Dear Friends:

After the coldest spring in my memory, we are finally having a warm and sunny time—two days before Commencement—as I write this letter. We are completing a year of challenges and accomplishments. On the one hand, budgets have been tight as we balance the demands of collecting with the need to move continuously forward on technology. We continue to seek efficiencies, all in the name of having the best library system that we possibly can. At the same time, Harvard’s libraries are a growing source of innovation.

Recently, Tom Michalak and Christine Madsen reported to our Library Visiting Committee on the Open Collections Program (OCP), our most exciting new initiative. Michalak and Madsen are, respectively, the director and the manager of OCP, which was established in 2002 with substantial funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. OCP is a reflection of the digital age. Today, specific resources from Harvard’s libraries can be made available to the general public in ways that we could not have envisioned even a decade ago. Through OCP, Harvard is creating subject-based digital collections from the University’s library holdings and museum collections that benefit Harvard students and faculty and that are available to teachers, students, and researchers throughout the world.

The Open Collections Program is founded on close collaboration between Harvard’s faculty and its libraries to select a coherent collection of materials—in all media: books, manuscripts, visual materials, etc.—that can be used in courses or for research in other colleges and universities worldwide. The Open Collections Program has created its first digital resource based on materials drawn from the libraries of Harvard College and of the graduate schools of business, education, medicine, and law, and from Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library and the Fogg Art Museum. Entitled “Women Working, 1870-1930,” it can be viewed online at http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww. The “Women Working” site will ultimately provide worldwide access to more than 2,000 digitized books, 10,000 manuscript pages, and more than 1,000 images.

Shortly after Tom and Christine’s excellent presentation, I received a message from Lisbet Rausing AM ’86, PhD ’93—who had attended the Visiting Committee meeting—and her husband Peter Baldwin PhD ’86. Together, they are making an extraordinary $5 million contribution to the Open Collections Program. It is a stunning gift that will allow us to create additional subject-specific digital collections that link holdings in a variety of media that may be located in any of Harvard’s more than 90 libraries.

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The Open Collections Program is the most exciting initiative that we’ve undertaken since I became Director of the Library in 1984. Recently, the University expanded its financial aid program to enhance Harvard’s long commitment to provide the full benefit of a Harvard education to students of limited means. As vitally important as it is to increase our financial aid commitments, only a limited number of students can benefit. Our Open Collections Program will open Harvard’s library resources to a limitless number of students and to thousands of educational institutions worldwide. Both approaches represent strong and appropriate ways in which Harvard can use its scholarly powers to benefit the world.

With best regards,

Sidney Verba

Harvard Appoints
Megan Sniffin-Marinoff as University Archivist

Megan Sniffin-Marinoff has been appointed as Harvard University Archivist by Barbara Graham, the associate director of the University Library for administration and programs, in the position vacated by Harley P. Holden, who retired from the University Archivist position on September 7. Sniffin-Marinoff, who currently serves as librarian and deputy director of Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library, succeeds former University Archivist Holden, who held the position from 1971 until his retirement late in 2003. Sniffin-Marinoff’s appointment is effective on September 7.

According to Verba, “The importance of the Harvard University Archives cannot be overstated. The holdings form much more than a detailed documentary history of Harvard. They are significant sources on the social, intellectual, and political history of the United States that are of use to Harvard students and faculty and to scholars around the world. We are fortunate to welcome so distinguished a practitioner as Megan Sniffin-Marinoff as the University Archivist.”

Sniffin-Marinoff is well known to the library community at Harvard, in Boston, and far beyond. She came to Radcliffe from MIT, where she was head of the Institute Archives and Special Collections. From 1980 to 1994 she was archivist of Simmons College. As a professor in the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science, she developed its archives concentration into one of the best in the nation. Among archivists, Sniffin-Marinoff is a recognized force.

According to Barbara Graham, associate director of the University Library for administration and programs, Sniffin-Marinoff’s appointment is the culmination of a national search, which identified a strong cadre of candidates. “The challenges are many,” Graham noted. “Megan Sniffin-Marinoff will head the Archives in a key chapter of its history, during which the very nature of the Archives will change. In the coming years, a constellation of digital resources will take their place alongside four centuries’ worth of seminally important faculty papers and extraordinary collections of Harvardiana. Megan’s experience and knowledge will be invaluable in meeting these challenges, in balancing our concern for digital as well as traditional materials, and in supporting the increased use of the Archives by faculty, students, and researchers internationally.”

In response to her appointment as University Archivist, Sniffin-Marinoff stated, “I look forward to the enormous challenge of leading the efforts to document Harvard’s history—challenges presented not only by yesterday’s paper records, but also by today’s electronic records.” During the initial months of her appointment as University Archivist, she will continue to guide major renovations to Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library building that are slated for completion early in 2005.

