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On the Cover:

Robert Tanner Freeman
albumen print, 1869
Gift of Dr. Thomas Fillebrown
to the Harvard Dental School, 1894

Part of a set of photographs of members of the first graduating class of Harvard Dental School, this image of Robert Tanner Freeman (d. 1873) is particularly interesting. Dr. Freeman was born in Washington, DC, and was the son of former slaves from North Carolina. In 1869, he became the first African American to graduate from the Harvard Dental School, and he is believed to be the first awarded a dental degree in the United States.

Portraits of students, faculty, and community members; images of classrooms, wards, laboratories, hospital buildings, and campus landscapes; and photographs of events and activities are all part of the extensive visual holdings of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department of the Countway Library of Medicine. These images tell a story about the development of the Harvard Medical School, the growth of a Boston neighborhood, and the history of medicine and society.

The core of this collection—images unique to Harvard, such as the student photograph of Robert Tanner Freeman—is the focus of a Library Digital Initiative (LDI) project. Selected images will be described in OASIS, which is the University’s union catalog of archival and manuscript finding aids, with embedded thumbnail views permitting users to identify images for further study. This project, funded by the LDI, the Harvard Medical and Dental schools, and an alumni donor, represents the Countway Library’s first major effort to make its visual holdings web-accessible.

For more information on the LDI project and Rare Books and Special Collections at the Countway Library of Medicine, visit http://www.countway.harvard.edu/archives and choose “Enabling Access to Historical Images of the Harvard Medical School.”
A Letter from Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library

Dear Friends,

Libraries reflect the world of scholarship and information. They acquire, disseminate, and preserve information in every form in which it is created. More and more of that information is produced in digital form. At Harvard, faculty, students, and researchers can—and indeed should—expect comprehensive access to digital materials as well as traditional library holdings.

Harvard’s commitment to creating the digital infrastructure necessary to create, to manage, and to preserve digital collections, now and in the future, is as powerful as our commitment to the stewardship of our ever-growing collection of books. While we have centuries of experience with books and other physical objects, the world of digital information is a relatively new one. To grapple with that new world and to address the complex issues that it presents to research libraries everywhere, Harvard launched its Library Digital Initiative, or LDI, in 1998. From the outset, the Library Digital Initiative has had three key aims:

• To make it easier for Harvard’s libraries to maintain their collections and services in the digital era. We did not want each of our many libraries to have to acquire and replicate the expertise and systems needed to support digital resources.

• To create a coherent environment as digital collections grow. We wanted to provide an organized and consistent view of the digital resources available to the Harvard community.

• To integrate digital resources with Harvard’s existing physical library collections. We did not want to create a digital library separate from our traditional collections but rather wanted our collections—on paper or digital or in other media—to be a seamless resource.

In short, LDI was established to recognize the growing necessity of comprehensive digital collections and to provide a robust, integrated, University-wide framework that would address the questions of acquisition, access, authenticity, and preservation that digital collections present.

LDI recently completed its fifth year, a year marked by the continued expansion of the University’s digital library infrastructure and by a dramatic increase in the use of that infrastructure by our users—Harvard’s students, faculty, researchers, and staff. Today, in addition to searching the HOLLIS catalog—itself a major beneficiary of LDI-related efforts—Harvard users search VIA (the Visual Information Access catalog) for photographs and other images, OASIS (the Online Archival Search Information System) for archival materials, and the Harvard Geospatial Library (or HGL) for geospatial data sets. Through an LDI-generated cross-catalog search function, all of these catalogs may be searched simultaneously, creating with a few keyboard strokes by a user that collection of resources in multiple media that has been our goal.

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The year also proved notable for a comprehensive review of LDI to date. To determine LDI’s achievements toward stated goals and to recommend options for its future, the President and Provost convened an advisory board for the LDI in 2003. The board, comprising a nationwide group of academic and IT-industry leaders, found that, through the University’s strategic investment in LDI, Harvard had become a “leader among library digital initiatives in only a few years, thanks to careful planning and policy development.”

