# Annual Report for the 2023 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

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A NEW VISION AND MISSION FOR THE BEINECKE LIBRARY
Yale Library’s vast and diverse special collections are among Yale’s most distinctive assets. Access to these rare books, manuscripts, archives, maps, photographs, ephemera, recordings, born-digital content, and more distinguish Yale’s educational programs in the humanities. Researchers at Yale and from around the world depend on the cultural heritage we preserve as the foundation for their research to discover and create new knowledge.

The Beinecke Library is the largest special collections repository at Yale, but six other special collections repositories have also collected and made accessible significant unique and rare collections. Some units—Arts, Divinity, Medical Historical, and Music—have supported specific disciplines; others—the Lewis Walpole Library, and Manuscripts and Archives—have multi-disciplinary collections with a broad range of collecting areas. The interconnectedness of these collections is a strength.

To ensure that Yale Library may continue to innovate and lead in providing access to and promoting these unique resources for the largest possible audience, the Beinecke Library reorganized effective July 1, 2022, and its role within Yale Library expanded. Beinecke Library now serves in a leadership role for all Yale Library’s special collections and provides services and coordination to support essential stewardship activities. To make this expansion possible, the Beinecke Library and the Manuscripts and Archives repository integrated its staff, services, and collections on July 1, 2022.

As part of this reorganization, Beinecke Library has also strengthened connections with several critical partners who support the work of special collections at Yale Library, notably Library IT and Preservation and Conservation Services.

The Beinecke Library is now organized into five departments: Collections, Research, and Education; Community Engagement; Digital Special Collections and Access; Public Services, Operations, and University Archives; and Special Collections Technical Services. Michelle Light, Director of the Beinecke Library and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections, together with Beinecke’s new department directors, developed a strategic plan to guide the reorganization and the path forward for the reimagined Beinecke Library. This report offers selected examples of progress in the first year toward the new organization’s goals in addition to statistics traditionally reported annually.

**Vision**
The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library will inspire users to engage with the past to transform the future.

**Mission**
We connect people with a diverse record of the past for study and inspiration. We advance teaching, research, learning, and practice through access to our collections.
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

**Goal 1. Focus on service to library users.**
The Beinecke Library will center the needs and goals of users in our services, spaces, and programs.

We strive to create an exceptional experience for our users to support them in their research needs. In the past year, the Beinecke Library led efforts to unify technology, policies, and practices across Yale Library’s seven special collections reading rooms. Achievements this year included:

- We started to unify Aeon, the system used for patron registration, requesting materials, and tracking circulation, so that all Yale Library special collections repositories will use the same instance. Once the merger is complete, patrons will be able to track all their requests for special collections materials in one place. In addition, we will be able to track and move materials across seven reading rooms to support teaching and research.
- We harmonized policies and practices across Beinecke’s two reading rooms -- in the Beinecke Library building at 121 Wall Street and in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room at 120 High Street. Now that Manuscripts and Archives is part of the Beinecke Library, we have aligned our policies and practices, cross trained staff, and hired four additional staff to improve our services for our users.
- We expanded and improved reference services and research consultations. The Beinecke Library has assisted a variety of users in their research, including undergraduates writing their first college paper, museums planning exhibitions, historians writing books and peer-reviewed articles, and much more. Manuscripts and Archives and Beinecke Library reference operations were merged into one service and we now have one point of contact for all patron inquiries. Over 6,000 questions have been answered over the past year by 45 staff members from across the Beinecke.
- We are standardizing our digitization services for patrons requesting digital copies of materials from Yale Library’s special collections. The Library receives thousands of requests every year for digital copies, and we have multiple teams of highly skilled staff across the special collections repositories who do the work to digitize materials, digitally preserve those copies, and create metadata to make them available online. This year we hired a consultant to analyze our processes with a view to creating a consistent service, so patrons have the same experience and get the same kind of service, no matter from which unit they make the request. Next year, we will work to implement the new processes.

**Goal 2. Build collections sustainably and responsibly.**
The Beinecke Library will sustain an ambitious and thoughtful collecting agenda that foregrounds the diversity of human experience, upholds the highest ethical and professional standards, and inspires new research and creativity.
The Beinecke Library is leading the development of a new collection development vision and strategy to guide acquisition decisions of all special collections materials across Yale Library. Achievements this year included:

- Curators assessed existing collecting strengths, gaps, and opportunities, and made recommendations about future collecting priorities.
- Curators and departmental managers across the Beinecke Library participated in multiple full-day conversations about sustainable and ethical collection development. These principles will be put into practice with the updated collection development guidelines in FY24.
- We successfully recruited for a new position, the Associate Director of Collections, Research, and Education, who will oversee collection development and supervise curators. In August 2023, Cheryl Beredo joined the Beinecke Library from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where she was Associate Director of Collections and Research Services.

