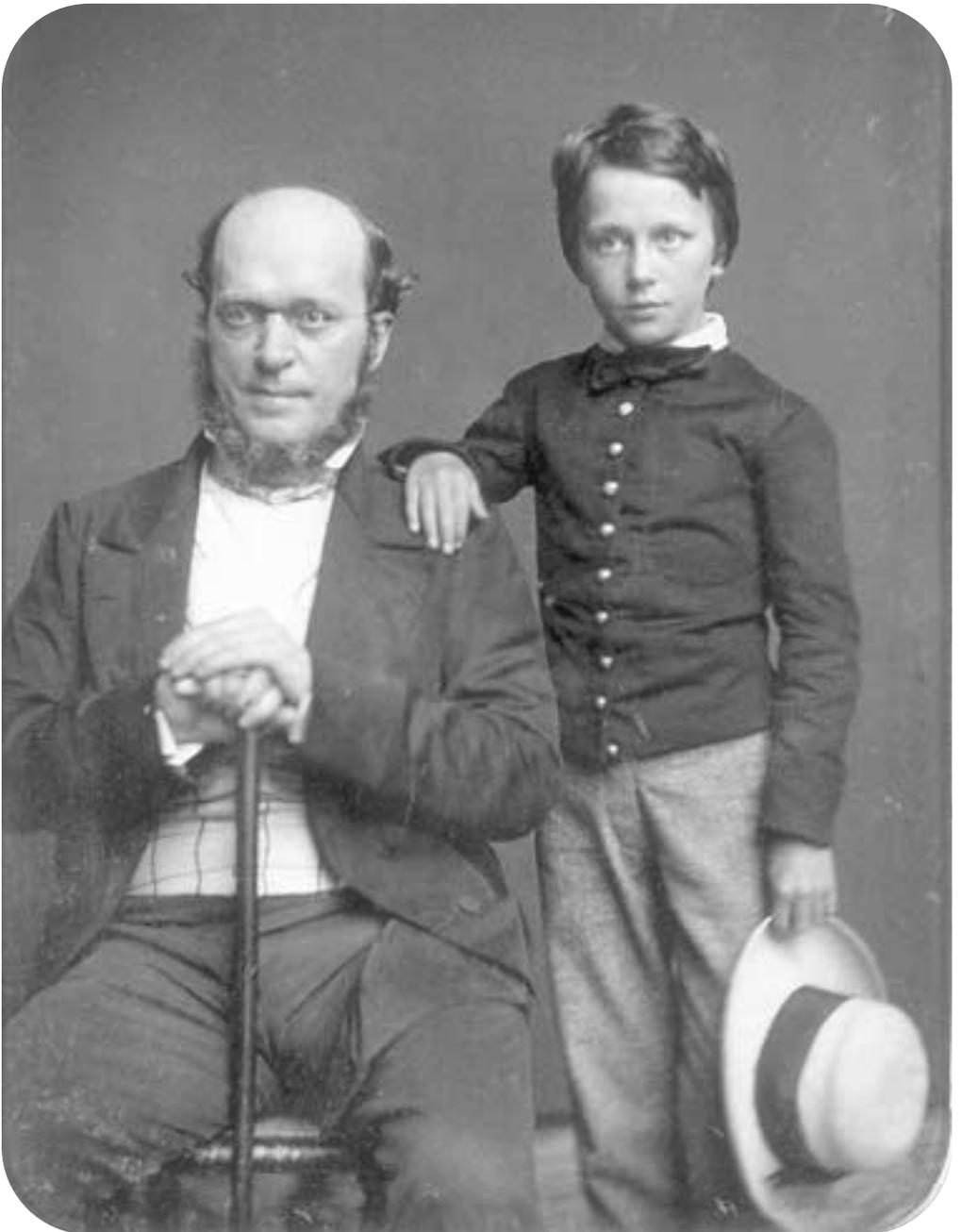


HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Letters

MAY 2002



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On the cover:

**Henry James, Sr., and Henry James, Jr.,
1854. Daguerreotype from the studio of
Mathew Brady. Houghton Library
Manuscript Department.**

In 1854, eleven-year-old Henry James, Jr., and his father paid a visit to Mathew Brady's Manhattan studio. Brady, James remembered, was "supreme in that then beautiful art," and, indeed, the studio produced a splendid and flawless daguerreotype of father and son. The [image] represented a summer afternoon of his youth and the tender, fading moments of childhood. The author used the portrait...as the frontispiece to his book of reminiscences, *A Small Boy and Others*, published in 1913, three years before his death.

