On the cover: Cover of a 1587 printing of the Magna Carta, along with other laws of England, published by Richard Tottell, the foremost printer and bookseller for law books in Elizabethan London. The book was recently on display in the Mary Duke Biddle Room in one of the opening exhibits of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. For more photos of the renovated library, see p. 10.

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July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015
Chappell Family Gallery
November 12, 2015 – March 1, 2016
Intimate Gestures: Handmade Books by William Gedney
Intimate Gestures surveys the photographer William Gedney’s little-known practice of making photobooks by hand. The exhibit features seven completed photobooks and four book projects that were in progress at the time of Gedney’s death in 1989, as well as handmade journals and related ephemera. All of the books were designed and made by Gedney and correspond to his major photographic series produced in Eastern Kentucky, New York, San Francisco, and India between 1954 and 1980. While Gedney’s photographs have been exhibited internationally, this is the first exhibit to highlight Gedney’s work in book form and the first time his entire collection of handmade books has been publically displayed.

March 18 – June 19, 2016
The History of Duke Chapel
This exhibition explores the history, legacy, and continued role of Duke Chapel in embodying the University’s motto of bridging faith (religio) and learning (eruditio). Drawing on archival documents, published material, photographs, and multimedia, the exhibit offers a glimpse into the diverse, robust, and ever-evolving life of Duke Chapel. Moreover, it provides an exploration of the Chapel’s unique role as steward of and backdrop for Duke’s history and as a place where national tensions and trends found a voice.

Mary Duke Biddle Room
December 19 – March 13, 2016
Malignant Fever: Benjamin Rush and the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Philadelphia
This exhibit highlights the effects of epidemic diseases by examining one of the most famous outbreaks in U.S. history—the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Drawing chiefly on the letters written by Dr. Benjamin Rush, an eighteenth-century physician and U.S. founding father, the exhibit examines the timeline of the outbreak, early responses to the event, the stages and symptoms of yellow fever, and the “cure” for yellow fever that Dr. Rush developed. Finally, the exhibit looks at the anatomy of an epidemic, focusing on social and psychological effects exemplified by Rush’s emotion-filled letters, as well as stories that emphasize the fear, panic, and mental anguish that accompany epidemic diseases.

March 19 – July 24, 2016
Faith in Action: In the Footsteps of Abraham Joshua Heschel
From Europe on the Brink of World War II to Selma at the Height of the Civil Rights Movement
Abraham Joshua Heschel grew up in Poland, began his career in Germany, and became one of the most influential Jewish theologians of the twentieth century in the United States. Heschel dedicated his life to the study of traditional Jewish religious texts and the application of those sources to the
situations faced by modern Jews. Heschel modeled socially engaged Judaism throughout his life. He represented American Jews at the Second Vatican Council, marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., at Selma, and protested the Vietnam War. This exhibit will showcase Heschel’s life and work as a rabbi, philosopher, writer, professor, ecumenist, and social activist.

**Stone Family Gallery**
**January 19 – April 1, 2016**

_Heralding the Way to a New World: Exploring Women in Science and Medicine Through the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection_

In celebration of the arrival of the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection, this exhibit will include a small selection of print and manuscript items, drawn from the Baskin Collection, documenting unknown and under-recognized contributions of women to medicine and science. The exhibit takes its title from a quote by Florence Nightingale: “Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore.”

**Trent History of Medicine Room**

The Trent Room features a permanent display of artifacts and medical instruments from the Rubenstein Library’s History of Medicine Collections, including glass eyeballs, ivory anatomical manikins, amputation saws, and more. Many of these items were acquired when Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans donated the collection of her late husband, Dr. Josiah Charles Trent, to Duke University.

**Rubenstein Library Photography Gallery**
**November 7, 2015 - February 28, 2016**

_Aunties: The Seven Summers of Alvetina and Ludmila
Photographs by Nadia Sablin, 2014 Winner of the CDS/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography_

Nadia Sablin, a Russian native and a freelance photographer based in Brooklyn, was chosen by renowned curator and historian Sandra S. Phillips to win the seventh biennial Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography for her series _Aunties_. The images document, as Sabin writes, “the lives of my aunts who live in Northwest Russia. Alevtina and Ludmila are in their seventies but carry on the traditional Russian way of life, chopping wood for heating the house, bringing water from the well, planting potatoes, and making their own clothes.” Sablin’s book is available through the Duke University Press.

