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Resurfacing Women Printers' Names and Contributions to the Printing Industry During the Hand Press Era

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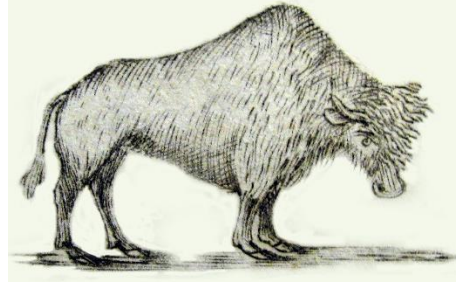
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LHRB



Newsletter of the Legal History & Rare Books SIS of the American Association of Law Libraries

Volume 30 Spring 2023

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From the Chair



Rob Mead

The 2023 Annual Meeting in Boston promises a full return to our normal gathering. LHRB has a long history of making the most of the Annual Meeting by packing in as many history and rare book activities as we can get approved. We also have a long history of connecting with one another to take on group projects, create venues for scholarship about legal history and rare law books, and sharing knowledge. This year will be no different.

The core LHRB activities include the LHRB Sponsored Program - Whiskey and the Law: A Legal History of Whiskey in America from the Whiskey Rebellion to Today's Craft Whiskey Distilleries – at 11:15am on Tuesday. This program was created by our education chair Laura Ray and features Dave Willis from Bully Boy Distillers. In lieu of our business meeting time on Sunday, Nicholas Mignanelli and John Moreland are inviting local librarians to present "Dark Dockets: Inside the Salem Witch Trials Documents" for a "Host City" program at 5:30pm. The business meeting will be moved

online and will take place in the weeks before the session. The Archives Roundtable will also take place online this year. The Cataloging Roundtable will be Monday at 12:15pm. Finally, the General Discussion Roundtable will be Monday at 5:45pm. I'm looking forward to sharing some opportunities offered by the Legal Information Preservation Alliance as well as giving space for folks to share about their projects. I'm planning on organizing dine around groups after both the Sunday and Monday meetings as I suspect many share my introversion and would rather have dinner with a small handful of colleagues with similar interests than tolerate the din of the larger evening receptions.

The Morris Cohen Essay Contest received a number of good entries this year. The winner is Eric Eisner, a 2023 Yale Law graduate, for *Violence and the Land: Indigenous Power and Property Law in the Ohio River Valley*. Second place goes to Jennifer W. Reiss, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, for *Property, Propriety, and Publicity: A Different Look at Pope v. Curl*. Both authors will be offered the opportunity to publish the papers in the LHRB journal *Unbound*.

I look forward to seeing folks soon! I've listed all of the LHRB activities in order and have also included history-related programs sponsored by other sections:

SUNDAY, JULY 16TH

Withdrawing Large Collections: History, Methods and Paths Forward

- 3:15 – 4:15pm
- Location: Hynes-207
- Coordinator: Michele Pope – Loyola University New Orleans Law Library
- Speaker: Amanda Watson – University of Houston Law Center
- Speaker: Annmarie Zell – New York University Law School library
- Speaker: Molly Lentz-Meyer – University of Richmond School of Law

Large withdrawal projects are trending in law libraries, but many law librarians are learning on the job. The process can be emotionally, physically, and intellectually overwhelming. While we might spend months planning, assessing collections, and implementing projects, few of us have the opportunity to compare and analyze our methods. Although each law library has inventive solutions to unique problems, there are several assessment strategies, workflows, and tools that we commonly deploy. This program will explore the historic assessment of collections, current trends, and ideas to increase the value of law libraries. Speakers will discuss practical strategies, and the impact of withdrawing large collections upon the preservation of the scholarly record.

LHRB-SIS (Member News & Business) – Host City Program - Dark Dockets: Inside the Salem Witch Trials Documents

- 5:30 – 6:30pm
- Coordinator: Nicholas Mignanelli
- Location: Marriott-Wellesley
- See below for more information

MONDAY, JULY 17TH

Preserving and Promoting History: Libraries with Long Memories

- 9:30 – 10:30am
- Location: Hynes-207
- Coordinator: Kris Turner - University of Wisconsin Law Library
- Speaker: Beverly Butula - Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren
- Speaker: Carol Hassler - Wisconsin State Law Library

Law libraries are well placed to preserve the history of their institutions. However, policy changes, staff turnover, and the passage of time are difficult obstacles in the effort to provide historical context, fight the loss of institutional knowledge, and highlight unique collections. Librarians face a tall task when forging partnerships, selecting materials worthy of preservation, and establishing succession workflows—all while facing a time and budget crunch. This program takes a practical focus for how you can position your library as the institution's memory. Learn how to plan for the materials, tools, and partnerships to best ensure success. Get tips for sharing with stakeholders how the service further cements the importance of the law library within your institution. Panelists from academic, government, and law firm libraries will review specialized practices within their library and provide tips to build relationships and market your library as a safe and permanent historical home for your institution's story.

The Niagara Movement: How Far Have We Come with Voting Rights

- 10:45 – 11:45am
- Location: Hynes-311
- Coordinator: Phebe Huderson-Poydras - Southern University Law Center
- Coordinator: Melanie Sims - Louisiana State University Law Center
- Moderator: Marjorie E. Crawford – Rutgers Law School
- Speaker: Cheryl Clyburn Crawford - MassVote
- Speaker: Tanisha M. Sullivan - NAACP - Boston Branch

The Niagara Movement was the first African American organization to demand equality in all spheres of contemporaneous life. At their first conference held in Erie, Ontario, near Niagara Falls, they drafted a “Declaration of Principles,” part of which stated: “We refuse to allow the impression to remain that the Negro-American assents to inferiority, is submissive under oppression, and apologetic before insults.” Voter suppression continues a legacy of disenfranchisement, which leads to oppression. The panelist will discuss current voting laws and practices considering the Niagara Movement. Grassroots efforts and voter registration drives continue the efforts to fight oppressive acts like gerrymandering, restrictive voter ID laws, etc.

Can Computers Find Racist Laws? Virginia's Text Mining Project to Identify Jim Crow Legislation

- 10:45 – 11:45am
- Location: Hynes-207

- Moderator/Coordinator: Loren Moulds - University of Virginia Law Library
- Speaker: Ben Doherty - University of Virginia Law Library
- Speaker: Randi Flaherty - University of Virginia Law Library
- Speaker: Aaron S. Kirschenfeld - University of North Carolina School of Law

This program explores "Modeling a Racial Caste System: Algorithmic Exposure of Virginia's Jim Crow Laws" and "On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance," two projects in a multi-state partnership using topic modeling analysis on state session laws to identify Jim Crow legislation between 1865 and 1967. Each participating state will create open-access corpora of Jim Crow laws and of all state session laws from 1865-1967. As collaborators in this initiative, the speakers will discuss their efforts to prepare digital corpora of their state laws and apply machine-learning techniques, create an open-access and searchable portal to state laws, incorporate these tools into legal reference and pedagogy, and conduct outreach about the project and the history of racist law-making in Virginia and North Carolina.