Highlights of new acquisitions:

**Lynn Nottage Papers**

Beinecke Library acquired the papers of Lynn Nottage (born 1964), a highly decorated Black playwright and graduate of the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. Nottage is the only woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama twice, for plays that also won a spate of other awards: *Ruined* (2009), about Congolese women in their civil war, and *Sweat* (2017), an exploration of politics of race, class, unions, and addiction set in Reading, Pennsylvania. *Sweat* was the most-produced play of the year in the U.S. in 2018; many of Nottage's plays have been produced widely, including *Intimate Apparel*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, and *Fabulation or the Re-Education of Undine* (winner of the Obie Award for best play). She wrote the libretto for *MJ the Musical* (about the life of Michael Jackson) and for an adaptation of the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. Her newest play *Clyde’s* starred Uzo Aduba and just closed on Broadway after being nominated for a Tony award. Nottage was awarded a MacArthur Grant in 2007. In 2019, she was listed in *Time* magazine’s 100 Most Influential People, a rare feat for an American playwright.

Nottage’s papers cover much of her career. Of particular interest are her production binders, which include draft scripts with edits and notes, sometimes in the hands of collaborators. Nottage’s career and its documentation in these binders reflect very clearly the late 20th/early 21st century practice of playwrights exerting an *auteur*-like influence on their work in production, particularly productions in the first year of writing or especially prominent revivals. The production files also include production playbills and photographs, casting notes, correspondence, costume designs, and other production materials. Also noteworthy are the notebooks, which are very dynamic and richly detailed with notes, particularly from a visit to Rwanda that partially inspired *Ruined*. 
**Libro del Fuero, Compilation of Spanish Medieval Laws. Spain, La Rioja. 1485-1486.**

The Beinecke Library acquired this exceptional Spanish law codex signed and dated by the scribe, containing a compilation of laws for nobles, with specific laws addressed to the Jewish and Muslim populations. The codex includes early references to the Camino de Santiago, documenting the change in route that directed it through La Rioja, and the laws that regulated the arrival of foreign pilgrims and the hostels, lodging, and food available to them. It also features an original vellum portfolio binding in the original condition.

**The Holy Bible in Verse with woodcut illustrations throughout. London: Printed and sold by Ben. Harris Senior, at the upper-end of Grace-Church-Street, near Cornhill, 1698.**

We acquired this first edition of *The Holy Bible in Verse* by Benjamin Harris, whose print productions for young children shaped the history of education in America. Imprisoned in the early 1680s, Harris left London for Boston in 1686, where he soon resumed publishing. Harris returned to London in 1694 and published this small format epitome of the *Holy Bible in Verse* “for the benefit of weak memories.” This edition was previously unknown, and the Beinecke Library is now the only repository that holds this book.


*Clefs des Pavés* is one of the most inventive books of the twentieth century, a stealth masterpiece which even now retains its startling modernity. Published on the brink of war, introduced by a quatrain of Nostradamus, its haunting poetry auguries the atrocities of the coming war, the destruction of cities and the darkness to come. It is considered the first book to use this rhodoïd plastic as covers and binding material, and the original collage by Delaunay, also made of plastic shapes mounted on a plastic sheet, is a technical innovation. Fluid and geometric shapes and concentric circles combine with the colored paper, stark font, and Eiffel Tower imagery to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece of the book arts.

**Herman Melville, *The Whale*. London: Richard Bentley, 1853.**

After the poor commercial success of Melville’s first four novels, his publisher Richard Bentley declined to undertake any more. In 1853 Bentley supplied his remaining copies with cancelled title pages, had them bound in single volumes in red cloth, and closed out his stock. Making this, the remaindered *Whale*, far rarer than the three-volume first edition. The last time a copy of the remaindered *Whale* appeared in the trade was at a Sotheby’s auction in 1951, where it sold to A.S.W. Rosenbach. This copy comes from the private collection of Bill Reese (‘77).

**Archive documenting the Trinity Test in New Mexico, 1945.**

We acquired an extraordinary archive, including some 250 pages of hand-written journal entries, notes, diagrams, memos, and maps, that documents the
detonation of the world’s first nuclear weapon: the Trinity Test in New Mexico. The archive reveals the issues faced by Manhattan Project Medical Group, which oversaw the test and were responsible for upholding the strictest demands of national security while also protecting nearby populations. These documents make clear, among many things, what the U.S. government knew about the Trinity Test and its fallout, and when they knew it. Through these papers, the ethical questions raised by the atomic bomb, and the participation of doctors and scientists in its development and use, are shown in stark relief. This archive is not only a superlative artifact of the birth of the Atomic Age, but also a vital source for future research.

**Yale Student Organizations Records**

The University Archives collaborated with the Yale College Office of Student Affairs to reengage a pre-pandemic program for student organizations to invest in archiving their records. Student organization records are one of the most valuable forms of documentation of student life at Yale. University Archives staff provided instruction to group leaders on preparing their records for transfer to the archives, as well as best practices for archiving their records in-house. This program has become a part of the University Archives calendar and takes place at least once each semester. Since the program resumed, we have had twenty-two students attend four sessions resulting in the acquisition of 20.23 linear feet of new material.

**Goal 3. Invest in sustainable stewardship.**

We will responsibly expand our capacity to acquire, maintain, and care for materials in alignment with our collection priorities, staffing, expertise, systems, and resources.