From the Brady daguerreotype alone, there sprang forth a flood of memories of the summer of 1854. In the memoir he wrote, "I keep picking out at hazard those passages of our earliest age that help to reconstruct for me even by tiny touches the experience of our parents... I cherish...an old daguerreotype all the circumstances of which I intensely recall."

—**Melissa Banta**, from *A Curious and Ingenious Art: Reflections on Daguerreotypes at Harvard*, University of Iowa Press, 2000

A Letter from the Chair of the Overseers' Committee to Visit the University Library



Dudley Fishburn '68

Dear Friends—

What's the point of a visiting committee? "We do nothing in particular, and do it very well." This Gilbert and Sullivan line, describing the 19th-century House of Lords, could also be happily sung by the Visiting Committee of Harvard's library system. We do "nothing in particular" because particular things are clearly the remit of the Library staff. Our voice, and we sing some 30 strong, adds to the consensus by which the University moves. Faculty, students, and staff all have ideas about how Harvard's multitudinous libraries should be both managed and developed. The Visiting Committee adds the official voice of the Board of Overseers. It consists of library professionals outside of the Harvard ambit (top people from the Library of Congress, the Morgan Library, or Cornell, for example). It also includes a number of alumni interested in rare books or scholarly research or the cutting edge of science. And it is, with one of those bizarre touches so typical of Harvard, chaired by an ex-Tory Member of Parliament, resident in London, whose only connection to the printed word is as an editor of a journal, *The Economist*: myself.

This motley crew meets once a year for two days in Cambridge, except when it peregrinates to the British Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale, or the Library of Congress to sound out the competition. It takes evidence from professors and students and the University's library staff. It fixes its own programme and is unfettered. It writes a report only once every three years. Surely this counts as doing "nothing in particular"; indeed, it makes the House of Lords seem like a positively diligent body. And yet, and yet, some things it does well. The Visiting Committee, together with its unofficial cousin, those who attend the separate Library Weekend, has provided the leadership in raising money for the library system. Its

members' quiet largesse is to be glimpsed in many corners of Harvard's libraries: at the Loker Reading Room at Widener or the Weissman Preservation Center. In Harvard's swirl of fundraising, the Library system would risk finding itself an orphan were it not for this potent group of friends. They have not only given generously themselves but have held the Administration's toes to the fire when other priorities seemed repeatedly to bump the library's cause down the list of necessary investments around the University.

The Committee's main observation over the years is the extraordinary importance of the library to the central purpose of the University. Harvard's libraries are used, used, used. Queues form some mornings outside Widener or Lamont. Students and researchers often have to be thrown out at night. This is the wonder of Harvard's libraries. And both the collections and the staff rise to the challenge of research demands. In some places (no names, please) libraries are mausoleums. At Harvard, they buzz with life. Students use the great library spaces as places around which to organize their lives: research and the student existence combine. Once there was the thought that the Internet would kill this idea of the library as meeting place or Athenaeum. Quite the reverse has happened. Students don't want to sit in cramped rooms staring at a computer. The great halls, the public spaces, the communal desks of Harvard's libraries are where they wish to be. And Harvard has responded wonderfully to this need. The collections have grown apace. So has their accessibility. There is a virtuous circle. More books. Easier access. Greater use. Greater scholarship.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Just occasionally, like the House of Lords, the Visiting Committee weighs in. Its 1997 report prompted an unusual joint meeting of the Board of Overseers and the Visiting Committee. Ultimately, that meeting created the momentum that led to the long-needed renovation of Widener. The Visiting Committee did not mince words: “It is hard to imagine any single thing that puts the University’s reputation more at risk than the lack of care taken over Widener’s physical condition.” The speed and effectiveness with which the University has reacted in the intervening five years speaks for itself.

