

AHC Acquires Two Historic Jewish Scrolls

The American Heritage Center's Frederick and Clara Toppan Rare Books Library recently acquired two Jewish scrolls, a Jewish Torah scroll and a Jewish Book of Esther scroll. Purchased through the Edmund I. Woodbury Fund, the two scrolls will augment the library's outstanding collection of religious texts from the fifteenth through the twentieth centuries.

The Jewish Torah scroll probably originated from Lithuania and is handwritten on parchment in Beit-Yosef script and dates from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. In Hebrew, Torah means "the true teaching." The Jewish Book of Esther scroll dates to approximately 1900 and is from Yemen and written on gazelle skin. At the beginning of the scroll is a charming hand painted image in a Persian style of a man and woman seated in a pavilion.

Seth Ward, professor in the University of Wyoming Religious Studies Program, welcomed the two scrolls to campus. He sees their addition to the Toppan Library as strongly symbolizing a commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and teaching and commented that such pursuits are "needed to choose life and blessings for us and for all society."

Anne Marie Lane, curator of rare books, teaches a number of classes through the UW History Department about the history of books and will incorporate the two scrolls in her classes. AHC Director Mark Greene stated that Lane is widely recognized for her expertise and ability to incorporate the library's rare materials in teaching undergraduates. The scrolls also can be researched by scholars and viewed in the Toppan Library as well. ■



University of Wyoming Religious Studies Professor Seth Ward introduces a Book of Esther scroll to staff members at the UW American Heritage Center.

From the Director



Mark Greene

This will be a longer than usual column, for which I apologize because it reduces the space available for other features and information. But I hope you will see why I need to claim extra inches in this issue. For I have, as the proverbial saying goes, good news and bad news....

The Bad News

First the bad news. Everyone reading this is very well aware of the financial crisis in which the U.S., and indeed the world, has been mired since the end of 2008. This crisis,

particularly the precipitous decline of the stock markets, has finally had a significant effect on the American Heritage Center—specifically the income derived from our endowments beginning July 1, 2009. As most of you know, the AHC derives a majority of its budget—55%—from private sources, primarily endowment income, and only 45% of its budget from public funds. Our endowment income has been reduced by nearly 20% for the fiscal year beginning July 2009 and ending June 2010. In addition, the University of Wyoming as a whole had its public funding reduced by 10% on order of the state's governor.

These facts have forced difficult decisions about how to bring our expenditures into line with our shrunken income. Most significantly, we have already had to eliminate one position from our staff paid from private funds, and the University ordered elimination of all college and unit fundraising positions, meaning we were forced to eliminate that position at the AHC as well. Because salaries and benefits are 90% of our overall budget, such a step was inevitable given the size of our income decline. Unfortunately, because of how endowment income is calculated, our reductions will get worse before they get better, and it is possible additional layoffs will be necessary.

Our reduced endowment income will also require reducing or eliminating several AHC programs. For example, we will no longer be able to sustain our speakers bureau, which provided Center faculty and staff at no charge as speakers for civic and fraternal groups throughout Wyoming. We may be unable to create new exhibits, and we will have to impose new charges on recipients of our traveling exhibits. We will have to eliminate one of our two annual issues of Heritage Highlights. And we are forced to reduce our travel grants, which support scholars from around the globe in visiting the AHC to conduct research, by 2/5ths.

Just as the overall economy will rebound so too will

the AHC's budget. But in the near term we are being hard pressed. What will not suffer, I promise to you, is our core mission, which is to acquire and make accessible world-class collections to a nationally-impressive number of researchers, from students in grades 6-12 to undergraduates, graduate students to senior scholars, documentary film makers to members of the public. Our core accessioning, processing, reference, and even digitization activities will proceed with the excellence that has become the hallmark of the AHC. Notwithstanding any short-term setbacks, the Center will continue to be a leading repository, one that we can always be proud of.

In the short term, however, we face serious difficulties. While I know that the economic downturn has affected virtually everyone reading this column, still, I must take the opportunity to inquire if you would consider donating funds for the first time. I will inquire, too, whether any of you might be able to further assist us in these particularly hard times by donating a second time; this would certainly be a wonderful time to do so. Any amount, large or small, that you could consider adding to your already generous donations, would be immensely helpful. All contributions are, of course, tax deductible. Indeed, this is a particularly good time to consider a planned gift, because of the potentially significant tax benefits.

