

MU Libraries Library Connections

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Leading authority on books to speak at Library Society dinner



Photo provided by Nicholas Basbanes

Author Nicholas Basbanes will speak at the Library Society dinner April 13, 2012. He is the author of several books including *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes and the Eternal Passion for Books*, and *About the Author: Inside the Creative Process*. In addition to his books, Basbanes has written for numerous newspapers, magazines and journals. With his wife, Constance, he writes a monthly review of children's books for Literary Features Syndicate, which they established in 1993 and which appears in several newspapers. They are the parents of two daughters and live in North Grafton, Mass.

David McCullough has called you “the leading authority of books about books.” What led you to this career?

I have been writing professionally pretty much my entire adult life, having worked for two newspapers before I had graduated from college in

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Nicholas Basbanes is the author of eight books about books and those who collect them, write them, sell them and care for them. He will speak at the Library Society dinner April 13.

Celebrated pianist to perform at Friends of the Libraries luncheon

Gary Ellison, a ragtime piano player, will give a musical and historical presentation at the Friends of the Libraries Luncheon at noon April 14 in the Grand Reading Room of Ellis Library. As a performer, Ellison was named Missouri's Official Ragtime Piano Player by the State

Senate in 1973. The Gary Ellison USO Show toured South Vietnam in 1967 and Korea in 1968. He has played Missouri music in concerts all over the United States including at Disneyland in California and Lincoln Center in New York City. In 2007, he was presented the Ozzie Award from the Springfield (Mo.) Area Arts Council in recognition of his work in promotion, personification and support of artistic achievement in the Springfield area.

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MU Libraries are integral to the undergraduate experience

As the vice provost for undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri, I serve as an advocate for all undergraduate education programs across the campus regardless of college, major or department. My role is to promote both success and excellence in those programs by working with administrators, faculty and students. I want our undergrads to take full advantage of the unique opportunities available to them at MU.

MU students have access to extensive resources. These include state-of-the-art computing resources, excellent instructional facilities and modern athletic, recreational and fitness facilities. But one of the most important resources available to our students is the MU Libraries. I encourage everyone to stop by Ellis Library on their next campus visit. The

Information Commons is almost always filled with students, whether at computers, in small discussion groups or working on projects. On the upper levels of the library, especially in the Grand Reading Room, you will see still more students engaged in quiet reading and contemplation.

In Ellis Library — and at the several smaller branch libraries — you will see what the undergraduate experience here is all about. The library represents the academic heart of MU. It is an evolving learning environment incorporating state-of-the-art information technologies. It includes flexible spaces for individual or group study as well as traditional reading rooms that inspire scholarship. The library is an important part of the undergraduate experience because it enhances the academic experience and fosters MU's unique sense of community.



Private support is critical to the success of the undergraduates who attend MU. Thank you sincerely for your continued support of the MU Libraries and the university.

— Jim Spain, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies
University of Missouri

Nicholas Basbanes *(continued from Page 1)*

1965. I earned a master's degree in journalism from Pennsylvania State University, did a tour as a Navy public affairs officer during Vietnam and went to work as a full-time reporter in 1971 when I got out of the service. So, I've been writing for newspapers forever, it seems. In 1978, I was appointed literary editor of the *Worcester Telegram & Evening Gazette* in Worcester, Mass., and I immediately began to write a weekly literary feature in addition to my editing work, which brought me in contact with a remarkable variety of authors. I did about a thousand of these pieces over a 22-year period, having syndicated the column when I left the newspaper business in 1991

to work on writing my own books. So, it's really been a progression of things. I have always loved books, and I have always wanted to be a writer. One thing leads to another. My first book, *A Gentle Madness*, which was about bibliomania — the madness for books — did very well (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, *New York Times* notable book), and I continued writing books about books. The book I have just now completed for Alfred A. Knopf, *Common Bond: Stories of a World Awash in Paper*, should be published in 2012. I don't have a publication schedule yet, but it does depart somewhat from my earlier books.

Which book was your favorite to write?