I quote further: “LDI has created an extraordinary resource and infrastructure. LDI technology is sound, robust, and scalable. The approach and implementation represents the current best thinking. Harvard is viewed by the national and international community as being a leader in this area of work and is envied by its peer institutions. It serves as a model for others.”

The report of the LDI advisory board is a very gratifying response to the University’s initial investments in LDI—and to all of the accomplishments of Harvard’s library community that LDI represents. The report is equally challenging in its description of the complex and vital work that lies ahead of us in three major areas:

- enhancing the cross-faculty collaborations that are at the root of LDI’s success to date;
- developing a funding model for LDI that reflects present-day financial realities; and
- strengthening every aspect of LDI’s role in research and instruction.

This last point is the most significant of the three. The libraries at Harvard play a major role in day-to-day instruction. Harvard’s librarians have stronger ties to the faculty than ever before. Now, our digital infrastructure will grow in coordination with instructional technology throughout the University. Obviously, the years ahead will be filled with challenge and reward—and with new and growing benefits to our students. It will be my privilege to keep you apprised of this vital work.

Sidney Verba
Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library

After 43 Years,
University Archivist
Harley Holden Retires

After 43 years at Harvard, University Archivist Harley Holden retired on August 31. Holden came to the University Archives in 1960 and has served as University Archivist since 1971. In announcing his retirement plans, Holden noted, “I feel that I will be leaving the University Archives at a time that it is very strong, and growing in relevance and effectiveness.”

The University Archives can trace its roots to collections gathered as early as the 1740s. The organization of the Archives, however, was not formalized by the Harvard Corporation until 1938. Since then, there have been only three University Archivists: Clifford K. Shipton, Kimball Elkins, and Holden.

According to University Library Director Sidney Verba, “Harley’s retirement marks the end of an era for many of us. But the vitality and the depth of his efforts as University Archivist will be experienced by future generations.” The University Library plans shortly to begin a search for a new University archivist.
Exploring Digital Library Resources at Harvard

The rich and extensive collections in Harvard University’s libraries serve as invaluable tools for teaching and research. These collections include books, journals, primary source materials, and audiovisual and digital resources that span a vast range of subjects, languages, and dates. Access to most of these materials is integrated: print and digital resources on specific topics can often be located with a single search.

Through Harvard’s Library Digital Initiative (LDI)—which is funded by the Office of the President and Provost and operated by the University Library—and through a variety of other Harvard programs, digital library resources at Harvard are growing significantly. These resources form an increasingly important part of the University’s collections and provide students and researchers with widespread access to locally digitized primary source materials, online versions of commercial journals and databases, and materials that were originally created in a digital format. Digital library resources can be linked from course web sites, used as the basis for course projects and term papers, shown in class presentations, and integrated with other components of instructional technology.

To encourage readers of Library Letters to explore Harvard’s digital library resources, specific sites are enumerated and described below.

HARVARD LIBRARIES WEB SITE
http://lib.harvard.edu
The starting point is the “Harvard Libraries” web site, which is an online gateway to the extraordinary library resources of Harvard University that also provides practical information on each of the more than 90 libraries that form the Harvard system.

For Harvard’s current students, faculty, staff, and researchers who hold Harvard IDs and PINs—and for those physically working in a Harvard library—the site serves as an important research tool by

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providing direct links to approximately 5,500 electronic journals and databases. These users can link to the full text of articles from many of the research database citations using a new online research tool called SFX.

SEARCH OUR CATALOGS
Access to all of Harvard’s online library catalogs is available from the Harvard Libraries web site at http://lib.harvard.edu. The catalogs include:

HOLLIS
http://holliscatalog.harvard.edu
The HOLLIS (Harvard Online Library Information System) Catalog contains over 9 million records for all types of material in the Harvard University Library system. It serves as the primary access point to books, manuscripts, government documents, maps, microforms, and music scores.