In recent years, the Law School Library, the Countway Library of Medicine, and the Frances Loeb Library of the Harvard Design School completed significant renovation programs. In recent months, major renewals at the Education School’s Monroe Gutman Library and the Divinity School’s Andover–Harvard Theological Library were completed.

The second phase of the comprehensive renovation of Widener is proceeding apace. All of this triumphant work has been to the acclaim of library users and to the credit of the University. Soon perhaps, the Visiting Committee can return to doing “nothing in particular” for a decade or two. But even then, to do it well, the Committee must remain the alert friend of the Library system, always encouraging, always well informed, just occasionally sharp. And its visits to Cambridge must make just a few hearts beat faster out of either love or trepidation. That is our job.



*Dudley Fishburn '68 chairs the Overseers' Committee to Visit the University Library. He is the associate editor of **The Economist** and a former member of Parliament for Kensington.*

March 8 & 9, 2002

Library Weekend

More than 80 alumni/ae and friends gathered at Harvard early in March for the University’s sixth Library Weekend. Hosted by Library Visiting Committee Chair Dudley Fishburn, the weekend provided a welcome occasion for guests to celebrate the work of Harvard’s libraries and to be briefed by the University on current challenges and priorities. The varied and interactive Library Weekend program afforded guests an opportunity to see, first-hand, the renovations at Widener; to tour the Widener Conservation Lab, the Harvard University Archives, or the Harvard Map Collection; and to participate in symposia led by key faculty members as well as leaders of Harvard’s library community. Topics demonstrated the broad spectrum of Harvard’s collections, from the use of recordings in teaching music, information overload of the 16th century, and art treasures from lost cultures, to globalization of

the sushi industry. Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers underscored the global importance of Harvard’s library collections, FAS Dean Jeremy Knowles discussed the tremendous progress of the libraries during his tenure as Dean, and four undergraduate students talked about their discoveries in the libraries as they prepare coursework and pursue research.



Mrs. Katherine B. Loker, LHD 2000, with President Lawrence H. Summers at Lamont Library. The Loker Reading Room in the renovated Widener Library is one of Mrs. Loker’s greatest gifts to Harvard University.



Beth Bromard

Dudley Fishburn, chair of the Visiting Committee; Jeremy Knowles, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Nancy M. Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College; and Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library. In the photo, Dean Knowles shows Mr. Fishburn his gift from the libraries—a facsimile of a Schubert song. Knowles will step down as the FAS Dean as of June 30.



Morris Stewart

Michael E. A. Gellert '53, member of the Visiting Committee and chair of the Library Development Committee, with President Summers.



Morris Stewart

Sidney Verba with novelist and Visiting Committee member Gish Jen '77 and David O'Connor '77.



Morris Stewart

Michael E. A. Gellert '53, Alan H. Hammerman '55, and Mary Gellert HRPBA '57.



Morris Stewart

Dr. Mark Bregman '78, a member of the Visiting Committee, with Charlotte P. Armstrong '49, LLB '53, former Overseer, president of the Harvard Law School Alumni Association, and recipient of the Harvard Medal in 2000.

Bricks and Mortar: Renovations at Andover–Harvard, Gutman, and Widener Libraries

Renovations. The process of renewing Harvard's library facilities is never-ending. But in recent years, the pace and the scope of library renovations have been unprecedented. Renovations of the Harvard Law School Library, the Countway Library of Medicine, and the Frances Loeb Library of the Harvard Design School were complete as of the year 2001. Next year, the Harvard Business School will embark on a major renovation—the first since the building opened in 1927—of Baker Library.

In recent months, the Harvard community has seen the completion of renovation programs at the Andover–Harvard Theological Library (Harvard Divinity School) and the Monroe C. Gutman Library (Harvard Graduate School of Education). Concurrently, substantial progress has been made in the two-phase, multi-year renovation of Widener, the University's flagship library. *Library Letters* is pleased to provide these updates.

ANDOVER–HARVARD THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

Anticipated since 1961, part of the University's master plan since the 1980s, and a “bricks-and-mortar” reality in the fall of 2001, the Harvard Divinity School's new—and renewed—Andover–Harvard Theological Library is open for use. In structural terms, the new library comprises two additional stories atop the fully renovated and redesigned 1961 library wing. A new, enclosed “cloister walk” unifies the library with Andover Hall.