**March 5 – June 26, 2016**

_Where We Live: A North Carolina Portrait_

This exhibit will be comprised of photographs that document housing conditions in North Carolina. The exhibit will feature the work of Alex Harris, acclaimed documentary photographer and founder of the Center of Documentary Studies at Duke, along with three alumni of the Duke MFA program: Rachel Boillot, Jennifer Stratton, and Amanda Berg. Their photographs reveal a window into the unseen spaces that many residents of North Carolina call home. Pictured here: Halifax, North Carolina, 1971 (left), and Gaston County, North Carolina, 2015 (right). Photographs by Alex Harris and Rachel Boillot.
February 11
WOLA-Duke Book Award Reception
The Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) and Duke University have named Kirsten Weld’s book Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala (Duke University Press, 2014) as the winner of the 2015 WOLA-Duke Human Rights Book Award. The award honors the best current, nonfiction book published in English on human rights, democracy, and social justice in contemporary Latin America. Weld, an assistant professor of history at Harvard University, will visit Duke on February 11 to receive the award, discuss and read from her book. The award presentation will be followed by a reception and book signing. Started in 2008, the WOLA-Duke Human Rights Book Award is a joint venture of Duke University and WOLA, a leading advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. Books are evaluated by a panel of expert judges drawn from academia, journalism, and public policy circles.

Thursday, February 11, 6:00 p.m., Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room, Rubenstein Library

March 3
Virginia Woolf: Writing Surfaces and Writing Depths
Leslie Hankins is a professor of English and creative writing at Cornell College and past president of the International Virginia Woolf Society. She will give a talk on the various writing surfaces Woolf used throughout her life, including the desk on permanent display in the Rubenstein Library’s Mary Duke Biddle Room that was acquired as part of the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection.

Thursday, March 3, 4:00 p.m., Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room, Rubenstein Library

March 29
Faculty Bookwatch: Looking Under the Hood of the Book
Three Duke faculty members with recent books will discuss the process of publishing a scholarly work, from the original idea, to the use of archives and media, to working with editors and publishers. The event will be followed by a reception. Speakers include Michele Longino, professor of French and Italian Studies and author of French Travel Writing in the Ottoman Empire: Marseille to Constantinople, 1650–1700 (Routledge, 2015); Negar Mottahedeh, associate professor of literature and Women’s Studies and author of #iranelection: Hashtag Solidarity and the Transformation of Online Life (Stanford Briefs, 2015); and Andrew Janiak, professor of philosophy, whose forthcoming book on Emilie Du Châtelet inspired a collaborative digital project on early modern women philosophers, Project Vox.

Monday, March 28, 3:00 p.m., Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room, Rubenstein Library
Doris Kearns Goodwin and David M. Rubenstein Take the Stage

On November 5, presidential historian and bestselling author Doris Kearns Goodwin spoke to a full house in the Reynolds Theater. In a public conversation with David M. Rubenstein, chair of the Duke University Board of Trustees, Goodwin delivered the seventh Weaver Memorial Lecture as part of events celebrating the renovation and reopening of the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Goodwin spoke about her writing, sharing many snippets of presidential history, from Lyndon B. Johnson's sadness at assuming the presidency after Kennedy's assassination to FDR's personal fondness for Winston Churchill. When asked how she chose her subjects, Goodwin said it had to be someone she could live with day-in and day-out, since it took years to write each book. “I couldn’t wake up with Hitler,” she said.

SNCC Digital Gateway in Development

With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, students, faculty, and librarians at Duke are partnering over the next three years with members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Legacy Project on a new digital gateway that will delve deep into the history and organizational strategies of SNCC during the Civil Rights Movement. Over the past few months, the team has been working to lay the digital groundwork for the website, which will build on the success of the One Person, One Vote Project (onevotesncc.org). When complete, the website will feature profiles of SNCC activists tied to different geographic locations as well as a section that documents SNCC’s internal and external network and relationships.