Those very few of our readers who might have the ability to contemplate larger gifts, may I appeal to you on behalf of some extra-special needs? We would so much like to restore funding for our travel grants, to maintain the ability of worldwide scholars to use and make known the world-class collections of the Center. Our grants are very small, for even small awards can make a large difference to a PhD candidate or professor—every \$500 we receive toward these grants equals one travel award; or perhaps someone can consider creating a named endowment to permanently support one or more grants—a \$50,000 endowment would support up to three grants. A named lectureship, which not only supports travel and research but also a public presentation, can be created with an endowment contribution of approximately \$100,000.

It will be no surprise for me to say that we would equally appreciate funds that are unrestricted, funds that we can deploy toward any of a variety of needs. Any such gift, large or small, will be important to our ability to sustain programs and activities, and thus to ensure our continued excellence—excellence so obvious to our peers and to our users. Thank you for your patience in reading this appeal. And thank you for any assistance you can give to us.

The Good News

Despite the bad news, the AHC remains a premier institution. This past year we were nominated to receive the Society of American Archivist’s Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor an archival repository can receive. We did not win the award, but a) we will be nominated again next year, and; b) the letters of support we received from other major repositories are wonderful testimony to the level of professional excellence the AHC has achieved. For example, the head of Yale University’s Department of Manuscripts and Archives wrote about the AHC: “we view the AHC as one of the most important repositories in the country for the work they do in continually assessing how archivists can better carry out their responsibilities.”

The Head of Collections Management at the Minnesota Historical Society, a past recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, stated: “The American Heritage Center has accomplished a daunting amount of work over the past several years. In doing so, it has pioneered important new archival methodologies, it has leveraged its modest resources in the most intelligent ways possible, and it has never lost sight of the preeminent importance of its research audiences.” Finally, the head of archives and manuscripts at the University of Montana put it this way: “The AHC goes well beyond what would be considered the normal performance requirements expected of an archival agency, and serves as both a resource and an inspiration.”

While we are gratified by these testimonials, I am not surprised. As I have been saying for years in this column, we have one of the finest historical repositories in the U.S. right here at the AHC. But it is important that such recognition come not

only from our peers, but even more from our users. Recently our curator of rare books, Anne Marie Lane, who teaches a course every fall on the history of the book or the history of manuscripts, received this note from one of her students: “I so enjoyed your class.... I still talk about your class all the time! Thank you once again for loving the books!”

Another form of testimonial from our users comes in the form of interest in our annual travel grants. Though very modest in size, these grants, which assist all forms of researchers to travel to Laramie to use AHC collections, have seen dramatically increased numbers over the past several years, pointing to the world-wide significance of our collections. This year we received 14 applications, and awarded six, from as far as England and from universities across the U.S. Each scholar will publish one or more articles or a book, showcasing AHC collections to readers on both sides of the Atlantic, and using our holdings to educate untold individuals in some aspect of historical study. That the AHC is held in such esteem by its peer institutions and by our users, both students and scholars, is the very best kind of good news I can think of.

Let me close, then, where I often do, which is thanking everyone who is a supporter or friend of any kind to the Center, and extending the hope that you share in our pride in what we are able to accomplish year after year, both in supporting the broader mission of the University, and in supporting an accomplished, well-respected, archival repository in its own right. If you ever have any questions about the AHC, please don’t hesitate to contact me; and I am always pleased to arrange for a tour of our facility and programs with a little advance notice. We would enjoy seeing you here. ■

Annual Report Additions and Corrections

The AHC Annual Report for 2008 to 2009 recently has been mailed to many of you. Unfortunately, the two pages of financial contributors to the AHC in the report listed a number of donors in the wrong categories and others were not listed at all. To correct these errors and oversights we are including those donors here with our sincere apologies. We will also include the full and corrected list of donors in the version of the Annual Report permanently posted on the AHC’s website.

\$1,000-\$5,000

- Mr. and Mrs. John C. Clay
- David A. Kathka Living Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. David Macy
- Mrs. Cheryl W. O’Leary
- Mr. and Mrs. Wayman c. Wing

\$100-\$500

- Evangeline C.B. Demarest Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. John P. Eberhard
- Mr. Brock Evans and Ms. Linda Garcia
- Mr. and Mrs. Melvin M. Fillerup
- Prof. Paul V. M. Flesher and Prof. Caroline McCracken-Flesher
- Mr. and Mrs. James L. Hoskins
- John B. Kendrick II Living Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCall, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. John N. Morris
- Mary V. Ostlund Revocable Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Palen
- Dr. and Mrs. Paul C. Phillips
- Dr. and Mrs. Terry P. Roark
- Dr. and Mrs. R. Leo Sprinkle
- Mrs. Sally Vanderpoel
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Waggener

\$1-\$99

- Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Jackson
- Mr. and Mrs. Clarke M. Thomas

Digital Programs by Ben Goldman

The American Heritage Center in the past year has continued to expand and improve its online presence. Much of the focus since January has been on digitization of collection materials. During this time the AHC has scanned more than 6,500 items, while continued improvements to our scanning processes promise even greater numbers of scanned materials being put online during the coming years.