LHRB-SIS Roundtable #1 - Cataloging

- 12:15 – 1:15pm
- Location: Hynes-104

LHRB-SIS Roundtable #2 – Roundtable Open Discussion

- 5:45 – 6:45pm
- Location: Marriott-Regis

TUESDAY, JULY 18TH

Life on the Beach: Black Beach Communities, Real Estate Development and Preserving History

- 8:30 – 9:30 am
- Location: Hynes-207
- Coordinator: Gail Mathapo - Homer M Stark Law Library
- Moderator: Kerri-Ann Rowe – University of North Carolina School of Law
- Speaker: Andrew Kahrl

This program examines real estate development by corporate developers in historically African American beachfront communities and the impact it has on repressing history and stunting generational wealth. The recent return of California's Bruce's Beach to the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce after nearly 100 years brought national attention to this matter. These communities, which are mainly located along the East Coast, were created by African Americans in the 1800s through 1950s as a result of exclusionary practices that prevented them from purchasing property in existing beachfront communities. There is a large demand for beachfront property, which drives up the purchasing price. Over time, these properties have been sold, sometimes under the actual property value and replaced with upscale lodging, marinas, and homes leaving no trace of the previous thriving community and continues to exclude residents who do not fall under a certain income bracket.

This program will focus on endeavors made to save and sustain affordable beach communities as part of an effort to acknowledge a forgotten part of American History. Through this discussion, librarians will learn how archiving and preservation, as well as research assistance are essential to preventing instances of overt and covert segregation and racism from being written out of history.

Whiskey and the Law: A Legal History of Whiskey in America from the Whiskey Rebellion to Today's Craft Whiskey Distilleries (LHRB Sponsored)

- 11:15am – 12:15pm
- Location: Hynes-207
- Moderator/Coordinator: Laura Ray - Cleveland State University College of Law
- Speaker: Dave Willis - Bully Boy Distillers

The colonization of the New World brought the centuries old whiskey distillation cottage industry to America. Whiskey distillation diversified during the 18th-century immigration of Scots-Irish and Germans, overtook the rum business in the 19th century, and has been an interesting component of U.S. statutory and regulatory law for 200 years. This program will review the history of whiskey in America, as well as demonstrate historical statutory and regulatory research methods with “whiskey” as a topic. See below for more information. ■



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From the Editor

Kasia Solon Cristobal

Please enjoy this issue that includes a preview of events at the upcoming Annual Meeting. In addition to highlighting events in Boston, we are also lucky to have a variety of pieces on such topics as a French book as negotiating tactic, boombox nostalgia, and giving women printers their due.

For those historically inclined, and who isn't in this SIS, let me note that this is the 30th volume of the newsletter. Congratulations are in order—yay us for making it this long! I feel like these SIS anniversaries normally fall to unofficial SIS historian Mark Podvia, but I will do my best. It looks like the first newsletter volume came out in 1991. My math skills aren't the best, but even I can tell that ordinarily one would expect the 30th volume to have come out in, say, 2021. But apparently there was at least one interregnum between 1999-2000. Perhaps the Y2K bug did fell at least one victim.

So what does the [first volume](#) of the newsletter contain? Some names I and perhaps others will recognize—Mike Chiorazzi, Janet Sinder, Joe Luttrell—and then some catchy titles too, like *Rare Books and Other People's Money*. There are also full-page ads in the newsletter. Oh how times have changed.

Thank you to all the editors and contributors! I look forward to working with folks again on volume 31 next year. Until then, for more legal history items, please check out LHRB's Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/lhrbsis>. I welcome any comments or feedback on the newsletter: kcristobal@law.utexas.edu. ■

Annual Meeting LHRB Preview

The Legal History & Rare Books SIS is providing two programs at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston.

Dark Dockets: Inside the Salem Witch Trials Documents will be on Sunday, July 16, 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Wellesley Room of the [Boston Marriott Copley Place](#) (110 Huntington Avenue; AALL Headquarters Hotel). Please note that the Annual Meeting [Schedule](#) is entitling this program “LHRB-SIS Member News & Business.” This “host-city program” is being coordinated by [Nicholas Mignanelli](#), Research Librarian and Lecturer in Legal Research, Yale Law School, and [John Moreland](#), Student Services Librarian and Adjunct Lecturer in Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law. While all students of American history are familiar with the 1692-1693 Salem witch trials, few give thought to the fate of the original court documents created in the colonial Massachusetts legal proceedings that examined witchcraft accusations against nearly 200 individuals, leading to the deaths of 25 of them. This program will provide an overview of the over 500 Salem witch trials documents transferred from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem to the Supreme Judicial Court Archives in Boston this past January, as well as efforts to preserve them and make them accessible to the public. Speakers will be [Dan Lipcan](#), Ann C. Pingree Director of the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum, and Elizabeth Bouvier, Judicial Archivist, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court [Judicial Archives](#). Dan was also the co-curator of the 10/7/2022-1/22/2023 exhibit [The Salem Witch Trials: Reckoning and Reclaiming](#) at the New York Historical Society Museum & Library.

Whiskey and the Law: A Legal History of Whiskey in America from the Whiskey Rebellion to Today's Craft Whiskey Distilleries will be on Tuesday, July 18, 11:15am-12:15pm, in Room 207 of the Hynes Convention Center. This program is being coordinated by [Laura Ray](#), Outreach & Instructional Services Librarian, Cleveland State University College of Law. Laura will also be one of the speakers, and her co-speaker will be [Dave Willis](#), Co-Founder and Head of Whiskey Production, [Bully Boy Distillers](#). The colonization of the New World brought the centuries old whiskey distillation cottage industry to America. Whiskey distillation diversified during the 18th-century immigration of Scots-Irish and Germans, overtook the rum business in the 19th century, and has been an interesting component of U.S. statutory and regulatory law for 200 years. This program will review the history of whiskey in America, as well as demonstrate historical statutory and regulatory research methods with “whiskey” as a topic. The “Whiskey and the Law” program continues the LHRB “and the law” program series at AALL Annual Meetings – 2008 “Beer and the Law: A Legal History of Beer, Brewing and Government Regulation from the German Purity Law to the Microbrew Movement” (Portland), 2013 “Wine and the Law: An Overview of

Wine and Winemaking from Ancient Babylon to the Modern Washington State Wine Industry” (Seattle), 2017 “Tequila and the Law” (Austin).

Hope to see you in Boston – safe travels to you!

