

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY *letters*

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On the Cover:

Harvard Charter of 1650, full view and details. Clockwise from the top: the Charter of 1650 in full view. Center right: the College motto, “Veritas,” is absent from the College arms as displayed on the Charter. Lower right: the seal of Governor Thomas Dudley. Lower left: the archer and his dog. Center: squirrel targeted by the archer.

According to Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison, President Henry Dunster drafted the Charter of 1650, and it is a testament to this fact that Dunster’s name is engrossed in large script along the right side of the document as “President.” The Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Thomas Dudley, endorsed the charter on May 30, 1650, as the tag on the bottom of the document bears his name.

Written in English, the text of the charter was engrossed on parchment by an unknown calligrapher in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It is believed that the artist may have been influenced by the calligraphy and iconography of the royal charters of contemporary British educational institutions, such as the University of Oxford and, in particular, Wadham College. Most prominent among the embellishments is the “W” in the first word, “whereas,” which is difficult to distinguish as a letter separate from the ensuing “hereas.” On the lower left side of the “W,” a young man aims a bow and arrow at a squirrel that is seated in the upper curl of the initial flourish. Beside the young man, a dog stands at attention.

The Charter measures 51.3 centimeters long and 69.4 centimeters wide. The box that once held the Charter is constructed of black morocco with gold tooling and a center panel showing “The President and Fellows of Harvard College. A.D. 1650. Charters.” Lined with red velvet, it was created in the 1830s to house the Charter on formal occasions.

At each presidential inauguration since 1708, the Charter of 1650 has been presented to the incoming Harvard president as a symbol of office.

UAI 15.100
Harvard University Archives

A Letter from Robert Darnton



Robert Darnton is Harvard’s Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library.

Dear Friends,

It’s a short walk from Massachusetts Hall to Tercentenary Theatre, but it’s a long way from 2007 to 1650 or 1636, when things at Harvard began. Drew Faust can negotiate both the shortcut—our president is a professional historian, perfectly at home in the landscape of today’s University—and the long distance—as president of Harvard, she belongs to a Great Chain of Being, which goes back to Henry Dunster.

The Great Chain of Being that links Harvard presidents is also expressed in the Charter of 1650, which states that the presidents (with the Fellows) “...shall for ever hereafter, in name and fact, be one body politic and corporate in law...and shall have perpetual succession.”

It was also a Great Chain of Buying, because the Charter enjoined the presidents and fellows to “purchase and acquire to themselves, or take and receive upon free-gift and donation, any lands, tenements or hereditaments...not exceeding the value of five hundred pounds per annum.”

Harvard’s beginnings were actually very modest. Although a college of sorts was envisioned in 1636, it really began with the library: John Harvard’s gift of 400 books in 1638. Hence the name of the college and, if I may say so, the core of its being: the library still stands at the center of the campus. It is the heart of the University, pulsating intellectual energy, much of it now in electronic form. However, it still needs a constant supply of “purchases” and “hereditaments.”

According to the first alumni list, dated 1682, graduating classes contained only a half dozen students a year, and there were none at all in 1644, 1648, and 1672. They had wonderful, Old Testament names: Tobias, Ichabod, Nichomias, and Zecharias. But they behaved more like the Philistines than the Israelites. They ragged Harvard’s fourth president, Leonard Hoar, so unmercifully that all discipline broke down, and the students finally deserted in the winter of 1674–75—just packed their bags and walked off. Hoar then disappeared, and for the rest of the century the Corporation found it extremely difficult to persuade anyone to take on the presidency.

One attempt, by John Winthrop in 1641–42, was a significant failure. Scouting for a “master”—the term used for heads of colleges in Oxford and Cambridge—during a trip to England and The Netherlands, Winthrop tried to recruit Johannes Comenius, one of the greatest scholars of the century. But Comenius refused and the job went to an American, Henry Dunster. Dunster had to settle for the title of “president,” which at that time merely meant someone of lesser rank who could preside in the absence of a “master.” Since then, American colleges have always had “presidents”—and so has the United States, whose most exalted office owes its name to the frustrated master hunt of 1641.

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In the 18th century, Harvard became better populated and more cantankerous. President Holyoke, discussing disputes with the Overseers in 1766, noted: “It is true, though I don’t vote when there is not a tie, yet is not my mouth stopped, but I speak my mind freely and argue the matter according to my sentiments.”

