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Shawn Miller

Betsy Haude of the Conservation Division displays a character from the toy theater production "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea."

Conservators Bring Tiny Paper Theaters Back to Life

Toy theaters served as home entertainment in the 19th century.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Dashing heroes, evil bandits, high drama and adventure. Toy theaters, beloved playthings of the 19th century, offered all these. Charles Dickens staged productions with them in his living room. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote an ode to them. And, a 14-year-old Winston Churchill was said to vault over the counter of a local stationer's to grab the latest title.

Long before Netflix or video games, these tiny paper theaters served as home entertainment, outlets for imagination crafted for young people

but popular with adults, too.

The Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division (RBSCD) has dozens of the miniature theaters, many housed in colorful boxes containing magical characters and intricate scenes from the past. Over the past few years, Library paper conservators have been painstakingly mending damage caused by historical use, making sure researchers can draw insights from the theaters for years to come.

For "a penny plain and twopence coloured" – the title of Stevenson's tribute – the stationer in

TOY THEATERS, CONTINUED ON 6

NOTICES

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at amcallister@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown

OPEN HOUSE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

June 16, 1 p.m.

Curious to learn about why libraries, archives and museums are investigating machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence? The LC Labs team is hosting a virtual open house for Library staff members to share the team's research into user-centered and ethical AI. All staff, including those with no experience in AI or machine learning, are encouraged to participate and ask questions.

Read reports and research about these technologies on the [LC Labs website](#).

[Join the open house on Zoom](#).

Questions? Contact Eileen Jakeway Manchester at ejakeway@loc.gov.

VISIT THE LIBRARY'S ALA EXHIBIT

June 25-27

Walter E. Washington Convention Center

The American Library Association (ALA) is hosting its annual conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., in June. The Library is an exhibitor at the conference, and staff and interns are invited to register for exhibit-only passes to the conference.

A pass will allow its holder to visit with exhibitors in person on June 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The pass is limited to the exhibit area; it is not a conference registration. Those who already have a one-day or full-conference registration are ineligible for the exhibit pass.

To register for a pass, Library staff members must use their Library email addresses and [complete this form](#).

The deadline to register is June 15. The ALA will confirm registrations by email.

Questions? Send an email to signatureprograms@loc.gov.

OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form [here](#) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the June 24 Gazette is Wednesday, June 15.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

Judith Cannan to Receive Double Honors from Peers

The American Library Association is conferring two prestigious awards on the cataloging pioneer.

BY SUSAN MORRIS

Judith Cannan, chief of the Policy, Training and Cooperative Programs Division (PTCP), will receive two of the American Library Association's (ALA) highest honors this summer: the ALA Medal of Excellence and the ALA Core Margaret Mann Citation.

She will accept the ALA Medal of Excellence on June 26 at the Awards and President's Program of the ALA annual conference in Washington, D.C. The award, sponsored by OCLC, recognizes creative leadership of high order, particularly in the fields of library management, library training, cataloging and classification and the tools and techniques of librarianship.

The Margaret Mann Citation is sponsored by OCLC and ALA Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures. It is awarded for outstanding professional achievement in cataloging or classification for notable publications and for outstanding contributions to professional cataloging associations and to the technical improvement and teaching of cataloging and classification.

The citation comes with a \$2,000 scholarship to be donated in the recipient's honor by OCLC to the library school of the winner's choice. Cannan has chosen the Department of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America.

The citation selection committee considered an accomplished pool of nominees and unanimously chose Cannan based on numerous letters of support that mentioned her impact at both the national and international levels and her efforts to garner feedback from



Georgina Cannan

Judith Cannan

cataloging communities beyond the Library when developing policy.

Committee members noted Cannan's ongoing leadership in the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC), her early recognition of the potential of linked data techniques to enhance user interaction with library resources and her leadership in making cataloging training materials produced by the Library and the PCC openly available on the Library's website. This decision allowed all catalogers to receive training at their local institutions at their own pace, reducing costs to institutions worldwide.

Cannan has also been instrumental in implementing career and leadership development programs at the Library and has often served as a mentor to colleagues.

She was born in London and grew up in New Zealand, where she earned a bachelor's degree from Victoria University of Wellington and a diploma in library science from the National Library School. Her first library position in the U.S. was as a serials cataloger at Cornell University. She joined

the Library in 1976 and from 1977 to 1985 was head of the English Language Serials Cataloging Section. Then, she became the first chief of the Technical Processing and Automation Instruction Office, the forerunner of PTCP, which is part of the Library's Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA).

Cannan oversaw staff training for the Library's first integrated library system in 1999; for the new cataloging instructions "RDA: Resource Description & Access" in 2013; and, most recently, for the linked open data initiative BIBFRAME. When ABA's training operation merged with the former Policy and Standards Division to form PTCP in 2019, she became chief of the new division.