Laura Ray

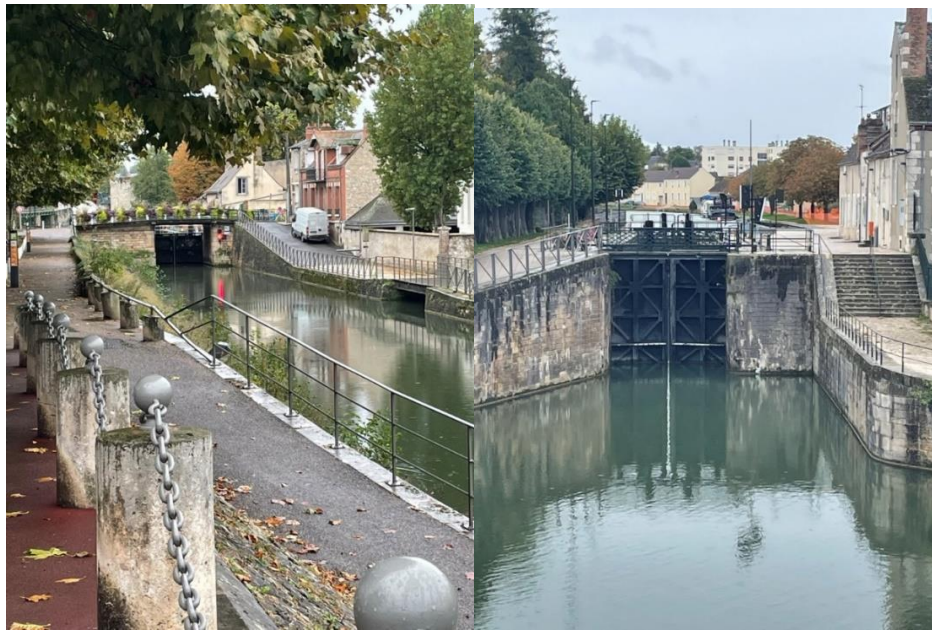
Chair, LHRB-SIS Education Committee



Montargis: Wars, Stories, and Printing Curiosities

Traci Emerson Spackey & Robert O. Steele
Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University

The small town of Montargis in Val-de-Loire, France, is probably most known today for being, surprisingly, where the Communist Party of China (CPC) was conceived of by young Chinese revolutionaries.¹ During the 1920s, Montargis was the work-study destination for many young Chinese minds, perhaps most notably Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, and Cai Hesen—the latter a close friend of Mao Zedong. These young minds came to work and receive an education in France during that period, which coincided with the birth of the French Communist party.² At the time, Montargis was a “hotbed of leftist sentiment.”³ In the end, it is said that it was Cai Hesen who convinced Mao Zedong, from afar in Montargis, France, to found the CPC.⁴



Modern day Montargis, Fall 2022

¹ *The French Town with Chinese Heritage*, BBC (June 11, 2009), http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/8094834.stm (last visited June 9, 2023).

² Eleanor Beardsley, *Chinese Tourists Drawn to French Town's History*, NPR (Jul. 10, 2007), <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11835422> (last visited June 9, 2023).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *The French town with Chinese Heritage*, *supra* note 1.

However, Montargis' historical import actually goes back much further. One can reach nearly 600 years back to understand the small but mighty character of the little town, and there you'll encounter a courageous story about how the King of France was obliged to recognize the medieval burg himself.

In 1427, Montargis belonged to Marguerite de Bourgogne by virtue of the dower of her first marriage to the Duke of Guyenne.⁵ By now, Marguerite was remarried to The Constable of France, Arthur de Richemont, and this was the period of the 100 Years' War. At this time, Montargis was certainly not a large city, but it already boasted a considerable population for its time.⁶ It is also important to note that while Montargis appears to be landlocked in the center of France nowhere near the sea, it is positioned between many bodies of water. It is situated at the confluence of the Loing and Ouanne rivers as well as the Loing's junction with the Vernisson and Puisieux rivers to the south.⁷ As a result, to this day Montargis is built on a series of dikes, dams, and canals. While now this makes for a charming stroll through the city, at the time it made Montargis strategically important both for trade and as a military target during the 100 Years War. Fortunately, the town did not succumb to the English.

The famous Siege of Montargis lasted about two months in total.⁸ It began in July 1427 when the English encamped on either side of the Loing, the Earl of Suffolk commanding one side, Sir John de la Pole another (and yet another smaller group by one Henry Bisset).⁹ The siege wore on and by September both French and English supplies were low. For the English this was due to prior military setbacks, and for the French, a consequence of the present siege.¹⁰

By September, the commune of Montargis had unequivocally prevailed upon Charles VII for help. He had of course charitably sent reinforcements, but they were unsuccessful, the troupe having been interdicted en route to Montargis.¹¹ Realizing the ongoing need, Charles VII had in mind to send more help, this time entrusting it to the Constable, Arthur de Richemont himself. So, the next effort was reinforced by the King, conceived of by the Constable, and executed by his underlings, La Hire and the Bastard d'Orleans.¹²

On a September day, in a surprise broad daylight attack, French forces sent by Charles VII managed to breach the English encampment led by Sir John de la Pole, who himself fled to the other side of the river where Bisset's small camp existed.¹³ Once amid Sir John de la Pole's camp, fighting ensued.¹⁴ While the French troops were outnumbered, the locals came to the rescue by closing the locks and dams, allowing

⁵ ASSOCIATION DE SAUVEGARDE DES REMPARTS & SOCIÉTÉ D'EMULATION, *LE SIÈGE DE MONTARGIS: LA VICTOIRE DE 1427* 23 (2013).

⁶ *Id.* at 27.

⁷ *Id.* at 23-3.

⁸ PETER HOSKINS, *SIEGE WARFARE DURING THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR: ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH* 143 (2018).

⁹ ASSOCIATION DE SAUVEGARDE DES REMPARTS AND SOCIÉTÉ D'EMULATION, *supra* note 5 at 28; Hoskins, *supra* note 8 at 143.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ ASSOCIATION DE SAUVEGARDE DES REMPARTS AND SOCIÉTÉ D'EMULATION, *supra* note 5 at 33-4.

¹² Hoskins, *supra* note 8 at 143.