Harvard and Simmons Announce Plans to Aid Iraqi Libraries

In response to the devastating effects of war on Iraqi libraries, the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) and the Harvard University library system are launching a joint program to provide training for Iraqi librarians and archivists. The program will aid in modernizing Iraqi libraries and help to address Iraq’s shortage of professional librarians. The program links the Simmons GSLIS—one of the premier library-science institutions—with the library and information science professionals of Harvard University, which is home to the world’s largest academic library.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded Simmons a grant of $100,000 for the two-year collaborative project with the Harvard libraries. The grant is part of the NEH program “Recovering Iraq’s Past,” which funds projects to help rebuild Iraq’s cultural heritage.

The program begins this month as a team of Simmons faculty and Harvard librarians travels to Amman, Jordan, for a curriculum-planning retreat with Iraqi library leaders. The Iraqis are expected to identify their needs, and areas of focus may include preservation, cataloging, collection development and management, and automation and online information systems. Subsequently, Simmons faculty will teach graduate library courses for the Iraqis, while Harvard librarians oversee a series of special projects and serve as long-term mentors via the Internet.

According to Sidney Verba, Harvard’s Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library, librarians from Harvard will play a critical role in the Iraqi program. “The Harvard library is pleased to have this opportunity to join with Simmons to work with our Iraqi library colleagues,” said Verba, “and to help rebuild the intellectual base of higher education in Iraq.”

The Simmons GSLIS directed a similar library-rebuilding program (begun in association with the Harvard–Yenching Institute) in Vietnam, through which Vietnamese students earned their master’s degrees in library and information science at Simmons. Today, the Vietnamese graduates of the Simmons program are library leaders in Vietnam. Additionally, the ongoing Bosnia Library Project, based at and supported by Harvard University, has assisted in the rebuilding of destroyed and damaged Bosnian library collections since early 1996.

Early in May, the renovated second floor of Widener Library re-opened, and with it the Loker Reading Room, with its grand architectural features and finishes restored. The Loker Reading Room is the gift of Mrs. Katherine B. Loker, LHD 2000.
Through the Bequest of Mary, Viscountess Eccles, the Hyde Collection Has Found a Home at Harvard

“Generous: noble of mind; open of heart; liberal; munificent; vigorous...” Samuel Johnson’s dictionary definition might have been written to describe Mary, Viscountess Eccles (1912–2003). Her bequest of the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson, considered one of the world’s most important privately held collections of 18th-century English literature, to Harvard’s Houghton Library is a defining act of generosity not only to Harvard, but to the world of scholarship in which she was both a participant and a patron.

In addition to the collection, Mary Eccles made a substantial gift to endow the position of curator of the Hyde Collection and to fund acquisitions to ensure the growth of the collection and support 18th-century studies in the scholarly world.

“The Hyde Collection is one of incomparable rarity and coherence,” said William P. Stoneman, Florence Fearrington Librarian of Houghton Library. “This bequest has established a scholarly resource of international importance at Harvard, and generations of students and scholars worldwide will be grateful for the wisdom and generosity of Mary Hyde Eccles.”

Assembled over a 60-year period, the Hyde Collection, with Johnson at its center, encompasses letters, manuscripts, first editions, portraits, and even his silver teapot. It includes half of Johnson’s surviving letters; several drafts of his “Plan for a Dictionary” and the few surviving manuscript entries; and is comprehensive in its coverage of Johnson’s published works. Comparable riches document his lively biographer, James Boswell (including corrected proofs for the Life of Johnson); his great friend Hester Thrale Piozzi; their families; and such friends and contemporaries as Tobias Smollett, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Alexander Pope, and David Garrick. With more than 4,000 volumes; approximately 5,300 letters and manuscripts; and more than 5,000 prints, drawings, and objects, it paints a broad yet detailed picture of 18th-century English literature and culture.

“This bequest is a boon to anyone interested in Samuel Johnson, his circle, and his era. Such collections are as close as we can get to the unmediated presence of the past. They are invaluable for teaching and research,” said James Engell, Gurney Professor of English Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University.

Mary Hyde Eccles was no less remarkable than the collection she created. She began the collection in collaboration with her first husband, Donald Hyde, in the 1940s. Their acquisition of the great R. B. Adam Johnson collection in 1948 put them into the first rank of American collectors. After Donald Hyde’s sudden death in 1966, she continued, with quiet determination, to mold the collection into an indispensable resource for any scholar studying the Age of Johnson. She was among the first women elected to the bibliophile’s Grolier Club in America, and the first woman elected to the Roxburghe Club in Great Britain.

Not content with simply collecting Johnson and his circle, she wrote about them as well. Her books include The Impossible Friendship: Boswell and Mrs. Thrale and The Thrales of Streatham Park.

The Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson will be housed in Houghton’s Donald Hyde Rooms. Scholars will be able to access the collection within the next two years.
A new Harvard Divinity School Librarian has been appointed.

Laura Wood, a respected figure in library administration, will lead Andover–Harvard Theological Library, a position she will assume on June 15, 2004. This appointment signifies the commitment of Harvard to the development of its theological resources and services.

Wood, who has a strong background in both library science and technology, will bring a balanced approach to the library’s operations. Her dual role at Emory University, where she serves as the Librarian for the Candler School of Theology and the American Theological Library Association, will enable her to lead Harvard’s library program forward.