Rubenstein Library Renovation Awarded LEED Gold Certification

The David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library recently received LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. It is the third Duke library project to be LEED Certified and the university’s seventh LEED Gold Certified building. The most visible sustainable strategy for the renovation was the preservation of the original building, the renovation recycled more than 75 percent of construction waste, diverting it from the landfill. Other resource management strategies included the use of regionally sourced materials and materials with more than 20 percent pre- and post-consumer recycled content. The use of low-flow fixtures reduces water consumption by 30 percent, while energy-efficient fixtures and light and motion sensors optimize energy performance. Low-VOC finishes, carpets, and sealants contribute to the building’s indoor air quality.
A newly digitized collection of tobacco advertising materials offers viewers a fascinating window on turn-of-the-century American culture. In the 1870s, cigarette manufacturers began inserting trading cards into cigarette packages as a stiffener. The cards were usually issued in sets of between 25 and 100 to encourage repeat purchases and to promote brand loyalty. In the late 1880s, W. Duke, Sons & Co. (founded by Washington Duke in 1881) began inserting cards into Duke-brand cigarette packages. The W. Duke, Sons & Co. digital collection features over 1,800 individual cigarette cards, as well as two large scrapbooks containing several hundred additional cards. The cards document popular culture from the turn of the century, often depicting the period’s actresses, costumes, and sports, as well as offering fascinating insights into mainstream American humor and cultural norms. There are actors and actresses, now forgotten, but between the years of 1880 and 1910 they were celebrities. The collection also includes images of other tobacco advertising ephemera such as pins, tobacco tags, silk, and souvenir albums.

Essay Prize Winner at the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest
In February, Anne Steptoe, an MBA candidate at the Fuqua School of Business, submitted an entry to the Libraries’ 2015 Andrew T. Nadell Book Collectors Contest. Her collection, “Look Homeward: A Girl’s Journey Homeward through Twentieth Century Southern Literature,” impressed the judges and tied for first place in the graduate division of the contest. Anne went on to enter her collection in the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest, where she received the special essay-bibliography prize in recognition of her superb accompanying essay and annotated bibliography. An award ceremony was held in October at the Library of Congress to celebrate Anne and the other winners. This is the third time in the last five years that a Duke graduate student has been among the winners of the nationwide contest, which encourages young collectors to become lifelong bibliophiles.
“From the Archives” Series Features Hiss Golden Messenger Songs Based on William Gedney Photos

In November, Duke Performances presented the world premiere of Heart Like a Levee, a new song cycle commissioned from Durham’s acclaimed Hiss Golden Messenger. The songs were inspired by William Gedney’s poignant 1972 photographs of the Cornett family in Leatherwood, Kentucky, which are held in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library’s Archive of Documentary Arts. Heart Like a Levee is part of the “From the Archives” initiative, a collaboration between the Rubenstein Library and Duke Performances, pairing artists with archival resources to inspire bold and ambitious new work. Previous performances in the series include works by composer, singer, and violinist Jenny Schienman based on the films of H. Lee Waters; and songs by guitarist William Tyler inspired by the Civil War photographs of Alexander Gardner and George N. Barnard. Coinciding with the Hiss Golden Messenger performance, an exhibition of William Gedney’s handmade photo books is on display in the Libraries’ Chappell Family Gallery through March 1, 2016. See our listing of current exhibits for more information.

Library Research Award Winners Announced

The Duke University Libraries are pleased to announce the winners of the 2014-2015 library writing and research awards. The Aptman Prize, Middlesworth Award, and Holsti Prize recognize excellence in student research using sources from the Libraries’ general collections, the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and primary sources for political science or public policy, respectively. New this year is the Rudolph William Rosati Creative Writing Award, given in recognition of an outstanding work of creative writing. This year’s winners of the Aptman Prizes were Tiffany Lieu (Honors Thesis); Jaclyn Grace (Third/Fourth-Year Student Category); and Zachary Fuchs (First/Second-Year Student Category). The undergraduate winner of the Chester P. Middlesworth Award was Michael Sotsky. The Holsti Prize was awarded to Charlotte Lee (Honors Thesis) and Jack Dolgin (Semester Paper). Antonio Lopez, Jr. won the Rudolph William Rosati Creative Writing Award. All of the prizes come with cash prizes, and winners were celebrated at an awards ceremony held during Family Weekend in October.
On August 24, the first day of fall classes, the doors of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library finally opened after nearly three years of careful renovation.

The moment represented the crowning finish of the Perkins Project, an ambitious fifteen-year-long initiative to renovate and expand Duke’s West Campus libraries that began in the year 2000.