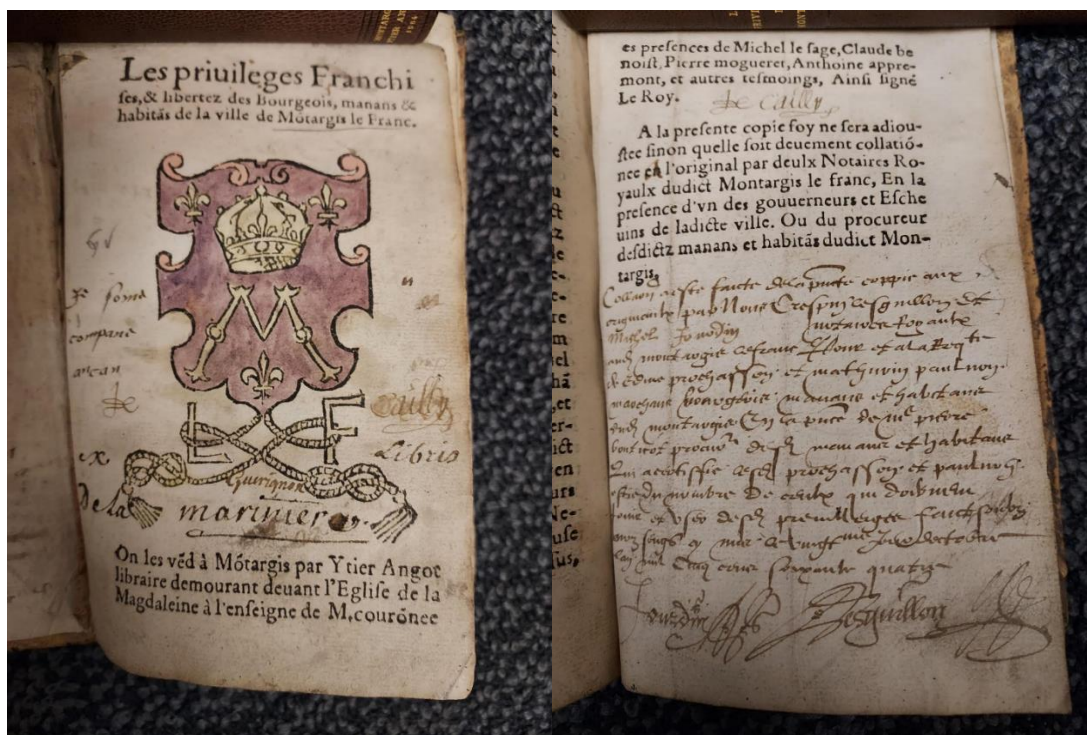
¹³ *Id.* at 143-4.

¹⁴ *Id.*

the fields outside the city walls to flood the English troops.¹⁵ At one point, at least a thousand English men made for a nearby bridge, following de la Pole's suit and trying to escape the impending water, which in turn collapsed under the weight, drowning all upon it.¹⁶ Between these events, the English had hundreds (if not thousands) of men killed, drowned, or taken captive.¹⁷ Needless to say, at this point the English retreated and Montargis had been saved.

The town held an annual celebration of this liberation up until the French Revolution. Indeed, an annual festival to these events was not the only benefit garnered by Montargis. Turns out that winning a strategic battle can have tax benefits too. "The little village that could" did not remain unrecognized by the King. In 1430, he granted the commune immunity, or rather, "privileges" from paying taxes to the crown.

Recently the Jacob Burns Law Library acquired a copy of these medieval privileges, and this tiny tome offers its own remarkable story. "Les privileges, franchises & libertez des bourgeois, manans & habitans de la ville de Montargis le Franc" was printed by an unknown printer and offered for sale by the otherwise unattested bookseller Ytier Angot in Montargis over a hundred years after the siege. It is a small book of only 56 leaves, bound in contemporary leather, possibly deerskin, and it includes the original privilege of 1430 as well as a series of confirmations and additions by successive kings through Charles IX in 1564.



First of two title pages, apparently hand-colored / Manuscript certification at the end

¹⁵ ASSOCIATION DE SAUVEGARDE DES REMPARTS AND SOCIÉTÉ D'ÉMULATION, *supra* note 5 at 39.

¹⁶ Hoskins, *supra* note 8 at g144; ASSOCIATION DE SAUVEGARDE DES REMPARTS AND SOCIÉTÉ D'ÉMULATION, *supra* note 5 at 40.

¹⁷ *Id.*

The Burns copy may be the only one surviving: it is listed in an auction catalog from 2022,¹⁸ and an early autograph on the title page says it was owned by André Guerignon, mayor of Montargis from 1672-73,¹⁹ but its provenance in between is uncertain; it may be the copy listed in the sale catalog for the library of the Duke of La Vallière in 1783.²⁰ The book also bears a few other names in early script: De la Mariniere, De Caille, and Jacqueline Marot. This last may be a child, as her name on the back of the title page is surrounded by pen trials and she has added an inscription on the rear pastedown, written in provincial dialect with misspellings: “We are friends together, me and Marie Gobart, Marie Breton, Marguerite, me Jacqueline Marot.”

Perhaps the most surprising thing about the book is the long manuscript inscription at the end. In formal legal language, two notaries of Montargis, Crespin Lesguillon and Michel Jourdin, attest that they have carefully examined each original manuscript and that this particular printed copy is completely accurate. A notice printed above explains: Faith will be given to each printed copy only if it is collated with the originals and certified by two royal notaries of Montargis-le-Franc in the presence of either a city magistrate or a representative of the workers. The fact that a working-class witness could substitute for a city official may seem surprising, but then the original tax exemption was granted not only to the bourgeoisie but also to laborers and other inhabitants of the town. Perhaps here we see the seeds of sympathy to the working class that later put Montargis on the map.

What seems more surprising is the fact that despite the current received opinion that the advent of print created fixity in world of uncontrolled manuscript variation,²¹ manuscript here is seen as authoritative, and print as unreliable. As David McKitterick has pointed out, early printed books were in fact a “house of errors,” with each copy likely to differ from all others, so that manuscript corrections added by the printer before issue were an accepted practice,²² each error was understood to be present in only part of the run.²³ But something more is going on here.

At the beginning of the text, two royal notaries, Jehan Garnier and Estienne Petit, attest in print to the accuracy of the whole run; they date their certification September 20, 1563. However, the library’s copy includes a privilege from 1564. It is difficult to see this as simply a supplement: the final privilege begins in the middle of a page after a privilege dated 1562. It seems this copy includes sheets printed in different years. Lesguillon and Crespin have corrected in manuscript the original print certification, adding their names and the date October 20, 1564, the same date as their long addition at the end. Other manuscript corrections are scattered throughout the text. Indeed, it may have been the unreliability of this print edition that moved some to opt for a manuscript version: the public library in Montargis held, at least in 1893, a manuscript copy of the same privileges drawn up for the bourgeois merchant Estienne

¹⁸ REISS & SOHN, WERTVOLLE BÜCHER, HANDSCHRIFTEN VOM MITTELALTER BIS ZUR Moderne 71 (2022).

¹⁹ Cf. *Liste des maires de Montargis*, <https://www.annuaire-mairie.fr/ancien-maire-montargis.html> (last visited Jun 9, 2023).

