



The Libraries in 2008

- 20—Branch Libraries**
- 109—Libraries staff members**
- 124,907 —Items added to collection**
- 1,354,810 —Total items in collection**
- 4,929 —Serial Titles (purchases & gifts)**
- 12,801 —Gift volumes added to the collection**
- 1,229,903—Library records in SIRIS**
- 238,051—Total collection images on website**
- 3,054 —Electronic journals and databases available to users**
- 54,132 —Reference questions answered**
- 13,038—Non-Smithsonian library researchers**
- 5,621 —Interlibrary loans of books and articles**
- 6,149 —Books and articles borrowed**
- 79,105—Images added to Galaxy of Knowledge website**

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Smithsonian
 Institution
 Libraries
2008
Annual
Report

Staff on the Move

Promoted

- Lynne Altstatt, National Museum of the American Indian Library
- Elizabeth Broman, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library
- Alice Clarke, Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery Library
- Jennifer Cohlman, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library
- Phil Edwards, National Air & Space Museum Library
- Melanie Hall, Acquisitions Department
- Keri Thompson, New Media Office

Joined

- Jennifer Gray, National Museum of American History Library
- Rachelle Hardy, Development Office
- Alexia MacClain, National Museum of American History Library
- Kannan Mahadevan, stay-in-school student for Research Services
- Cassie Mancer, National Museum of American History Library

Retired

- Willard Dillard, Acquisitions Department
- Carolyn Hamilton, Cataloging

Departed

- Geoffrey Rinard, Cataloging

Image Credits

Cover

- From The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Library in New York, *Gazette du bon ton: arts, modes & frivolités, No. 6 Année 22*, July, 1922, Planche 47, De Paul Poirer, "Un manteau pour le soir."
- From the Warren M. Robbins Library, National Museum of African Art, Stanislaw Chojnacki, Detail from dust cover of Ethiopian icons: catalogue of the collection of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies Addis Ababa University, Milan: Skira, Fondazione Carlo Leone Montandon, 2000.

Inside, left panel

- Photograph by Chip Clark.

Inside, center panel

- Guests enjoy the Libraries' 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala at the Reynolds Center.

Inside, right panel

- Author David Baldacci entertains the crowd at the Ruby Gala.

Back, center panel

- "From the legendary ruby and sapphire mines at Mogok, the 196 carat Burma Hixon Ruby," from the National Museum of Natural History, Minerals Library, Fred Ward, *Rubies & Sapphires*, 1992.

Back, left panel

- From the Smithsonian American Art Museum / National Portrait Gallery Library, Howard Pyle, *The Ruby of Kishmoor*, 1908.

Designer:
Elizabeth Periale

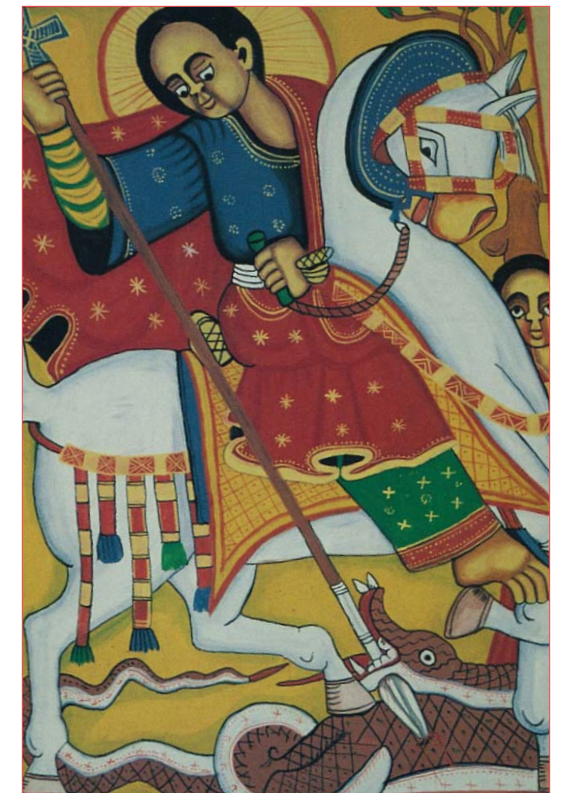


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From the Director

It's great pleasure to introduce the annual report for FY 2008, because that year was our Ruby Anniversary, the 40th year since the Libraries was created by Secretary S. Dillon Ripley. When he came to the Institution, he discovered library chaos—over 80 different libraries with little central coordination, little idea of what the Institution held, and duplication of services and effort. In 1968 he created our centralized system with a single director, and the rest, as they say, is history. Our 20 libraries share an online catalog and centralized services and support the whole Institution. We celebrated all year, and the list below shows just some of the highlights. Ruby Red was our color and our gala theme was "Painting the Town REaD!" Since this report covers fiscal 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008) and the gala took place a month later, it is out of the scope, but too close not to mention as the capstone of our celebratory year.—**Nancy E. Gwinn**

October 2007—The Libraries' Book Conservation Laboratory, Digital Imaging Center, and overflow collections move to a new, environmentally controlled facility located at 3400 Pennsy Drive, Landover, Md.

November—Furniture manufacturer Bernhardt features products based on images from Libraries collections. A representative says "the graphic designer for the company was so inspired by the look and feel of the old trade catalogs they saw. . . that he designed the price guide to echo them."

January—The Libraries kicks off a formal strategic planning effort, facilitated by consultant Lou Wetherbee and Susan Loving, and involving the entire SIL staff.

February—Library of Congress returns to SIL eight titles from the library of James Smithson. The books were probably sent to the Library by mistake in the 19th century.

March—The Libraries launches the Smithsonian Research Bibliography, a web site to capture the research output of Smithsonian scientists, curators, and other researchers. Assouline Publishing publishes Botanicals, a 300-page volume featuring more than two centuries of natural-history illustrations from Libraries collections.

March-May—The Libraries partners with the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center's Kindergarten Program to introduce young students to artifacts and rare books in the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History.

April—Over 200 Smithsonian guests enjoy ice cream and cake in the "Castle" Commons to celebrate SIL's 40th anniversary. Saying that everyone knows "how indispensable the 20 libraries are to our age-old mission, the increase and diffusion of knowledge," Acting Secretary Cristián Samper announces a gift of \$40,000 for collection acquisition, "a dollar for every year."

June—The Libraries hosts the Washington premier of the film *The Curious Mr. Catesby* and a symposium, "Mark Catesby in America," featuring the life and influence of the famous naturalist. SIL contributes 144 portraits of scientists and inventors to the first Smithsonian flickr site for public viewing and use.

July—The Libraries sends the first shipments of books to the FedScan Center at the Library of Congress to be digitized for the Biodiversity Heritage Library project. Photographer Jonathan Singer and botanists John Kress and Marc Hachadorian present the Libraries with a unique double-elephant folio addition of *Botanica Magnifica*. 250 large-scale photographs of plants.

August—The Libraries completes the digitization of the Smithsonian Contribution series, 1,072 volumes (107,000+ pages) of Smithsonian research.

September—The Libraries' Galaxy of Knowledge website opens with new design. The Libraries contributes catalog records for James Smithson's personal library and Bern Dibner's *Heralds of Science* to LibraryThing.com.

October 2008—The Libraries hosts "Paint the Town REaD!," the 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala, in the Kogod Courtyard of the Smithsonian's Donald W. Reynolds Center.

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The Board is composed of members from across the United States appointed by the Smithsonian's Board of Regents. The mission of the board is to help the Libraries provide information in all forms to scientists, curators, scholars, students and the public at large.

The staff of the Libraries thanks the Board for their gifts of time and resources!

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