The Beinecke Library is committed to making its holdings discoverable and accessible to researchers in a timely manner. So that we may continue to fulfill our important responsibilities as stewards of cultural heritage, we are hiring additional staff, measuring our work, improving our practices, developing scalable infrastructure, forging partnerships, and evaluating the operational impact of new acquisitions. Achievements this year included:

- Curators and special collections managers agreed upon a new set of principles for working together, called the sustainable stewardship framework, that recognizes the interdependence of our work to steward collections and the impact of our decisions on each other. In order to maintain sustainable programs of acquisition, description, preservation, and provision of access to rare books, manuscripts, archives and associated materials across the Yale Library’s special collections, the Beinecke Library is leading efforts next year to develop new processes for assessing, prioritizing, and committing to new acquisitions. This shared decision-making process will rely on building a holistic understanding of our collecting priorities and the operational impacts a new acquisition may have over time across our shared stewardship ecosystem in Yale Library.
• We continued our focus on eliminating our backlog of printed and archival materials, and ensuring these materials are discoverable and available for use. Elimination of the archival backlog is 90% complete. We hired six term positions for three years to catalog printed materials, and their work is about 30% complete.

• Beinecke staff, with support from Yale Library’s Reparative Archival Description Working Group, continued to remediate or contextualize potentially outdated or harmful language used in archival description and to create archival description that is accurate, inclusive, and community centered. For example, we added full name information in our finding aids for women previously identified by only their husband’s name or surname.

• We continued to support the Black Bibliography Project, a project supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to revive and transform descriptive bibliography for African American literary studies. A new cataloger, Mara Caelin, was hired to focus on inclusive and reparative description, with an emphasis on the Black Bibliography Project for the next three years.

• We helped launch LUX: Yale Collections Discovery—a new cross-collection search tool—that provides users worldwide with online access to more than 17 million items within Yale University’s museums, libraries, and archives. Several staff in the Beinecke Library were involved in the design, production, and testing, including defining use cases, mapping data, doing data clean-up, and providing input on discovery interfaces and outreach strategies.

• We created a three-year strategic plan for Digital Special Collections and Access (DSCA), a new unit that provides leadership, services, and strategic direction that facilitates access to digitized and born-digital special collections content across Yale Library. Through strong collaboration and a deep understanding of ever-changing researcher and staff needs, DSCA will connect people around the world with Yale Library’s digital special collections. Their partnerships and services will promote access, drive discovery, and support curiosity. People will easily find and use materials that will enrich their lives, further research, support teaching and learning, and spark creativity.

**Goal 4. Advance the creation of new knowledge.**

The Beinecke Library will amplify the potential of our collections to inform, inspire, and transform lives.

The Beinecke Library’s robust scholarly and public outreach programs increase engagement with our collections. With a strong fellowship program that supports in-depth research in our collections, stellar exhibitions of special collections materials, online and in person lectures and programs, and engagement in multiple social media platforms, the Beinecke Library actively promotes learning and inspiration from our collections. Achievements this year included:

• The exhibition The World in Maps, 1400-1600 was on display in the Beinecke Library July 2022-January 2023. Curated by Raymond Clemens, Curator of Early Books and Manuscripts, the exhibit focused on portolan charts - large, colorful charts that showed the shoreline of the Mediterranean and were used by sailors to navigate from port to port in the late medieval and early modern period. These maps were crucial to the expansion of European trade in the fifteenth and sixteenth century. Yale University Library has one of the most significant map collections of this period.
• The exhibition Revisiting the Past – Imagining the Future was on display in the Beinecke Library January-July 2023. It featured books, manuscripts, and visual materials from many different time periods and locations. Cases paired items that had been at Yale for decades, with others only recently added to the collections. It was coordinated by Timothy Young, Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts, and Lucy Mulroney, Director of Collections, Research, and Education, with selections made by curators from the Beinecke Library, subject specialists in the Area Studies Department of Sterling Memorial Library, and Yale undergraduates.

• We recruited for a new position, the Program Director for Exhibition and Publications, that will focus on sharing the Yale Library’s special collections through innovative and impactful publications and exhibitions in the Beinecke Library and the Hanke Gallery in Sterling Memorial Library. Rachel Herschman joined the Beinecke in August 2023 from New York University’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.

• In October, the University Archives completed an online exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of women’s varsity athletics at Yale. Additionally, an open house was held by Archives staff for visiting alumnae during the on-campus celebration weekend, featuring a virtual tour of the exhibit and a chance to meet the student curators.

• We continued to have strong engagement on social media and audience growth on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Social media and online programming (Mondays at Beinecke) highlighted exhibits at 121 Wall and 120 High and thus showcased many different aspects, collections, and people across Yale Library – both as the Beinecke Reimagining the Past exhibit featured Department of Area Studies and Humanities Research Support (DASHRS) colleagues, and the Hanke Gallery and student exhibits at Sterling Library featured many different repositories and collections. The value of Beinecke content for the library overall and the university can be seen in the fact that Beinecke content was included 69 times in Fiscal Year 2023 in the daily YaleToday email newsletter.