²⁰ CATALOGUE DES LIVRES DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE FEU M. LE DUC DE LA VALLIÈRE, 1^{RE} PTE., T. 3, 274-73 (1783).

²¹ ELIZABETH EISENSTEIN, *THE PRINTING PRESS AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE* (1979).

²² DAVID MCKITTERICK, *PRINT, MANUSCRIPT AND THE SEARCH FOR ORDER, 1450-1830*, at 102-6 (2003).

²³ *Id.* at 124-26.

Quarré, with the first group certified on December 11, 1563, by Garnier and Petit, and the last on October 31, 1564, by Jourdin and another royal notary, Jehan Mousseau.²⁴

Why this obsession in 1563-4 with the multiplication and dissemination of copies of royal privileges, both in manuscript and in the presumably cheaper but less reliable print, each certified for complete accuracy? Perhaps the answer lies in an understanding of the historical background, which again evokes images of war.

France in 1563 had just entered the Wars of Religion, a bloody conflict between Protestants and Catholics that was to last nearly to the end of the century. In 1561, Renée de France, a member of the royal household but nonetheless a Protestant, had retired to her château in Montargis to avoid the brewing conflict. Montargis was largely Catholic, but Renée offered her château as an asylum for Protestant refugees fleeing the Catholic armies. Renée's relative, the Catholic Duke de Guise, laid waste to the countryside and demanded that Renée leave Montargis. She responded proudly that she had a legitimate title to the château, which she held as a gift from her father, Louis XII: "Nobody can command me but the King." It was only the assassination of the Duke de Guise in early 1563 during the siege of nearby Orléans that prevented him from attacking Montargis.²⁵

This might explain why the inhabitants of Montargis would want irrefutable proof of royal patronage, even should Renée be forced to leave, or if her title was deemed illegitimate because of her religion. The multiplication of copies, each certified with the official manuscript signatures of royal officials, would ensure the survival of documentary evidence of royal protection, hopefully exempting Montargis from the devastation experienced by other Protestant strongholds. The undeniable credibility of manuscript was a bulwark against both the unreliability of print and the deadly instability of a volatile political situation.

In any case, whether in fully-vetted, canonized history or in historically-informed conjecture, it is indisputable that the town of Montargis, France is, and long has been, rich with stories—some war-torn, and some worn around the edges. The Jacob Burns Law Library is delighted to now be home to some of these tales and to have the opportunity to explore the rich context that even a tiny little volume can bring to our collection. ■

²⁴ MANUSCRITS DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE MONTARGIS. CATALOGUE GÉNÉRAL DES MANUSCRITS DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE FRANCE. DÉPARTEMENTS, T. 20, 565-66 (1893).

²⁵ ANNE PUAUX, RENÉE DE FRANCE: LA HUGUENOTE 270-7 (1997).

In Praise of the Quick and Cheap Exhibit

By Julie Randolph
Head of Outreach & Instructional Services
Temple University Beasley School of Law Library

While many law libraries have mounted impressive exhibits in the past few years featuring beautiful displays, thoughtful scholarship, and digital interactives, Temple Law Library – with no exhibit budget or rare books librarian – decided we would need to take a different approach if we hoped to mount any exhibits. In creating two exhibits this year, we focused on two goals: highlighting our collections’ depth and creating something fun for our law school community.

No security? We can work around that

Our first target was a wall of cases with unreliable locks located out of sight of the circulation and reference desks. We needed to figure out what items we felt comfortable placing in such an uncontrolled location.

The solution? Choose items that are second copies or otherwise low value, and make display copies of photographs. For maximum latitude to select items fitting that description, we chose a broad exhibit theme: “Secrets of the Law Library.” Multiple librarians suggested interesting collection items, providing a range of media and subject-matter.

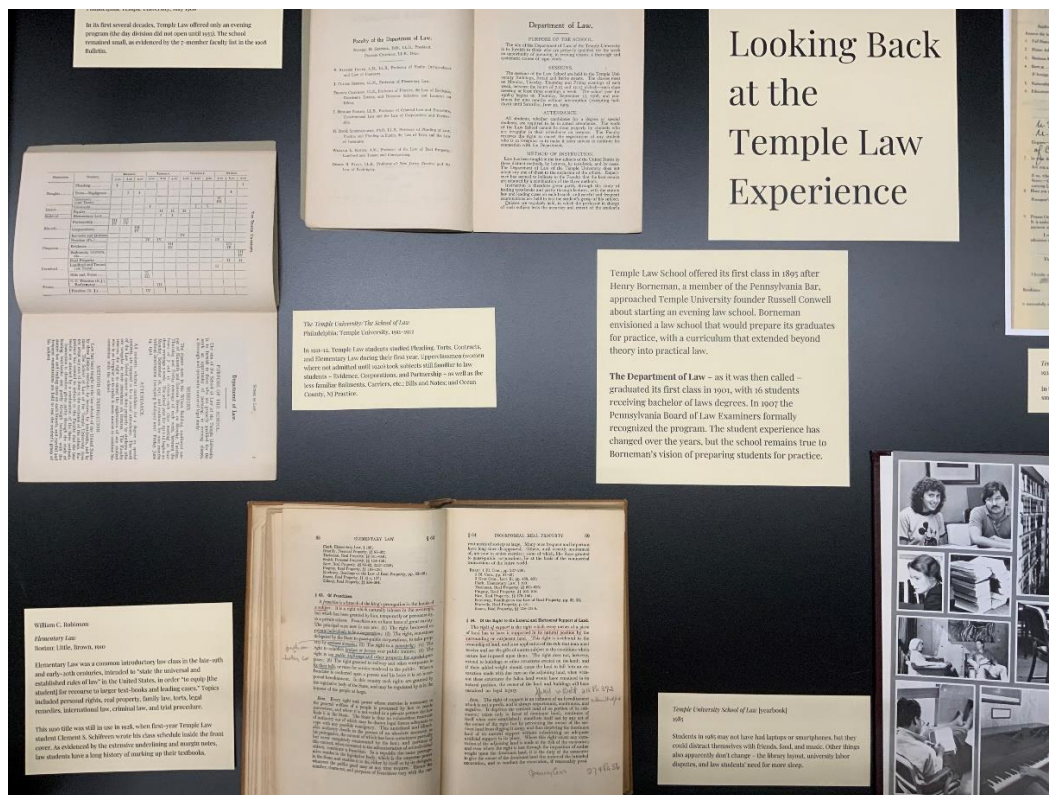
How did we do it on the cheap?