By the 19th century, the presidents had had enough of disputations and speechifying. Hence the note of President Sparks in 1849, who wanted to keep his installation short so that studies would not be interrupted and the speeches would not go on forever: “In this way the whole business may be dispatched in a quarter of an hour.”

In 1936, on the eve of Harvard’s 300th anniversary, President Conant wondered aloud about Harvard’s role during the next hundred years. He noted how much the institution had changed since 1836: “[Our] buildings and equipment are great beyond the imagination of our ancestors...Faculties and students alike have facilities never before at the disposal of any body of scholars. What will be the fate of these institutions thus suddenly developed to such dimensions?”

Fifteen years later, he wrote a letter on this topic to the president who would succeed him in the year 2000. It remained sealed in the University Archives until our valiant archivists began preparing for the inauguration of Drew Faust as Harvard’s 28th president.

Just as Harvard’s libraries have gathered the intellectual record of the past, they have a responsibility for gathering the record of the present and, obviously, of the future. Significantly, the libraries gather and organize the record of the University itself. Today, that record must include material from blogs and web sites, e-mails, and other contemporary—and often rather ephemeral—modes of communication, in addition to formally published, printed material.

Fifty years from now, Drew Faust’s successor must have the option to study a copy of her *Mothers of Invention* or to review the record of her e-mail correspondence—just as President Conant might have reviewed the letters of Henry Dunster. As President Faust’s recent inauguration attests, the institutional record of Harvard University—the record that begins in 1636 and is organized and preserved in the Harvard University Archives—is vital, communicative, and completely irreplaceable.

Yours truly,



Robert Darnton
Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor
and Director of the University Library



Detail from “Hollis, Harvard, and Massachusetts Halls at Cambridge, N. England,” a 1794 painting by Jonathan Parson Fisher.

Harvard University Archives: 10405 item 1—HUV 2194

“My Dear Sir:” A Sealed Letter from the University Archives Reaches Drew Faust on the Occasion of Her Inauguration

In her inaugural address to the thousands who gathered in Tercentenary Theatre on October 12, Drew Gilpin Faust—Harvard’s 28th president and the first woman to hold the office—described a voice from the past.

“Last week I was given a brown manila envelope that had been entrusted to the University Archives in 1951 by James B. Conant, Harvard’s 23rd president. He left instructions that it should be opened by the Harvard president at the outset of the next century ‘and not before.’ I broke the seal on the mysterious package to find a remarkable letter from my predecessor. It was addressed to ‘My dear Sir.’ Conant wrote with a sense of imminent danger. He feared an impending



Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust and University Archivist Megan Sniffin-Marinoff



James Bryant Conant, Harvard’s 23rd president

World War III that would make ‘the destruction of our cities including Cambridge quite possible.’

“‘We all wonder,’ he continued, ‘how the free world is going to get through the next fifty years.’ But as he imagined Harvard’s future, Conant shifted from foreboding to faith. If the ‘prophets of doom’ proved wrong, if there was a Harvard president alive to read his letter, Conant was confident about what the University would be. ‘You will receive this note and be in charge of a more prosperous and significant institution than the one over which I have the honor to preside . . . That . . . [Harvard] will maintain the traditions of academic freedom, of tolerance for heresy, I feel sure.’ We must dedicate ourselves to making certain he continues to be right; we must share and sustain his faith.

“Conant’s letter, like our gathering here, marks a dramatic intersection of the past with the future. This is a ceremony in which I pledge—with keys and seal and charter—my accountability to the traditions that his voice from the past invokes. And at the same time, I affirm, in compact with all of you, my accountability to and for Harvard’s future. As in Conant’s day, we face uncertainties in a world that gives us sound reason for disquiet. But we too maintain an unwavering belief in the purposes and potential of this university and in all it can do to shape how the world will look another half century from now. Let us embrace those responsibilities and possibilities; let us share them ‘knitt together . . . as one’; let us take up the work joyfully, for such an assignment is a privilege beyond measure.”

