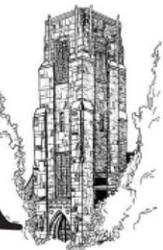


GENEVA COLLEGE'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM MCCARTNEY LIBRARY

BELL TOWER



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, SPRING 2009

Why Read?

By Dr. Jack Delivuk, Systems Librarian

Why is reading important? Why did God give us a written revelation? What does this mean for the way we live? The answer is that reading is the best way to know God, and God made reading good for our minds and health.

As we develop friendships and marriages, we learn that the person's looks are not very important. It is by their actions and their words that we really get inside them and get to know who they are. Men look on the outside appearance but God looks on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

How then can we get to know someone's heart? One answer we immediately think of is through their actions. But a major problem with interpreting actions alone is that people superimpose their worldview. When Paul and Barnabas healed a cripple at Lystra, the people believed they were the gods Mercury and Jupiter. These people interpreted the apostles' actions in terms of their own knowledge and background, or worldview (Acts 15:8-18). We cannot know or understand God only by His actions. We need the proper interpretation of his actions. This interpretation can only come by true words (the Bible), and only preserved by writing and reading those words.

How do words affect us differently than pictures? The answer is that words can tell the truth, while pictures can only show reality. Here's an example: during the Cold War a picture was published in the British paper *Manchester Guardian*, and the Russian paper *Pravda*. It showed two Australian policemen taking a Russian woman off a Russian plane in Australia. The *Manchester Guardian* interpreted it that the Russian woman wanted to defect, and the Russians had kidnapped her and were taking her back to Russia. *Pravda* saw it that the Australian police were kidnapping a Russian woman off a Russian airplane. The picture showed an event, but did not tell the truth: it could be interpreted different ways. Only words can tell the truth.

The search for truth is hard work. Sometimes we must spend hours reading arguments over and over until we understand them perfectly. We must take notes on our reading, we must walk around and think about what a person is writing, we must study, study, study to show ourselves workmen approved by God (2 Tim. 2:15). Reading is at the heart of what it means to be learned and a scholar, and to know God.

God also gave us reading because it is mentally and physically good for us. Scientists have discovered that the media we use have a deep effect, not only from the

messages of the media but from the medium itself. For example, Dr. Aric Sigman, in a study of 35 research reports, identified 15 negative effects that television can have on youngsters, ranging from near-sightedness to diabetes to autism.¹

In contrast, the British National Health Service lists some benefits of reading, including coping with stress by providing a form of relaxation, developing the brain, helping people to expand important life skills of education, self improvement, positive life choices and well-being. It helps language, vocabulary, and comprehension. Spelling and writing improve. Reading is more interactive than watching television. While reading, we are "involved" in a book, imagining the characters and scenes, and painting images with our minds. This deeper involvement builds creativity and problem solving skills.²

Start with novels or other light fiction if you want to become a reader. Ask a librarian to help you select a subject that you are interested in. For example, a football fan might begin with a biography of Beaver Falls native Joe Namath. Want to learn about stellar singularities? Try *A Brief History of Time*, by Stephen Hawking. Take 30 minutes a day and read. You will discover great benefits.

References:

1. Laura Clark, "The 15 Ways in which Too Much TV Wrecks Your Child's Health." *Daily Mail*, February 19, 2007, www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-436941/The-15-ways-TV-wrecks-childs-health.html.
2. *What Are the Health Benefits of Reading?* www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2343.aspx?CategoryID=62&SubCategoryID=63.



(From the Macartney Room)

Did you know . . .

...that McCartney's Library's stained glass windows were created in 1930 by the world-famous glass artist, **Henry Lee Willet**? The Willett Studio created other iconic stained glass windows, including works at The Cadet's Chapel at the United States Military Academy, West Point, The National Cathedral, Washington DC, and The United Nations Church Center, NY. Willett is the correct answer to the previous *Bell Tower's* Research Sleuth question, which no one answered correctly.

Children's Literature Collection

Seth Lerer notes that "The history of children's literature is a history of image as well as word. It is a history, too, of artifacts: of books as valued things, crafted and held, lived with and loved."¹

And in the words of Dr. Seuss:

"It's a pretty good zoo,"
Said young Gerald McGrew,
"And the fellow who runs it
Seems proud of it, too."

"But if I ran the zoo,"
Said young Gerald McGrew,
"I'd make a few changes.
That's just what I'd do..."²

In keeping with both Lerer and Dr. Seuss, we've made a few changes to reflect the significance of our Children's Literature Collection.

The Children's Literature Collection is no longer shelved in the cramped main stack area. Instead, these books are now available for browsing and reading in the West Reading Room. We've also eliminated the "reference" restrictions that limited some children's books to in-library use only, so now all children's books circulate.

To search the library catalog for children's books, go to **MacCAT** and click the Select Limits button in the lower right. From the location options, click Juvenile and click Set Search Limits. Enter keywords for your topic and select Keyword Ranked Search, click search, and you will see what children's books we have about that topic.

When you search in MacCAT remember to check the location as well as the call number. If it says: Juvenile, that means the book is located in the Children's Literature Collection in the West Reading Room.

1. Seth Lerer, *Children's Literature: A Reader's History from Aesop to Harry Potter*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), 322. |
PN 1009 .A1 L474 2008

2. Dr. Seuss, "If I Ran the Zoo," in *Your Favorite Seuss: 13 Stories with 13 Introductory Essays*, comp. by Janet Schulman and Cathy Goldsmith. (New York: Random House, 2004) 58-59.
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The Library's Best Stuff: *Magnum Magnum*

Pictures show reality: some reveal man's darkness; others show forth the image of God in man; pictures hold despots accountable, and point the finger to heroes.

No photographic agency has revealed despots and heroes more deeply than Magnum Photos. Founded and run by photojournalists, this sixty-year-old agency has provided a witness since that time for nearly every important episode in history.

Magnum's latest retrospective entitled, *Magnum Magnum (TR 642 .M33 2007)*, records with haunting detail every type of human event, from wars to carnivals, from births to deaths.

Compare Einstein's eyes (page 243) with the eyes of a girl fighter in the ethnic Albania National Liberation Army (page 136). Contrast Daytona Beach in 1997 (pages 344-5) to the beach of Grand Riviere, Martinique in 1979 (pages 192-3). What's different about streets in Berlin, Shanghai, Moscow, Johannesburg and Buenos Aires (pages 130-5)?

In *Magnum Magnum*, the richness of beauty and the repulsion of ugliness are painted side-by-side in black and white on the canvas of life.

To read more about Magnum Photos, check out *Magnum: Fifty Years at the Front Line of History*, Russell Miller, Grove Press (TR 690 .M55 1997).

Complementary Coffee and Tea

For the past several years the McCartney Library has provided a warm cup of coffee and tea for Library visitors.

Eat 'n Park has stood with the Library in this project from the beginning. On behalf of the College and the Library, we'd like to acknowledge and thank the Eat 'n Park family of restaurants for providing regular and decaffeinated coffee and coffee cups!

A thought to ponder with your tea: to minimize waste and contribute to Geneva's **Recyclemania** competition, consider bringing your own reusable mug to enjoy the Library's free coffee and tea!



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Pro Christo et Patria