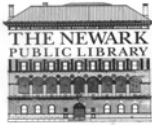


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

For Immediate Release

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**Gutenberg Bible, Nuremberg Chronicles, Other World Treasures on View at
The Newark Library as it Explores the History of Printing**

In among the Jerseyana, the historic photographs, antique greeting cards, fun pop-up books and myriad shopping bags that comprise some of the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library, there is a unique and treasured collection on printing, much of which will be on display for three months starting April 27.

The exhibit, *History of Fine Printing: with a Special Salute to the Richard C. Jenkinson Collection of Notable Books and Broad­sides*, will feature items relating to the history of book and art printing and can be seen in the third-floor gallery of the library, 5 Washington Street, through July 1. The bulk of the collection has not been displayed in more than 20 years.

The Jenkinson Collection, which was amassed by one the library's early trustees and donated to the institution, has thousands of items, including clay cuneiform tablets from the Sumerian civilization that detail "who owes whom a cow" according to the translations completed by professors at the University of Pennsylvania.

A page from the Gutenberg Bible, one of the first printed books in existence, and a pristine copy of the comprehensive encyclopedia compiled by the French intellectual Denis Diderot in the late 1700s also will be on display.

"These are not just New Jersey treasures, these are world treasures," said Library Director Wilma J. Grey of the collection. One of the items that will be on view is a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicles, a history of the world compiled in 1493. "This exhibit will explore the history of printing as an expression of culture," Grey said.

Two special programs in May have been planned to expand on the themes of the exhibit. These include a discussion with the exhibit curators, William J. Dane and Chad Leinaweaver, on May 7 at 2 p.m. to explore the significance of select items,

and the screening of the 2008 film, *The Machine that Made Us*, a history of Johan Gutenberg and his moveable type press. In the film, Stephen Fry, writer and actor, explores the story of the printing press.

On Tuesday, May 12 at 2 p.m., a panel will discuss *Examining the Importance of Printing and the Book*. Two distinguished speakers, Michael Joseph, of the Rutgers University Libraries in New Brunswick, and Jerry Kelly, a free-lance designer and calligrapher, will share their expertise in design and printing arts from a contemporary viewpoint.

Joseph has arranged the celebrated book arts symposia at the Dana Library in Newark for over a decade, while Kelly, a partner in the Kelly/Winterton Press, who print limited editions mainly in letterpress from hand-set type, has won numerous awards from the Type Director's Club. He has also studied with noted type designer Hermann Zapf at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

"The history of printing is the history of civilization," attests Dane, a supervising librarian and Newark's Keeper of Works of Art on Paper.

The collection, which was initiated by one of the library's first trustees, started small, numbering some 288 items when it was first catalogued in 1925. A second printing of the collection catalogue in 1929 reflected a tremendous increase in the number of works amassed by the library.

"The great tradition of collecting the history of print has continued through to 1990, with new acquisitions every year," said Dane, who estimates there are more than 3,600 books and artifacts in the collection. "And we've recently resumed our acquisition schedule."

One of the cases in the gallery will explore the life of Richard C. Jenkinson, a Newark Public Library trustee who was passionate about the history of printing. According to library records, Jenkinson, a trustee for 30 years and one of the men who was instrumental in recruiting its legendary second director John Cotton Dana to Newark, bought a few books published on hand-made paper with special type in 1890.

He loved the William Morris Kelmscott Press and at least two cases with 23 works and two original drawings by Morris, an English printer, will be included in the exhibit. Jenkinson was also interested in the works of Giambattista Bodoni, collecting numerous examples of his work on typography until his books and artifacts ran into the hundreds.

"Newark was a printing city; thousands of people made their living in the business as typesetters and printers," Dane said.

The works of many late 19th- and early 20th-century presses are heavily represented in the Collection.

The exhibit also includes a number of books by Dard Hunter, a world-renowned scholar and author. His writings form the cornerstone of our knowledge about the history of paper. He is the author of the classic reference *Papermaking: The History and Technique of an Ancient Craft*. Hunter traveled the world in the early 20th century to collect tools, equipment, raw materials and paper specimens.

Handsome broadsides, posters and illustrations of notable printers, along with closely related ephemera, are on view to show the unique items in the library's notable history of printing collections, which have been carefully acquired for over 100 years.

The exhibition was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

For group tours of this exhibition or more information, please call 973-733-7745 or visit www.npl.org.