

# LIBRARY NEWS, 2023-24.

The semester is finally coming to an end. Congratulations, especially, to our new graduates, at all levels! Hope you will enjoy the summer break wherever you may be.

The library does not have a summer break. On the contrary, that's the time when we try to catch up on everything that had to take a backseat during the semester. For example, we hope that we will be able to provide video recordings of the Seneca, Peter van Minnen, and Greek Refugees events with closed captioning. It is a lengthy and elaborate process. The automatic captions are jibberish, so they have to be applied manually, and since some speak fast and not always audibly, it makes this activity particularly challenging. We hope to have them ready by the time you return.



Eden Park, Cincinnati.

## *Venetian Manuscripts Digitization Project*

Other efforts, uniquely by the Burnam Library, include uploading metadata for the ca. 600 documents of Venetian manuscripts (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century) in JSTOR. The final report for the grant to scan and analyze content has been submitted. All documents have been scanned and uploaded to JSTOR, metadata has been provided for all documents via Google Drive by an external consultant in Florence, Italy, who has made several trips to libraries and archives in Venice, Treviso, and elsewhere, and made many fascinating and important discoveries regarding our material. For example, “the documents have been found to range from dowry arrangements to the aftermath of a bank crash, from the painstaking and complicated assembly of properties by notable families to disputes over unauthorized hostelries serving the loggers bringing rafts of timber down the Piave, from silk-producing activities to a broker from Istria.” The largest single group of Vicenza records concerns Vendramino Menegazzi, a successful pharmacist active around 1570, and his inheritance. The records have been found to throw light on myriad aspects of history -- family, gender, social, economic, agrarian, environmental, legal, and professional. With regards to provenance, the Mocenigo were a noble Venetian family including Giovanni di Mocenigo, doge in the late 1400s. The expert has concluded, based on sequences missing and identical hands and contents, that our records were almost certainly detached from the Mocenigo archive, and most likely sometime between 1875 and 1905. The bulk of this archive is at the Palazzo di San Stae in Venice, now the Museo di Palazzo Mocenigo, and was recently cataloged thanks to the Delmas Foundation to which we also owe the funding for the work accomplished on our Venetian mss. A distinct possibility is that since John M. Burnam visited Italy in the late 1890s, he may have acquired the seven bound volumes of documents now in our library at that time.



Ohio River, Cincinnati.



The Cincinnati Observatory.

## ***Greek Journals Digitization Project***

Another collection that has been scanned and provided metadata, in part by another external consultant in Thessaloniki, Greece, is ca. 50 historical Greek journals, 31 of which have so far been made available in JSTOR as part of the ‘Greek Digital Journal Archive.’ The GDJA was recently approved to host a round table at the MGSA Symposium at Princeton University in October. This digitization and content analysis has also been a uniquely Burnam Library effort despite our staff challenges.

The journals cover an enormous variety of subjects from philology to archaeology and science, from community “gossip” to world affairs, and from Church matters to politics. There is, for example, *Πυθαγόρας* (1882-), the first organ of the Greek Freemasons; *Ο Χρόνος* (1871-), a sort of almanac detailing annual celebrations, solar eclipses, the rising and setting of the sun, and the measuring system of many countries. It also lists the managerial personnel of the Ottoman Empire in Constantinople and abroad, banks, post offices, boat companies, telegraphs, schools, clubs, hospitals, and orphanages in Constantinople; *Ο Γαληνός* (1878-) featuring articles by physicians from many cities in Greece and also Smyrna, Constantinople, Alexandria, Munich, Vienna, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Geneva, and Cairo about medical cases, symptoms, medicines, epidemics, new surgical methods and new medical tools and medicines, and advertisements of medicines like antipyrine, a pain killer before aspirin, and Vichy St-Yorre, the first mineral water.



Ault Park, Cincinnati.

### ***Recent Events, Exhibitions, Web Pages***

The recent and ongoing 'Greek Refugees from Asia Minor' exhibition and event afforded the library both a donation and TV coverage:

<https://youtu.be/z7UOu5D77sQ?si=oBpCaspSwsipj7Pe>

A few new web pages include:

Exhibitions: <https://libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/about/exhibitions.html>

Facsimiles: <https://libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/collections/facsimiles-.html>

Digitized Greek journals and manuscripts:

<https://libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/collections/digitized-burnam-collections.html>

Select blog posts: <https://libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/about/blog-posts.html>

Select videos: <https://libraries.uc.edu/libraries/classics/about/videos.html>

### ***Recent Blog Posts***

Greek refugees event, with the Greek-Orthodox Church in Cincinnati, and Jack Davis: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2024/03/greek-refugees-from-asia-minor-exhibition-and-presentations/>

PvM event organized by the department and external faculty, exhibition and reception by the library: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2024/02/celebration-for-peter-van-minnen-john-miller-burnam-professor-of-classics/>

First Jewish congregation exhibition, with HUC: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2024/01/today-january-18-the-john-miller-burnam-classics-library-in-cooperation-with-the-klau-library-of-hebrew-union-college-commemorates-the-bicentennial-of-the-first-jewish-congregation-in-cincinnati/>

Holiday fun: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2023/12/aphorisms-candies-and-music-in-the-classics-library/>

Dedication of the new Lupa organized by the Italian American community, and exhibition curated by the library: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2023/11/the-italian-american-community-was-out-in-force-at-the-dedication-of-the-new-lupa/>

Seneca, organized by the library and Susan Prince and the department, and exhibition by the library: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2023/10/seneca-nero-shostakovich-stalin-stoicism-an-evening-with-seneca/>

Cincy Reds parade, upon invitation: <https://libapps.libraries.uc.edu/liblog/2024/04/the-classics-library-at-the-reds-opening-day-parade-findlay-market-day-parade/>





Cherry Tree, Massachusetts Ave., Sacred Heart Church, Cincinnati.