That's easy, they're all my favorites. I feel if you can't enjoy the book you're working on right now, then you shouldn't be doing it. The compensation, if you break it down by an hourly wage, is absurd, because you're going to make a living wage out of writing books, so you might as well, at the very least, enjoy what you're doing. Having said that, there is a special place in my heart for my first book, *A Gentle Madness*, since that's the one where you actually prove to yourself that you can do something decent at book length, that you can get it

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Meet the librarian: June DeWeese, head of Access Services

Can you tell us a little about your background and what led you to MU Libraries?

Back in the early 1970s, the job search process was a little different than it is today. I was called by the associate director for Public Services and told that he was creating two new positions: one would be mine if I was interested in it and the other would be offered to someone nationally. We would work together as information librarians to provide card catalog assistance and basic reference and referral to other librarians. In less than a year, I was approached by him again to go to the Geology Library to determine if a librarian was needed for that position or if we could provide the needed services with support staff, so I went there. I was happily working there when my student assistant found me in the department chair's office in the early summer of 1975 and told me that an "important-looking man" was in the library asking for me. The director of the libraries was there and informed me that Alma Bennett would be retiring in August and asked if I would be prepared to offer a recommendation on staffing for the Geology Library soon. And, would I want to come back to the main library to become one of the Social Science librarians? And, so began my fifteen years as a reference librarian. I came to Access Services after a national search in 1990. I have had the opportunity to do many exciting things during the time I have been here. I spent a few weeks one summer in Liberia helping set up a library on a

research farm there. I was the project director for two editions of the Best of Missouri Farms Catalog working with the College of Agriculture while also working here. I also had the privilege of serving as head of technical services for one year and eleven months.

What are some of the unique aspects of your job?

There is a lot of variety and a lot of interaction with patrons. I think the most unique part, and a special highlight of what I do, is that I have been responsible for a high density, Harvard-style remote storage facility for the four campuses of the UM System for the past several years. I watched it be built originally. Then, around a year later, I watched it be rebuilt after a tornado. Then, more recently, I have gotten to participate in planning for and supervising a second underground storage facility in the north part of Columbia. Not many people around the nation were in the remote storage field when I started, and I was privileged to be among the first group to write a book that has been used as a handbook for others who follow. Even today, the world of remote storage is not well understood but it is one of the most fascinating things I have ever done.



June DeWeese is head of Access Services at Ellis Library. She also serves as an adjunct professor of women's and gender studies.

What is the role of the Access Services Department within the MU Libraries?

We are a very busy public service area. We help thousands of people every year. Our role is to provide access to resources that our patrons need from our collections and literally from all over the world. And, we provide access to our collections for scholars and researchers all over the United States and the world. We 'come through' for those in need every day with little fanfare and little expectation of appreciation. But, the depth of appreciation comes in unexpected ways and we know that what we do is very important. I don't think people think of Access Services and aspire to careers as Access Services Librarians upon graduating with a diploma in hand. But, if only

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UNDER FIRE

Ellis Library, Sept. 10, 2011

EARLY MORNING

At 3:30 a.m., the Columbia Fire Department was alerted to a fire at Ellis Library. Crews found 10 separate fires on the first floor that were being kept under control by sprinklers. Firefighters used fire extinguishers to put them out completely. Moderate smoke had spread to the first and second floors.

The library was closed to the public indefinitely.

Workers drilled holes in the baseboards, so they could remove water from the walls.



NOON

A Columbia man turned himself in to MU Police in connection with the fire.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

MONDAY, SEPT. 12

TUESDAY, SEPT. 13

The library remained closed due to smoke and water damage.

Staff members and a contracted fire and water restoration crew worked to salvage books, furniture and structural elements.

Cleanup crews used fans to speed up the drying process.

Ellis Library remained closed to the public, but library staff continued to report to work.

The circulation/reserve and inter-library loan offices were moved to the west reading room on the first floor corner until the damaged offices are repaired and renovated.

Reference services were provided to users online through email or chat and by phone.



Dividers were erected around the circulation, reserve and interlibrary loan offices, which is where the fires were set.



Library materials had to air out after being soaked by sprinklers.

AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Ceiling tiles, carpet and baseboards were removed in damaged areas of the basement and first floor of the library to speed up the drying process. Smoke and water damage were the greatest on the bottom two levels, where crews worked to dry the library and scrub surfaces free of smoke damage and smell.

Carpet had to be pulled up near the circulation desk and in the access services office, a nearby computer lab and the copy services center.

Library workers came in over the weekend to move files and help clean up.



Industrial fans were set up throughout the northeast quadrant of Ellis Library's main floor.

Ellis Library reopened, although the northeast quadrant of the first floor remained closed to the public. This included the circulation/reserve/interlibrary loan offices, the first floor men's restroom, the government documents collection and staff offices, the print reference collection, the Cisco TelePresence room and a student computer lab.

SAVING THE COLLECTION: DISASTER RECOVERY AFTER THE FIRE

As soon as MU Libraries staff members were able to enter Ellis Library on Sept. 10, they went to work recovering documents and materials that had been damaged by fire and water.

Around 100 books, some course packs (a collection of photocopied journal articles or textbook chapters for use in a course) and many vital invoices and paperwork needed to be salvaged. The first step was to put many of the books in a freezer on the fourth floor of Ellis Library. This kept the books from developing mold and allowed staff to thaw out books at a rate that might allow for recovery.

For damp books, a process called interweaving was used. Blotter paper was placed next to the front and back covers of each book. This helped soak up the majority of the water, which is absorbed by the cover of the books. Newsprint then was placed between all of the pages of the book. Once the paper and newsprint was wet, it was taken out and replaced by dry paper. For most of the materials, this process had to be repeated four times. Michaëlle Dorsey, a library information specialist in the acquisitions department who oversaw the materials recovery effort, said, "We were very lucky to be able to purchase two Aqua Boys. These special machines are used to measure the humidity of the materials. Even when the materials feel dry to the human hand, they can have high levels of humidity that will cause future damage." Once the proper level of humidity was achieved (this level varies

depending on the type of paper), the materials were deemed ready to be put back in the collection. About 35 books were salvaged through this process.

Unfortunately, about 50 books were damaged beyond repair. All but a few of those have already been replaced. Thanks to the quick effort of knowledgeable staff, books from the collection and other important documents and papers were saved.

MAINTAINING ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION DURING A CRISIS

The government documents area also was greatly affected by water. About 7,200 square feet of flooring was so extensively damaged that tile had to be removed. Ultimately, all government documents shelving will need to be dismantled so that remaining tile can be taken up. This will cause a displacement of more than a half-million government documents.

There were several days where humidity and the danger of mold formation were alarmingly high. Thanks to library staff who rushed in to remove books from bottom shelves, the collection was saved. This included a pristine copy of an 1867 report titled "Condition of the Indian Tribes," original congressional hearings from the 1910s debating whether women should have the right to vote, a 30-volume set of eye-witness accounts of the attack on Pearl Harbor, books containing verbatim testimony from the House Committee on Un-American Activities (McCarthy hearings) and many more treasures from American history. Without the work of hundreds of people over

the first crucial week, the entire collection could have been lost to mold damage.

About 1,000 shelves of congressional material have been moved to a safe, secure underground storage facility. However, access will continue uninterrupted. Documents may be requested with the simple click of a button in our MERLIN catalog, or they can be accessed electronically through a full-text database purchased by MU Libraries last year. Marie Concannon, the government documents coordinator for the MU Libraries, said, "We are committed to making sure that everyone in Missouri has uninterrupted access to government information. While the government documents stack area is currently closed to the public for restoration, we will pull documents for our users as they are needed."

Concannon also said that the arson captured the attention of high-ranking officials in the federal government. MU Libraries joined the Federal Depository Program in 1862, only one year after the Government Printing Office was founded. Cognizant of the value of the MU Libraries' federal collection, United States Superintendent of Documents Mary Alice Baish fast-tracked a legal question from the MU Police Department to see if the case could be prosecuted as a federal crime. Government documents are technically federal property, held in trust by depository libraries which commit to making the information available to the public. It has been decided that the case will not be pursued as a federal crime.