- We designed the exhibit labels on Canva.com, a free online graphic design tool. We used a background color of grainy pink that, when printed on manila yellow cardstock, gave labels subtle depth.
- For supports, we used bookstands we already owned, choosing dark metal ones because they were numerous, sturdy, and unobtrusive.
- For props, we raided staff offices, yielding a nonworking Hitachi cassette player, old book cards, and a vintage Westlaw commands mug.



Small space with maximum impact

Happily, our single horizontal display case (the location for our second exhibit) has a working lock. So we would not have to buy or create mounts, we looked for a theme featuring materials that could safely lie flat. We recently had done work supporting the school's 125th anniversary celebration (although, because of the pandemic, we were not able to mount any exhibits celebrating the occasion), so we decided to repurpose that research and find related objects. "Looking Back at the Temple Law Experience" includes bulletins, a 1924 application, 1960s exams, and other materials from the school's first 100 years.



Promote and recycle your exhibit content for maximum value

Because our display cases are in out-of-the-way locations in the library, we needed to let people know about them. We also used the exhibits as an opportunity to cross-promote other interesting materials:

- We posted images and fun facts from the exhibits on the Law Library Canvas student announcements, with dozens of views within minutes of posting. Given the popularity, next year we regularly will post historic collection items even if they aren't on exhibit.

- We featured exhibit items in our quarterly faculty newsletter. The Dean made a point of telling us how much she enjoyed the features, even though she never made it down to see an actual exhibit.
- On some exhibit labels we added QR codes linking to additional information, such as Joel Fishman's Law Academy Project database on HeinOnline and a Temple Law Library podcast episode discussing how Temple Law has changed over the past several decades.

Lessons learned

Don't let perfect be the enemy of good! We realized it was better to mount modest exhibits with sometimes-irreverent labels than no exhibits because they weren't "scholarly" or "museum-worthy" enough. Play to your strengths and have some fun! ■



Resurfacing Women Printers' Names and Contribution to the Printing Industry During the Hand Press Era

By Daniela Rovida, Hesburgh Libraries
and Tang (Cindy) Tian, Kresge Law Library
University of Notre Dame

Printing has a long and fascinating history, with women playing a vital role in the industry since its inception. However, the names and achievements of many female printers have been overlooked, under-researched, and even forgotten over time for various reasons. Many of these women did not sign their names on the books they produced or simply identified themselves as the spouse or successor of the master printer. Moreover, the scarcity of archival documents pertaining to their work has made it challenging to uncover their contributions. Despite these obstacles, it is important to recognize that these early women printers were well-established businesswomen, thriving in a field and occupation where male presence was dominant. The profession of printing demanded a high degree of literacy, and women who assumed control of master printers' businesses had to establish networks of relationships with authors, papermakers, booksellers, binders, and publishers. It is important to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by these women printers to the printing industry and to the wider cultural and economic spheres.

In August 2022, we began a project aimed at researching the names of women printers, in hopes of honoring these remarkable women and inspiring future generations to celebrate their legacy. To achieve this goal, we leveraged the power of linked data and data transformation tools. Linked data can be easily accessed, queried, and retrieved and as new data is added, information becomes increasingly discoverable. We used Wikidata²⁶ as our discovery platform because it is a structured container of information and is growing exponentially as new data is added and edited. Wikidata is also a hub for institutional identifiers, unifying the unique identifiers maintained by various organizations for individuals, subjects, and works in a single, cohesive location. Wikidata and Wikipedia are closely intertwined, operating on multiple levels of interconnection. Data is exchanged and reused across the two platforms. One example is how Wikidata populates Wikipedia infoboxes with structured data. Although Wikipedia articles are designed for human consumption, Wikidata employs a machine-readable format that enables efficient data processing and the extraction of information.

During our research, we stumbled upon the story of Girolama Cartolari, an Italian

²⁶ Wikidata. Accessed May 23, 2023. https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page

printer who lived and worked in Perugia and Rome during the 16th century. Remarkably, Girolama's name appeared on the title page and colophon of several books she printed, though there have been attempts to erase her existence and deny her contributions to the field of printing. In one instance, her name was erroneously transcribed as a male name. In another instance, she was incorrectly designated as a male member of the Cartolari family of printers.²⁷

As our work and research progressed, we uncovered other intriguing facets of printing history, particularly in the United States. We learned that the first person to own a printing press in America was a woman, Elizabeth Glover, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After her death, the printing press was donated to Harvard and eventually became known as Harvard University Press.²⁸ In 1777, Mary Katharine Goddard printed the first version of the American Declaration of Independence to list the names of the signers. This document is known as the Goddard Broadside.²⁹

As a team, our first step in this project was to identify reliable sources that could provide us with names and information about women printers. Building on this foundation, our next step was to develop a data model using Wikidata properties and values that would best describe these women printers. To this end, we drew upon the well-established data models constructed by the Stanford Libraries' WikiProject³⁰, which are presented at three levels. The first level, known as the basic description, comprises fundamental elements necessary to create an item, including the person's name as the primary label. The second level, the core description, encompasses additional descriptive facets that aid in identifying the person, such as aliases, occupation, and work location. Lastly, the extended description allows for the incorporation of optional properties that can be included in the item if specific information about the person becomes available.

The project is still in its preliminary stage, with the primary focus on two data sources that have facilitated the collection of 203 names of women printers predating 1800. Leveraging the capabilities of OpenRefine, a versatile data editing and reconciliation tool, we were able to reconcile these names with entries in Wikidata through an automated process. This method necessitated minimal manual verification, particularly in cases where name duplicates were encountered within Wikidata. Approximately 56% of the names successfully matched existing items in Wikidata, indicating that these printers were already established and recognized within the platform. However, for the unmatched names, we were tasked with creating new

²⁷ Parker, Deborah. 1996. "Women in the Book Trade in Italy, 1475-1620." *Renaissance Quarterly* 49 (3): 509–41. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2863365>, 509-10.

²⁸ Fredbookarts. (2020, August 24). History of US women in printing. FBAC. <https://www.frederickbookarts.org/post/history-of-us-women-in-printing#:~:text=In%20a%20country%20where%20men,bought%20the%20press%20from%20England> .

