



LIBRARY BULLETIN December 2008

ACADEMY ARCHIVES RECEIVES SILVER TRAY

In July 1905, twenty-three Exeter graduates from the Classes of 1851 through 1893 presented a sterling silver tray to Mathematics professor George Albert Wentworth to honor his seventieth birthday. The center of the 14 1/2" round tray, shows an engraving of a Geometry Theorem. Engraved on the top and bottom of the tray it says: "George Albert Wentworth 1835 – July 31st – 1905," and "With respect and affection from some Exeter boys." The names of the twenty-three alumni, with their class years, are engraved on the back of the tray

While the tray itself is pretty amazing, the story of how it came to us is even more so. A couple of months ago, Mr. & Mrs. Miller from Spofford, NH were returning from a trip to Alaska when their trailer broke down in Oregon. At a service station in Oregon they met a man who saw their NH license plate, and said he had something at home that should probably get back to a school called Phillips Exeter Academy. This man, turned out to be George E. Wentworth, great grandson of our famous Mathematics professor and trustee, George Albert Wentworth.

The man went home for the tray, and asked the Millers if they would help him get the tray back to Exeter. On their return, the Millers shipped the tray to the Archives.

ACADEMY DINNERWARE AND CERTIFICATE

Mr. Michael Creem '49 recently presented two small, blue and white Lambertson china plates that were once used in Academy dining halls, either Alumni Hall (what is now the Mayer Arts Center), or the dining hall that was on the bottom floor of Abbot Hall at one point. The plates have the seal of the Academy in the center, and the Phillips crest and "A" worked into a border of flowers.

In addition to the plates, Mr. Creem sent an original "Testimonial of Approbation" for having completed the "Courses of English Education", presented on August 24, 1820 to William B. Frost, a student who had arrived at the school in 1818 from Durham, NH. The school did not confer diplomas until 1887. This velum document

has a blue ribbon with the seal of the Academy embossed on a square piece of paper attached to the ribbon. The Academy did not adopt the "vibrant maroon" as its school color until the late 1880s.

DICKENS ON DISPLAY

The Library exhibit for December and January is a pairing of works from the Library's Charles Dickens collection with a selection of prints from the *Microcosm of London*. The *Microcosm of London* was published in parts between 1808 and 1811 by Rudolph Ackermann. Containing 104 hand colored aquatints in three volumes, this series set a new standard for color-plate books. Ackermann was inspired in engaging Thomas Rowlandson, a well-known illustrator, to add the figures to the scrupulously drawn architectural settings of Augustus Charles Pugin, to create the plates for this monumental work. Along with early editions of many of Dickens' works, the Dickens collection also contains several sets of loose illustrations from the books and some of these are also on display. Together, the books and prints present a colorful picture of nineteenth-century London life. Additional prints and a selection of Dickens' many holiday stories are on display in the Library lobby. Dickens' Artful Dodger will greet you.

JUNIOR STUDIES TIME CAPSULE EVENT

This year's Junior Studies course will finish with the traditional grand event in the library's Rockefeller Hall from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. The current members of the Class of 2012 will present boxes of materials to be stored as a time capsule in the Academy Archives, to be returned to them in another ceremony during the week of their graduation in 2012. The event, which is open to the Academy Community, will also feature music, as well as remarks by representatives from the Junior and Senior Classes and principal elect Tom Hassan.

A VERY BUSY PLACE

From the beginning of this term through December 2, our statistics show that 285 classes were held in the library to complete research assignments. Seventeen sections of Junior Studies had four classes each taught by a librarian. Librarians teach the students how to use the Reference section, BIBLION, the online databases, and the internet. These classes included discussions about academic honesty. Junior Studies students also saw items from the library's Special Collections and the Academy Archives.

Students in 21 sections of HIS331 and 3 sections of HIS 33F worked on essays involving 19th century figures, making significant use of our online history databases and books from our regular collection. In addition, students in HIS 100,

HIS109, HIS213, HIS425, HIS 467, HIS486 and REL240 worked on projects. Students in HIS109 learned about Ancient Greece. In HIS213 the students worked on essays on topics of the students' choice such as the Reformation, the age of discovery and the Renaissance. In REL240 students sought information on religion in popular culture. On average, classes usually spend three to five days in the Library.

HOLIDAY SHUT DOWN

Like the rest of the Academy, the library will be closed from December 24 through January 4. We will resume our regular hours on Monday, January 5.

DECEMBER LIBRARY HOURS

Saturday, Dec. 13 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 14 CLOSED.
Monday, Dec. 15 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 16 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Wednesday thru Friday, Dec. 17, 18, 19
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday Dec. 20 & 21 CLOSED
Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 22 & 23 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 24 through Sunday, January 4 CLOSED

With the exception of the above, the Library will follow our regular school schedule:

Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

