

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

# Letters

MAY 2003



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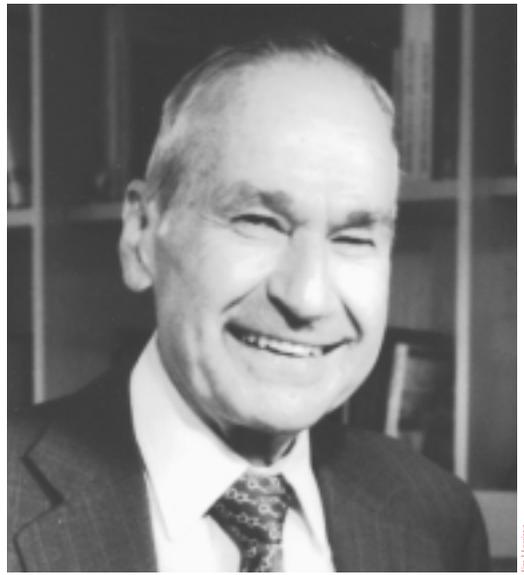
**On the Cover: The Shelton Looms, 1933 (detail)**  
In 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, Lewis Hine (1874–1940) made a series of photographs of workers in Connecticut's Shelton Looms. This series, including the cover image for this edition of *Library Letters*, is part of the Harvard Business School's Industrial Life Photograph Collection in Baker Library. The Shelton Looms have long since vanished into history, but Hine's unnamed subject still radiates life and warmth, and her fragile humanity seems to overpower the machinery that frames and confines her.

Lewis Hine is most famous for *Men at Work*, his 1932 study of the construction of the Empire State Building. But his life's work is better represented by his 1908 photographs for the National Child Labor Committee that resulted in two books, *Child Labor in the Carolinas* (1909) and *Day Laborers Before Their Time* (1909). For the Committee, Hine acted as investigator as well as photographer. He was often refused permission to enter the factories in question, and posed as a fire inspector to gain access to them. "Perhaps you are weary of child labor pictures," Hine once said. "Well, so are the rest of us, but we propose to make you and the whole country so sick and tired of the whole business that when the time for action comes, child labor pictures will be records of the past." Hine worked for the National Child Labor Committee for eight years, and the time for action came in 1916 when Congress passed the Keating–Owen Act and restricted the factory employment of children under fourteen years of age.

Following the First World War—and assignments for the Red Cross in Belgium and France—Hine turned his attention to the safety of factory workers in general, noting, "I wanted to do something positive. So I said to myself, 'Why not do the worker at work? The man on the job?' At the time he was as underprivileged as the kids in the mill."

Unique among business school libraries, Baker Library possesses remarkably comprehensive and diverse historical collections that offer a window on the development and growth of business and industry. Lewis Hine's images of the Shelton Looms are among the 30,000 photographs held by the library, in addition to business manuscripts from the 15th through the 20th centuries, the renowned Kress Collection of Business and Economic Literature, the R. G. Dun & Co. Collection of credit reports from the 1840s to the 1890s, corporate reports dating back to the early 19th century, and the archives of the Harvard Business School.

# A Letter from the Chair of the Library Development Committee



Michael E. A. Gellert '53

Jim Hanson

## Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to write to you on behalf of the Harvard libraries. From my vantage point as chair of the Library Development Committee, it is of continual interest to observe—and to support—Harvard as it adapts to our increasingly technological world and renews its commitment to educating Harvard students. Nowhere in the University is this adaptation more evident or dramatic than in the Harvard libraries.

It is a commonplace—evident in my day-to-day life and in yours—that knowledge is proliferating and that it is doing so in a wide range of forms. At Harvard, students, faculty, and researchers expect full access to every bit of that knowledge. The Harvard libraries provide complete access to that knowledge, whether it takes the form of a new book, an ancient manuscript, or an electronic journal. Rapidly increasing numbers of digital materials have brought an enormous range of new tasks to our libraries while the work of acquiring, circulating, and conserving traditional library materials goes on unabated.