To view video of the damage in government documents, visit www.youtube.com/user/MUGovDocs.



Workers clean the ceiling in the circulation area. Photo by Nicholas Benner.

THE DAMAGE

The fires caused damage to the copy services office and the circulation/reserve/interlibrary loan offices on the first floor. The rest of the damage was primarily the result of water from the sprinklers that leaked into other areas of the first floor and to the ground level.

None of the books in the general stacks, offices or carrels were harmed. A small number of books in the circulation/reserve/interlibrary loan offices were damaged.

The State Historical Society of Missouri, which is located in Ellis Library, had no damage to its art collection, but about \$10,000 worth of replaceable microfilm reels were damaged.

THE SUSPECT

On Sept. 10, 2011, Christopher Curtis Kelley, 25, turned himself into authorities and was arrested on suspicion of second-degree arson, second-degree

burglary, two counts of second-degree tampering and seven counts of second-degree property damage.

On Sept. 30, Kelley was charged with second-degree burglary and second-degree arson.

Video surveillance showed a man matching Kelley's description in the library. It is believed that he entered the library from a window in the copy services center. He told investigators he left a nearby party and, instead of going home, ended up walking on campus. He has admitted that he was in the library, but stated that he did not set the fires.

At the time of his arrest, Kelley was employed with the MU Police Department as a part-time events assistant. There is no apparent connection suggested in the probable cause statement between the crimes he is accused of committing and his employment.

Kelley waived his formal arraignment and pleaded not guilty, according to court records. At press time, his first court appearance had not been scheduled.

Nicholas Basbanes (continued from Page 2)

published, and that it will be received favorably. The problem with writing a book over so many years — and that one took me about seven years from start to finish — is that you never know whether or not you have succeeded until you put it out there. There are no vital signs to help you out along the way. It can be a very lonely, scary experience, especially when you have invested so much of your life into something, and you have no clue whether or not it will have been worth it. But what has kept me going through nine books is that I became absorbed in all of them, and totally enjoyed what I was doing. I can't think of any other reason to do it.

Please describe your latest book.

The latest book, *Common Bond*, is what I am loosely describing as a cultural history of paper and papermaking. It is a story that covers two thousand years but, consistent with the way I do things, is pretty much an exercise in storytelling. I go where the good stories are. In this case, I traveled to China and spent three weeks along the Burma Road in Yunnan Province, because that's where papermaking started. I went to Japan, because that's the only place I could meet with a Living National Treasure papermaker. I went to the National Security Agency, a supersecret facility in Landover, Md., because that's the only place I could see millions of high security documents pulped. That book took me six years to research and write. And like the earlier ones, I enjoyed it enormously.

In the age of electronic books, what is the future of the print book?

There is no easy answer to that one, and I don't make predictions. Because this is a "paper issue," per se, I do deal with the question in my new book. I think there is a place for both. I believe there are things that electronic

books don't do as well — fiction, for instance, or poetry, in my view, work better between hard covers. There's no question that the electronic book is here to stay, but in my lifetime it's not going to be the only game in town. Harvard University still adds something on the order of 350,000 new volumes a year to its library collections. They now have 17 million books in their 73 libraries. I don't see Harvard, or Yale, or the University of Missouri, for that matter, closing down their libraries any time soon.

The St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series in October and the University of Missouri will join the Southeastern Conference next summer, so sports are on the mind of a lot of our alumni. Can you recommend any sports-related books?

As a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan (I went to my first game in Fenway Park in 1953), I have seen my share of St. Louis Cardinals teams take home the world championship, going back to 1967, when our "Cardiac Kids" gave us a terrific run, then came up one game short in the World Series. It was the Cardinals that beat Ted Williams and company in 1946, too — I don't remember that one, but it figures in the lore. We were thrilled, of course, to take the 2004 championship, and to do it against the Cardinals. I really enjoyed the Cardinals' run this year. I have to say I was pulling for the Rangers, because I am a lifelong American League fan, but when they had two chances to win in the sixth game when they were up by two runs and were within one strike, they had to close the deal. When they didn't do that, I knew they had no chance in the seventh game.

