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More information about the bookbinding workshop and mounting conference will be mailed to Friends early in the new year.

Friends’ Notes
In January 2002, after twenty-nine months as Act-
ing Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections, Ben Primer was appointed by University Librarian Karen Turner to lead the depart-
ment. In the long interim period, Ben worked closely with the Friends to increase membership and integrate new programs. His commitment to public ser-
vice to the university community is reflected in the more than 100 percent increase in the number of classes held within the department during the last academic year. Don Mose, former curator of special collections, still follows the exhibition opening and reception in the Main Gallery.

Friends of the Princeton University Library
NEWSLETTER
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Beaumont of Straight Line Designs Inc. in Vancouver, British Columbia. A team of twelve skilled craftsmen spent five months designing, refining, and fabricating the enchanted gallery, and then sent the carefully crated and numbered parts on a six-day journey via 18-wheeler. Excitement in Firestone—not to mention curiosity—picked up daily as assembly began in early September. For several days, six topiary figures stood in a casual group outside the Cotsen doors, each sporting its own sign, such as “Those Cotsen people have all the fun.”

Fun is not the sole object of the new Cotsen gallery, however. As much as it aims to delight the inner child, the design also supports the library’s outreach mission. In addition to the enlarged area for programs, Immel and Bernstein view the quiet, comfortable nooks as ideal for the one-on-one mentoring of community children offered by campus service organizations. When the Cotsen Library returns to normal operations in January, it will again offer “Saturday Workshops for Teachers” in cooperation with the university’s Teacher Preparation Program. Other plans include a special event for Friends and their children and grandchildren, more performances by the undergraduate Cotsen Players, and a workshop in conjunction with the Art Museum and Historical Society to introduce children to the care of cultural materials and how and why they are preserved. In the immediate future is a presentation by Caldecott Medal winner Allen Say (Grandfather’s Journey, 1994), to which the Princeton community is invited (see the Friends Calendar).

One of the few features of the Cotsen gallery that has not changed is the three-story, glass-fronted Wall of Books, housing a portion of the 50,000 manuscripts, books, drawings, and educational toys donated by Lloyd E. Cotsen ’50. From a carefully placed window in the new living room space, young readers can glimpse some of the collection’s most beautiful examples.

After a year of imagining, planning, deconstructing, and reconstructing, the staff of the Cotsen Library might find themselves especially fond of the final words of Stuart Little: “But the sky was bright, and he somehow felt he was headed in the right direction.”

During October, the cases in the lobby of Firestone Library will highlight two recent outstanding gifts. William J. Trezise has donated a collection of Arabic calligraphy, including 132 Qur’anic and other leaves dating from the tenth to the twentieth century. These will join the more than 11,000 Islamic manuscripts that make Princeton’s collection the largest in the Western Hemisphere.

From his collection of commemorative medals, Cornelius C. Vermeule III has presented the Numismatics Collection with 300 items in honor of Emily Townsend Vermeule (Princeton LHD 1989). These medals, dating from Renaissance Italy to twentieth-century America, reflect the collector’s interest in the influence of classical coin design on medallic art. The exhibitions, “Qur’anic Leaves from the William J. Trezise Collection of Arabic Calligraphy” and “A Collector’s Choices: The Vermeule Gift of Medals,” are on display through October 31.

Edward Wenzel and Roger Taylor sign copies of Lewis Carroll, Photographer, at the publication party in the Main Gallery. Friends can still order copies of the book at the special price of $35 until December 31. Call 609-258-3155 for details.

Friends’ Annual Winter Dinner, February 2002, Rockefeller College