

# LUCE LIBRARY BULLETIN

News of Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary Libraries  
Volume, 1, No. 2, Fall 2004

## The Transforming Power of Gifts

Robert Benedetto

When I walk through the facilities of Special Collections, I am continually reminded of the phrase in the Book of Proverbs, "A gift opens doors" (Prov. 18:16). Looking through our book stacks, one easily sees the cumulative effect of the gifts that have been given to Princeton Seminary over many years. These gifts have created the superb collection of materials now housed in Special Collections, and use of these materials has literally "opened doors" to new discoveries and to new ways of thinking, enriching the life of the Seminary community and the church.

*Special Collections serves as the official repository for the archives of Princeton Theological Seminary and for rare books, papers, manuscripts, and special research collections that document the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition and ecumenical Christianity in the United States and abroad.*

*Supported by the vision and resources of Princeton Theological Seminary, the collection is housed in the Henry Luce III Library, joined to Speer Library on the Seminary campus.*

*For more information about the facilities and collections of Luce Library, see the Special Collections web page on the Speer Library home page: [www.ptsem.edu/grow/Library/collections](http://www.ptsem.edu/grow/Library/collections).*

Individual philanthropy has always been the lifeblood of Special Collections. The gifts of Seminary trustees, faculty, alumni/ae, and friends have made possible both the facilities and the resources that are now enjoyed by patrons. Names like Henry Luce III and William H. Scheide adorn our library building and reading room in recognition of substantial gifts. Many other individuals and families have contributed to the facilities and holdings of Special Collections. In this issue of the *Luce Library Bulletin*, Michael Paulus identifies several donors who have enriched our collections through their gifts (see page 4).

Gifts from foundations and endowments have allowed Special Collections to acquire important collections of books, manuscripts, and works of art, and to provide more and better service for patrons. In recent years, a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. funded the creation of our Karl Barth Collection and made possible, through the expertise of librarian Stephen D. Crocco and Special Collections staff, and in cooperation with the Center for Barth Studies, an assembling of the most complete collection of Barth materials in North America. The continuing impact of the Lilly grant is described by Clifford Anderson in his article "Lilly Grant Brings Results" (page 3). Were it not for these kinds of institutional gifts and endowment funds it would be impossible to create such a unique collection and corresponding research program.

One of the most exciting developments in Special Collections is that gifts are now being given to promote research and publication. The PTS alumni/ae Class of 1954 has given a gift in excess of \$35,000 to create the "John A. Mackay Publication Fund," the first permanent endowment fund for Special Collections. Through the generosity of Dr. Rimmer and Mrs. Ruth de Vries, Abraham Kuyper Grants are now available annually to Princeton Seminary Ph.D. students who are engaged in research relating to Abraham Kuyper and the modes of thought he fostered. See the "Luce News" section of the *Bulletin* (page 3) for details on both of these research funds.

Much more remains to be done so that our program can move forward toward excellence. However, when taken together, these gifts and grants are transforming Special Collections and have "opened doors" to wider avenues of service than could have been imagined when our program was begun. To all of our partners, both past and present, we express our sincere gratitude.

## New Acquisitions

**John Toland** (1670–1722) is known to us today as an Irish Protestant deist and author of *Christianity Not Mysterious* (1695), a book that was “burnt by the public hangman in Dublin.” Less known is that Toland was also a John Milton scholar. In 1698 he compiled and edited the first collected edition of Milton’s prose works, *A Complete Collection of the Historical, Political, and Miscellaneous Works of John Milton*. The edition, for which Toland penned a life of Milton, was published in three folio volumes. In his *Life of Milton* (also published separately), Toland made reference to various apocryphal New Testament writings issued under the names of Christ and the apostles, and critics charged that he was casting doubt on the New Testament. The following year he replied to these charges in his book *Amyntor, Or A Defense of Milton’s Life*, in which he opened up the whole question of the New Testament canon. The book was a subject of great discussion and debate and remains important not only for its Milton scholarship, but for its importance in the history of New Testament criticism. Special Collections recently acquired a 1699 first edition of this important work, bound in calf.