That was the case with the 1986 Red Sox, of course. We were one strike away — I don't know how many times, maybe even six or seven times, one strike, and they would

June DeWeese

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they knew what a wonderful career it can be, there would be long lines of librarians wanting to join our ranks.

Last spring, you were honored at the Tribute to MU Women because of your work to help create an environment of equity, fairness and justice for women on the MU campus. Can you describe your role in promoting the advancement of women?

I was thrilled and humbled and very surprised to have been chosen for this award this past year. I don't think that I can think of anything specific that I have done, but I was told that it was awarded based upon a lifetime of work. And, as I reflect upon that statement, I sincerely hope that I have in some way made a positive impact on the lives of women at MU.

I love being involved in a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) as a co-facilitator. My FIG is "Women in Leadership" and our students are all freshmen women in Johnston Hall in the EVA Success Learning Community. This class is the ninth one that I have had the privilege to participate in.

have got it — and they didn't, and we all know what happened next. So to answer your question, I would recommend Dan Shaughnessy's book, *One Strike Away*, which covers that story pretty nicely.

It's Your Fault: A conference commemorating and exploring Missouri's New Madrid seismic zone

On Feb. 18, MU Libraries will host a conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of the New Madrid earthquakes. From December 1811 to February 1812, a series of earthquakes, estimated to be between 7.0 and 8.0 in magnitude, rocked southeastern Missouri and reshaped the landscape. Subsequent earthquakes have occurred in the region, with the largest being a 6.6 magnitude quake around Charleston, Mo. in 1896. Conference speakers will explore what Missouri was like in 1811, what occurred during the earthquakes, various theories about whether earthquakes of that magnitude will happen again, and, if they do, whether Missouri is ready.

- **Walter Schroeder**, MU associate professor emeritus of geography and author of *Opening the Ozarks: A historical geography of Missouri's Ste. Genevieve District, 1760–1830*, will describe what Missouri was like before and immediately after the earthquakes.
- **Eric Sandvol**, MU assistant professor of geology who has worked in earthquake seismology for the past 10 years and conducted field research in many parts of Asia, will explain what happened geologically during the New Madrid earthquakes and why they are unique.
- **Mian Liu**, MU professor of geology, has published at least seven papers on the patterns and possible causes of intraplate earthquakes, such as the ones

at New Madrid, and will offer his ideas about whether more earthquakes will occur in this area.

- **Phillip Gould**, senior professor of mechanical engineering and materials science at Washington University, and chair of the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission, will answer the question of whether Missouri is prepared should it happen again.

The conference is sponsored in part by a grant from the MU Arts and Humanities small grants program.

More information regarding the conference will be available soon at mulibraries.missouri.edu. For further information, contact Christine Montgomery at montgomeryc@missouri.edu or by calling 573-814-9134.

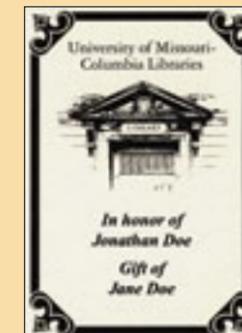


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HONOR with BOOKS

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- Favorite professor
- Memorial tributes
- Graduations
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Retirements

Help strengthen the collections of the MU Libraries. Make a gift to the *Honor with Books* program.

For more information, call Sheila Voss at 573-882-9168, email vosss@missouri.edu or write to:

Honor with Books
104 Ellis Library
Columbia, MO 65201-5149

mulibraries.missouri.edu/about/honorbooks

Calendar of events

FEBRUARY 18, 2012

It's Your Fault: Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the New Madrid Earthquakes

1–4 p.m.
Chambers Auditorium,
MU Student Union

APRIL 13, 2012

Library Society dinner

Keynote speaker Nicholas
Basbanes
6–9:30 p.m.
Ellis Library Grand Reading Room

APRIL 14, 2012

Friends of the Libraries annual meeting

8:30–10:30 a.m.
Reynolds Alumni Center

MU Libraries donor appreciation ceremony

10:30 a.m.–noon
Ellis Library Colonnade

Friends of the Libraries annual luncheon

Keynote presenter Gary Ellison
Noon–2:30 p.m.
Ellis Library Grand Reading Room

Library supporters recognized for their contributions to Mizzou

Each year the Mizzou Alumni Association presents the Faculty-Alumni Awards to individuals who make significant contributions to the university's missions of teaching, research, service and economic development. Several of this year's winners are strong supporters of the MU Libraries.