Bachrach Photo Courtesy of Harvard University Archives

Brian Smith/Harvard University Library

Online Now— Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics

Harvard University has launched a new digital library collection entitled *Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics*, which offers valuable insights for students of the history of medicine and for researchers seeking an historical context for current epidemiology. Created by the Harvard University Library's Open Collections Program, the new *Contagion* collection is also a unique social-history resource for students of many ages and disciplines. The collection contributes to the understanding of the global, social-history and public-policy implications of disease, and it offers important historical perspectives on the science and the public policy of epidemiology today.

Visit the collection at
<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/contagion>.

Developed with vital support from Arcadia, the *Contagion* collection brings Internet users into direct contact with carefully selected historical materials from Harvard's renowned libraries, special collections, and archives. These materials include digitized copies of books, serials, pamphlets, incunabula, and manuscripts—a total of more than 500,000 pages—many of which contain unique visual materials, such as plates, engravings, maps, charts, broadsides, and other illustrations. Historical materials are supplemented by explanatory pages that introduce concepts related to diseases and epidemics, historical approaches to medicine (such as “humoral theory” or “International Sanitary Conferences”), and such notable men and women as Florence Nightingale and Benjamin Waterhouse.

In addition, *Contagion* includes two sets of visual materials from the Center for the History of Medicine at Harvard's Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine:

- 91 glass lantern slides documenting an outbreak of plague in Manchuria in 1911 from Dr. Richard Pearson Strong, Harvard's first professor of tropical medicine; and
- 130 late-18th- and early-19th-century medical satiric prints and broadsides from notable engravers and illustrators, including Thomas Rowlandson, William Hogarth, George Cruikshank, and James Gillray.

In addition to *Contagion* materials that provide general background information on diseases and epidemics worldwide, the collection is organized around significant “episodes” of contagious disease, including:

- The Boston Smallpox Epidemic, 1721
- Cholera Epidemics in the 19th Century
- The Great Plague of London, 1665
- “Pestilence” and the Printed Books of the Late 15th Century
- Spanish Influenza in North America, 1918–1919
- Syphilis, 1494–1923
- Tropical Diseases and the Construction of the Panama Canal, 1904–1914
- Tuberculosis in Europe and the US, 1800–1922
- The Yellow Fever Epidemic in Philadelphia, 1793

In developing *Contagion: Historical Views of Diseases and Epidemics*, Harvard's Open Collections Program has been guided by a distinguished committee of Harvard faculty members:

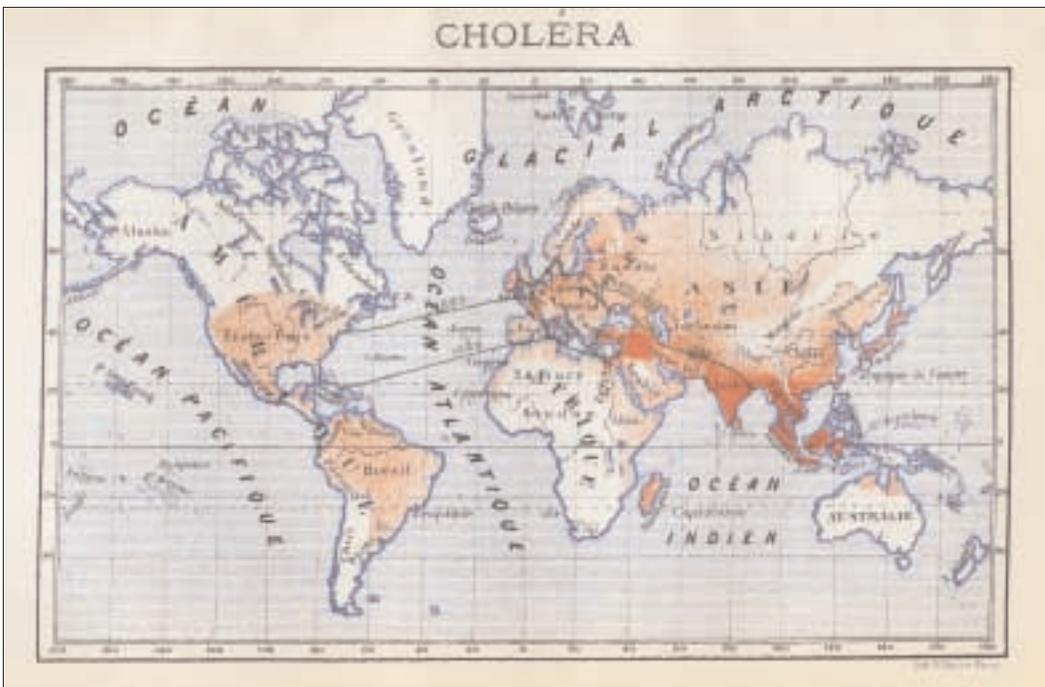
- Allan Brandt, Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Amalie Moses Kass Professor of the History of Medicine and Professor of the History of Science—Harvard Medical School
- Katharine Park, Samuel Zemurray, Jr., and Doris Zemurray Stone Radcliffe Professor of the History of Science—Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Charles Rosenberg, Professor of the History of Science and Ernest E. Monrad Professor in the Social Sciences—Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- Barbara Gutman Rosenkrantz, Professor of the History of Science, Emeritus—Faculty of Arts and Sciences