• Starting September 19th, the Fortunoff Archive launched the third season of its Podcast series “Those Who Were There: Voices from the Holocaust” (TWWT). TWWT is the only podcast dedicated to sharing the history of the Holocaust through the voices of first-hand testimonies of survivors and witnesses. The podcast draws on the more than 4,000 video interviews recorded by Yale University’s Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. Season Three of the series is titled Remembering Vilna: The Jerusalem of Lithuania. This season is a little different than previous seasons. Previous seasons feature one survivor’s life story per episode. This season is more like an audio-documentary featuring multiple voices in a single episode. It weaves together a story and is a joint production of the Fortunoff Video Archive and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City. The ten-part season brings to life the story of Vilna’s Jewish community—before, during, and right after World War II—through our testimonies as well as excerpts from a diary that was kept by Herman Kruk, librarian in the Vilna Ghetto. Cumulatively, the podcast has had more than 134,845 listeners who have streamed episodes more than 295,612 times on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. The producers behind the podcast have spoken about their work on the series at the National Library of Lithuania, Yivo, the Museum of Jewish Heritage in NYC, the Center for Jewish History in NYC, and are soon coming to Yale in December to present as well.
• We expanded the internationally competitive fellowship program to support innovative and original research in our collections, granting 54 short-term and graduate fellowships for the June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024, cycle. See the list of awarded fellowships. We also hosted two curatorial fellowships with Ph.D. students Kassidi Jones and Sandra Sanchez that were designed to introduce them to alternative career possibilities as curators.

Goal 5. Catalyze student success.
As a partner in education, the Beinecke Library will expand opportunities for students to engage with Yale Library’s special collections and with our expert staff.

The Beinecke Library offers Yale faculty and students extraordinary opportunities to examine rare books, historical manuscripts, archives, maps, photographs and more as part of instruction. Curricular engagement with historical sources builds students’ understanding of history and culture and develops their analytical and research skills. In support of Yale’s teaching mission, we aspire to connect every Yale student with the cultural heritage materials we steward.

Achievements this year included:

• Fiscal Year 2023 was a busy and successful year for the Beinecke Education Program, which supported 401 Yale course-integrated class sessions with 5,187 students attending. When non-course-integrated Yale and non-Yale program instruction engagements are included, those numbers rise to 491 sessions with 6,414 attendees.

• We focused on outreach and support for new faculty members to plan course visits that give students hands-on experience using course-relevant special collections materials. For example, Professor Hi’ilei Hobart, a new faculty member in the Ethnicity, Race, and Migration program, designed her Parks and Recreation course (ER&M 374) around visits to the Yale University Art Gallery (YUAG) and the Beinecke Library, encouraging her students to put visual and textual documentation from Yale’s collections in conversation with one another to explore the cultural, social, and political production of American park spaces over three centuries. Alison Coleman, a new lecturer in the English Department, worked closely with Education Program staff to plan special collection visits for her two writing seminars (ENGL 114), one on the topic of Awe and the other on (Re)Defining Family. The former class used artists’ books from the Beinecke and Arts libraries as a prompt for a creative writing assignment, while students in the latter class explored familial relationships of 19th and early 20th century Yale College students by transcribing handwritten letters to their parents and siblings.

• We worked extensively with returning faculty to incorporate active-learning engagements into their class visits to special collections. In one example, we collaborated with faculty in the Directed Studies program, which brings over 100 students to the Beinecke Library several times each term, to develop a set of questions designed to help students engage with their peers in thinking critically about the intentions of the creators of and historical contexts for the collection materials they explored during their class visits. In another example, Education Program staff helped Haruko Nakamura, librarian for Japanese Studies, and Professors Daniel Botsman and Hannah Shepherd create new exercises for the Yale and Japan seminar (HIST 326J) designed to enhance students’ facility with using primary sources.
• To enhance the educational experience of students and the possibilities for faculty instruction, the Beinecke Library staff collaborated with librarians in Area Studies and Humanities Research Support, the Medical Historical Library, the Haas Arts Library Special Collections, the Divinity Library Special Collections, the Music Library Special Collections, and the Lewis Walpole Library.

• We prioritized teaching practical humanities skills to Yale graduate students, and completed the first academic year co-leading the new graduate certificate in Material Histories of the Human Record. The graduate certificate was conceptualized by a group of librarians and faculty in response to Yale’s *Report of the Humanities Doctoral Education Advisory Group*, which described the increasing interest among graduate students at Yale to become curators, conservators, museum educators, archivists, and librarians.

**Goal 6. Enrich our community.**

We will contribute to New Haven’s thriving cultural landscape in partnership with New Haven area schools, libraries, civic and neighborhood groups, and cultural organizations.

The Beinecke Library continues to play a major role in Yale’s partnerships and programs to enhance the quality of life for New Haven residents and contribute to the region’s vitality. Achievements this year included:

• We grew our network of New Haven, regional, and statewide partners for local history and significantly increased virtual and onsite programming. Collaborators included the New Haven Museum, Dixwell Avenue Congregational church, New Haven Ethnic Heritage Center and its five constituent organizations, the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven Free Public Library, ConnCORP and ConnCAT, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Museum, Dixwell Q House and its history committee, Grove Street Cemetery, and New Haven Public Schools, among others.

• We promoted New Haven, Yale, and Connecticut history in online and in-person programs. We hosted seven online talks with a combined audience of 2,020 viewers live or later on YouTube. More than 1,000 New Haven neighbors, Yale community members, and alumni participated in on-site programs featuring selections of historical materials. We partnered with groups such as the Yale Alumni Association and the Greater New Haven African American Historical Society for these pop-up events.

• We continued to play a lead role in the *Yale and Slavery Research Project*. University Archivist, Michael Lotstein, Director of Community Engagement, Michael Morand, and Research Coordinator for Yale and New Haven History, Hope McGrath, are key contributors of the Yale and Slavery Working Group. Morand wrote a chapter in the book forthcoming from Yale University Press in February 2024, and Lotstein is building out digital access to research materials not used in the book.