With the advent of vast digital holdings and the rise of globalization, Harvard's libraries have an integral role in the rapidly changing process of educating our students. In the College Library alone, 43 librarians participate in programs of instructional service that expand—in every possible dimension—on traditional reference and public service functions. Harvard librarians provide classroom instruction in research techniques. They create class-specific “webliographies” and other online resources for students. And they are

better—and more dynamically—connected to the Harvard faculty than has ever been the case before.

It's a different and exhilarating world from the one I found 50 years ago as a Harvard freshman. When I gravitated to the libraries, it was to Lamont—which was just hitting its stride—because it was a great place to study. Lamont's holdings, a rewarding as well as manageable inventory of books and periodicals, supported a majority of undergraduate projects. It was when I set to work on my senior thesis that the larger and more complex world of Widener drew me into the depth and the breadth of Harvard's library resources. It was then that Harvard's commitment to acquiring, preserving, and delivering knowledge opened my eyes to a larger world.

Harvard's libraries have been drawing me in ever since and always in new ways. Right now, the libraries are earning widespread admiration—and my gratitude in particular—for their innovation and their success in adapting to digital culture. Adapting to the digital universe is changing the very nature of the library business—and changing the form and substance of this remarkable academic community. Those changes will continue for the foreseeable future.

As always, the Harvard libraries are a haven for study, but their services are no longer limited to traditional hours and their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

materials are no longer limited to those found on shelves. While bricks and mortar still enclose and protect the traditional collections (our volume count of 14.85 million books makes Harvard's the largest academic library in the world), it is the library's charge to bridge the oldest methods of collecting knowledge with the newest technologies for doing so—and to provide comprehensive access to all materials, both print and digital.

As I've found personally, it is a rewarding time to invest in the Harvard libraries. Times of great change offer tremendous opportunities for creative gifts. Traditional collections and services are as vital as ever. But the digital world has redoubled the work of the Harvard libraries. Your

support will strengthen the fabric of our remarkable library system and help to keep it the very best in the world. You can express your support through a traditional program or service, or you can work with the library staff to identify a new and visionary opportunity. Even a modest gift, thoughtfully applied, can make a great difference to Harvard's libraries and to the benefits that they bring to students, to faculty, and to the world beyond Harvard Yard.

With best wishes and thanks for your support.



Michael E. A. Gellert '53

## Raines Gift Supports Kennedy School Library

Franklin Raines '71, JD '76, and Wendy Farrow Raines '79 have made a generous gift to the John F. Kennedy School of Government (KSG) that supports the library and other critical areas of the School's public service mission. Kennedy School Dean Joseph S. Nye, Jr., announced that in recognition of the Raines's generosity, the main reading room of the Kennedy School library will be named in their honor, and that a Raines Family Book Fund will support the acquisition of public policy books and other print materials. The Raines gift will also restore the KSG Library's "After-Hours Study Hall," which was curtailed this year as a cost-saving measure.

"I have been an admirer of the Kennedy School since its origins in the original Littauer building," Franklin Raines stated. "The library is the heart of any academic institution, and we are happy to be able to help keep the Kennedy School library healthy." Raines is chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae, America's largest source of financing for home mortgages, and he served as director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Clinton administration. He has chaired the Kennedy School's Visiting Committee and Harvard's Board of Overseers.



The KSG Library—from the outside, looking in.

"Frank and Wendy Raines are wonderful friends of Harvard and of the Kennedy School in particular. Frank has been a champion of the Kennedy School for many years, providing leadership to the Visiting Committee, insight, and expertise on policy, growth, and management issues. It is particularly gratifying to have this gift for the core needs of the School from someone who knows us so well," commented Nye.

"The Raines donation couldn't have come at a better time for us," noted KSG Library Director Ellen Isenstein. "Because of our financial difficulties, the budget for print material had been reduced to a painfully limited level. Thanks to the generosity of the Raines family, our funding for books has been restored and we have been able to order a number of important titles that we had been accumulating on a 'wish list' since the beginning of the year. The best news is that the gift provides support for book purchasing for a five-year period, which should see us through until the economy improves."