The new addition and the renovated space—designed by Gail Woodhouse of Amsler Woodhouse MacLean Architects, Inc.—add 12,000 square feet of much-needed space to the Andover–Harvard Library. Shelving is increased by 30%. The reference area is 70% larger than in the past. And workspace for the library staff is increased by 25%.



The conservation laboratory in the newly renovated Andover–Harvard Theological Library.

Kent Doyon

Of equal importance to the new construction is the comprehensive renewal and upgrading of virtually the entire library. All previously existing library spaces have been (or are in the process of being) renovated. The library has been made fully accessible. New heating, cooling, and ventilation systems are dramatically improving the conditions under which collections are housed. Numerous public-access computer stations and e-mail kiosks are in place. Most study spaces are wired for data connections, and several public areas are equipped with hubs for wireless access to the Internet. A new technology-instruction classroom, to be used for library-related and school-wide training programs, is now in use.

Today, the Andover–Harvard Theological Library contains nearly 458,000 volumes, receives more than 2,200 periodicals, and acquires about 5,000 new titles annually. Harvard Divinity School (HDS) students and faculty comprise the primary constituency of the Andover–Harvard Theological Library. Privileges are also available to HDS alumni/ae, faculty, and students of the schools in the Boston Theological Institute, and to other scholars who can demonstrate a need for access to the collections.

According to Malcolm Hamilton, interim librarian for the Harvard Divinity School since August 1999: “The Andover–Harvard Theological Library finally has a home worthy of the significance of its important collections. This has been a very exciting project for me. I am working with a superior

team of HDS administrators; the best of Harvard’s project managers; and an architect whose vision, style, and collaborative habits were perfect for this library and this school. The Divinity School’s administration has been extremely supportive in all aspects of the project and the needs of ongoing library programs. One could not ask for a more competent and devoted library staff. And the faculty are intimately engaged in the library in ways that both challenge and support what we are trying to do here.”

GUTMAN LIBRARY

This spring, the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) completed a \$9.5 million renovation of the Monroe C. Gutman Library on Appian Way at Brattle Street. The Stubbins Associates of Cambridge executed the renovation of HGSE’s landmark building (by Benjamin Thompson and Associates, 1972). Most prominent in the renovation are a new Learning Technologies Center and a state-of-the-art Special Collections facility that includes a reading room, a processing area, and stacks.



Widener’s new Phillips Reading Room occupies one of the building’s former light courts.

Photo: Lisa Bowerman



Renovations at the Gutman Library feature a state-of-the-art facility for Special Collections.

Photo: Kent Dwyer

The creation of HGSE’s technology center is the culmination of an ambitious technology enhancement program for classrooms and meeting spaces throughout the School. The new center in Gutman comprises two computer classrooms, a public cluster of computers for student use, an experimental technology lab, and a web development facility—as well as audio and video editing suites, a faculty resource center, viewing rooms, non-print collections storage, and conference rooms. Additionally, HGSE media services, formerly housed in Gutman’s basement level, were relocated to the new technology center.

While technological concerns drove many aspects of the renovation, the development of the Learning Technologies Center displaced Gutman’s Special Collections, which had formerly occupied a modest space on the third floor. With significant space freed by the relocation of media services, HGSE seized the opportunity to create a new Special Collections facility on the basement level. The new facility features compact shelving for more than 60,000 volumes and 1,500 linear feet of manuscripts—with room for expansion. The new stacks are adjacent to a secure and pleasant reading room and to a processing room for minor repairs and collection organization activities.

The research uses of the Gutman’s Special Collections informed the configuration of the new facility. According to Marylène Altieri, special collections librarian and archivist, researchers can benefit from browsing adjacent collections in the stacks. As an example, Altieri explains that a researcher interested in late 19th-century methods of teaching English could consult annual reports and private school catalogs, develop comparative lists of textbooks used, and consult the textbooks themselves—all in a single research visit to the Special Collections. The new reading room and stacks are contiguous and separated by a glass wall that emphasizes the accessibility of the holdings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

With the renovation complete, HGSE has tremendously enhanced its services in two divergent areas—technology and historical materials. Throughout the renovation, the Gutman Library remained open to students, faculty, and outside researchers—although the Special Collections were stored offsite. According to John W. Collins III, HGSE librarian, “We were able to schedule the most disruptive work during off-hours and thereby to interfere as little as possible with classes and library use by students. Library users were given weekly construction updates on our web site and through photographs displayed on the television screen in the first-floor lobby. Through good communication with students, faculty, construction workers, and library staff, work continued at a steady pace with minimal disruption.”