• We developed a new program supporting community archives. Led by Community Engagement Archivist Jennifer Coggins, this education and support program features online resources, workshops, a consultation service, and access to archival supplies and equipment for members of the New Haven community interested in preserving their
personal, family, or organizational histories.

Goal 7. Invest in organizational culture.
The Beinecke Library will sustain a superb work culture and environment. We will promote a culture committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. We will foster mutual respect, professional growth, collaboration, innovation, and a shared sense of purpose.

The Beinecke Library and Manuscripts and Archives integrated staff and operations on July 1, 2022. Fifty-eight people changed supervisors, and fifty-six people changed work locations. Change of this magnitude is disruptive and challenging, but our incredibly resilient and dedicated staff maintained their commitment to service and productivity while building new ways of working together. Achievements this year included:

- We established the Organizational Development Committee (ODC), initially chaired by Associate Director for Archival Description Mary Caldera, to lead efforts in supporting our new community and improving our organizational culture. ODC organized several staff events and programs designed to increase camaraderie, build community, and promote belonging.
- We hired over 30 staff into vacant and new positions. Michael Rush, Operations Strategist, spearheaded a new on-boarding program to orient and welcome new staff to the Library.
- We launched a pilot program to support training opportunities in special collections for clerical and technical staff.
- We focused on integrating operations, policies, and practices between the Beinecke Library and Manuscripts and Archives. A key emphasis is on clarifying roles and responsibilities, including in decision-making.
- We invested in new communications infrastructure, including new email lists, collaboration sites and tools, documentation platforms, and a monthly newsletter.
- All managers invested significant time in training and professional growth to improve their skills in managing performance, promoting an inclusive work environment, building trust, setting goals, making decisions, resolving conflict, and communicating effectively.

Goal 8. Ensure sustainable infrastructure.
Our spaces, systems, and technologies will support staff productivity, transparency, operational excellence, and accomplishment of our goals.

Achievements this year included:

- The Digital Special Collections and Access Department added three new positions that support the sustainable creation, stewardship, and delivery of digital collections across the Yale Library.
- Beinecke Library established new governance structures for managing enterprise special collections technologies. Dedicated staff now serve as product owners responsible for ensuring the systems we use to manage digital collections, archival collections, reader
registration, and circulation of materials will evolve to meet user needs and the programmatic priorities of all Yale special collections repositories.

- In collaboration with stakeholders from across the Yale Library, Beinecke staff are leading six newly formed committees focused on unifying and improving Yale Library special collections’ approaches to acquisitions, events, digital collections, public services, archival management, and born digital archives.
- We are building resilience to the effects of climate change in New Haven. As the intensity of storms has increased over the past decade, significant storms have overwhelmed New Haven’s stormwater infrastructure. Along with several sites across campus, our basements have experienced water intrusions. To protect collections, we transferred 40,000 volumes from basement stacks to the Library Shelving Facility (LSF) in Hamden, and we are continuing to build customized boxes for items remaining onsite.

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Reading Room**

- 11,326 reading room visits
- 3,328 Unique visitors
  - 1794 were Yale Affiliates
  - 1534 were not affiliated with Yale
- 20,325 items paged for the reading rooms
- 2270 new reader registrations
  - 1064 were Yale Affiliates
  - 1206 were not affiliated with Yale
- Ten most frequently used collections in the reading rooms:
  - Langston Hughes papers
  - Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas papers
  - Carl Van Vechten papers
  - Richard Wright papers
  - H. D. papers
  - Spinelli Archive
  - Dorothy Porter Wesley papers
  - Judy Blume papers
  - James Weldon Johnson and Grace Nail Johnson papers
  - Henri Chopin papers

**Instruction**

- 401 Yale course-integrated class sessions with 5,187 students attending
- 90 additional sessions (non-course-integrated Yale and non-Yale program instruction engagements) with 1,227 attendees
- Ten most frequently used items in the classrooms:
  - Hartford Seminary Arabic MSS 1262, al-Qur’ān
  - Arabic MSS suppl. 583, Selections from the Qur’ān
- Arabic MSS suppl. 616, Dalā’il al-khayrāt wa-shawārīq al-anwār fī al-ṣalāḥ ‘alā al-Nabī al-mukhtar
- JWJ MSS 54, Randolph Linsly Simpson African-American collection
- Salisbury MSS 33, Qur’ān
- Salisbury MSS 48, Sharḥ al-Mu’allaqāt
- Mellon MS 41, Emblematic alchemy, with the Visio mystica of Arnold of Villanova
- JWJ MSS 1050, Carl Van Vechten Papers Relating to African American Arts and Letters
- Ethiopic MSS 14, [Computus of Demetrius of Alexandria]
- Arabic MSS 317, Dalā’il al-khayrāt wa-shawārīq al-anwār fī dhikr al-ṣalāḥ ‘alā al-Nabī al-mukhtar

**Fellowships**
- 26 Short-Term Fellows
- 29 Graduate Fellows
  - 10 were Yale affiliates
  - 19 were not affiliated with Yale