## ***Facilities***

Following the relocation of the Teubner series (its location is not yet reflected in the catalog; another summer project), all of the major text editions have now been transferred to the reading room. This room was provided with new more comfortable chairs, and a papyrology and epigraphy room was added (another 'location info. in the catalog' summer project) as were new locations in the stacks, and considerable space in the stacks and reference was freed up. The no-bags policy in the reading room and circulation area was discontinued.

A happy piece of news is that the reading room has been granted new better-for-the-eyes lighting to be installed this summer (along with two chandeliers!). There has also been talk of replacing the current bookcases (from UC Surplus) in the reading room with new uniform ones. This, however, will not be immediate. Another piece of good news to expect upon your return is that with the scanning of the manuscripts and journals almost completed, the library's overhead image scanner will be yours to use!

## Books -- Books by Faculty

A couple of thousand books were acquired for all areas of the classical world. Volumes, parts, and fascicles of the *CIL* -- *Inscriptiones Hispaniae Latinae* and *Inscriptiones parietariae Pompeianae, Herculanaenses, Stabianae*; *IG* -- *Inscriptiones Cypri*; *CVA* -- the Netherlands; *F Gr Hist*; *Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum*; *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*; *Repertorium der griechischen und lateinischen Inschriften aus Mysien*;

and random monograph titles such as *The Oxford Handbook of Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*; *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*; *The Cambridge Companion to the Ancient Greek Economy*; *Brill's Companion to Cassius Dio*; *C'era una volta Atlantide: L'identità geografica e storica dell'isola di Platone*; *Atlantis: Spurensuche auf ungewöhnlichen Wegen* [Atlantis seems to be in the Zeitgeist]; *Urbanism and its Impact on Human Health: A long-term study at Knossos, Crete, Atene*; *Vivere in una città antica*; *Balnea, lavacra e thermæ: Strutture termali dell'antica Roma*; *Amphorae from the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond*; *Gli animali a Roma: Tre millenni di interazione con l'uomo*; *The ecology of the ancient Greek world*; *Animalia: estudios sobre animales en la Antigüedad mediterránea*; *Enten, Hirsche und Elefanten: Ein Haus für alte Tiere*; *Antike Tierdarstellungen aus 4 Jahrtausenden*; *Animal kingdom of heaven: Anthropozoological aspects in the late antique world* ['animals in antiquity' has been a popular topic for a few years now]; *Indo-European folk-tales and Greek legend* [an oldie, but goodie, Grey lectures, 1933];

Budé's *Histoire romaine* by **Appian** (Goukowsky, Gaillard-Goukowsky, Étienne-Duplessis); Mondadori's *Uccelli* by **Aristophanes** (Colla); *Homer's Iliad: The Basel commentary* in 8 vols. (cont.); Loeb's *Cato* (Manuwald). [His great-grandson, the Stoic Senator Cato the Younger is becoming popular thanks to the ongoing PBS series, "Julius Caesar: The Making of a Dictator"]; Loeb's *Lives of the Sophists: Philostratus* (Miles); *Ovid in China: Reception, translation, and comparison*; [speaking of China] *Chinese civilisation and its Aegean affinities* (*Ο Κινεζικός πολιτισμός και οι ελλαδικές επιδράσεις*, Konidaris); *Pythagorica medica: Scienza e sapienza nella tradizione preippocratica* (Bretschneider); *Brill's Companion to the Reception of Pythagoras and Pythagoreanism in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*; *Pitagora e il pitagorismo* [Pythagoras seems to experience a renaissance]; *How to have a life: An ancient guide to using our time wisely* by **Seneca** (transl. James S. Romm, PUP) [panelist at the Seneca event]; *Britain and the United States in Greece: Anglo-American relations and the origins of the Cold War* [a reminder that the library also collects materials with a modern

chronology with respect to Greece]; *Τετράδια κοινοβουλευτικού λόγου* [3 volumes with 31 fascicles of Greek political speeches from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> c.], and so much more.

Last but not least our own **Steven Ellis**, *The Porta Stabia Neighborhood at Pompeii* (OUP); **Marion Kruse**, *The Field Armies of the East Roman Empire, 361-630* (CUP); *Unending Variety* (Festschrift for **Peter van Minnen**, Brill); **Jack Davis and Sharon Stocker**, *Ένα Ελληνικό Κράτος υπό Διαμόρφωση* [a Greek translation of their book *A Greek State in Formation*]; **Barbara Burrell** (ed.), *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Roman Empire* (a Blackwell Companion); and book chapters, **Matthijs Wibier**, "Marcus Antistius Labeo and the Idea of Legal Literature." In *Roman Law and Latin Literature* (Bloomsbury) [Matthijs has another book chapter coming out in August, but that's for next academic year]; and **Kelly Shannon-Henderson**, "Tacitus Paradoxography." In *Tacitus' Wonders: Empire and Paradox in Ancient Rome* (Bloomsbury); **Caitlin Hines**, "Classics Beyond Whiteness: Race and Antiracism in Departmental Curriculum." In *Diversity and the Study of Antiquity in Higher Education: Perspectives from North America and Europe* (Routledge).

*Have a wonderful summer, reading these and other books (and enjoy and be kind to nature and all its creatures, too)!*

The Library



Burnet Woods, Cincy.