As PTCP chief, she manages the Library Collections and Services Group's professional training programs and the secretariat for the PCC, which has 700 member institutions.

Winston Tabb, chair of the Medal of Excellence jury, said members were delighted to honor Cannan "for her many accomplishments during a long, varied and distinguished career as a pioneer in cataloging and the training of catalogers at the national and international levels."

Said Beacher Wiggins, ABA's director: "Judith has been indispensable as the library community implemented the new cataloging instructions 'RDA: Resource Description & Access' and now is expanding BIBFRAME as a metadata framework. She is also an exceptionally far-sighted and caring manager." ■

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/

Required Training in Emergency Preparedness

The Library has released a revised version of its online training in emergency preparedness. The course prepares staff to respond quickly and appropriately to threats, incidents and emergencies that occur unexpectedly in the workplace. All Library staff, volunteers and interns must complete the course by Nov. 18. It is strongly recommended that contractors do so as well.

The Library's Emergency Preparedness Program is managed by the Security and Emergency Preparedness Directorate (SEPD), which seeks to enhance the educational awareness and readiness posture of Library staff through effective training opportunities.

The program addresses contingency planning, continuity of operations, staff training, emergency communications and coordination with first responders to threats and emergencies. SEPD coordinates with the U.S. Capitol Police on all of these elements and relies on everyone at the Library to stay informed and follow instructions to stay secure and safe.

The emergency preparedness course teaches the essentials of what all staff members need to know to respond properly to an emergency situation that might occur at the Library. In addition, the course educates staff on how to prepare their households for the impact of emergencies that may happen while they are at work.

[The course is available through LOC Learn.](#) Note: Use the browsers Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge to access the course. Do not use Mozilla Firefox.

Closed captioning is provided, and an accessible version is available for those who use a screen-reader assistive technology.

Questions? Submit them using [AskHCD](#). ■

COVID Workers' Compensation

Under the American Rescue Plan Act, eligible Library employees who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 may file a claim for workers' compensation benefits without having to prove they contracted the disease at work, provided they worked on-site within 21 days before their diagnosis and were diagnosed by a medical professional or with a PCR or other test that was not a home test. See [Special Announcement 22-08 for details about eligibility and filing](#).

The workers' compensation benefits include, for example, coverage of COVID-related medical expenses and compensation for extended absences due to COVID-19. The benefits apply both to an employee's original illness and to long COVID conditions the employee may suffer later.

Eligible employees should consider filing a COVID-19 workers' compensation claim now, even if they had only a mild case of COVID-19 or an asymptomatic infection with a positive test. Getting a claim on the record now will simplify matters if an employee needs workers' compensation coverage for COVID-based illness in the future. In all cases, the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation is the final adjudicator of a claim.

The Health Services Division is contacting employees who reported a positive COVID diagnosis directly to provide instructions on filing a claim.

Questions? Send an email to HSOWorkersCompensation@loc.gov. ■

LIBRARY HONORED FOR ADVANCING U.S.-SPAIN RELATIONS



Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden (second from right) accepted the Bernardo de Gálvez Award on May 31 at the residence of Santiago Cabanas, Spain's ambassador to the U.S. The award constitutes international recognition of the work of the Hispanic Reading Room. With Hayden are Cabanas (from left); Suzanne Schadl, chief of the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division; and Juan Lladó, chairman of the foundation that conferred the award. [Read more](#).

Christopher Abanavas

QUESTION & ANSWER



Taylor Riccard

Taylor Riccard is a Congressional Research Service (CRS) analyst in government organization and management.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Orlando, Florida, and I attended Rollins College, a small liberal arts school just outside of Orlando. I studied political science and was a founding member of the Rollins College dance team. I was also heavily involved in student affairs – I worked with the Office of Residential Life and Explorations on a program designed to help integrate new students into campus life.

After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue a master's degree in American government at Georgetown University. I interned at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and served as a research assistant to a Georgetown professor during my time there.

What brought you to the Library?

CRS' Graduate Recruit Program brought me to the Library. After completing my initial grad recruit appointment at CRS, I decided that I wanted to stay.

I learn something new at CRS every day, and I love that about the job. I am an analyst in the Executive Branch Operations Section of the Government and Finance Division. I help cover the executive budget process and the federal civil service.

What are some of your standout projects?

The CRS project that I'm most proud of was one of my first. I coordinated an update to a CRS report on the OMB. The original report was over 10 years old, so I was able to rework and expand the scope of the content to make it my own.