According to Professor Rosenberg, the *Contagion* collection is “a wonderfully accessible and invaluable tool for the scholar or student at any level. It demonstrates not only that we need to think about disease and its history, but that we can think with it—about society and its values, about government, and about changing ideas. It was an honor to have been associated with this innovative project.”

Harvard libraries, special collections, and archives contributing to the *Contagion* collection include:

- Andover–Harvard Theological Library—Harvard Divinity School
- Baker Library/Knowledge and Library Services—Harvard Business School
- Center for the History of Medicine/Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine—Harvard Medical School

continued on next page



In 1884, Émile Léon Poincaré showed the incidence of cholera worldwide in his *Prophylaxie et géographie médicale: des principales maladies tributaires de l'hygiène*. The full text, with illustrations, is included in Harvard's new *Contagion* collection.



Cover illustration for a Florence Nightingale calendar published in 1921 by the League of Nursing Education. A quote from Nightingale is offered for each day of the year, such as, “Nursing is an art, and if it is to be made an art, requires as exclusive a devotion, as hard a preparation, as any painter's work, for what is the having to do with dead canvas or cold marble, compared with having to do with the living body—the temple of God's spirit.” From the holdings of the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.



Frontispiece from *Stop Thief!!*, or, *King Calomel Outlawed: Being an Hour's Peep at the Mother of All Medical Mischief*, published in Boston in 1834. Two shops, specifically located in Boston, demonstrate an early commercialization of medicine—and a stark contrast between the Thomsonian infirmary and its rival, the cholera hospital. From the holdings of the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.

- Government Documents/Microforms Collections/Social Sciences Program—Harvard College Library
- Harvard Law School Library
- Harvard Map Collection/Social Sciences Program—Harvard College Library
- Harvard University Archives—Harvard University Library
- Harvard-Yenching Library—Harvard College Library
- Houghton Library—Harvard College Library
- Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America—Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
- Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library—Harvard College Library

Through the Open Collections Program (OCP), Harvard advances teaching and learning on historical topics of great relevance by providing online access to historical resources from Harvard's libraries, archives, and museums. The goal of the Open Collections Program is to offer a new model for digital collections that will benefit students and teachers around the world. Two other “open collections” are

currently online: *Women Working, 1800–1930* (<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww>), and *Immigration to the United States, 1789–1930* (<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration>). An additional collection, entitled *The Islamic Heritage Project*, will be launched late in 2008.

“The Open Collections Program provides a way for Harvard to share its intellectual wealth with the rest of the world,” states Robert Darnton, Harvard's Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library. “By making available a half million pages and images about disease and the attempts to cope with it, OCP will bring a vast area of human experience within the range of readers and researchers everywhere. They will make of it what they will, for the basic principle behind OCP is to free the documentary record from the constraints that had restricted it to a privileged minority. Now everyone with access to the Internet can study this material, develop interpretations of their own, and we will all be the richer for it.”

The Harvard University Library established the Open Collections Program in 2002, with funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The program received subsequent support from Arcadia, and, more recently, from Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

A “Daring Experiment” from Historical Collections in Baker Library

“A ‘Daring Experiment’: Harvard and Business Education for Women, 1937–1970” is the second in a series of exhibitions organized by Baker Library Historical Collections to mark 2008 as the centennial of Harvard Business School.

