local parish priest, he received his calling to the priesthood at the age of 20.

Two years later, in 1892, Father T ourscher arrived at Villanova College, where he took up residence in the old Saint Rita’s Hall. Father T ourscher was to be stationed at Villanova for his entire religious life. His first appointment was as a teacher in the House of Studies where he taught theology, scripture, church history, homiletics, patrology and Latin.

He was known as a scholar, translator, historian and poet, and numerous books in the current library collection bear his name. Over the years, he also served as secretary and archivist of the Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova. At the time of his death, January 30, 1939, Father T ourscher was secretary of the Board of Trustees of Villanova College, as well as college librarian.

Contributed by Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., and Laura Hutelmyer (For more information see The Augustan, Memorial Issue, v.2, n. 6, August, 1939.)
Last November, a group of faculty members and librarians gathered in the Library for a presentation of Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO). Faculty members attending the ECCO demonstration voiced their excitement about the research possibilities offered by this new resource. Others who could not come in person wrote their support for ECCO. "What makes this particular database so interesting and integral?"

According to publisher Thomson/Gale, "Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) can be used to access the digital images of every page of approximately 150,000 books published during the 18th century. Included are all significant English-language and foreign-language titles printed in Great Britain during the eighteenth century, along with thousands of important works from the Americas. ECCO also includes a small number of non-English language materials published in Britain, including works in Latin, French, German and Spanish. With full-text searching of about 33 million pages, the database allows researchers new methods of access to information in the fields of history, literature, religion, law, fine arts, science and more."

Dr. Cristina Cervone, English department, compared not having ECCO as part of the library's collection to a "gaping hole in our access to early printed texts."

Dr. Hugh Ormsby-Lennon, another English department faculty member, pointed out that ECCO together with Early English Books Online (EEBO), which Falvey already owns, gives the University community access to nearly all books published in English between 1485 and 1800. Dr. Michael Tomko, from Humanities & Augustinian Traditions, noted that together these two resources will enable undergraduate and graduate students to do original archival research here at Villanova.

Dr. Craig Bailey has already integrated ECCO resources into his graduate course on British Economic and Social Traditions, noted that together these two resources will enable undergraduate and graduate students to do original archival research here at Villanova.

ECCO is a significant addition to Falvey's collection, adding 150,000 volumes to the approximately 760,000 volumes currently held by the Library, without taking up any shelf space. These volumes can be accessed by Villanova faculty, students and staff from anywhere on campus and in the world. ECCO is based on optical character recognition (OCR) processing of scanned microfilm which makes it possible to search the full-text of the scanned materials. Contents are accessible via author and title searches. Place of publication, publisher and keywords in full-text are other available search options. Keywords are highlighted in the retrieved results. Limits include years, subject area, language and different types of illustrations such as maps, cartoons and portraits.

Persistent URLs make it possible to integrate links to selected volumes or pages in ECCO into WebCT and online syllabi as well as into bibliographical references. All 138,000 works contained in ECCO have records with links to the online version in VUCat, the library catalog.

A multi-year funding plan made it possible for the Library to acquire this important resource. Through ECCO, Villanova University students and faculty have access to the printed knowledge of the 18th century English-speaking world. Only the largest research libraries could make a claim like this before EEBO and ECCO became available. If you have not already done so, check out this great new resource via the library home page on the Databases by Title page.

Contributed by Justa Siebert
Jean Lutes
on the antics and aspirations of women reporters

Have you ever wanted something so desperately that you would be willing to lock yourself up with felons and pretend to be one of them, in order to come away with an original story? That is exactly what Nelly Bly, aspiring newspaper reporter, did in 1887 to gain respect as a female journalist. This intriguing story and others kept the audience enthralled as Jean Lutes, assistant professor of English, talked about her new book, *Front Page Girls: Women Journalists in American Culture and Fiction, 1880-1930* (Cornell UP, 2006), in the Falvey Memorial Library first floor lounge on November 8.

For Lutes, writing about female journalists comes naturally. She began by majoring in journalism and, after graduation, landed a job as a staff writer for the Miami Herald and the New York World. She pointed out that attractive female reporters were often represented in photographs or by by-lines that accompanied their articles.