**Frederick Neumann Papers** were recently given to Special Collections. Neumann (1899–1967) was born in Vienna, Austria, and studied existentialist philosophy and phenomenology at the universities of Vienna and Freiburg. His teachers included Husserl, Heidegger,

and Gomperz, and he received a doctorate with a dissertation on Hermann Lotze (1817–1881). Although Neumann’s family was of Jewish background, he became a Christian as an adult, largely under the influence of Kierkegaard’s writings. He then renounced an academic career and put himself at the service of the church. He married Edith Spitzer in 1927, and apart from a few years spent in Yugoslavia during the mid-1930s, he continued to live in Vienna as a Christian evangelist. When Austria was occupied by Germany in 1938, the Neumanns emigrated to England and Frederick Neumann was ordained as a Congregational minister. From 1939 to 1947 the Neumanns served as missionaries in Haifa, Palestine, and then went to New York City to work with immigrants. Called to the pastorate of Bushwick Avenue Congregational Church in Brooklyn, Neumann later served as visiting professor at Hartford Seminary, the only academic position he ever held.

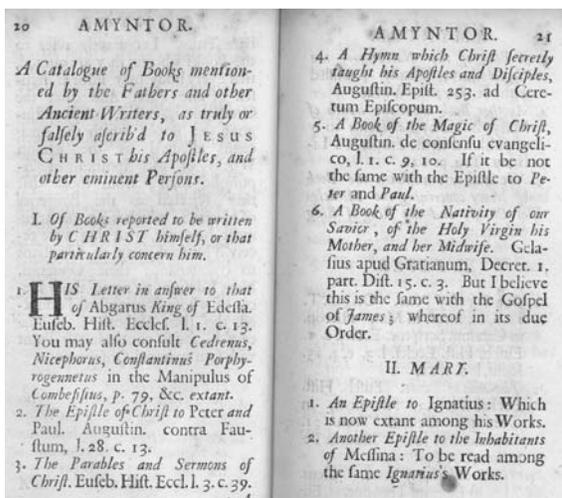
Neumann’s philosophical work was original in many respects, especially in regard to his treatment of the problem of time. His publications include *God’s Fifth Columnist & Other Essays* (1971), posthumously edited by Calvin scholar Ford Lewis Battles. Neumann’s papers were kept by Edith Neumann, a longtime friend of Princeton Seminary, until her death in 2003. The papers contain letters about World War II, sermons in German and English, materials related to Ellis Island and emigration, Old Testament lectures and notes, correspondence with Heidegger, Husserl, and Gomperz, and materials related to Jewish-Christian relations, among other items.

Special Collections has acquired **Joachim Watt’s *Aphorismorum de consideratione eucharistiae*** (1536), printed in Zürich by Christoph Froschauer. Watt (1484–1551) was the principal Protestant reformer in St. Gall, Switzerland, home to the great, eighth-century Carolingian monastery, the Convent of Saint Gall. The convent housed a library of priceless manuscripts and early printed works and was one of the most important centers of learning in Europe until its secularization in 1805. Watt came to St. Gall as city



Frederick Neumann in Vienna

physician in 1518 and founded a “biblical school,” where he lectured. He became head of the city council and chief magistrate of the city in 1526. When Reformation ideas spread through St. Gall, he reorganized the church along Protestant lines, but the city later reverted to Roman Catholicism after the Battle of Kappel, in which Ulrich Zwingli died. Watt was moderator at the Disputation of Bern in 1528, which articulated Reformed doctrine in opposition to Roman Catholicism, and he tried to preserve the Protestant Reformation in St. Gall while opposing more radical, Anabaptist ideas. He wrote *Aphorismorum* to help bring about an agreement concerning differing views of the Eucharist.