The decision to move the management of the HFA into the Library was announced by William Kirby, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS). This move brings the HFA into the academic program, allowing it to align with the goals of the Harvard College Library administration.

The Harvard Film Archive (HFA) has joined the Harvard College Library, marking a significant milestone. The Archive, one of the nation’s leading repositories for film and related materials, will be managed by the Harvard College Library. The move is a logical move, given the historic synergy between film and art, and will enhance the academic program.

The search for a new Harvard Divinity School Librarian has ended with the appointment of Laura C. Wood, who will assume leadership of Andover–Harvard Theological Library on June 15, 2004, Dean William A. Graham has announced. Wood comes to Harvard from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, where she has worked at Pitts Theological Library since September 2000 as both periodicals librarian and technical services librarian.

“Through her dual responsibilities at Candler, Laura has clearly developed a balanced approach to library services that includes the enhancement of access to materials through innovative means,” Graham said in announcing the appointment. “Her work with technology at Emory, and through the American Theological Library Association, will assist her in leading our library forward in this critical area and will make her an important contributor to Harvard’s University Library Council as well.”

Before arriving at Emory, Wood was head librarian of the Stockwell Cross Library at the University of Michigan, where she received a master’s degree in information. She also has a master’s degree in religion from Yale Divinity School and a BA from Mount Holyoke College. She received an MBA from Emory in May.

“It’s a great pleasure to join the HDS community and the fine staff at the Andover–Harvard Theological Library,” Wood said. “Today’s libraries function not only as great collections but also as places of learning, especially with regard to technology. I’m looking forward to working with faculty in support of the mission of the school and to developing additional resources and services.”

By September 2005, the new 90 Mount Auburn Street building will house programs of the University Library, including the Office for Information Systems, the Open Collections Program, and the Weissman Preservation Center.

The Harvard University Library is the central service provider and coordinating body for the 90-plus libraries that compose Harvard’s library system and, together, form the largest academic library in the world. HUL provides University-wide services in the areas of preservation, information technology, high-density storage, and archival and records management. Along with administrative personnel from the Harvard Depository, three complete HUL operations will occupy the 90 Mount Auburn Street building: the Office for Information Systems, the Open Collections Program, and the Weissman Preservation Center—named in honor of Paul M. Weissman ’52 and Harriet L. Weissman. These programs require close proximity to Harvard’s library facilities and close coordination with Harvard’s extensive community of library and IT professionals.

The decision to move the management of the Archive into the Library was announced by William Kirby, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), who cited the growing interest among faculty and students in film studies and the use of film in the curriculum. According to the dean, bringing the HFA into the library, where processes for acquisition, cataloging, and preservation of visual arts material, as well as research services, are already well established, allows FAS to align services for more effective support of the academic program.

“Given the historic synergy between film and art, merging the Harvard Film Archive into the Fine Arts Library is a logical move for FAS,” said Katharine Martinez, the Herman and Joan Suit Librarian of the FAL. According to Martinez, the first order of business will be to thoroughly assess the HFA and to prepare a report for the Harvard College Library administration.

The Harvard Real Estate Services (HRES) has begun construction of a new four-story office and retail building at 90 Mount Auburn Street, one of the few remaining “buildable” sites owned by the University in Cambridge. While approximately one-third of the street level of the building will be devoted to retail space, HRES, in consultation with Harvard’s central administration, selected the Harvard University Library (HUL) as the occupant of the balance of the building’s street level and three upper stories.

The 24,410-net-square-foot building was designed by Leers Weinzapfel Associates Architects of Boston. With its geothermal heating and cooling systems and a range of other features, 90 Mount Auburn Street, when completed, will be one of the “greenest” buildings at Harvard University.

The interior fit-out for HUL was designed by Alspector Anderson Architects of New York City. Samuel Anderson, principal, has designed some of the nation’s leading conservation laboratories, including the Straus Center for Conservation in the Harvard University Art Museums.

The interior fit-out for HUL was designed by Alspector Anderson Architects of New York City. Samuel Anderson, principal, has designed some of the nation’s leading conservation laboratories, including the Straus Center for Conservation in the Harvard University Art Museums.
Giving to Harvard Libraries

From John Harvard’s founding bequest of 400 books, Harvard University’s library collections have grown to include more than 15 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

Gifts to Harvard’s libraries are tax deductible. However, you may receive additional tax benefits by making a gift of securities. For more information, contact the Harvard Management Company at 1.866.845.6596 or security_gifts@hmca.harvard.edu. You may also find information online by visiting http://www.baa.harvard.edu and selecting “Give to Harvard, Make a Gift, Stocks.”

Planned Gifts

You may achieve greater tax savings by making a planned gift. To learn more about planned gifts or including Harvard’s libraries 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 payable to “Harvard University Library,” 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:

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Director of Development
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For more information, contact Peggy Davis Molander at 617.495.8062 or molander@fas.harvard.edu.