VIA
http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:viaxxxxx
The Visual Information Access (VIA) system is a union catalog of visual resources at Harvard. It includes information about slides, photographs, objects, and artifacts in the University’s libraries, museums, and archives. Instructors can make use of an export tool from VIA to download images with descriptive information in a way that can be readily imported into a digital carousel tool developed by FAS (and jointly offered by FAS and iCommons) for creating slide shows.

OASIS
http://oasis.harvard.edu
The Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS) provides centralized access to a growing percentage of finding aids for archival and manuscript collections at Harvard. These finding aids are detailed descriptions of collections that contain a wide variety of source materials, including letters, diaries, photographs, drawings, printed material, and objects.

Harvard Geospatial Library (HGL)
http://hgl.harvard.edu/jsps/basemap.jsp
The Harvard Geospatial Library is a system for the discovery, analysis, mapping, and delivery of geospatial data. It is also possible to pass on coordinates from external applications and course pages in order to plot or draw your own data on top of HGL maps. Consult the HGL Demonstration Searches document at http://hgl.harvard.edu/HGLSearchScript.pdf for a variety of sample searches in HGL and to learn how to use the map and gazetteer.

DIGITAL LIBRARY PROJECT WEB SITES
Throughout the University, librarians, scholars, and IT professionals have worked together to create numerous subject-specific digital resources—often with the support of Harvard’s Library Digital Initiative (LDI). Two such resources are listed here:

South Central China and Tibet:
Hotspot of Diversity
http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/library/tibet/expeditions.html
A stunning web site from Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum that explores modern and historic botanical expeditions to South China and Tibet, including those of explorer Joseph Rock in the 1920s. Researchers and students can view digital images of botanical specimens collected by Rock, his hand-drawn map, his correspondence, a gazetteer of place names from the expeditions, and links to living specimens at the Arboretum.

Harvard–Radcliffe
Online Historical Reference Shelf
http://hul.harvard.edu/huarc/refshelf/HROHRSHome.htm
“Serving Not Only Harvard, But the World,”
Harvard–Yenching Turns 75

In October, the Harvard–Yenching Library was the setting for “Books in Numbers: A Conference in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Harvard–Yenching Library.” The event drew 200 scholars and guests from over 35 countries. The international array of attendees participated in five sessions: “Bronze Inscriptions and Writings on Bamboo and Paper,” “Traditional Print Culture in East Asia,” “The Industrialization of Print Culture in East Asia,” “Book Illustrations in East Asia,” and “The Challenges of Digitalization for East Asian Collections.” James Cheng, librarian of the Harvard–Yenching, credits the drawing power of the conference to “collaborative planning with faculty members and the East Asian institutes . . . . We were able to attract scholars from excellent institutions on three continents as both presenters and participants.”

Organized as a library in 1928, the collections at Harvard–Yenching can be traced back to 1879 when Bostonians engaged in the China trade invited Ko K’un-hua, a Chinese scholar from the city of Ningpo in Chekiang Province, to Harvard to instruct their successors in the Chinese language. The books that Ko brought for his course form the nucleus of the collections and were the first East Asian materials acquired at Harvard.

A Japanese collection was similarly launched in 1914 when two Japanese professors, Hattori Unokichi and Anesaki Masaharu, both of Tokyo Imperial University, lectured at Harvard and donated several important groups of Japanese publications to Widener Library.

In 1928 the Harvard–Yenching Institute, a nonprofit foundation associated with Harvard and with Yenching and other Chinese universities, assumed responsibility for the East Asian-language materials from Widener, and in 1931 the collection became the Chinese–Japanese Library of the Harvard–Yenching Institute at Harvard University.

Expansion of Harvard’s East Asian curriculum led to a similar expansion in the collection. Tibetan, Mongolian, and Manchu publications were added, as well as Western-language monographs and journals. A Korean collection was inaugurated in 1951 and a Vietnamese collection in 1973. The name “Harvard–Yenching Library” was taken in 1965. In 1976 it became a part of the Harvard College Library while continuing its special relationship with the Harvard–Yenching Institute.