Nelly Bly survived her ten-day stay at the insane asylum on Blackwell Island, New York, and even sent a series of stories, a day at a time, to the New York World for publication. These stories not only made Bly famous but also encouraged other women stunt reporters to risk their lives for the sake of a good story.

Contributed by Laura Hutzelmyer, photograph by Natalie Tomasso

Hispanic Cultural Heritage Month:
Testaments of modern anguish and religious edification

Falvey celebrated Hispanic Cultural Heritage Month with presentations on Tiempo, the unfinished last testament of twentieth-century poet Juan Ramón Jiménez, and the Epítome, a short biography of St. Thomas of Villanova, written by the seventeenth-century humanist Francisco de Quevedo.

A long monologue in stream-of-consciousness style, *Tiempo* has long been misunderstood by literary critics, according to Juliá. Like Rousseau's Confessions, *Tiempo* is the self-portrait and clarification of ideas that Jiménez wished to leave for posterity.

Spanish professor Dr. Carmen Peraita, classical and modern languages and literatures department, spoke about the life and poetry of St. Thomas of Villanova, El Epítome is the story of the life and the miracles of St. Thomas of Villanova, on October 3.

Quevedo (1580-1645) was well-known in the humanist circles of Europe, thanks to his widely circulated manuscript works. In 1620, Quevedo wrote the Epítome, his first printed work, as his contribution to the festivities in Valencia honoring the beatification of St. Thomas. Printed in octavo format, the Epítome, pocket-sized and relatively inexpensive, became a favorite of contemporary readers. Of the 1200 printed copies of the Epítome, only three survive to this day. These events took place in the library lounge.

Contributed by Barbara Quintiliano, photographs by Laura Hutzelmyer and Anne Ford

NAME WITHELD

Poet Lisa Sewell reads from her most recent book

What things inform our identity? What is the weight of a name? In her poem, "My Sole Genealogy," Lisa Sewell explores the legends, family histories and etymologies of her last name and admits, "My tongue slips on first and final syllables, and I am not well or seaworthy...."

Yet, she concludes that the very real sense of home, "the shifty underground of Southern California was a solid place," is finally more grounding in affirming one’s sense of identity.

Sewell, an associate professor of English and creative writing, read this and other poems from her latest work, *Name Wibtheld* (Four Way Books, 2006), on October 30 in the library first floor lounge, as part of the Scholarship@Villanova series sponsored by Falvey Memorial Library.

Sewell has been awarded a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, numerous Pushcart Prize nominations and Yaddo fellowships, and a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Fellowship in Poetry.

Contributed by Judy Olson, photograph by Alice Baumgarten

For your viewing pleasure:

Two major exhibits are recreated online

The exhibit, "Villanova's Library: Revisiting its Past, Envisioning its Future," is now available online. The exhibit displays a rich collection of materials from the University Archives and Special Collections, illustrating the history of Villanova University's libraries.

The online exhibit was created by Teri Ann Incrovato. The physical exhibit, on display in Falvey from May 19 to September 15, 2006, was organized by Incrovato with assistance from Falvey librarians Rev. Dennis Gallagher, O.S.A., Bente Polites and Michael Foight.

Sing a Song: A Celebration of Traditional Music of Ireland and Elsewhere in Print," is now also online. The exhibit features materials from the collection of Lewis Becker, a law professor from the Villanova University School of Law.

One highlight of the exhibit is a collection of colorful American songster. Interesting biographies include Captain Francis O'Neill, chief of police in Chicago from 1901-1905, an avid bagpiper and song collector.

The online exhibit was created by Teri Ann Incrovato with assistance from Andrew Nagy and Michael Foight. The physical exhibit, on display in Falvey from March 13 to April 28, 2006, was organized by Bente Polites and Michael Foight, with graphic design and production by Lorraine Gallagher-Williams and Bernadette Dierkes.

Link to these exhibits via Special Collections on the library home page.
Holocaust studies expert shares insight on Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal

In the years after World War II, the governments’ interest in prosecuting Nazi war criminals faded as the victorious nations found value in former Nazis as repositories of foreign intelligence and scientific knowledge. Unwilling to accept this situation, Simon Wiesenthal launched his career as a one man Nazi hunter, eventually tracking down these individuals down in countries around the world.