Distinguished Faculty Award

- **Betty Houchin Winfield**, curators' professor of journalism, was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award. She has taught mass media history to more than 8,000 students and has received numerous prestigious awards. She has published numerous articles, four books and has two more in progress. Winfield recently donated her collection of political communication and mass media history to the Journalism Library.

Honored for Contributions to MU

- **Thomas H. Lafferre**, BS ME '56, is retired vice president of operations for Monsanto Chemical Co. As an active member of the MU College of Engineering Dean's Engineering Advisory Committee, Lafferre is a leader in developing strategies for the college. He was the first major donor to the college's

\$68 million capital campaign, and Engineering Building East was named the Thomas and Nell Lafferre Hall in December 2004. Lafferre and his wife, Nell, are long-time members of the Friends of the Libraries and the Library Society.

- **Ron Powers**, BJ '63, is writer in residence at Castleton (Vt.) College. An award-winning, best-selling author of 14 books, Powers is considered a leading American nonfiction writer. His biography, *Mark Twain: A Life*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2005. Powers is a member of the Library Development Advisory Board.

- **James N. Spain** is vice provost of undergraduate studies, associate professor of dairy nutrition and interim vice provost of e-learning. Spain is the only person at MU to be named as the university's top teacher and top adviser and to be recognized for his contributions to extension programming. He worked with student leaders to develop Mizzou 101, a course that teaches the traditions of Mizzou to new students. He is a strong advocate for the MU Libraries and the author of the welcome letter on Page 2.

IN MEMORIAM

William "Mac" Jones, 83, and **Ruth Ann Jones**, 82, of Columbia, Mo., died Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011. They were married almost 60 years. The Joneses were found in their home where high levels of carbon monoxide were detected. Mr. Jones was an English professor at MU until he retired in 1989. Mrs. Jones received her bachelor's degree and master's degree from Northwestern University and her doctoral degree in history from MU. She was an adjunct professor at Columbia College and also at Westminster College. She taught piano in her home and played the cello in several Columbia orchestras for many years. The Joneses were Friends of the MU Libraries. They are survived by three daughters and five grandchildren.

An eventful fall at MU Libraries



Left: Director Jim Cogswell presents Betty Winfield with a certificate of appreciation Nov. 10, 2011, at the dedication of the Betty Houchin Winfield, PhD, Political Communication and Mass Media History Collection. Winfield donated this collection to the Journalism Library. Photo by Aida Amer.

Below: From left, Hannah Reeves, Michael Cook, Anne Deaton, Juanamaria Cordones-Cook and Alexander Cook attended the Friends of the Libraries "Spirits and Specters" fundraiser at the Chancellor's Residence Sept. 30, 2011. Photo by Wally Pfeffer.



Above: Emerson Chaloux smiles for the camera while making a black and gold bracelet during the Ellis Library Homecoming Open House, Oct. 15, 2011. A record number of attendees enjoyed refreshments, family activities and library tours during this year's annual event. Photo by Shannon Cary.



Right: Dr. Donald Lindberg, director of the National Library of Medicine, and his wife, Mary, stand in front of the certificate of appreciation that was presented to Dr. Lindberg Sept. 28, 2011 at the Health Sciences library anniversary symposium. Photo by Gene W. Royer.

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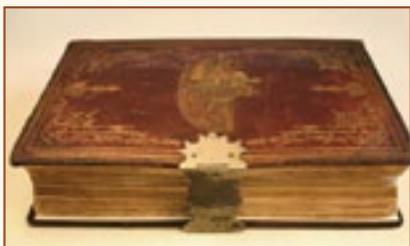


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Adopt-a-Book



Before



After

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