Today, the Harvard–Yenching Library is the center of East Asian studies at Harvard. It is closely associated with the the East Asian Languages and Civilizations department in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Harvard–Yenching Institute, the Asia Center, the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, and the Korea Institute.

William Kirby, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, remarked on the richness of Harvard–Yenching’s collections, the importance of its international collaborations, and the outstanding service of its librarians, from Alfred Chiu to James Cheng. “Students graduate, faculty retire,” Kirby stated, “but libraries by contrast endure and reinvent themselves as repositories, gatherers, and disseminators of knowledge that is essential to our fields in ever more dynamic ways. The collections of the Harvard–Yenching Library reflect scholarship across Asia, across disciplines, and across political perspectives, collecting even in times and areas that were sensitive and very difficult. Our libraries have served not only Harvard, but the world. I hope and know that you will continue to enjoy the treasure that is the Harvard–Yenching Library.”
Harvard Law School Library Launches Nuremberg Trials Project Web Site

The Harvard Law School Library has launched a new web site, the Nuremberg Trials Project, devoted to analysis and digitization of documents relating to the Nuremberg Trials. The site makes available on the web for the first time more than one million pages of documents related to the trials of military and political leaders of Nazi Germany and other accused war criminals before the International Military Tribunal (IMT) and the United States Nuremberg Military Tribunals (NMT). The collection can be found at http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu.

The prosecution of Nazi political leaders and “major” war criminals from broad sectors of German society represented an unprecedented effort to punish people accused of war crimes. The charge of “crimes against humanity” originated in Nuremberg and set a precedent for the ad hoc tribunals to try war crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. The chief US prosecutor at the main trial, Robert Jackson, stressed that war crimes are war crimes no matter what country commits them and irrespective of the war being waged.

“The documentation from such tribunals helps establish a permanent record of the truth that makes it more difficult for revisionists to try to alter history,” said Harry S. Martin III, the Law School’s Henry N. Ess III Librarian and Professor of Law. “By placing this material on the web we hope it will be widely available to scholars of many disciplines as well as the general public.”

The first stage of the project presents most of the documents from and relating to Case 1 of the United States Nuremberg Military Tribunals. Known as the Medical Case or the Doctors’ Trial, Case 1 was held in 1946–1947 and involved 23 defendants accused of organizing and participating in war crimes and crimes against humanity in the form of harmful or fatal medical experiments and procedures inflicted on both civilians and prisoners of war.

In addition to presenting digital versions of these documents—many of which are too fragile to be handled—the site provides context and analysis of the materials. Among the materials are trial transcripts, briefs, document books, evidence files, and other papers. They are of particular interest to officials and students of current international tribunals involving war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Harvard Law School Nuremberg Trials collection fills 690 boxes, with an average box containing approximately 1,500 pages of text (for a total estimated at 1,035,000 pages). The three largest groups of documents are trial documents for the twelve NMT trials and the IMT trial, trial transcripts for the twelve NMT trials and the IMT trial, and evidence file documents (the photostats, typescripts, and evidence analyses from which the prosecution, and occasionally defendants, drew their exhibits). The Law School expects to make these documents available in future stages of the project.
The Schlesinger 60th: Conferences Reflect Library’s Complex Role in Women’s History

Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library observed its 60th anniversary with two conferences: “Currents in Collecting: Documenting Underrepresented Communities” and “Gender, Race, and Rights in African-American Women’s History,” held respectively on Thursday, October 2, and Friday, October 3.

