The other day, I discovered a mystery in Special Collections: an extremely skimpy catalog record for a book in our collection. All it said about this book was:

665 p.; 19 cm.
Title page missing.

What does all that mean? Essentially, because the book had been missing its title page for a very long time, we had no idea where or when it was published, by whom, or even what its real title was. It was time to do some detective work.

I started with what we did know about the book. The title probably would contain the words “Nouveau Testament,” since that was what most French New Testament Bibles were titled. I knew it was 665 pages in length. And I knew that it had been published in or before 1762, since one of the book’s former owners had signed and dated the book in that year.

My first tactic was to look in WorldCat for every “Nouveau Testament” published between 1700 and 1762, looking at each record to see if the pagination matched. But there were hundreds of French New Testament Bibles printed in that time period. It was like the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack.

On a whim, I typed the phrase “Nouveau Testament” and “665” (the pagination of our mystery Bible) into Google, to see what it would find.

The first hit was from Google Books—an excerpt from a 1994 scholarly bibliography of 17th-century French Bibles, by Bettye Thomas Chambers.* And one of the Bible entries in her bibliography was exactly 665 pages long. Like so many scholarly bibliographies, this one was extremely detailed. I compared each detail about this particular Bible to the one I had in hand:

The pagination matched.

Where there should have been a title page, we just have the first page of text.

Signed by a former owner, Frederic Smythe, in 1762.

The signature statement (all those letter-number combinations that printers used to know what order to put the pages in) matched.

The caption and first sentence of the preface matched and were on the correct pages.

The caption and first sentence of the “Argument sur les quatre [sic] Evangiles” matched, and they, too, were on the correct pages.

Even where the blank pages fell matched Bettye Thomas Chambers’s detailed description. The mystery was solved.

We now know that our mystery “Nouveau Testament” is in fact Le Nouveau Testament, c’est à dire, la Nouvelle Alliance de Nostre Seigneur Jesus-Christ, published in Montauban for Pierre Braconnier, in 1685. And to make matters even more interesting, according to the Chambers bibliography, this particular publication was “the last Protestant N[ew] T[estament] pub-lished in France in the Ancien Regime; the revocation of the Edict of Nantes took effect 18 October 1685.” Our mystery Bible is also historically significant.

Is there a moral to the story? Well, maybe not a moral, but an interesting observation. This mystery could not have been solved without both new technology and old-fashioned scholarship. Without the phenomenal capabilities of Google Books, searching the full text of unfathomable numbers of scanned books, I never would have found this particular reference to a “Nouveau Testament” 665 pages in length. But if Bettye Thomas Chambers had not put in years of pains-taking research and attention to detail and published her bibliography, Google Books would not have had anything to find. When people argue between new-fangled technology and old-fashioned scholarship, I say we need both.


— REBECCA MCCALLUM, CATALOGING LIBRARIAN —
JSTOR: WHEN A GOOD RESOURCE BECOMES EVEN BETTER

In late 1993, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation began exploring the idea of a digital library of the archival content from scholarly journals that would develop into what is now known as JSTOR. The project started modestly with the digitization of 10 journal titles.

In 1997, JSTOR offered Charter memberships to libraries to encourage them to sign on. Wesleyan University, under Robert Adams’ and Rachel Cheng’s stewardship, became one of the 190 charter members to join JSTOR—a decision well made.

Today, Wesleyan’s subscription to the JSTOR database provides access to more than 1,300 journal titles, and JSTOR continues to add more titles each year.

The benefit of Wesleyan’s access to the JSTOR journal archive can best be illustrated through the usage made by Wesleyan users: The number of Full-Text Article Requests from the JSTOR database over the past four complete years of Full-Text Article Requests from the JSTOR database (2007–2010) shows an average annual usage of 139,520 articles. For the budget minded: based on Wesleyan Library’s cost to supply access to JSTOR, usage comes to about .08 per article used: an astonishing cost per use ratio. It costs a user more to print out a single page!

There are many reasons for this high use, but three stand out in particular: the value of the content in JSTOR, the stability of the platform, and the ease of use navigating the platform.

JSTOR’s valuable content is primarily historical in nature: one goal of JSTOR’s original intent was to be a digital archive repository of journal content. While JSTOR created an outstanding host for the older journal content, it did not want to compete with publishers’ livelihood: current subscriptions. That is why, in almost every case, journal content on JSTOR is “embargoed” with moving walls that range from 1 to 7 years, allowing publishers to offer their most current content through subscriptions.

But why not offer the JSTOR platform to host the current content from the publishers who have their older content “stored” in JSTOR? In fact, once JSTOR and interested publishers had developed a workable business model, in 2010, JSTOR made the following announcement:

The Current Scholarship Program, initiated by JSTOR and the University of California Press, was created to help the academic community—presses, scholarly associations, libraries, faculty, and students—benefit from investment in a shared technology platform and related services to support the publication, dissemination, and use of new scholarship. CSP launches with 174 titles from 19 publishers for the 2011 subscription year. Additional publishers and titles will be added to the program for forthcoming subscription years.