## *Medieval Crafts and Modern Technologies:* Collections Conservation in Harvard's Widener Library

Keeping Harvard's 14.85 million library books in usable condition is a daunting task. The Harvard University Library is one of the five largest libraries anywhere in the world, and Harvard's library holdings constitute one of the University's most valuable assets. Thousands of rare books and manuscripts are held in a range of "special collections" facilities, where readers use them with care and under supervision. But the vast majority of Harvard's books circulate—to students, to faculty, to other libraries around the world. Each week in Widener alone, approximately 12,000 items are reshelved. And one item out of every ten—because of damage or wear—becomes a candidate for treatment in the conservation lab. Some repairs, such as tightening the attachment of covers, are simple preventive measures that take five minutes to complete. But more often, treatments require much more time and involve a high level of craftsmanship.

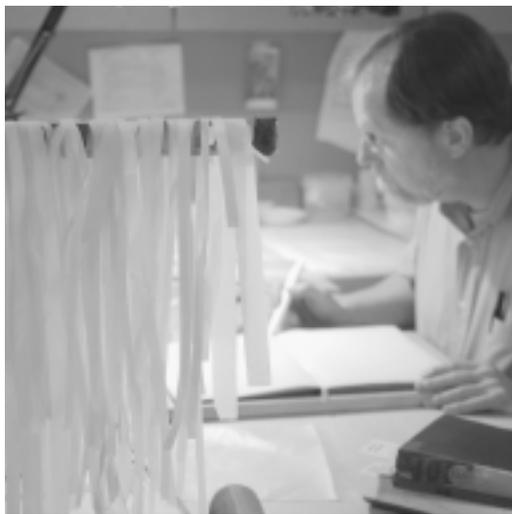
Jan Merrill-Oldham, Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, administers Harvard's two major conservation facilities. The first is the special collections lab in the University Library's Weissman Preservation Center, where conservators treat the most prized books and manuscripts from the University's libraries. According to Merrill-Oldham, "Scholarly demand, coupled with classroom use and loans for exhibition, inform the work of the Weissman Preservation Center, where the Library's great treasures are conserved, sometimes after many centuries of use." The center, named in honor of Paul M. Weissman '52 and Harriet L. Weissman, operates on a collaborative model. In the Weissman Center, staff members supported by the University Library and by various faculties of the graduate and professional schools work together in a shared facility, leveraging their skills to great mutual advantage.

Harvard's second major facility is the College Library's collections conservation lab in Widener. "In Widener," Merrill-Oldham explained, "we focus our efforts on masses of modern publications currently in demand by—and in circulation to—the Harvard community." Developing and

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*The Widener lab is the largest conservation facility of its kind in any American university.*



*John O'Regan is one of eleven conservation technicians working in the Widener lab.*

implementing comprehensive, production-line strategies to care as a matter of course for constantly circulating collections is known as “collections conservation.” The goal is to maintain valued, but not rare, materials and to ensure long-term access to the majority of Harvard’s library holdings.

At Widener, this vital work is accomplished in a state-of-the-art, 3,400-square-foot laboratory located one floor below ground on D-level. The Widener lab is the largest conservation facility of its kind in any American university. Here, medieval crafts merge with modern technologies. Wooden laying presses and heavy metal nipping presses would be at home in an 18th-century workshop, while the computers that track work and the digital chips that control an ultrasonic welder could only exist in the 21st century. The lab is one of a diminishing list of places at Harvard where work can continue when computers fail.

Despite its underground location, the lab is light-filled and inviting. True to the program’s roots in the arts and crafts of bookbinding, individually organized workbenches are arrayed with hand tools, glue containers, and books in various stages of treatment. Pre-cut pieces of cloth are organized by hue to match the book covers that need repair. Long-fibered Japanese papers, sturdy machine-made papers, and a range of specialty papers have been carefully selected for chemical stability and specific working characteristics. The atmosphere is hushed, bordering on the contemplative. But as is the case throughout the Harvard libraries, productivity is extraordinarily high. In the 2001–2002

academic year, conservation staff in Widener repaired and returned 37,000 books to circulation.