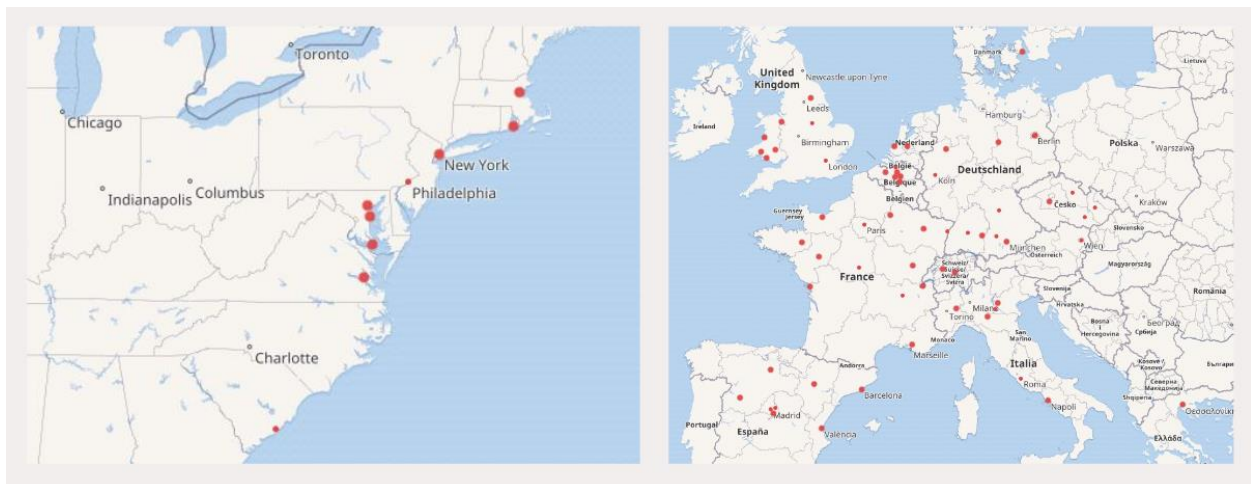
²⁹ Barlow, Marjorie Dana. 1976. *Notes on Women Printers in Colonial America and the United States, 1639-1975*. New York : Charlottesville, Va.: Hroswitha Club ; Distributed by the University Press of Virginia, 30.

³⁰ *WikiProject Stanford Libraries*. Wikidata. (n.d.). https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:WikiProject_Stanford_Libraries

Wikidata items to ensure their discoverability. To achieve this, we used QuickStatements, a batch loading tool, which facilitated the addition of data pertaining to printers who were not previously established in Wikidata. This process adhered to the data model we had diligently developed earlier in the project, ensuring consistency and coherence.

Another important step for our project involved familiarizing ourselves with query construction and using queries to retrieve and display data in a meaningful way, such as data visualization in a map view, a chart view, or a timeline view. Fortunately, within the Wikidata community, there are resources and support available to aid contributors in learning SPARQL and constructing queries, even for more complex scenarios. The query service integrated within Wikidata provides valuable built-in examples and the Query Builder is specifically designed to assist users with limited or no prior experience in SPARQL.

One exciting outcome of our project is the ability to utilize the designated work locations of women printers to extract coordinates and display them on a map. By adding the appropriate properties to the Wikidata items, it becomes possible to generate a visual representation of the data by executing a query and selecting the map view for the results. This feature offers a dynamic and interactive way to explore the geographical distribution of women printers and gain insights into their work locations.



Map view of Wikidata query results for women printers work location predating 1800

Furthermore, as we proceed with our research, we encounter and rectify data errors in existing Wikidata items. For example, we discovered instances where the names in French were erroneously labeled as English, and where the real names of female printers were missing, with only their designation as "widow of..." mentioned. Often, women who inherited the roles of male master printers were more commonly known

by their inherited names in historical records. As one of our project's objectives was to enhance the searchability of both their real names (if known from reliable sources) and their better-known names, we made necessary adjustments to facilitate related research. For example, we rectified a mislabeled English label, "veuve de Daniel Horthemels" (meaning "widow of Daniel Horthemels"), by updating it to "Marie-Anne Cellier," the printer's actual name. Simultaneously, we retained the other name as the French label to ensure its continued searchability on the Web. Cases like this require additional research and manual adjustments to avoid creating inaccurate or duplicate entries in Wikidata.

Another challenge is refining the occupation of “printer” to include subcategories such as “printer-bookseller” or broader terms such as “printing trades workers”. This step is crucial to ensure the retrieval of a comprehensive list of women printers predating 1800. Due to the decentralized nature of data contributions on Wikidata, where multiple contributors employ various data models, inconsistencies may arise, posing a challenge in capturing all relevant information with one simple query.

We also discovered the importance of adhering to the “contemporary constraint” when adding geographical names for work locations in Wikidata. For example, France (which is Q142 in Wikidata) has an inception date of 1792 and therefore people or activities predating 1792 will be flagged when attempting to add Q142 as a value. This realization emphasized the importance of selecting the appropriate entity that aligns with the time period in which the printer was active.

Our next priority is to expand our data collection efforts by collecting additional names from a diverse range of reliable sources. We will also further refine the query in use, such as replacing the “date of birth before 1800” with “work period/floruit before 1800” as a search parameter to obtain more accurate results (since many dates of birth are unknown). Furthermore, we plan to implement backlinking the women printers' names to their spouses or fathers' Wikidata pages. This will establish a symmetric relationship and highlight the inheritance and ongoing management of printing businesses by these women printers. Additionally, we aim to enhance the data by including external identifiers such as VIAF ID, The Women's Print History Project³¹ person ID, and Library of Congress authority ID. By integrating these identifiers, Wikidata can serve as a comprehensive entity management system that consolidates identifiers from a variety of sources. We also intend to conduct further research on the corporate body names associated with women printers, such as monasteries and convents where nuns contributed to the printing of texts. Another interesting development will be to link the personal names of early women printers to the works they produced. Just like the connection between Mary Katharine Goddard and the Goddard Broadside of the Declaration of Independence, interlinking personal names with their printed works will enrich the contextual understanding of their contributions.

While our project remains a work in progress, we have already begun to witness the benefits of our efforts. Notably, the number of searchable women printers in Wikidata

³¹ WPHP. Accessed May 23, 2023. <https://womensprinthistoryproject.com/>

has significantly increased as a result of our work. As we continue to gather data from diverse sources, we anticipate a continued growth in the availability of women printers' information within the platform. Through ongoing exploration and improvements, we strive to refine our methodologies, identify additional strategies to enhance the identification and discoverability of women printers predating 1800, and expand the scope of our project to include more comprehensive data.

Engaging in this endeavor gave us the opportunity to combine our existing knowledge and expertise, while concurrently fostering the development of new skills and contributing valuable information to the larger library community. Our ultimate goal is to create a valuable resource for researchers and inspire fellow librarians to actively engage with linked data. There is a wealth of online resources available to learn how to participate and utilize different tools, and Wikidata provides an open platform for anyone to contribute. Even starting with modest steps, such as incorporating your library resources, can open doors to exciting possibilities aligned with your interests and needs.