Now, almost 20 years after JSTOR’s original inception, a great idea is becoming even better. At present, Wesleyan’s subscribes to 53 of the Current Scholarship Program (CSP) titles, and, that number will likely increase as more publishers join the CSP.

So what is next for JSTOR? By summer 2012, JSTOR is planning on releasing their e-book proposal. The library will keep the Wesleyan community up to date on that front when we know more.

— HELEN M. AIELLO, ACQUISITION AND E-RESOURCES LIBRARIAN


BOOK STORIES

There are books that tell stories about the people who owned them—stories about history, religion, politics, propaganda, art—that can sometimes be more interesting than the text inside. Wesleyan’s copy of Marguerin de la Bigne’s Sacre Bibliothecae Santorvm Patrvm, Paris, 1589, is possibly such a book.

In 1597, Ascanius de Renialmi, a Venetian merchant-bookseller living in London, gave a copy to Queens College Oxford. This was the same year that Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen, had executed her Catholic rival Mary, Queen of Scots.

This collection of writings from several hundred Catholic Church fathers’ had been produced as a counter to what de la Bigne, a French Catholic theologian, perceived as Protestant misquotation and misinterpretation. After the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, the repression of Catholics intensified in England and Protestant scholars would have been interested in this Catholic “propaganda.”

The nine parts were bound into five volumes of stout English oak boards covered in blind stamped leather, and a bookplate recording the gift to Oxford was pasted on several of the title pages.

Decades later, these five volumes were acquired by John Moore, Bishop of Ely, a rapacious book collector, and at his death in 1714, owner of 30,000 volumes—reputed to be the largest library in England. To celebrate his coronation, King George I purchased the entire library, at a cost of 6,000 guineas (or about 110 pounds of gold) and donated it to Cambridge University. The history of how the German-born George became King of England is a convoluted tale in itself.

In 1736, an elaborate bookplate recording the donation was engraved by John Pine, a friend of William Hogarth, and the leading heraldic engraver of his day. Each of the De la Bigne volumes were plated at least once and the volumes ineptly and incompletely restored. Whoever mended the volumes discovered that medieval parchment manuscript pages had been used to line the oak boards of the original binding. They removed the parchment but traces of the medieval black lampblack and red vermillion ink can still be seen leaking through the replacement 18th-century end sheets.

In 1864 these volumes were sold as duplicates and soon thereafter they entered the collection of Wesleyan University Library, where today they reside in Special Collections.

— MICHAELLE BIDDLE, COLLECTIONS CONSERVATOR, AND HEAD OF PRESERVATION SERVICES —
ACCESS, PRIVACY, SENSITIVITY AND FAMILY PAPERS

Archivists review historic materials to put them into a level of order and to describe the content so students and other researchers may use them. Occasionally we’ll see something that gives one pause.

I have been working on family papers that include 19th- and 20th-century correspondence. Various family members made contributions to their fields, such as a grandfather who developed the respiration calorimeter and an aunt who was honored for her work by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Interesting, and no pause there.

Other family members led what appeared to be solid, middle-class lives in middle America. In the letters to and from family members were the ordinary topics of family letter writers: weather, work, military service, travel, aging relatives and children’s activities. Again, no pause. But I did not anticipate reading “diagnosis…schizophrenia”—that gave me pause. The illness emerged in one son after his WWII service, when he was enrolled in his graduate studies. From a careful reading of family members’ letters, one can piece together a picture of his treatment and continuing life before the advent of modern pharmacological treatments.

The archivists’ role requires a careful balancing of access to historical resources—such as family papers—and protection of third party privacy, should any concerns arise, as well as awareness of sensitivities. While the third party in this instance is deceased and the legal issues of privacy have faded, there are still sensitivities to consider. However, when contacted, the family determined they did not have sensitivities around a diagnosis given more than 50 years ago. The arrangement and description of the papers will be completed in the next few months and the family papers will be available to researchers.

What will researchers examine when they have access? There are lots of possibilities in these family papers: perhaps a “career woman” in wartime; perhaps the sister’s role in social Washington during the Kennedy administration; perhaps a family’s response to mental illness in the mid-20th century. Researchers can be grateful to this family for opening the papers for research use at Wesleyan University.

What raises your privacy antennae? Money? Sex? Mental health? Something else? How much time passes before the “that’s private!” response dissipates and a “there’s something to learn here” kicks in? It’s something that can give one pause, eh?

— ANNE OSTENDARP, INTERIM ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST —

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN
MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES...