The staff responsible for this dynamic operation—two conservators and eleven technicians—are trained in a range of traditions. Nancy Schrock, chief collections conservator for the entire Harvard College Library system, was apprentice-trained after earning master’s degrees in art history and library science. Ethel Hellman, Widener’s conservator, earned a master’s degree from the University of Texas program in conservation—the only program of its kind in the country. Several technicians hold certificates in bookbinding from Boston’s North Bennet Street School, while others were trained as apprentices or through specialized, on-the-job programs.



*Ethel Hellman, the collections conservator for Widener Library, notes, “If a student needs a book that we’re working on, circulation lets us know and we expedite treatment.”*

The result is a rich mix of skills and a wide range of approaches that, combined, have allowed the lab to set very high standards for quality and production. Each volume treated is returned to the shelves with a sound structure that can stand up to the rigors of continuous use and to the stresses of photocopiers, backpacks, and the FedEx mailers used for interlibrary loans.

On a typical day, interlibrary loan staff might bring items for rush repair before a loan to another library. The Judaica department might drop off Israeli election posters for customized, protective boxing. Or a Map Collection conservation technician might use the lab’s ultrasonic welder to encapsulate maps in polyester. Some books that prove too brittle to treat

enter the microfilming queue in the imaging laboratory next door. Some high-use items may be sent outside of the University for scanning and for the subsequent creation of hard-copy facsimiles that replicate color and include copies of original bookplates and bindings.

But a massive and steady stream of books flows day in and day out from circulation. Ethel Hellman charts that course with a careful eye to keeping every book available for use: “Stacks personnel sort the books as they are returned. In that process, they see things that need to be repaired. Books that need treatment are charged out to conservation—for the specific treatments we’re

extent possible. Schrock notes, “We try to ensure that Harvard students will experience the excitement of working with objects that were clearly made in the past—not just the rare books in Houghton but the stuff of everyday research. Virtual texts and digital images are affording us access to information as never before, but we will lose context if we never touch the bindings and papers that were integral to the culture that produced them.”

With the Widener lab and the Weissman Preservation Center in her purview, Jan Merrill-Oldham reflects on the complete necessity for each distinct operation while emphasizing the close collaboration between the two. “Both operations,” Merrill-Oldham notes, “demonstrate a tremendous commitment on the part of the University to ensure that the Library’s holdings are well used and long lived. The extraordinarily high level at which the conservation labs function is the culmination of a great deal of thought and planning over the past twenty-five years. Harvard’s is one of the world’s great libraries, and today our conservation programs reflect that fact.”



Brian Smith

*As chief collections conservator for the College Library, Nancy Schrock ensures that Harvard students will experience the excitement of working with objects that were clearly made in the past.*

going to provide. Each book charged to conservation shows up in HOLLIS immediately. If a student needs a book that we’re working on, circulation lets us know and we expedite treatment—and get the book in the student’s hands within a few days. Otherwise, books are generally returned to the shelves within a few weeks. And given our system, books in the conservation lab never really go out of circulation in any case.”

Overall, two objectives are met. First, the intellectual content of each volume is carefully preserved. Second, the original housings, bindings, end papers, and even bookplates are preserved to the fullest



Brian Smith

*Jan Merrill-Oldham, the Malloy-Rabinowitz Preservation Librarian, reflects on the University’s commitment to ensure that the library’s holdings are well used and long lived.*