WIDENER

The comprehensive, two-phase renovation of Widener Library—the first such renewal since the building opened for use in 1915—will be finished in 2004. According to Nancy Cline, the Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College, “The University’s commitment to renovating Widener Library is perhaps the single most important investment in preserving its irreplaceable collections.”

Phase One, the renovation of the Widener stacks, is complete. The renewed stacks provide an excellent environment for assuring the integrity of materials. New lighting, cabling, smoke detection and fire suppression, security, and HVAC systems have been activated; new carrels with network connectivity have been installed; and most importantly, the proper environmental conditions are in place for the collections. Researchers are using the new Phillips Reading Room in what was the east light court, and the new Periodicals Reading Room located on the first floor conveniently adjacent to the current periodicals stacks.

The stacks renovation project, which required the cleaning and shifting of three million volumes, illuminated the diverse and complex preservation needs throughout all the print collections. “If we are to continue to provide access to these materials to readers in the years to come,” Cline notes, “the conservation and repair programs will be vital.”

In Phase Two, public areas will be aligned to better respond to service needs, program priorities, and contemporary research. Busy, noisy, interactive services will be separated from the major reading rooms where users prefer quiet in order to read and to study.

Built into the plan is some degree of flexibility to allow the building to accommodate future, as yet unforeseen, directions in research and teaching.

The second floor of the building will emphasize research. Reference services, which currently reside within the Loker Reading Room, will be relocated. The new reference and research services room will be adjacent to the Loker Room, and will provide increased access to networked resources, including HOLLIS terminals and numerous specialized databases, and provide space in which users can confer with research librarians. Thanks to the generosity of Katherine Loker, the Loker Reading Room will be restored to its original dimensions and architectural elegance and—with the relocation of the interactive units—will become a quiet place for serious reading and study.

The first floor will become a hub connecting users with Widener collections and services. It contains the primary entrances to the stacks and to the new reading rooms located one floor above. The new Periodicals Reading Room features comfortable seating, HOLLIS terminals, onsite staff, and a selection of the more heavily consulted periodicals and newspapers. In the adjacent stacks, users have easy access to Widener’s unbound issues of current journals. Just a few steps away from the Periodicals Reading Room, the new microtext center will feature the retrospective files of newspapers. These resources are a mainstay for research, and having them in close proximity to the current newspapers will benefit many users. The first floor will also include an expanded privileges office, the administrative offices, and collection development—units that have significant interaction with faculty as well as with a large number of non-Harvard visitors. Lower levels of Widener Library will contain administrative service units and improved preservation facilities that provide essential care for the collections.

Susan Lee, HCL’s associate librarian for administration and planning, summed up the Widener renovations: “This renewal includes not only the restoration of the original architectural features and finishes, but also the creation of new spaces for programmatic use. The beauty of the design is that it has built-in flexibility to accommodate future change. When this project is complete, Widener Library will be re-established as a modern facility that can comfortably accommodate both books and users for decades to come.”

Meet Thea Burns:

HCL's First Helen H. Glaser Conservator

Early this year, Dorothea “Thea” Burns joined the staff of the University Library’s Weissman Preservation Center as the first Helen H. Glaser Conservator. In this capacity, Burns serves as senior paper conservator responsible for the care and treatment of rare and unique materials, largely unbound and ranging from historic documents to works of art on paper, held in special collections throughout the Harvard College Library. This critically important position in the Weissman Preservation Center is made possible through the generosity of Robert J. Glaser SB ’40, MD ’43.

“The Helen H. Glaser Conservator is a very welcome addition to our preservation program and will enable our libraries to address an array of important needs. Helen was a good friend of libraries. An avid reader, she had a keen eye for detail and appreciated fine craftsmanship. We are honored that Bob and his family chose to establish this position in her memory,” stated Nancy M. Cline, Roy E. Larsen Librarian of Harvard College.