A page from John Toland’s *Amyntor* (1699)

## Special Collections Staff

Director: Robert Benedetto

Curator of Reformed Research Collections: Clifford Anderson

Technical Services Librarian: Michael Paulus

Special Collections Assistant: Ken Henke



Stephen D. Crocco  
James Lenox Librarian

The *Luce Library Bulletin* is published two times a year (spring and fall) in cooperation with Speer Library. Current and back issues are available online.

## Lilly Grant Brings Results

Clifford Anderson

In late 2000, Lilly Endowment Inc. of Indianapolis awarded the Center for Barth Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary a significant grant to “compile and preserve the works of Karl Barth.” During the past four years, the grant enabled Special Collections and the Barth Center to work together in new ways to preserve the legacy of Karl Barth and to make his authorship more accessible to scholars outside of Switzerland.

One of the first fruits of the grant was its fostering of a close relationship with the Karl Barth Archiv in Basel, Switzerland. The Karl Barth Archiv houses Barth’s personal papers and manuscripts as well as his personal library. Grant funds enabled its director, Dr. Hans-Anton Drewes, also editor-in-chief of the collected edition of Barth’s works, to microfilm significant portions of the Barth collection. More than fifty rolls of archival-quality microfilm have been sent from Basel to Princeton, where they are now available for consultation. A large collection of digital photos of Karl Barth and his contemporaries, many of which have never been published, are also on deposit from the Karl Barth Archiv.

Another significant achievement made possible by the grant was the digitization of Barth’s theological masterwork, the *Kirchliche Dogmatik*, in German and in English translation. More than 30 volumes of Barth’s collected

works, as well as several other books and journal articles, have also been digitized. A prototype search engine for these digital texts has been developed, and plans are also underway to produce commercial versions of these digital works.

The grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. also made possible the filming of 29 documentary interviews with leading scholars of Karl Barth in Germany, Switzerland, and the United States. These interviews, conducted with such intellectual luminaries as Eberhard Busch, Eberhard Jüngel, Hans Küng, and Jürgen Moltmann, provide a unique oral history of Barth’s influence on the theological generation that followed him. These documentary interviews will soon be available for viewing by patrons.

The production of an online bibliography of primary and secondary literature related to the study of Karl Barth was also made possible by the Lilly grant. The online bibliography, produced in collaboration with the *Theologische Univerisiteit Kampen*, currently features bibliographic data from 1997 to the present. In the next few years, the contents of Hans Markus Wildi’s *Bibliographie Karl Barth*, the standard bibliography of Karl Barth, will be added to the database. The bibliography may be freely accessed at [www.barthresearch.org](http://www.barthresearch.org).

The Lilly Endowment Inc. grant has enabled the Barth Collection in Special Collections to grow into the premier research collection for the study of the theology of Karl Barth in North America. Students and scholars are encouraged to visit and use the collection, now open by appointment (609-497-3642).

## Luce News

**Balmer Lecture.** On April 6 Special Collections invited Randall Balmer of Columbia University, an authority on American fundamentalism, to give a lecture related to the 600-box Carl McIntire Collection housed in Special Collections. Balmer is coauthor of *Religion in American Life: A Short History* (2003) and *Encyclopedia of Evangelicalism* (2002). He previously published *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: A Journey into the Evangelical Subculture in America* (1989). A group of 20 people, including members of the McIntire family, attended Balmer’s lecture, “Down to the Sea in Ships: The Unsinkable Carl McIntire, Radio Free America, and the Religious Right,” and a luncheon following. After a tour of the McIntire Papers, the group discussed the research potential of the collection and ways of funding its organization and preservation (see photos below left).

**John A. Mackay Publication Fund established.** The PTS Class of 1954 celebrated its 50th anniversary at the annual alumni/ae reunion in May. The class gift to the Seminary included \$35,000 for Special Collections to help defray costs associated with the processing of the Mackay Papers and as “seed money” to establish a permanent endowment fund for Special Collections in Mackay’s name. Future growth and income from the endowment fund will be used to promote research and publication in American Presbyterianism, global mission, and ecumenical Christianity, all interests of Mackay’s. Our thanks to the Class of 1954!