**Short-Term Fellows:**
- Katie Anania, *Devour Everything: Art and Hunger in the Age of Commodity Agriculture, 1965-1990*
- Nicholas Boggs, Walter O. Evans Fellow, *Baldwin in Love*
- Kristin Brenneman Eno and Cozbi Cabrerra, *Lost Memory Project: Reimagining Archival Voices*
- Paolo Celi, *The Vasari Papers*
- Joseph Cermatori, *Thornton Wilder’s Collected Nonfiction: an extensive archival review*
- Melanie Chambliss, *Saving the Race: Black Archives, Black Liberation, and the Remaking of Modernity*
- Benjamin Fagan, *The World of Frederick Douglass’s Newspapers*
- Lachlan Fleetwood, *Imperial Science and the Habitability of Central Asia and Mesopotamia, 1815-1914*
- Barbara Gentili, *The Singing and Acting New Woman in the Early 20th Century*
- Bill Goldstein, *Biography of Larry Kramer*
- Che Gossett, *Barbara Hammer*
- Pedro Guibovich, *Authors, Censors, and Books in the Viceroyalty of Peru*
- Joyce Karine de Sá Souza, *CAPTIVE ARCHIVES? A research proposal on Mustapha Khayati at Beinecke Library*
- Arlene Keizer, *The Preludes, or Prolegomena to a Feminist Afrofuturism*
- Patricia Loughlin, *Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant’s Modern American West*
- Nancy Mattina, *The Individualist: Adee Dodge, Diné Artist and Intellectual*
- Nuno Neves, *The Letters of Sound Poetry: Production, Circulation and Reception Networks*
• Victoria Papa, *Aesthetics of Survival: Modernist Literature and Minoritarian Wordmaking*
• Wendy Roberts, *Phillis Wheatly Peters's Poetic Worlds*
• Stephen Spinelli, *The Life and Legacy of Margaret Bonds*
• Alice Staskova, *Reception and Impact of Hans Vaihinger’s fictionalism (the Philosophy of "As if") in Literature, as well as Literary, Art and Cultural Theory (Hermann Broch and Ernst Cassirer)*
• Francesca Wade, *Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife*
• Vivien Whelpton, *The life, achievements and influence of Bryher (Winifred Ellerman) (1894-1983)*
• Molly Yarn, *Women Printers and the English Book Trade, 1640-1665*

**Graduate Fellows:**
• Marguerite Daisy Atterbury, The Graduate Center, CUNY, *Writing in the Nuclear Context: Space, Eros and Colonial Entanglements in Poetry Post-1945*
• Rebecca Bradburn, University of Oxford, *'Disc-tortions': the Stereophonic Preoccupations of Langston Hughes*
• Alexander David Clayton, University of Michigan, *The Living Animal: Biopower and Empire in the Atlantic Menagerie, 1760-1890*
• Virginia Dellenbaugh, Yale University, *Music Notation Patents of the USPTO: 1780-2022*
• Nathaniel Donahue, Yale University, *'A peculiar species of taxation': Conscription, Governance, and State Formation in Early American Law*
• Brunno Douat, Yale School of Architecture, *Counterwitnessing Piegan’s dwellings and spatial practices at Beinecke’s Walter McClintock Collection*
• Giulio Genovese, University of Pennsylvania, *A militant Dante: sociopolitical uses of the sommo poeta in post 1968 Italy*
• Carolin Gluchowski, University of Oxford, *Reformatrices behind Convent Walls. The Medingen Psalter Fragment MS 1194 in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library*
• Rina Goldfield, Yale School of Art, *The Snowman in the Manuscript*
• Sara Green, Princeton University, *Lettrism's 'aesthetic element'*
• Ian Halter, University of Oregon, *Worlds for Sale, Peoples for Purchase: Living Alaska's Cession, 1862-1896*
• Naama Hochstein, Tel Aviv University, *The Making of a Female Psychoanalyst: A Historical Study of Margaret Mahler's Early Life and Work 1897-1950*
• David Kerry, Yale University, *Indigenous Globalism: A Long History of Global Native Activism in the Twentieth Century*
• Caroline Kraft, University of Texas at Austin, *Constructing Place in Search of Self: The Dispossessed Female Writer*
• Kim Lifton, Yale University, *The Commercial Manuscript Market in Medieval France: An Analysis of the Clumber Park Chartier and the Beinecke MS 776’s L’Abuzé en court*
• Kelly McCay, Harvard University, *‘New’, ‘True’, and ‘Secrete’: The Re-Invention of Writing in Early Modern England*
• Kathleen Naughton, SUNY, University at Buffalo, *Transparency and Opacity in Mei-mei Berssenbrugge's Collage Research Poetics*
• Ahmed Nur, Yale University, *Parallel Investigations: Pursuit of True Knowledge in Post-Classical Islam*
• Alec Pollak, Cornell University, *The Right to Repair: Literary Estates, Copyright Law, and Authorial Afterlives*
• Brigid Prial, University of Pennsylvania, ‘Servants of Science:’ *The Work of Making Chimpanzees Lab Animals for 20th Century U.S. Psychology*
• T. Ashton Reynolds, Southern Methodist University, *A Movement in Four Parts: Mormonism in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*
• Henriëtte Rietveld, Yale School of Drama, *Moving Parts: Transferring Manifestations and Representations of Mercantile Imperialism Through Performance in the Early Modern Dutch Republic and Beyond*
• Andrew Schlager, Princeton University, ‘Space-Dark Air(s): Jean Toomer, Black Politics, and the Social Space of Theater*
• Jeannette Schollaert, University of Maryland, College Park, *From Censors to Shouts: Ecologies of Abortion in American Fiction*
• Ann Marguerite Tartsinis, Stanford University, *Modernism in Pieces: Transatlantic Visual Culture Between the Wars*
• Ciru Wainaina, Yale University, *Patwa Poetics: Tracing the Aesthetic Possibilities of Black Vernaculars*
• Morton Wan, Cornell University, *Sounding the Bubble: Music and the Rise of Finance in the Age of Handel*
• Cat Wentworth, Yale School of Art, *Visible Bodies*
• Brian Wright, Princeton University, *Building a Canon: The Rise of Western Americana*