The Perkins Project called for several phases—beginning with the construction of the Bostock Library and the Karl and Mary Ellen von der Heyden Pavilion; continuing with the renovation of Perkins Library and the construction of the Link, along with the relocation of acquisitions and cataloging operations to the historic Smith Warehouse; and finishing with the construction of The Edge: The Ruppert Commons for Research, Technology and Collaboration in Bostock Library and the top-to-bottom renovation of the Rubenstein Library. (continued on p. 13)
From the academic quad, visitors pass through the main library entrance and arrive in the Sperling Family Lobby, an inspiring point of entry to the Perkins, Bostock, and Rubenstein library complex.

The Gothic Reading Room is one of West Campus’s most popular spots for events and study. During the renovation, special care was taken to preserve and restore the original windows, wood vaulting, and light fixtures of the room that novelist William Styron ’47 called his “sanctuary.” The portraits on the walls depict members of the Duke family, past Duke presidents, the original Duke Endowment trustees, Duke’s architects, and the celebrated historian John Hope Franklin.

A new exhibit space is the Photography Gallery, which provides a dramatic setting to showcase the Rubenstein Library’s outstanding collection of documentary photography.
A large window from the Photography Gallery looks onto the Rubenstein Library’s reading room, where researchers from Duke and around the world come to use our rare books, manuscripts, and archival collections. The rib-vaulted ceiling was designed to reflect the collegiate Gothic architecture of Duke’s West Campus.

The Papyrology and Paleography Room houses the Libraries’ reference collection on papyrological studies, used extensively by the Department of Classical Studies. Duke’s collection of ancient papyrus is one of the largest in North America, and Duke was an early leader in cooperative projects to digitize papyri to make them more broadly accessible.

From the Biddle Room, visitors can walk into the Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room to view historical artifacts collected by Dr. Trent and donated by Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans as part of the History of Medicine Collections, including surgical instruments, microscopes, anatomical ivory manikins, and glass eyeballs.
It has been a busy fifteen years. Earlier this October, friends and benefactors gathered to dedicate the Rubenstein Library and celebrate the generosity and support that allowed such an ambitious project to come to fruition.

“The Rubenstein Library is the home Duke has long needed and deserved to showcase our remarkable rare book and manuscript collections and their use in research and teaching,” said Deborah Jakubs, Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs. “Students and visitors can now see researchers at work and take classes examining rare materials. Expanded galleries provide new venues for faculty, staff, and students to curate exhibitions drawn from the collections, and for the wider community to enjoy and learn from the public programming.”

The Rubenstein Library holds items that can be found nowhere else. In this digital era, when research libraries subscribe to the same e-journals and e-books, and their circulating book collections hold many of the same titles, it is the primary sources that distinguish one library—indeed, one university—from another. Duke students, faculty, and visiting scholars now find in Rubenstein the appropriate setting to carry out their work.

The Duke University Libraries have a longstanding tradition of excellence in public service. We now have the spaces to complement that service. If you have not visited recently, we hope these images will inspire you to come see us soon and see Duke’s newest point of pride.
A TIMELINE OF THE PERKINS PROJECT

2000
Provest Peter Lange establishes the Perkins Library Renovation Committee, charging it with thinking creatively about library services and facilities and with making recommendations regarding the design and function of Perkins Library.

2000–2002
Working with architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch, the committee obtains input from the campus community to produce a vision statement, space program, and master plan for the library.

2001
Construction of the Library Service Center is completed, to accommodate materials that must be moved off-site during construction.

2002
After two years of planning, the Perkins Project for the Renovation and Expansion of the Duke University Libraries is approved by the Board of Trustees.

2003
Construction begins on Bostock Library and the Karl and Mary Ellen von der Heyden Pavilion.

2005
Bostock Library and the von der Heyden Pavilion open.

2006
A renovated first floor of Perkins is unveiled. Work begins on the other floors of the library.
With the renovation, the former Perkins Gallery outside the von der Heyden Pavilion was moved closer to the library entrance and renamed the Jerry and Bruce Chappell Family Gallery. The opening exhibit celebrated the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of Andreas Vesalius and the medical advances he inspired with his groundbreaking study of human anatomy, *On the Fabric of the Human Body* (1543).

The new secure stack area of the Rubenstein Library has the capacity to accommodate 50,000 linear feet of books, archives, and manuscripts, an increase of 52 percent over the previous special collections stacks. Books are shelved by size (duodecimo, quarto, octavo, folio, double folio) and Library of Congress classification.