Two grants have enabled the AHC to digitize, en masse, two of its premier Western/Wyoming history collections. The Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection contains thousands of images from an early twentieth century photography studio in Laramie. The AHC is coming to the end of a



University of Wyoming Debate Team, 1928-1929. This photo is one of more than twenty thousand images which can be viewed on AHC's website. Just click on Digital Collections on the main page. Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection.

Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund grant enabling the digitization of more than 3,000 of these images. Dating back to the time between the two World Wars, most of the images depict life in early Laramie, the development and activities of the University of Wyoming, as well as local landmarks and landscapes. The collection can be viewed online

at: <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet/ahc-ludwig-1-1>.

The other project being finalized is the digitization of the Moreton Frewen Papers, made possible by a generous donation from Lawrence M. Woods. Frewen was European landed gentry who, like many early Wyoming settlers, sought a fortune on the plains of Wyoming as a cattleman. Unlike most of our previous digitization efforts, this collection is comprised almost entirely of text documents and very little imagery. The documents provide a view into Frewen's ranching interests during the 1880s. The almost 5000 scans from this collection are available online at <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet/ahc-frewen-1-1>. The AHC is now digitizing the Swan Land and Cattle Company Papers, also made possible by the gift from Mr. Woods.

In addition to scanning more collection material, the AHC has also focused on improving access to this material. The AHC took a significant step forward over the summer with the implementation of a new Digital Collections interface, which greatly improved search and browse capability for online researchers. Since the new Digital Collection site went live, it has received more than 1,100 unique visitors and almost 17,000 page views. The most popular collection appears to be the photographs of Charles Belden, accessible at <http://digitalcollections.uwyo.edu:8180/luna/servlet/ahc-belden-1-1>. While this new interface is a considerable step forward, the AHC remains committed to continued improvements over the coming months and years.

The AHC is also in the midst of a project to improve its main website – <http://ahc.uwyo.edu>. Our current website has enjoyed great success and accolades through the years, but we believe we can make it even better. Look for continued improvements during the coming year. ■

Workshop about the Hollywood Ten

Teachers from around Wyoming recently spent two days learning about Constitutional issues through the study of the “Hollywood Ten,” a group of film producers, directors, and screenwriters called before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during the Red Scare of the post World War II years. Hosted by the AHC’s Alan K. Simpson Institute of Western Politics and Leadership and the Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education and funded through a U.S. Department of Education grant, the workshop provided a hands on experience for the study of that era in American history.

The AHC holds the papers of Albert Maltz and Adrian Scott, both members of the Hollywood Ten who were cited for contempt of Congress and jailed after their refusal to cooperate with HUAC. The teachers researched the Maltz and Scott papers as well as others at the AHC related to the Red Scare and expect to use selected materials to create lessons on the First Amendment for their classes and students.

Besides the primary research, the educators learned about the historical context of the time through three lectures provided by UW faculty members. Dr. William Moore provided the historical background to the postwar effort against communism. Dr. Step Feldman from the UW College of Law discussed the relevant constitutional issues; when the Hollywood Ten members testified before HUAC they claimed the First Amendment protected them from government inquiries into



Teachers Paula Volker (Natrona County High School) and Inga McCoy (Kelly Walsh High School) look over a primary source document in the American Heritage Center’s collections documenting the Hollywood Ten and blacklisting that occurred during the 1940s and 1950s. The two teachers attended the Hollywood Ten workshop presented by the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership and the Wyoming Partnership for Civic Education.

their personal beliefs. Dr. Michael Brown from the UW Communication and Journalism Department offered his perspective on the media’s role in this period of hunting communists.

The educators also viewed and discussed a 1976 documentary, “Hollywood on Trial,” during the workshop. Directed by David Halpern, Jr., the film offered an extensive look at the events leading up to the blacklisting of Hollywood artists. Footage of the members of the Hollywood Ten testifying before HUAC were included with interviews of them conducted during the 1970s. ■

AHC Presents its 2008-2009 Undergraduate Award

Each year the AHC offers a cash prize to the best undergraduate research paper or project based substantially on our materials—manuscripts, archives, rare books, photos, etc. The \$500 award is entirely funded by voluntary donations from AHC faculty and staff. Jill Kristensen, a student in the UW English Department, received the 2008-2009 award.