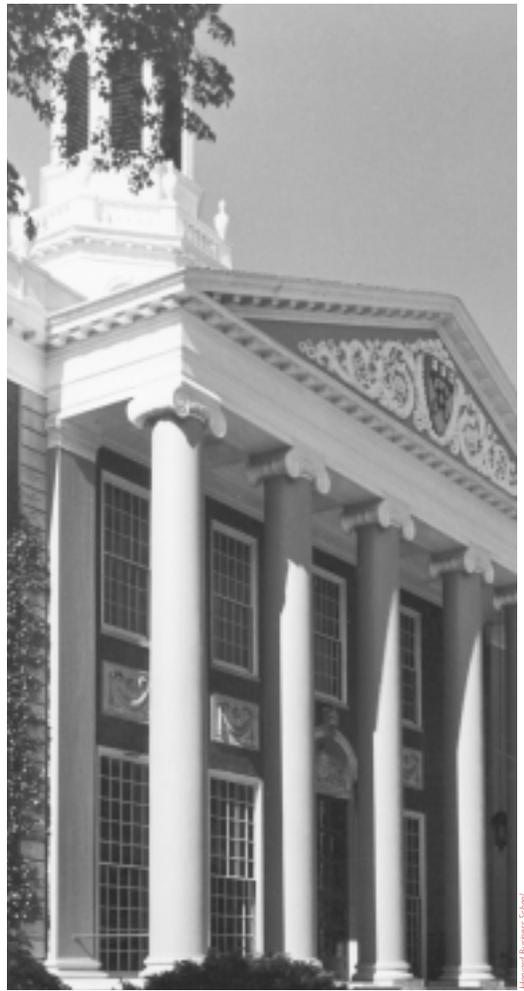
Brian Smith

# Baker Library Renovation Begins This Summer

Within weeks, a two-year renovation and expansion will begin at Harvard Business School's Baker Library. The result of the project will be the redevelopment of the 76-year-old building as the Baker Library/Academic Center. In addition to housing library holdings and staff, the Baker Library/Academic Center will provide offices for faculty and their assistants, for research associates, and for others who support research and teaching at the Business School. The goals of the renovation are to strengthen the intellectual community at HBS and to create a place where faculty, students, alumni/ae, and outside scholars can come together to build knowledge. The Baker Library/Academic Center is expected to open for the fall 2005 semester.

Named after George Fisher Baker—the Business School's first great benefactor—Baker Library holds over 600,000 volumes and extensive collections of business manuscripts and archives. The library also provides access to a burgeoning inventory of electronic resources and contains significant historical collections of business manuscripts, rare books, and archives (*see page 2*). Baker is a pioneer in the use of technology to select, acquire, and disseminate intellectual content for its constituents. Baker Library's mission is to enable research and learning through the organization and by the delivery of business information in both electronic and print media, current and past.

According to Thomas J. Michalak, Baker's executive director, "The renovation and expansion will provide the community with comfortable and attractive spaces for library services, study, and research; proper environmental conditions for housing the general collections; and major improvements in facilities for servicing the manuscripts and archives in Historical Collections—including a new reading room, a conservation laboratory, and modern, environmentally controlled space for housing its many treasures in the history of business and management."



*Baker Library will undergo its first major renovation since the building opened in 1927.*

The Harvard Business School, formally established as the Graduate School of Business Administration in 1908, installed its first library in an alcove of Gore Hall. In 1915, after some years in improvised spaces in Gore and, later, in Lawrence Hall, the library moved to the top floor of the new Widener building, where it shared a reading room with students of the classics—and rapidly outgrew its quarters. In 1927, the library moved into the Baker building on the new Business School campus, designed by McKim, Mead & White, across the Charles River from Harvard Square. This is the first major renovation of Baker since the building opened.

## Library of Congress Selects Harvard Vocarium for National Recording Registry

James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, announced that the Harvard Vocarium is included in the first annual selection of 50 recordings to the National Recording Registry. In making the announcement, Billington stated, “The challenge of reviewing more than 100 years of the history of recorded sound in America and selecting only 50 significant recordings for the inaugural recording registry was formidable. The registry was not intended by Congress to be another Grammy Awards or ‘best of’ list. Rather, Congress created the registry to celebrate the richness and variety of our audio legacy and to underscore our responsibility to assure the long-term preservation of that legacy so that it may be appreciated and studied by generations to come.”