A special cold storage unit houses sensitive film materials from the Archive of Documentary Arts, which must be kept at low temperatures to prolong their life.

Directly across from the main entrance are the doors to Mary Duke Biddle Room, which has been transformed into a state-of-the-art exhibit space for the treasures of the Rubenstein Library. Exhibits play an important role in the outreach mission of the Libraries. They also showcase the breadth and diversity of what a great library system like Duke’s has to offer.

Outside the Gothic Reading Room in the Ahmadieh Family Commons is a new permanent exhibit on Duke University’s history. Prepared by University Archives staff, the exhibit traces the institution’s rise from a one-room schoolhouse to an internationally recognized research university.

The Doug and Elise Beckett Rare Book Library Classroom is the primary teaching space for the Rubenstein Library. It can accommodate larger classes than the Harkins Seminar Room and features a document camera for projecting rare materials on a screen for discussion.

Adjacent to the History of Medicine Room is the Michael and Karen Stone Family Gallery, a new exhibit space designed to feature some of the Rubenstein Library’s most extraordinary treasures. The opening exhibit featured a very rare copy of the first book printed in what is now the United States—the Bay Psalm Book (1640)—belonging to David M. Rubenstein ’70, who generously loaned it for our opening. Viewers could also see rare early maps of North America from the collection of Mike Stone ’84.
Marks of famous historical printers carved into the corbels of the Gothic Reading Room's vaulted ceiling: 14.

I am so honored to be here and to say a few words about the specialness of special collections and the specialness of this collection in particular. I regard rare book and manuscript libraries as sacred spaces—spaces of transcendence where we reach beyond ourselves in the effort to discover and understand other places and other times. Now, those who use the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library will be able to do so in a physical space that does not just enable but uplifts that effort. What a rare and precious gift—it’s a gift that will enhance collections that have supported scholarship and teaching for many decades. Thank you very much, David.

These collections have in fact supported my scholarship. For thirty-five years now, a large blue volume—two inches thick, weighing in at 5 pounds, 2 ounces—has stood on a bookshelf near my desk. Gold letters...
on its scarred blue-cloth cover read: Guide to the Catalogued Collections in the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University, Richard C. Davis and Linda Angle Miller, Editors. I have treasured this book. It is filled with penciled notations made next to names of collections I wanted to explore, and I scribbled lists on the book’s endpapers of highest-priority collection titles and catalogue numbers. Now, this volume is a curious and obsolete artifact—first because of the many materials that have been accessioned since it was printed, but more fundamentally, of course, because the catalogue of holdings of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library are online for anyone anywhere in the world to see.

Duke’s special collections department was one of the first I visited when I embarked on my dissertation research in the early 1970s—almost a decade before the invaluable blue volume appeared. I set forth knowing some of what I would find in Duke’s holdings, but the state of bibliographic and search tools in that distant era provided me with nothing like a complete or comprehensive view. So part of the wonder and excitement of this first real “research trip” was that I was an adventurer, an explorer setting out on a search for the past not knowing precisely what I would find. The knowledge and help of manuscript librarians would be critical, but I also knew from other historians that at Duke I would find a card catalogue unsurpassed in its detail about what each manuscript collection contained. There would be not just names but subject headings and cross references that would make searching the catalogue more efficient and far more productive. A researcher’s dream.

Duke held materials indispensable to my dissertation project. I spent many days at a table here, with documents arrayed before me, as I sought to understand pre-Civil War southerners who had chosen to become active defenders of slavery—advocates of what we today would find unthinkable.