**Outreach**

**Exhibitions at Beinecke:**

• *The World in Maps, 1400-1600*
  July 22, 2022 to January 8, 2023

• *Revisiting the Past—Imagining the Future*
  January 27 to July 9, 2023

**Exhibitions at the Hanke Gallery** featuring items from Beinecke and other repositories:

• *Subjects and Objects, Slavic Collections at Yale, 1896–2022*
  August 22, 2022 - February 5, 2023

• *Empire and Resistance: Transisthmian Views of Central America*
  February 13 - August 13, 2023

**Events:**

• 28 Mondays at Beinecke online gallery talks with 3,825 total viewers live
• 3 art and protest online talks
• 100 regular public tours on Saturdays, as well as dozens of tours for community and school groups
• 26 Windham-Campbell Festival events
• 2 exhibition opening receptions, 4 concerts, and 6 public readings on the mezzanine
• 6 public open house events with materials in the reading room

**Total visitors to the Beinecke:**

• 138,435 people came through our doors

**Collection Stewardship**

**Accessions:**

• Verified and created accession records for 175 acquisitions totaling:
  - 406.47 linear feet archival and manuscript collections
  - 1110 manuscript items
• Collaborated to arrange for the packing and delivery of over 20 collections/acquisitions
• Accessioned 2,286 print titles comprising 2,898 pieces

**Cataloging (bibliographic description) completed:**

• 15,539 titles comprising 20,944 pieces (Beinecke staff)
• 2,587 titles comprising 2,627 pieces (Backstage Library Works-Backlog Project)
• 60 manuscript accessions cataloged (Beinecke staff)
• 1,538 bibliographic records created for manuscript material (Winthrop Group-Backlog Project)

**Processing (archival description) completed:**

• 118 new collections and additions comprising 1498.5 linear feet processed, including 424.55 linear feet from the backlog; 412.5 processed by the Accessioning Team (Beinecke staff)
• 23 archival collections comprising 798 linear feet (Winthrop Group-Backlog Project)

**Collection management:**

• 43,457 items newly shelved at the Library Shelving Facility (LSF)
  - 39,825 bound volumes; 3,632 boxes and oversized folios
• 21,557 Beinecke transactions for transit to and from 344
• 1,740 items housed in custom boxes
• Over 13,408 items prepared for shelving
Preservation:
- 96 pieces of computer media submitted to the Digital Accessioning Support Service (DASS)
- 325 pieces of computer media digitally accessioned by the DASS
- 1,285 pieces of magnetic media from the magnetic media backlog project sent to for reformatting

Digital Imaging:
214,813 new high-quality images were created by Beinecke’s Digital Special Collections and Access (DSCA) and Conservation and Exhibition Service’s Digital Reformatting and Microfilming Services (DRMS). An additional 24,500 images were created by a vendor.

DSCA:
- 66,903 new high-quality images created in DSCA Digital Studio of Beinecke objects

DRMS:
- 1234 patron requests for BRBL or BRBL(MSSA)
- Total Number Requests Fulfilled: 1234
  - Yale Affiliated Patrons: 231
  - Non-Yale Patrons: 967
  - Classroom/Teaching: 20
  - Project: 16
- Total Images Captured, QCd and Delivered: 149,587
  - Images Captured for Yale Affiliates: 27,115
  - Images Captured for Patron, Non-Yale: 120,596
  - Images Captured for Projects: 1,815

OUTSOURCED:
- Total Images: 24,500
  - Yale Daily News Project: 24,500 images

Audiovisual Reformatting:
1209 items completed by DRMS.

Patron driven: 55 requests/272 items completed
- Beinecke: 45 requests comprising 236 analog items
- Beinecke (MSSA): 4 requests comprising 24 analog items
- Beinecke (Fortunoff): 1 request comprising 1 analog item
- Beinecke (University Archives): 5 requests comprising 11 analog items

Project-based: 937 items completed
Outsourced:
- Beinecke magnetic media backlog project: 867 items
- Beinecke Breuer collection: 55 items
- Beinecke (MSSA) Mahler collection: [40 items prepped/inspected]
In-House:
• AV Priority 1 project (Fortunoff): 15 items
• AV Priority 1 project (MSSA) [303 boxes inventoried]

Digital Access:
• 5,463 new parent objects added to Digital Collections
• 252,308 image files uploaded (up 320% from FY22, largely due to large scale migrations from legacy storage and systems)
• 2,326 new complete digital objects made available in Digital Collections (up 172% from FY22)
• 417,096 unique visitors to Digital Collections, with visitors from more than 200 countries
• 3,250 unique visitors to Aviary, with visitors from 43 countries