In the 1930s, recording pioneer Frederick C. Packard, in collaboration with Harvard’s Poetry Room, the Harvard Film Service, and the Department of English, launched the Harvard Vocarium label and began to produce audio recordings of authors reading their own works. First to record was T. S. Eliot, reading “Gerontion” and “The Hollow Men.” The collection grew to

include dozens of major poets and writers, including W. H. Auden, Robinson Jeffers, Robert Lowell, Archibald MacLeish, Marianne Moore, Theodore Roethke, Muriel Rukeyser, and Tennessee Williams. These unique recordings are in continuous use by students and researchers today.

Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, supporting the need to preserve the Harvard Vocarium recordings, wrote, “The Harvard collection is indispensable: it contains not only the voices—from different times of their lives—of the greatest poets of the last century . . . but constitutes a living history of modern poetry.”

According to William P. Stoneman, the Florence Fearington Librarian of Houghton Library, “The Harvard Vocarium poetry recordings are an important resource in our study of modern American poetry and we are pleased that they have been recognized in the first annual selection of the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress. The George Edward Woodberry Poetry Room has almost 60 years of similar recordings, and we recognize our obligation to preserve them for scholarly research and to provide access to them for inspiration and enjoyment.”

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## Visiting Committee Announces 2003 Prizes for Undergraduate Book Collecting

The Overseers’ Committee to Visit the University Library has announced the winners of the 2003 Visiting Committee Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting. Phoebe Kosman ’05 and Roland Lamb ’06 will share first prize. Finding overwhelming merit in both Kosman’s entry, “To Arlie: An Intergenerational Collection of Early 20th-century Boys’ Books,” and Lamb’s entry, “A Personal Encounter with Philosophy,” the jury chose to give two first-place awards. Anna Harkey ’04 won third prize for her entry, “Out of Thin Air: A Collection of Old Time Radio Books and Memorabilia.”

Applicants were asked to submit annotated bibliographies and essays on such issues as early collecting efforts, the influence of mentors, experiences in searching for particular items, organization and care of books, and future directions for collecting. Applications were reviewed by a jury comprising Heather Cole, librarian of Hilles and Lamont Libraries; Mary Beth Clack, research librarian in Widener Library; and Suzanne Kemple, associate librarian and head of reference in Hilles Library.

The Visiting Committee Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting was established in 1977 to recognize and encourage book collecting by Harvard undergraduates. According to Dudley Fishburn ’68, chair of the Library Visiting Committee, “Book collecting expresses a passion for knowledge and a commitment to scholarship. It is a rewarding, civilized, lifelong pursuit that the Library Visiting Committee is honored to encourage among Harvard students.”

# Giving to Harvard's Libraries

From John Harvard's founding bequest of 400 books, Harvard University's library collections have grown to include more than 14.8 million books and journals, as well as millions of other manuscripts, maps, photographs, recordings, and digital objects. The Harvard system of more than 90 individual libraries is one of the world's five greatest libraries—and the most comprehensive academic library in existence.

It is the primary mission of Harvard University's libraries to support teaching, learning, and research throughout the University. Individually, Harvard's libraries respond to the needs of the faculties that support and use them. Simultaneously, Harvard's libraries work collaboratively to build, to preserve, and to house great collections, and to ensure comprehensive access to those collections over time.

The sustained growth and the long-term excellence of Harvard's libraries are dependent on increased levels of support from alumni/ae, friends, corporations, and foundations. Specifically, Harvard seeks to increase funding for the libraries in five crucial areas:

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

Donors have the unique opportunity to link gifts to the Harvard libraries with areas of personal interest or intellectual commitment. Whether you give to an individual Harvard library or to the programs that benefit the entire library system, Harvard's library professionals will work closely with you to develop a gift that is meaningful to you and of importance to Harvard and its libraries over time.

## 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 <http://www.haa.harvard.edu/pgo>.

## 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:

*Peggy Davis Molander*  
*Director of Development*  
*192 Widener Library*  
*Harvard University*  
*Cambridge, MA 02138*

Checks should be made out to Harvard University. For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062 or [molander@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:molander@fas.harvard.edu).

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