Of course the academic library is changing—any institution that is not dead is changing all the time. And the library’s demise, loudly proclaimed every few years, has been greatly exaggerated. The U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts a semi-annual survey of 3,700 academic libraries. Here’s how Wesleyan University Library stacks up against some of the trends revealed in the 2010 survey:

**BUDGETS:** From 2004 to 2010, academic library budgets increased overall about 3 percent, adjusting for inflation. At Wesleyan, the library’s budget decreased by 3 percent, mostly because of the economic downturn of 2008. As a result, we have strengthened our collaborative ties with our CTW Consortium partners, Connecticut College and Trinity College, to share systems and collections.

**STAFF:** Library staffing in academic libraries has declined by about 5 percent from 2004 to 2010, again because of the 2008 economic downturn. At Wesleyan staff was reduced by 9 percent in the same time period, with an additional 10 percent reduction the following year. This has been a challenge. The shift to electronic resources has changed the work libraries do, in ways that have increased its complexity and variety. It is a tribute to library staff and librarians that we have adapted to these reductions while continuing to provide high levels of access to essential resources and services.

**COLLECTIONS:** As electronic journals have become more convenient and accepted by students and faculty, spending on print journal subscriptions has plummeted. Compared to 2004, academic libraries are spending 47 percent less on print and 126 percent more on electronic subscriptions; at Wesleyan we are spending 64 percent less on print and 100 percent more on electronic subscriptions.

Electronic books are not as convenient as electronic journals or as accepted for scholarly use, but nonetheless spending on print books is down 18 percent in academic libraries overall and 41 percent at Wesleyan, compared to spending levels in 2004.

These are interesting times, indeed! Through it all, the library is committed to its core mission of supporting the scholarly and creative work of Wesleyan students and faculty, using new technology and resources to improve services and access.

— PAT TULLY, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN —
This past fall, the Friends were delighted to sponsor three events for the community thanks to generous donations from Friends members. On September 16, the Friends celebrated Constitution Day with a talk by Jane Eisner ’77, P’06, P’12, entitled “Spirited Debate: God Talk on the Campaign Trail—and Beyond.” Eisner was the first woman editor of the Wesleyan student newspaper, *The Argus*, served on the staff of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for 25 years, and is current editor of the *Forward*. Before working at the *Forward*, she was vice president for national programs and initiatives at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Eisner drew upon these experiences to lead an interesting discussion of the current role of religion in politics.

On September 28, the Friends presented a screening of *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* as part of the annual Adaptation Series collaboration with the Center for Film Studies. Sam Wasson ’03, visiting instructor in film studies, shared his insights on the transformation of Truman Capote’s novella to film and the impact of the character Holly Golightly (played by Audrey Hepburn in the movie) on sexual politics. Wasson is the author of *Fifth Avenue, 5 a.m.: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's and the Dawn of the Modern Woman*.

Finally, the Friends eagerly anticipated annual book sale took place on October 15. Students, faculty, community members, and book dealers poured into Olin Lobby when the doors opened at 10 a.m. and found much to their liking. The sale raised over $3,000 for the Friends to sponsor future events and library programs. We are grateful to the many people who donated books to the sale.

This spring, the Friends are looking forward to several more events, including a talk by Richard Adelstein, Woodhouse/Sysco Professor of Economics and vice chair of the Friends, at the Friends annual meeting. We will also already be preparing for an extra large fall book sale, occasioned by books deaccessioned as a result of the library weeding project (see the article in the February 2011 *Check It Out* about refining the collection).

As you can see, the Friends are an active and lively group, and we invite you to become a member and become involved if you have not done so already. We are always looking for new ideas. To join or renew your membership, donate books for the book sale, or sponsor an event or project, please contact Jennifer Hadley at libfriends@wesleyan.edu or 860-685-3897 or visit the Friends web site at wesleyan.edu/libr/friends, where you can find out more about the Friends, donate online, or Adopt a Book for Conservation. You can also friend us on Facebook. When you are on campus, stop by the ongoing book sale, on the first floor of Olin Memorial Library, outside the Smith Reading Room. Thank you for all your support for the library!

— JENNIFER HADLEY,
FRIENDS OF THE WESLEYAN LIBRARY —

### Library Departmental Telephone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olin Library, Front Desk</td>
<td>685-2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference and Research</td>
<td>685-3873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation Department</td>
<td>685-3877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Office</td>
<td>685-3852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loan</td>
<td>685-3876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions Department</td>
<td>685-3834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataloging Department</td>
<td>685-3845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serials Department</td>
<td>685-3888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Library</td>
<td>685-3327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation Department</td>
<td>685-3875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Library</td>
<td>685-2860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scores and Recordings</td>
<td>685-3898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Collections/Archives</td>
<td>685-3864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Music Archives</td>
<td>685-3826</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Check It Out* is a publication of the Wesleyan University Libraries that has been published three to four times annually since 1998. Its purpose is to offer timely information on recent developments in library technologies and resources available at Wesleyan to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other Friends of the Wesleyan Library.

Articles are contributed by library staff members, and the publication is edited by Pat Tully, Caleb T. Winchester University Librarian, ptully@wesleyan.edu, (860) 685-3887.