Online and in the Media
• 381,842 Beinecke website users in FY23, up 8% from FY21, with visitors from more than 200 countries
• 875,571 total pageviews of Beinecke website in FY23, up 9% from FY22
• 25,170 followers on Facebook, 30,194 on Instagram, 57,843 on Twitter
• Total of 87,070 BRBL YouTube channel views in FY23

Loans
The Beinecke loaned a total of 19 items to 4 exhibits this year:

• Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures—Past, Present, and Beyond, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution
  o Samuel R. Delany papers (JWJ MSS 184), The Jewels of Aptor, pages of draft
• Crafting Worldviews: Art and Science in Europe, 1500-1800, Yale University Art Gallery
  14 items, including:
  o Merian, Maria Sibylla. Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium [...]. Amsterdam, 1705. (St3 705M)
  o Tuttell, Thomas. Mathematical cards. London, 1710. (PLAYING CARDS GEN 74)
  o Robert Durand, Journal de bord d'un négrier. (GEN MSS VOL 7)
• Native American Cultural Center 10-year anniversary, Yale University President’s House
  o Commuck, Thomas. Indian melodies. By Thomas Commuck, a Narragansett Indian. Harmonized by Thomas Hastings, esq. New York: Published by G. Lane & C. B. Tippett, for the Methodist Episcopal Church, James Collord, printer, 1845. (1976 +82)
• Thinking Small: Dutch Art to Scale, Yale University Art Gallery
- Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer, Descriptio Orae Maritimae Frisiae. (Beinecke MS 564)
- Blau, Willem Janzoon. Het licht der zee-vaert [...]. Amsterdam, 1608. (1991 Folio 9)

WINDHAM-CAMPBELL PRIZE
2023 recipients:
- In fiction, Percival Everett (United States) and Ling Ma (United States)
- In non-fiction, Darran Anderson (Ireland/United Kingdom) and Susan Williams (United Kingdom)
- In drama, Dominique Morrisseau (United States) and Jasmine Lee-Jones (United Kingdom)
- In poetry, Alexis Pauline Gumbs (United States) and dg nanouk okpik (Iñupiaq/Inuit)

NEW SCHOLARSHIP, BRIEFLY NOTED
The following is a representative, not exhaustive, list of books published in 2022-2023 that draw, in some part, from research using library collections.


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**BEINECKE IN THE NEWS**

Yale Library: “Remembering Judy Schiff: Library colleagues share memories”; Deborah Cannarella; July 13, 2022.


YaleNews: “Digital project supports ‘bibliographic turn’ in Black literary studies”; Allison Bensinger; August 11, 2022.

New Haven Register: “Dixwell church records to be showcased Saturday at Yale’s Beinecke Library, part of Bicentennial Plus 2 celebration”; Mark Zaretsky; September 13, 2022.

YaleNews: “Windham-Campbell Literary Festival returns with in-person events”; Mike Cummings; September 13, 2022.


TravelMag: “Discover 5 Fascinating Yale University Museums and Galleries”; Paul Stafford; December 19, 2022.

YaleNews: “Campus events honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.”; Susan Gonzalez; January 10, 2023.

TulsaPeople: “Shooting the Sex Pistols at Cain’s: Q&A with photographer Roberta Bayley on that snowy night in Tulsa and more”; Tim Landes; January 11, 2023.


Yale Library News: “Yale Library restructuring will unify special collections, increase access for researchers and visitors”; Patricia M. Carey; February 3, 2023.


Fox 61: “Yale documentary explains how New Haven had a chance to become home to the first HBCU”; Leah Myers; February 8, 2023.


Hartford Courant: “A CT city could have had the first Black college in America. But the opposition was too strong, as ‘knowledge is power.’”; Ed Stannard; February 22, 2023.


Yale News: “Howard R. Lamar, eminent historian and former Yale president”; Andrea Thompson Reed; February 24, 2023.

The Atlantic: “We Still Need Judy Blume”; Amy Weiss-Meyer; February 27, 2023.


The Hoboken Girl: “Suffragist, Activist, Journalist: The Incredible Life of Jersey City’s Own Ella Barksdale Brown”; Sarah Griesbach; February 27, 2023.


Yale Daily News: “Beinecke displays 1300-year-old Japanese scroll, one of world’s oldest printed objects”; Andrik Garcia Higareda; March 5, 2023.


Yale News: “Archive illuminates New Haven’s Bias Stanley, a 19th-century civil rights advocate”; Mike Cummings; April 18, 2023.


Yale News: “Yale Camerata to celebrate African American history and culture”; Mike Cummings; April 27, 2023.

Yale Alumni Magazine: “Twice as old as the Gutenberg Bible”; Jacob Romm; May 2023.


Yale Library News: “Students win prizes for essays on American and Western American history and culture”; Deborah Cannarella; May 26, 2023.


Yale News: “Project makes Ottoman-Turkish manuscripts accessible to scholars”; Mike Cummings, June 26, 2023.


STAFF
The Beinecke Library gratefully acknowledges all its staff members in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

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Kevin Repp, Curator of Modern European Books and Manuscripts
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