The Weissman Center operates on a collaborative model, in which preservation staff members supported by the University Library and various faculties across the University work together in a shared facility, leveraging their special skills and knowledge to great mutual advantage. According to Jan Merrill-Oldham, Malloy–Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian in the Harvard University Library and the Harvard College Library—and the *de facto* director of the Weissman Center—“Thea is a seasoned practitioner who has excellent training and excellent teaching skills. Her addition to the staff marks a critical step in the growth of the conservation program throughout Harvard libraries.”



Kerr Dayton



Kerr Dayton

Dorothea Burns is the first Helen H. Glaser Conservator.

Burns, who comes to Harvard with extensive experience in both the private and nonprofit sectors, earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from McGill University in 1966 and a master of art conservation from Queen’s University in 1978. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Department of Conservation and Technology, University of London. In addition, she studied at Harvard, where she earned a certificate in the conservation of works of art on paper from the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at the Fogg Art Museum.

Since 1989, Burns has directed the paper objects component of the master’s degree program in art conservation at Queen’s University where she was a tenured associate professor of paper objects conservation. Her teaching responsibilities focused on paper conservation and preventative conservation training and she is credited with developing a comprehensive and innovative curriculum for both lectures and studio practice. Prior to this, she worked as a consultant and conservator for various institutional and private collections in Canada and England. Actively engaged in her field, Burns has published extensively, presented numerous papers at international, national, and regional conferences, and she has played a key role in obtaining grants for a variety of research projects and initiatives.

Giving to Harvard's Library

Harvard's library has grown from John Harvard's 400 books in 1638 to a world-renowned collection today, including not only 14 million books and journals, but also millions of other manuscripts, maps, photographs, recordings, and digital images. The primary mission of the Harvard libraries has always been and remains today the support of teaching, learning, and research at the University. The libraries must work together not only to build, preserve, and house their collections, but also to provide access to them regardless of their formats.

To ensure a strong financial base for the library to move into the 21st century, over \$82 million was raised in the recent campaign. The success of the campaign, especially in the areas of collections, preservation, and technology, revealed the scope of challenges Harvard faces, and fundraising in the future must focus on addressing these needs. Five areas have been identified as priorities for the future:

- Preservation and Conservation
- Access and Technology
- Collections
- Positions
- Renovations and Capital Projects

You have the unique opportunity to combine your area of significant interest and your giving level to create a gift that is meaningful to you and important to the library and to the University.

Tax Benefits

You may receive tax benefits by making a gift of securities. For more information, contact Melissa Baran of the Harvard University Recording Secretary's Office. The toll-free phone number is 1.866.845.6598.

Planned Gifts

You may achieve greater tax savings by making a planned gift. To learn more about planned gifts or including the Library in your will, contact University Planned Giving at 1.800.446.1277 or www.haa.harvard.edu/pgol.

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts to the library are a thoughtful way to honor a friend or relative while providing meaningful support to the Library. Please make your check out to Harvard University, noting the name of the person you wish to honor. If you want us to acknowledge your gift (not the amount) to the honoree's family, please include the appropriate name and address.

How to Contribute

You may send your gift or pledge commitment to:

Development Office
192 Widener Library
Attn.: Peggy Davis Molander
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Checks should be made out to Harvard University.

For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062.

After Word

One of the very important trusts that I inherit as president of the University—and I am only the seventh president since the end of the Civil War—one of the trusts that my predecessors maintained is the trust in the Harvard Library system. If it were ever to lose its central role as a global collection, that would not be something that could ever be regained. And so, it falls to each of us who have a role in stewarding this institution to make sure that the libraries maintain their strength. As I suspect you will learn in the course of your weekend, excellence has its price. And in many respects, excellence in this area grows ever more expensive...If we are to maintain the Harvard Library system, if we are to allow it to meet the challenges that it will face in the next decade, there is a great deal we will all have to do. And that's why all of us at the University are grateful to all of you who have come here.

—**President Lawrence H. Summers**,
*in remarks to donors and friends gathered
at Lamont Library for Library Weekend,
March 8 & 9, 2002*

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