In the years after I completed that study, as I began to shift the focus of my interest from the antebellum period to the Civil War itself, the Duke collections became in many ways even more significant for my work. The very first collection listed in the large blue book is the William Abbott Papers, just a few items documenting damage done to Abbott’s Virginia property by Confederate troops in 1862; the last listing in the volume, collection number 5991, 648 pages later, is the diary of a Pennsylvania soldier who served as a wagon driver in Sherman’s March to the Sea. Civil War material doesn’t just bookend the old catalogue; it abounds in these collections. Many of the war’s most famous names are present here: Alexander Stephens, Confederate Vice President with a collection of some 3,000 items; the Stonewall Jackson Papers, 4,700 items. But this library houses Civil War materials of a somewhat different character as well, materials that enabled me, and many others as well, to pursue new directions in Civil War history. Duke’s librarians had been very foresighted in acquiring the records not just of generals and statesmen, the Jacksons and Stephens, but of ordinary people—that farmer in Virginia, that wagon driver from Pennsylvania. These were the men and women whose lives and experiences would become the foundation of a new approach to the war that began to emerge in the 1980s. As Civil
War history began to turn towards exploring the social as well as political and military history of the war, as scholars sought materials to document the lives of women or of common soldiers, or to describe the wartime experience of slavery and liberation. Duke’s collections could offer remarkable riches. For me, as I wrote a book about women and then another about death, Duke manuscripts proved invaluable. I discovered Lila Chunn of Georgia, who in moving and eloquent letters corresponded with her husband Willie at the front about her fears of staying alone without him, about her distress as war rendered her a refugee, about her desperate hope that he could get a furlough and be with her as she delivered their child. Another collection described for me the sad tale of Margaret Gwyn, unable to afford mourning attire after her son’s death in the army in 1862. She recounts in her diary how she dyed old clothes black so she could display the depth of her grief. As she worked, she explained, “my eyes was often filled with tears which is a relief to the troubled mind.”

Documents like these enable historians to enter into conversation with people of another era, to see a different world and to look through others’ eyes—eyes sometimes filled with tears. If we are to understand what makes a society go to war and stay at war, we must understand the homefront as well as the battlefront, the soldiers who follow orders as well as the generals who issue them. The Civil War looks different to us now than it did a generation ago, and the kinds of collecting Duke’s librarians so wisely pursued is an important part of what has made that possible. Special collections librarians are people who must predict the future—must make guesses and bets about what will be of interest to students and scholars decades—even centuries—from now. They must look forward to look back and decide what to preserve as the record of our lives. They and the choices they make, the collections they create and preserve, become our history. Do you want to make history? Become a librarian!

I have always thought that the textured record of human life represented in the letters of Lila Chunn or the diary of Margaret Gwyn tells a far more powerful and engaging story than any novel possibly could. And I must also confess to a bit of the antiquarian in me as well: I never cease to be awestruck by the knowledge that a page lying before me once was delivered to a Confederate camp, was carried in a knapsack or a bedroll and was purposefully saved to be passed onto us—a voice from the past projected into the future from individuals who wanted us to know what they had lived through. As Emily Dickinson has written in a marvelous poem about antique books, their “presence is enchantment.” These books and manuscripts become the magical vehicles of time travel, transporting us into worlds at once old and new.

It is, of course, an undeniable blessing that now many of the rare or unique materials housed here have been digitized, and made widely accessible. But it seems highly unlikely that the entire manuscript record of the past will ever be digitized. The David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library contains 350,000 printed volumes and 20 million manuscript and archival items. And I must confess that I think the convenience of digital access to these materials comes at a cost—the cost, we might say, of enchantment. Like Emily Dickinson, I cannot resist the magic of the real thing—whether it is a letter from Lila Chunn, or the Bay Psalm Book or the Magna Carta. These artifacts matter because their words and ideas have relevance for our contemporary lives, but they matter too as actual physical and material embodiment of a past that still shapes us. They constitute a bridge between what was and what is—a bridge they invite us to cross.

So far, I have been speaking about what has engaged me over many years in the collections of the Rubenstein Library. But Southern and Civil War history make up just a portion of what this repository holds, and students and scholars interested in many other times, places and subjects could tell similar stories of discovery and changed understanding. The visionary collecting and foresight of Duke’s librarians are evident throughout the larger whole. So many subjects vital to our perceptions of the world today are represented in these collections—from advertising and popular culture to human rights and fundamental questions of race, gender and sexuality. From the original Mad Men of the J. Walter Thompson Company, to comic superheroes, straight and openly gay, to utopias and dystopias, to 1,800 Egyptian Papyri texts, to Virginia Woolf’s desk—part of an extraordinary recent acquisition in women’s history. This library is a stunning resource for Duke students and faculty and for the world.
Today we celebrate a beautiful new home for these treasures, a place designed at once to protect them and to share them, to preserve them for the future and to make them readily accessible to the present. And all this has been made possible by someone who believes fervently in books and reads them voraciously, who believes just as fervently in philanthropy, and, I think it is safe to say, embraces and wants to share the enchantment of the real thing—of the Bay Psalm Book he purchased and has placed on exhibition here, of the Emancipation Proclamation he has loaned to hang in the Oval Office, of the Magna Carta he acquired to display at the National Archives. And clearly he venerates the institutions that care for these treasures as he has shown in his support not just for this library but for the National Archives, the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress—as well as for numerous universities—including my own—and museums and historic buildings and monuments. David Rubenstein is himself, as others have said before me, a national treasure, and thanks are due to this library and this university for all it did to make him so, through the education it provided him and the job in the library that helped to support him while he was here.