The history of business education for women at Harvard began in 1937 with a certificate program in personnel administration at Radcliffe College. Called “the first daring experiment in ‘practical education’ for women” by Harvard Business School Professor Fritz Roethlisberger, the course eventually evolved into the Harvard–Radcliffe Program in Business Administration (HRPBA), jointly managed by Harvard Business School and Radcliffe College.

“We’re looking at the relationship between Radcliffe and the HBS as business education evolved at Harvard,” stated

Laura Linard, director of Historical Collections, “and recording the closer and closer collaboration between the two. From the very beginning, HBS faculty were among the faculty that taught in the Radcliffe certificate program. As time progressed, the curriculum of the Management Training Program began to be modeled on the MBA curriculum.

“In the fall of 1963, eight women enrolled in the MBA degree program at Harvard Business School as fully matriculated students and the ‘daring experiment’ begun by Radcliffe College in 1937 ended. When that happened, something was lost and something was gained. What was lost was the camaraderie and the relationships that can develop in a completely female environment—as opposed to being a very small minority in the first few years at the Business School.”

The exhibit, together with its companion web site located at <http://www.library.hbs.edu/hcdaring>, features a wide array of historical documents, photographs, publications, and audio interviews from both the Radcliffe College Archives and the Harvard Business School Archives.

The exhibit remains on view through May 9 in the North Lobby at Baker Library.



The first eight women admitted to the first year of the MBA program at Harvard Business School, 1963. Back row, left to right: Elizabeth F. Trotman, Susan Lauer Holt, Cecilia B. Rauch, Lynne Sherwood, Elaine Luthy. Front row, left to right: Michelle Roos Turnovsky, Dixie Marchant, Caryl Maclaughlin Brackenridge.

Beginning with John Harvard's 1638 bequest of 400 books, gifts have proven essential to the growth of the Harvard Libraries. Today, the generosity of alumni/ae, friends, foundations, corporations, and other organizations is a dynamic and inspiring force among the University's libraries, their services to students, and their renowned collections.

Much More Than Books

The need for library support is greater than ever. The expansion of resources to include photographs and other visual images, music, poetry, and other audio recordings, as well as a growing number of resources that exist only in digital formats, has placed increasing demand on the Harvard Libraries. In addition to acquisition of both traditional and new formats, today's library must preserve its collections and make them accessible both in reading rooms and online.

Unique Opportunities

A gift to the Harvard Libraries gives you the unique opportunity to make a gift to an area of personal interest or intellectual commitment. The extent of Harvard's library collections, in combination with evolving faculty and student needs, creates an almost limitless array of gift opportunities.

Harvard seeks to increase funding for the Libraries in four crucial areas:

- preservation and conservation
- access and technology
- collections
- positions

Examples of current needs in the Harvard Libraries include

- support to digitize library resources and make them freely available on the web
- acquisition funds for resources in new areas of study and research, including South Asia and Africa, life sciences, and jazz
- gifts designated to preserve Harvard's rare and unique materials, including illuminated medieval and Renaissance manuscript collections

Meaningful Gifts

The Harvard Libraries will work with you to create a gift that is meaningful to you and meets true needs. Endowment opportunities begin at \$25,000. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated for current support. If you are an alumnus/a, you will receive full class credit for your library gift or pledge.

All gifts to Harvard's libraries are tax deductible under the full extent of the law. You may receive additional tax benefits by making a gift of securities. Please contact the Harvard Management Company at 866.845.6596 or security_gifts@hmc.harvard.edu.

Giving to Harvard Libraries

You may make your gift online by visiting the web site <http://www.haa.harvard.edu>, clicking on "Make a Gift," and selecting the appropriate option.

Planned gifts provide an opportunity for you to make a significant gift to the Harvard Libraries while preserving income or principal for yourself or your heirs. To learn more about these opportunities, contact the University Planned Giving Office at 800.446.1277 or <http://www.haa.harvard.edu/pgo>.

Thank you for your generosity. Please send your gift or pledge commitment to:

Peggy Davis Molander
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Cambridge, MA 02138

Due to a reporting error, the donor lists published last summer in *Harvard Libraries 2006* contained a number of omissions.

The University Library regrets this error and hereby acknowledges the following donors of generous contributions of \$1,000 or more that were received between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006.

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