“Currents in Collecting” convened a panel of archivists, curators, librarians, and cultural collection administrators who assessed approaches to improving the documentation of minority communities. Chaired by Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, the Schlesinger’s deputy director and librarian, conference panelists and commentators included:

- Brenda Banks, director, Georgia Archives;
- Karen Jefferson, head of archives and special collections, Atlanta University Center;
- Joan D. Krizack, university archivist and head of special collections, Northeastern University;
- Susan McElrath, archivist, National Anthropological Archives in the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History;
- Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, director, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños at Hunter College; and
- Kathleen Roe, chief of archival services, New York State Archives.

“Gender, Race, and Rights in African American Women’s History” convened some of the nation’s most prominent scholars, who presented their work and discussed the ways that the study of US women’s history overall has been shaped by the conjunction of gender and race. Among the participants were:

- Darlene Clark Hine, professor of American history, Michigan State University;
- Gerda Lerner, professor emerita, University of Wisconsin, and author of Why History Matters and Fireweed: A Political Autobiography;
- Nell Irvin Painter, professor of American history, Princeton University, and former director, Princeton’s Program in African American Studies; and
- Deborah Gray White, distinguished professor of history, Rutgers University, and author of Ar’n’t I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Antebellum South.

Drew Gilpin Faust, dean of the Radcliffe Institute, noted that African-American women’s history was an appropriate theme for the Schlesinger’s 60th anniversary because it is “an area of especially rapid growth and transformation.” Nancy Cott, the Carl & Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library, added that African-American women have significant holdings in the library. Joining the papers of Shirley Graham Du Bois, Pauli Murray, and Dorothy West in the collection, she announced to applause, will be the papers of African-American poet and activist June Jordan.

The two conferences reflected the complex role played by the Schlesinger in the field of women’s history. It is the largest specialized library on women’s history in the United States; a major repository for women’s manuscripts and papers; an archive for numerous women’s organizations, including the National Organization for Women (NOW) and 9 to 5; and a source of scholarship that reflects the new priorities of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

The library had its genesis in Radcliffe alumna Maud Wood Park’s 1943 donation of materials—cumulatively known as the Woman’s Rights Collection—that document the women’s suffrage movement from 1848 to 1920. The library is named in honor of Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger for their dedication to women’s history.
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 the Harvard University Management Company. 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.baa.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
110 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.
Matthew Battles, the coordinating editor of the Harvard Library Bulletin, is the author of Library: An Unquiet History (W.W. Norton & Company, 2003), which explores how libraries have accumulated, preserved, shaped, inspired, and obliterated knowledge. “Libraries have always been important to me,” Battles says. “I can remember spending summers in my small hometown library reading for hours. And that is really what I am interested in, how libraries interact with people. I didn’t want to write a dry history of library facts, I wanted to look at the interplay between knowledge and cultures.” The following brief passages from Library: An Unquiet History are expressive of the book’s reflective tone. They are reprinted here by permission of W.W. Norton & Company.

The bibliographer in the digital age returns to the revelatory practice of her medieval forbears. Librarians, like those scribes of the Middle Ages, do not merely keep and classify texts; they create them, too, in the form of online finding aids, CD-ROM concordances, and other electronic texts, not to mention paper study guides and published bibliographies. Digital texts have followed the same deeply grooved arc of other forms of writing.

In the stacks of the library (this or any other) I have the distinct impression that its millions of volumes may indeed contain the entirety of human experience: that they make not a model for but a model of the universe. Fluttering down the foot-worn marble stairs into the building’s bowels, descending through layer after layer of pungent books, I am often struck by the sense that everything happening outside must have its printed counterpart somewhere in the stacks.

But the library—especially one so vast—is no mere cabinet of curiosities; it’s a world, complete and uncompletable, and it is filled with secrets. Like a world, it has its changes and its seasons, which belie the permanence that ordered ranks of books imply. Tugged by the gravity of readers’ desires, books flow in and out of the library like the tides. The people who shelve the books in Widener talk about the library’s breathing—at the start of the term, the stacks exhale books in great swirling clouds; at the end of term, the library inhales, and the books fly back. So the library is a body, too, the pages of books pressed together like organs in the darkness.