Member News

Julie Randolph

Joel Fishman, Duquesne University Kline School of Law, has the following publications:

BOOKS:

- United States Post Office: A Legal Research Guide (Hein Co., 2022);
- Fishman, Joel and Pamela Marshall. DNA: A Legal Research Guide (Hein Co., 2023);
- Index to Fiduciary Review (1933-2022). (2023 ed. ACLL, 2023);
- Fishman, Joel, Jennifer M. Fertel, Amanda F. Piccirilli. Index of Forensic Science Research Volumes 1-6 (2016-2021). Forensic Science and Law Program Bibliography Series No. 1 (Duquesne University, 2022).

ARTICLES:

- Fishman, Joel. Chief Justice Max Baer's Family Law Opinions in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (2004-2022). Pennsylvania Family Lawyer 44 no. 4 (2022): 112-124.
- Fishman, Joel and Hailey Maurer. The Legislative History of the Pennsylvania Rules of Domestic Relations (Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure §§ 1900-1959): 1980-2022. Pennsylvania Family Lawyer 45 no. 1 (2023): 14-38;
- Fishman, Joel and Righteous Caldwell. The History of Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure (2005-2022). Pennsylvania Family Lawyer 45 no. 2 (Summer 2023): 63-88.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS:

- Index to the Journal of Supreme Court History Volumes 1-47 (1976-2022), Supreme Court Historical Society;
- Index to the Pennsylvania Bar Association Quarterly Volumes 1- 95 (1929-2022), PBA Website;
- Index to the Pennsylvania Family Lawyer Volumes 1-44 (1980-2022), PBA Website;
- Index to the Voices and Views Newsletter (1998-2022) of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women in the Law Profession;
- Index to Houston's Legacy (2015-2022), A Newsletter of the Minority Bar Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association;

- The Majority Judicial Opinions of Chief Justice Debra Todd of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (2008-2023), PBA WIP Website, <https://www.pabar.org/pdf/2023/MajorityOpinionsofCJToddFinal.pdf>.

BLOGPOSTS:

- African-American Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania, 1950-2023. DCLI BEAT, February 20, 2023.
- ACLL Wire, February , 2022; Women Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania, 1950-2023. DCLI BEAT; ACLL WIRE, March 2023.

Douglas Lind, Library Director and Professor of Law at Southern Illinois University School of Law, now wears an additional hat, as he was appointed the school's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Compliance.

John L. Moreland, Student Services Librarian at Jerome Hall Law Library at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, in March presented his paper "To Train the Legal Mind: An Inquiry into the Law of Negro Slavery and the Creation of a Pro-Slavery Legal Education" at the Yale Law School's symposium, Legal Information Symposium – The Legal Treatise: Past, Present, and Future.

Other LHRB-SIS members also participated in the symposium: Fred Shapiro, Associate Librarian for Collections and Access, and Nicholas Mignanelli, Head of Programming and Lecturer in Legal Research (both at Yale Law School Lillian Goldman Library), were panel moderators. ■

LHRB Member Spotlight: Genesis M. Agosto

Meredith Weston Kostek, Contributor
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Members of LH&RB come from different backgrounds and work in a variety of settings. The LH&RB Member Spotlight interviews members to learn more about their roles in law libraries, their interest in legal history and rare books, and how they use these sources in their day-to-day activities. The hope is that readers will not only get a chance to learn more about a fellow LH&RB member, but that the interview will foster new ideas for how members can incorporate legal history and rare books into their work.

For this issue, Meredith interviewed Genesis M. Agosto, Assistant Professor of Law Library and Reference Librarian at the University of Nebraska College of Law. Genesis is an assistant professor of law, law librarian, and legal history scholar. She received her B.A. in history and Spanish from DePaul University, her joint J.D./M.A. in history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her M.L.I.S. from the University of South Florida. As a recent graduate, she is working on many projects that help combine research, history, and the law.

Q: You recently completed a dual degree in law and history. Where did you find the most overlap between the two subjects and how were you able to better explore those topics due to your concurrent degrees?

A: I find the most overlap between law and history is in how people perceive and conceptualize knowledge of the two subjects. Law and history go hand-in-hand and are integral to one another. The law, for example, uses history to establish authority (precedent) and seek answers. Both subjects are concerned with the methods, values, and problems of society, while also encouraging individuals to think, research, and argue for solutions/answers. I think my dual degree allowed me to see these overlaps and explore different arguments, theories, and methods both in law and history as a result. My dual degree also immensely improved my research skills, which furthered my exploration of the two subjects and is always a plus!

Q: What made you decide on law librarianship?

A: Oddly enough, I stumbled upon law librarianship when I was entering my third year of law school. I realized during my second year of law school that I did not want to practice law, but desperately needed to find a career I could see myself enjoying post-graduation because bills would need to be paid. I was originally looking at judicial clerkships when I came across a government law librarian position. I truly did

not know that law librarianship was a separate profession until then. I decided to become a law librarian because of the profession's commitment to serving and empowering the continuation of knowledge. It has been the most perfect fit so far, and I am endlessly grateful that I "stumbled" into my profession.

Q: What has been your favorite legal history/rare books experience in your law librarianship career?

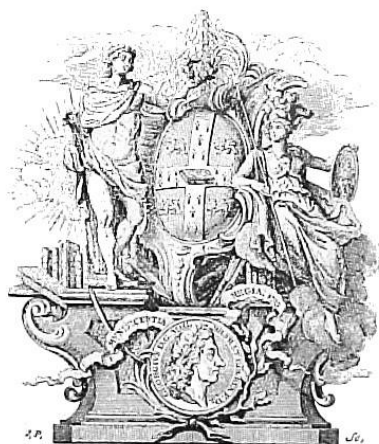
A: My favorite legal history experience in my law librarianship career thus far has been collaborating on a four-year, one-million-dollar legal history project, U.S. Law and Race Initiative, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is led by Dr. William G. Thomas III, Angle Chair in the Humanities and Professor of History, Dr. Katrina Jagodinsky, Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of History, and Dr. Jeannette Jones, Happold Professor in History and Ethnic Studies, along with other collaborators at the College of Law. This interdisciplinary project focuses on how marginalized groups of people in American history used the legal system to contest and advance their rights. The project is right up my alley and it has been a joy collaborating on.

Q: If someone were coming to Lincoln, Nebraska, for 24 hours, what would you recommend they do/see/eat?

A: If someone was coming to Lincoln, Nebraska for twenty-four hours, I would recommend catching a Huskers football game at Memorial Stadium (Go Big Red!), touring the Nebraska State Capitol, and visiting the State Library, also located inside of the Capitol. I would also recommend seeing the Sunken Gardens, attending one of our two cute farmer's markets on the weekends, visiting the Sheldon Museum of Art or the International Quilt Student Center & Museum, and exploring the historic Haymarket downtown!

Q: Is there anything you wish someone would ask you in a Q&A like this that you'd love to answer? What is it and what is your answer?

A: If you were not a law librarian, what would you be? A legal historian who vexes the law librarians. ■



LH&RB

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