

# Library Society

Professor Robert Kendrick (left) discusses music from the Old and New Worlds with students and Music Bibliographer Scott Landvatter.



PHOTO BY LLOYD DEGRANE

## Library Society opens a New World

In 2007, the Library Society funded the purchase of a microfilmed copy of *Music Manuscripts from the Catedral de Puebla, Mexico: 16th–19th Centuries*—one of the largest and most important primary source collections of cathedral music manuscripts from Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico. By studying these manuscripts, scholars can see how sacred music in colonial New Spain (present-day Mexico) combined local cultural traditions with music composed in Baroque Europe. Since its purchase, Professor Robert Kendrick has been using the collection to train graduate students to work with primary sources, taking many of them into unfamiliar territory.

“These manuscripts give students a better sense of how European music lives everywhere, not just in Europe,” explained Kendrick. “Even if students don’t do a dissertation based on this collection, it broadens their perspective in ways that wouldn’t necessarily be possible otherwise.” Encountering these resources from New Spain in classes gives them an opportunity to “confront musical materials in a totally different context,” Kendrick said. “After all, they will be pushed outside of their comfort

zone in their future careers as scholars and teachers, and it’s better to do that in a situation where they’re trained under the supervision of the faculty.”

One of Kendrick’s students, Andrew Cashner, a PhD candidate writing his dissertation on theological understandings of 17th-century Hispanic sacred music, has taken his work on these manuscripts beyond the classroom. In the first microfilm roll from the Puebla collection, Cashner found a choral piece performed at Puebla Cathedral in 1628 that represents Christ as a gambling card player. In an article accepted for publication in the *Journal of Early Modern History*, Cashner uses this piece to explore distinctions between sacred and secular, and high and low culture in colonial Mexico. This project, Cashner explained, would not have been possible without local access to this collection and to the Library’s continually expanding resources for Hispanic music, including archive catalogs, monographs, and music scores.

For Kendrick, Cashner, and others, the Library Society’s gift opens the New World.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Library**

# Introducing Yasmin Omer

**P**lease join us in welcoming Yasmin Omer, who joined the University of Chicago Library on April 15 as the new director of development.

Yasmin most recently served as the director of major gifts, individual giving at The Jewish Museum in New York. Previously, she held development positions at New York University School of Law, the New York Public Library, and WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston.

Throughout her career, she has demonstrated success in all areas of raising major support from individual, high-level donors and foundations.

Yasmin will lead the Library's development team and collaborate closely with colleagues in the Library and across campus to create a successful development program that builds upon the Library's strengths and cultivates exciting, new opportunities.



PHOTO BY BARBARA PALMER-BOSTICK

Yasmin Omer

Look for Yasmin at upcoming Library Society events and take a moment to introduce yourself and to welcome her to the Library.

# Why the Library?

*By Stephen Stigler, Library Society Chairman and Ernest DeWitt Burton Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Statistics and the College, and Member, Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science*

**W**e keep hearing that this is the information age. The Internet, we are led to believe, opens the gates to Jorge Luis Borges's famous Library of Babel, the library holding not only every book ever published, but every possible book. But there are gaps in the Internet that cannot be filled except by visiting a real library, such as the University of Chicago Library. I offer a case in point.

In the 1930s, Chicago was home to many insurance companies, including the American Conservation Company. They were located at 307 North Michigan Avenue, and they published, at least for 1931–37, a monthly magazine called the *American Conservationist*. To judge by WorldCat, no electronic version is available and only five libraries in the world hold this periodical; one of these is ours.

The reason few survive is obvious—this was an attempt at an early newsletter, presenting (for example) the pictures of the month's top salesmen. Who would save that, unless it was their own picture on display? But almost immediately it was captured by a few company officers with an abiding interest in the history of life insurance. Nearly every issue was packed with arcane information (much of it true), salutes to insurance heroes of a much earlier age, and a wealth of pictures that would be the envy of any editor, even today.

My interest was due to their publishing in 1933 the only picture ever found that claims to be a portrait of the Reverend Thomas Bayes (died 1761), for whom modern probabilistic induction has been named. That periodical is in the compact shelves in the furthest reaches of B Level in Regenstein, should you be interested, although I currently have two volumes checked out, while I try to figure out where on earth they found that picture. Surely some Chicago library holds the answer: Regenstein Special Collections? Newberry? Crerar? Time will tell!

# Desiderata

Thanks to members' support this year, more than \$37,000 was spent to acquire essential titles for the Library. We are seeking additional funding to support the following titles:

**Panamá, 1:50 000. 107 Maps.**

Instituto Geográfico Nacional, "Tommy Guardia," 1964–2001—\$535. Topographic maps such as these are accurate—and accurately dated—government maps that show buildings, settlements, infrastructure, hydrography, vegetation, and relief. They are far more precise about everything but street names than Google Maps/Earth.

**Conference Proceedings: Études mycéniennes (Paris, September 20–23, 2010).**

Edited by Pierre Carlier. Rome: Fabrizio Serra editore, 2012.—\$375. These proceedings are crucial to the study of Aegean texts; many of the texts are published here for the first time.

**Igor Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring. Centenary Edition in Three Volumes.**

Edited by Ulrich Mosch, et al. London: Paul Sacher Foundation, 2013—\$390. This work celebrates the 100th year anniversary of the first performance in Paris. It includes a full-color facsimile of the composer's full autograph score, a facsimile of the composer's reduction for piano four-hands, and the essay "Avatar of Modernity: The Rite of Spring Reconsidered," edited by Hermann Danuser and Heidi Zimmermann.

You may also want to choose among additional titles online at [lib.uchicago.edu/e/alumnifriends/libsoc/Desiderata.html](http://lib.uchicago.edu/e/alumnifriends/libsoc/Desiderata.html).

To support the purchase of one of these titles, please send a check for the full cost, with the title in the comment field, to The Library Society, 1100 East 57th Street, Room 180, Chicago, IL 60637.

You may also call Barbara Palmer-Bostick at 773-702-7695. Thank you for your generosity.