English Professor Alyson Hagy nominated Kristensen for her paper, “Stormy Gray,” which she

wrote for Hagy’s Advanced Fiction class. The paper was based on the Thomas Magee Papers. Magee, a doctor in Rawlins, Wyoming, performed cosmetic surgery on a local sheepherder who disfigured his face through an unsuccessful suicide attempt. In Hagy’s nomination, she stated Kristensen “fulfilled the ‘historic monologue’ assignment by imagining the reconstruction of a sheep herder’s injured face by a Rawlins area doctor from the point of view of the doctor’s fictional assistant. It’s a very lively piece

continued on page 6

AHC Presents Award continued from page 5

of fiction. . . . Jill was required to write an original short story that began with a character or incident discovered during research at the AHC.”

Kristensen received her award at the AHC’s October staff meeting. Hagy was not able to attend but did send along this message. “What I really admire about Jill’s writing in this prize-winning piece is how she both ‘sticks to facts’ and uses the great power of her imagination to create a character, the young caregiver who

bridges all sorts of gaps between the doctor and the gravely wounded shepherd. In her monologue,

Jill does what great fiction always does—creates a truth that is greater than the facts by delving into the motives and passions of human character.” Jill’s paper can be read on the AHC’s website in the Education and Outreach section. ■



Jill Kristensen received from Associate Director Rick Ewig a \$500 check and a framed photographic print of Dr. Thomas Magee’s Rawlins office for being selected the recipient of the AHC’s Undergraduate Award.

AHC Has Papers of Will Lee, Sesame Street’s Mr. Hooper

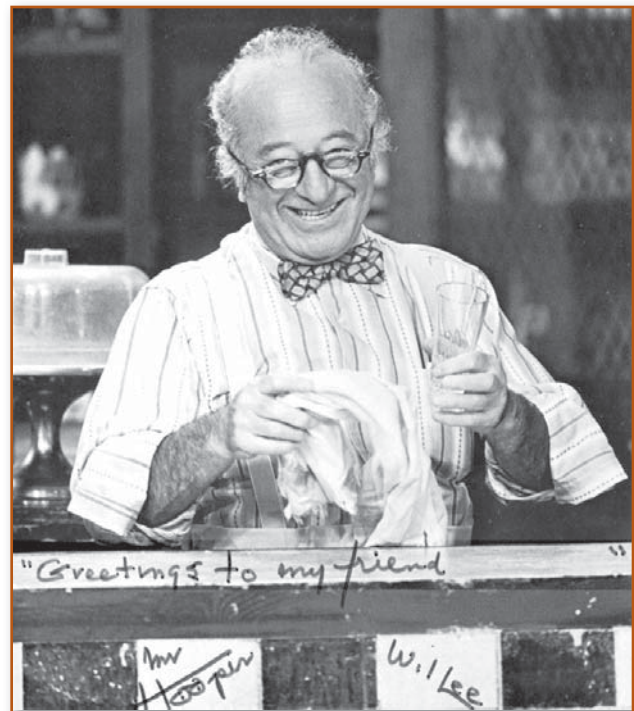
This fall marks the 40th anniversary of PBS’ “Sesame Street.” One of the most recognizable figures of the first thirteen years of the show (1969-1982) was Mr. Hooper, the grocer, played by veteran actor Will Lee. Before appearing on the educational show, Lee had a long career in theater and movies, although his career was interrupted for five years during the 1950s because of being blacklisted during the “Red Scare” of that time.

During the 1930s, Lee cofounded the Theatre of Action. He was also a member of the Federal Theatre Project and the Actors Workshop, and participated in the Workers Laboratory Theatre, which presented plays in support of the labor movement and social justice. During World War II he was assigned to the Army Special Services Section in Australia and the Philippines and directed and staged shows for troops overseas.

After the war, the House Un-American Activities Committee found him to be an unfriendly witness in the committee’s investigation of communist influence in show business, which apparently led to his blacklisting. By 1956, however, he resumed his career in television with a role on the soap opera “As the World Turns” and then received film roles as well. In 1969, he began portraying Mr. Hooper on “Sesame Street,” which he continued to do until his

death in 1982.

The Will Lee Papers contain scripts, film and theater stills, files related to his military service, biographical materials, newspaper clippings, and playbills. ■



Will Lee portrayed Mr. Hooper for thirteen years on “Sesame Street.” Will Lee Papers.