On September 19, in Falvey Memorial Library, Mark Weitzman spoke about the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal. Weitzman is the director of the Task Force against Hate and Terrorism, founding director of the New York Tolerance Center and the chief representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center to the United Nations.

Weitzman has served on the boards of human rights and anti-hate organizations, and he is a recognized expert in the fields of extremism and cyberhate. Furthermore, he has authored scholarly articles and edited books in the fields of Holocaust studies, anti-Semitism and extremism. Weitzman became friends with Wiesenthal through his work in these areas.

Simon Wiesenthal’s most notorious “catch” was Adolf Eichmann, the overseer of the Holocaust’s day-to-day operations, who was subsequently tried and executed by Israel. Other Nazis he captured included a female camp guard living in New York City and the man who arrested Anne Frank.

Weitzman concluded his talk with an overview of his subject’s legacy. Wiesenthal kept alive the memory of the Holocaust for the first twenty years after World War II. He challenged the West to live up to its human rights rhetoric within its own borders as much as it demanded these rights from countries behind the Iron Curtain. Wiesenthal died in Vienna in September 2005.

The Library plans to hold an annual event around the anniversary of Simon Wiesenthal’s death to recognize his achievements and legacy.

Contributed by David Burke, photograph by Laura Hutelmyer

The Digital Library Browser opens virtual doors

Falvey Memorial Library proudly announced the opening of the Villanova University Digital Library. This online collection of digital resources serves as both the archive for digitalized Special Collection materials and the gateway to Villanova University publications, including an institutional repository of Villanova faculty publications. All collections are organized into discrete, searchable units.

The Digital Library Browser, a software program crafted by Falvey’s Andrew Nagy, provides access to the University institutional repository of Villanova faculty publications. Content is being added daily, and suggestions for new collections and donations of digitized cultural heritage materials are welcome. The Villanova Digital Library at Falvey Memorial Library can be found via the Falvey home page.

Contributed by Michael Faught

In memoriam

Joan Bianco, a dedicated Falvey employee since 1989, passed away on December 23. Joan was the mother of Joseph, Antonio Michael, and Richard Bianco and Joan Miller and is also survived by 12 grandchildren. She was known for her gracious and helpful nature, was consistent in her work shelving books and enjoyed her hobbies, playing bridge and golf. Joan also volunteered at the St. Raphaela Center in Haverford, a retreat house for the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Laura Hutelmyer presented a paper entitled “My Dear Mrs. Mousell: the Nineteenth Century Advice Column as Militant Journalism” at the Third International Conference of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) in Philadelphia on November 9. SSAWW promotes the study of American women writers through research, teaching and publication.

Dan Overfield, business librarian, recently completed the Bloomberg Product Certification Program in both the equity and fixed income modules. The certification program requires users to complete online classes available via a Bloomberg terminal and pass the corresponding exam. Course content ranges from basic introductory skills to more intricate skills, such as the financial analysis of bonds and securities.

On October 23, Joe Lucia, University librarian and director of Falvey Memorial Library, spoke at the PALINET annual meeting in Harrisburg (Pa.) on “The Other E: Excitement in Academic Libraries,” describing the prospects for libraries as campus crossroads. On October 27 in Philadelphia, Lucia gave a presentation to the annual meeting of the National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, a trade organization for commercial and scholarly database providers, entitled “What’s the Use: Gathering and Applying Online Usage Data in Library Management.” Lucia also presented his talk, “Beyond the Digital Cradle: The Transformation of Libraries in the Era of Mass Digitization,” at the Villanova University Computing Sciences Colloquium on November 20.

After 17 years as a part-time library monitor and door checker, Pinta Bossung recently left Falvey Memorial Library and her full-time real estate career for a new life in California. Originally from New York, she decided to relocate to the West Coast where she can spend more time with her four adult children and five grandchildren, most of whom live within an hour’s drive of each other.

Pinta and her husband, Charlie, had been in Pennsylvania since 1965 but were looking forward to living in Sacramento where they can walk to stores and drive short distances to see the state capitol, wine country and other highlights of the region. Their new Sacramento neighborhood is known as the “Fabulous Forties,” an area of eclectic architectural styles that Nancy Reagan deemed “more livable than the California governor’s mansion.”