**Abraham Kuyper Grants established.** Through the generosity of Dr. Rimmer and Mrs. Ruth de Vries, Abraham Kuyper Grants are now available annually to Ph.D. students enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary who are engaged in research relating to Abraham Kuyper and the modes of thoughts he fostered. Special Collections houses one of the most comprehensive Kuyper collections in North America, consisting of literature by Kuyper and his contemporaries. The grant application is available online at [www.ptsem.edu/grow/kuyper/pdf/grant.pdf](http://www.ptsem.edu/grow/kuyper/pdf/grant.pdf).



Randall Balmer

From left, Violet Gabriel, Ruth Trata, and John Dekker enjoy Balmer lecture and luncheon.

## From the Archives Library Gifts

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*Michael Paulus*

The original plan for a theological seminary for the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America depended on and included a proposal for beginning and sustaining “a complete theological library.” Although this part of the plan was never adopted by the General Assembly, the desire for a great library that would facilitate advanced instruction and research in theology remained a primary goal for those who helped establish the theological seminary at Princeton. In 1879 the Seminary’s fourth, and first full-time, librarian, William Henry Roberts, declared that, through “the energy and generosity of the professors, officers, and friends of the Seminary,” a “substantial and scholarly” library had been established. More than 75 years later, after the Seminary library had become a model research library, librarian Kenneth S. Gapp wrote, “Few institutions have been more fortunate in the generosity and wisdom of those who have taken an interest in the development of [the seminary’s] library.” Such energy and wise generosity, continuing into the present, has enabled Princeton Theological Seminary to provide substantial and superior resources to stu-

dents and scholars of theology. The most rare and unique of these resources are now part of the documentary heritage administered by Special Collections.

In the minutes of the boards of directors and trustees, the library can be seen taking form, often one book at a time, as donations of books, special collections materials, and funds from faculty, directors, trustees, alumni/ae, and friends of the Seminary appear in the record. Important persons connected with the impressive early development of the library include Ashbel Green, Seminary founder and first president of the board of directors; Archibald Alexander, first professor and librarian at the Seminary; Samuel Miller, second professor at the Seminary; Charles Hodge, third professor at the Seminary; and William Henry Green, professor and second librarian at the Seminary. Many of the personal papers and books of these individuals are now part of the collection that they helped form.

Before its collection began to grow evenly, the library also benefited from the donation of personal libraries from such prominent individuals as Elias Boudinot (1822), Charles Nisbet (1838), John Breckinridge (1842), Joseph Addison Alexander (1861), John M. Krebs (1869), and Stephen Collins (1872). Other important benefactors who enabled the library to develop and

operate were James Lenox, who built two buildings for the library (completed in 1843 and 1879), and John C. Green and Robert L. and Alexander Stuart, who established endowments for the library and financed many of its operations.

The library of Princeton Theological Seminary has been particularly fortunate to acquire, through gifts, extremely rare and unique materials. Significant special collections came from William B. Sprague (1839–1877), Samuel Agnew (1881), Alexander B. Grosart (1885), Louis F. Benson (1931), and James R. Tanis (2002–2004). (More information about these collections can be found on the Special Collections web site.) Other valuable items acquired with the help of the library’s friends include a journal of George Whitefield (1817), a Complutensian Polyglot Bible (1839), a Byzantine gospel lectionary (1885), a collection of Syriac manuscripts (1931), and the papers of a Revolutionary War chaplain (1976). Special Collections also has an abundance of personal papers, portraits, photographs, records, and historic objects that have been presented by individuals and organizations associated with the Seminary. These gifts, and the many others that are recorded in the library’s reports, deeds, books, bookplates, catalogs, and databases, have helped create an extraordinary library and special collections.

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