Emily Dickinson wrote that she found it “a precious, mouldering pleasure” and “a privilege” to meet an antique book. It has been a pleasure and a privilege for so many of us—students and scholars—to meet these collections—these books and manuscripts—over the years. So I am grateful to be able—more than four decades after my first visit—to say a public thank you. Thank you to Duke University, to its imaginative and knowledgeable librarians, and to David Rubenstein, who has ensured that generations of students and scholars to come have the opportunity to be enchanted and enlightened by the preservation of the record of human thought, experience, and aspiration.

Above: As a token of appreciation, David M. Rubenstein presented President Faust with a rare first edition set of Francis Trevelyan Miller’s ten-volume Photographic History of the Civil War (complete set pictured at left).
A FOUNDATION OF Generosity

The renovation of the Rubenstein Library and the completion of the Perkins Project would have been impossible without the help of many loyal and generous library donors. Their philanthropic support represents the foundation upon which Duke’s world-class library system is built.

We are particularly grateful to those donors whose names you will find in the many classrooms, exhibit galleries, offices, and common areas throughout the renovated library. A few of them joined us for the Rubenstein Library dedication ceremony on October 3 and are pictured here in the spaces named in their honor.

AHMADIEH FAMILY

The Ahmadieh Family Commons outside the Gothic Reading Room is named in honor of Aziz (left) and Vahdat Ahmadieh, pictured here next to their portrait.
CHAPPELL FAMILY
Jerry W'C62 (left) and Bruce E'61 Chappell pose in the Jerry and Bruce Chappell Family Gallery, located near the main library entrance.

GRAVATTS
Cary G'66 and Ann G'64 Gravatt pose in the seminar room named in their honor on the third floor of the Rubenstein Library.

HARKINS
Harry H. Harkins, Jr. T'73 outside the seminar room named in his honor on the Rubenstein Library’s first floor.
SMITH AND FERRACONE FAMILY
Robin Ferracone T’75 P’05 and Stewart Smith P’05 in the Smith and Ferracone Reception Hall, adjacent to the von der Heyden Pavilion.

HOLSTI-ANDERSON FAMILY
Members of the Holsti and Anderson families pose in the Holsti-Anderson Family Assembly Room on the first floor of the Rubenstein Library. Pictured here (left to right): Aksel Anderson, Ole Holsti, Brad Anderson, Mikko Anderson, and Maija Holsti.

SPERLING FAMILY
Laurene Sperling T’78 in the Sperling Family Lobby, just inside the main library entrance.
STONE FAMILY

Michael Stone T’84 at the entrance to the new Michael and Karen Stone Family Gallery.

TRENT AND SEMANS FAMILIES

(Left to right): James Semans, Beth Lucas, Charlie Lucas, Sally Trent Harris WC’63, Rebecca Trent Kirkland WC’64 M’68, John Kirkland, Barbara Trent Kimbrell, Joe Lucas, and Sally Lucas.

WAKIL FAMILY

Members of the Wakil family stand outside the Salih and Fawzia Wakil Consultation Room, located in the Rubenstein Library Reading Room. Pictured here (left to right): Maya Wakil Thompson, Sonya Wakil T’79, Alexander Wakil Thompson T’18, Salih Wakil, and Fawzia Wakil.
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Starting January 19, library visitors are invited to enjoy an up-close look at two landmark documents of American history.

Commonly known as the Bay Psalm Book, the Whole Booke of Psalmes (1640) is one of the rarest books in the world and has the distinction of being the first book published in what is now the United States. From the 1,700 copies originally printed, only eleven survive.

Also on display: one of the earliest official printings of the Emancipation Proclamation. Exceedingly rare—one of only three known copies of this edition—the document includes its original transmittal letter by Secretary of State William H. Seward. It was printed only days after the Proclamation became law.

Both items belong to David M. Rubenstein ’70, who generously made them available for the public to view.

On display starting January 19, 2016
Mary Duke Biddle Room, Rubenstein Library
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.