Harvard University has received a $939,000, two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support the preservation of its collections in the history of science. The grant will enable the university library to microfilm 8,000 deteriorating volumes published between 1800 and 1950, building on an NEH-funded project begun at Harvard in 1997. The project involves several of Harvard’s collections, including those in the Arnold Arboretum and the Gray Herbarium; the Countway Library of Medicine; the John G. Wolbach Library and the Harvard College Observatory; Tozzer Library; and Widener Library, the university’s 5 million volume flagship library.

Claremont Colleges received an $8,000 LSTA Retrospective Conversion grant from the California State Library to convert three special collections containing Californiana. The libraries will use OCLC Retrospective Conversion Service to convert approximately 1,700 shelflist cards to electronic format, providing access through the libraries’ Web-based catalog Blais, CSULink, and OCLC’s WorldCat. They will promote use of the material by mounting exhibits and conducting classes.

The University of Pennsylvania’s (UP) Biomedical Library received two gifts totalling $132,000. Universal Health Services Inc. gave $50,000 in honor of Martin Meyerson, president emeritus of UP and supporter of the library, to mark his retirement from the company’s Board and to support the acquisition of print and electronic resources for medical collections. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) gave $82,000 in the latest of several important donations made to recognize the library’s role in furthering research carried out by HHMI investigators. Like earlier gifts from the Hughes Foundation, including $75,000 in 1997 and $63,000 in 1996, the money will support the purchase of electronic information resources, physical renovations, and computing equipment.

Acquisitions

A collection of Edward R. Murrow’s letters have been added to the E. R. Murrow primary source materials held at Washington State University (WSU). Murrow is recognized as WSU’s most famous graduate. As a pioneer newscaster for CBS, he is most remembered for his “This is London” reports during World War II. The new collection consists of 28 letters and 2 telegrams from Murrow to Hermine Duthie Decker, written between September 15, 1930, and May 13, 1932. Decker was teaching speech in Syracuse, New York, at the time Murrow was president of the National Student Federation in New York City. Aletha Carlton, daughter of the late Decker, donated these letters stating that they reveal “an intimate relationship between the two without expressly mentioning any details” and that they reveal a great deal about Murrow’s intensive life, work, and personal views about love, marriage, and God.

A rare 1473 edition of St. Augustine’s De Civitate Dei (City of God) has been donated to Marquette University (MU) by alumni couple Frank and Rose Mary Matusinec. Written by Augustine in the 5th century, City of God is considered one of the most significant pieces of Christian literature. This second edition was printed in Latin by Gutenberg successor Peter Schoeffer and includes a separately printed commentary by the Oxford Dominicans Nicolas Trevet and Thomas Waleys. It is not known how many copies exist today, but the extensive rubrication, illuminated capitals, and book numbers on each page, distinguish MU’s copy from others known to exist. Pages may be viewed at http://www.marquette.edu/library/information/news/city_of_god_image_page.html.

Ed. note: Send your news to: Grants & Acquisitions, C&RL News, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795; e-mail: ayoung@ala.org.
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