Highlights of AHC Collection Use

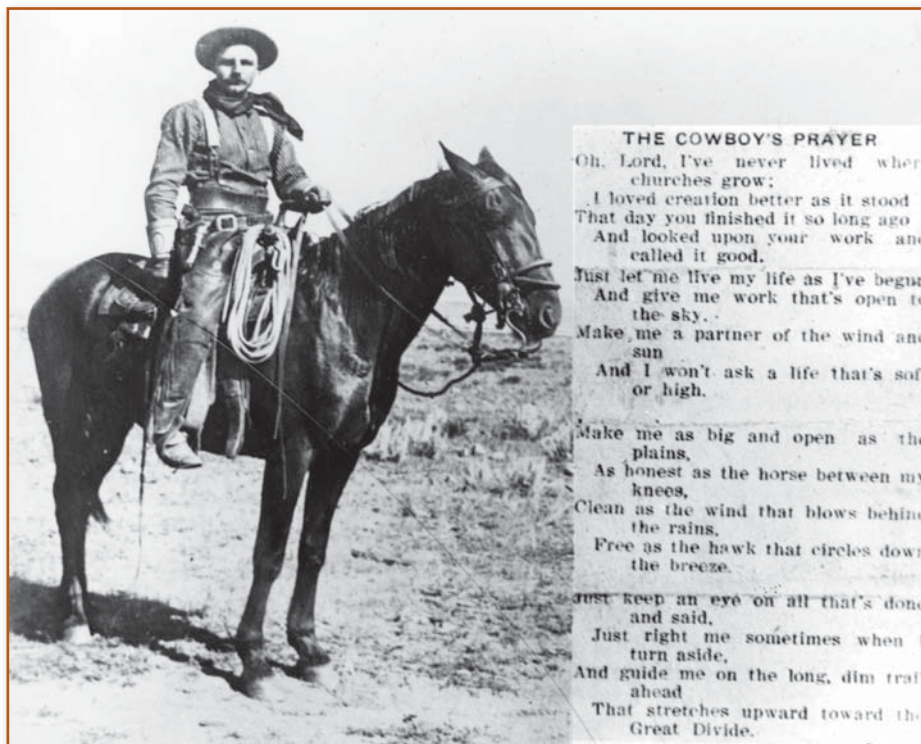
Each year authors, documentary makers, students, and others use our collections in various ways. During the academic year 2008-2009 a number of books were published which used AHC collections. They include: *Making Marriage Work: A History of Marriage and Divorce in the Twentieth-Century United States*, by Kristin Celello, who heavily used the Paul Popenoe Papers; *The Unknown Soldier* by Linda Granfield which included AHC photographs; *Seth Bullock: Black Hills Lawman* by David A. Wolff, who used the Edmund Seymour Papers; and *King of the Movies: Francis X. Bushman* by Lon and Debra Davis, who used the Beverly Bayne Papers. The Davis' donated the Bayne Papers to the AHC as well as their own papers, the Lon and Debra Davis Papers.

AHC collection material also proved useful to a documentary titled "Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood," which included home movie footage from the Fritz Lang Collection. *The Journal of the West* published a theme edition on "Archives on the West," which included an article about the American Heritage Center by Mark Greene titled "Protecting

Both the Image and the Realities of the West." The magazine *Bust* in its February/March 2009 issue published an article "Home on the Range," which looked at American cowgirls and used several AHC photos.

Annals of Wyoming, the state's historical journal, used a number of articles based on AHC collections. Some of them are: "John E. Osborne: A Real 'Character' from the Old West" by Hugh Ridenour; "The Wyoming Experiment and the Case for Practical Propaganda" by UW graduate student Emily Arendt; "Paint Rock," which is a reminiscence by Lucille Penwarden about the time she and her husband, W. B. Penwarden, owned and operated the Paint Rock Lodge located in Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains—the manuscript is in the AHC's W.B. Penwarden Paint Rock Lodge Collection; and "Howling Wilderness: A Missionary's View of Wyoming, 1900-1918" by D. Claudia Thompson.

Thompson is an AHC faculty member. The Wyoming State Historical Society selected her paper, which is based on the W.B.D. and Annette B. Gray Papers, as the outstanding article in *Annals of Wyoming* for the year. ■

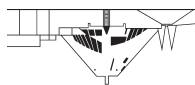


AHC faculty member D. Claudia Thompson used this image from the W. B. D. and Annette B. Gray Papers in her paper "Howling Wilderness: A Missionary's View of Wyoming, 1900-1918."

During the 1920s, Laramie's Sill Brothers Bakery sponsored a "Thanksgiving Turkey Show," attended by hundreds of Laramie's citizens. A turkey was dropped from the roof of the building. The turkey can be seen just above the store's sign. Ludwig-Svenson Studio Collection.



CHANG E SERVICE REQUESTED
http://www.uwyo.edu
ahc@uwyo.edu
307-766-4114
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 3924
American Heritage Center



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
University of Wyoming