The part of that project that I found most rewarding was the collaboration with other analysts that it required. Ultimately, nine other analysts contributed content to the report on various subtopics. It was a great opportunity to get acquainted with my colleagues and to practice coordinating a project with many moving parts.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I'm very active and spend a lot of my free time exercising and outdoors. I love visiting D.C.'s amazing art museums and wine bars on weekends, and I have a passion for cooking. My fiancé and I have been really into taking our Pembroke Welsh corgi named Winston on picnics around D.C. this spring. Our favorite places to picnic are the Hillwood Estate and the National Arboretum.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

My co-workers may not know that I picked up a new hobby during the pandemic. Over the last two years, I've taught myself hand embroidery. It's a bit of an old-fashioned hobby, but I've found that it really helps me disconnect from all of the screen time. It is very time-consuming and requires intense focus, so it helps me feel present and express some creativity. ■

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- Technology FAQs

HCD SERVICES PORTAL

In the new hybrid workplace, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

NEWS

TOY THEATERS, CONTINUED FROM 1

his city sold “pages of gesticulating villains, epileptic combats, bosky forests, palaces and warships, frowning fortresses and prison vaults – it was a giddy joy,” he recalled, and the shop itself was a lodestone rock for “all that bore the name of boy.”

At first, English publishers sold sheets of principal characters from popular plays, imprinting the name of the theater staging a play and often the star actors. Enthusiasts – mainly boys and young men – bought them as souvenirs.

By 1812, sheets of scenes from plays were being sold with characters and, eventually, boxed kits appeared containing all the essentials of the stage: backdrops, curtains, props, orchestras and, of course, tiny actors, all to cut out and (if one spent just a penny) color. Some kits came with special script booklets or stage directions.

Nearly 300 toy productions, also known as juvenile dramas, were published in England between 1811 and 1860. Fans could choose military exploits (“The Battle of Waterloo,” “Conquest of Mexico,” “Invasion of Russia”), dramas and pirate stories (“Black Beard,” “Brigand and the Maid”) and even Shakespeare (“Macbeth,” “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Julius Caesar”).

Such was the popularity of toy theaters that the first play written specifically for the medium, “Alone in the Pirate’s Lair,” published in 1866, made its way to the actual stage, followed by other original toy theater plays, according to theater historian Nicole Sheriko.

“They’ve turned out to be really compelling examples of what occupied a child in a certain period,” Mark Dimunation, RBSCD chief, said of a collecting effort focused not just on toy theaters, but also on other printed objects children played with: games, boxes with moving scenes, paper dolls.

The division initiated a “very self-conscious push” to collect these objects to complement its substantial holdings of children’s literature, Dimunation said. “They

help us understand what is going on in some of the literature.”

Their research value also lies in the vivid hues imprinted on many, enabled by the rise of chromolithography in the 19th century. “They’re part of the history of printing, too,” Dimunation said. “The world suddenly becomes colorful.”

In England, the raucous stage of early 19th-century London inspired the art form. But toy theaters flourished elsewhere as well – America, Germany, France – where they evolved and took different forms, a fact reflected in the collections.

Multiple theaters in the Library’s holdings are panoramas – paper scenes wrapped around rods. When turned, cranks on either side of the theater advance scenes. Sometimes, the scenes progress through a play; in other cases, they are unas- sociated with one another.

These theaters, especially, have wear and tear, as paper ripped as a panorama was unwound, or cranks went missing or broke over time. The Library’s conservation lab has treated both issues. Basia Nosek, a recent intern in the lab, crafted an entirely new wooden crank to restore one theater’s functionality, for example.

Betsy Haude of the Conservation Division finished work in the spring on “Voyage to the Bottom of the

Sea,” a beautifully illustrated panorama in deep blues and greens based on Jules Verne’s “Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea.”

It arrived with tears that had been repaired by an earlier owner with pressure-sensitive tape, “which is terrible for paper,” Haude said. So, she carefully removed the tape and mended the tears with archival-quality materials.

Sometimes, however, when a historical mend is determined not to be causing damage, conservators leave it in place, not wanting to remove something that might tell a bigger story about the object and its use, Haude said.

She is the paper liaison to RBSCD. The division’s retired children’s literature specialist, Sybille Jagusch, reached out to her to assess which theaters needed treatment. Haude and colleague Gwenanne Edwards identified an initial batch most in need of repair.

Edwards completed work recently on a shadow puppet theater, a variety that includes cutouts that were placed behind the theater’s paper curtain. A light illuminated them from behind, and viewers could see silhouettes of the cutouts from the front. A single theater could have up to 100 puppets, some with moveable parts.

“The little players ... sometimes had an unfortunate habit of creasing up or becoming unglued,” biographer Peter Ack-

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CALENDAR

royd wrote of Dickens' theaters.

"There's a lot of structural work that we have to do with the puppets if it's that kind of theater," Edwards said.

As a final step before returning repaired theaters to RBSCD, conservators construct archival-quality housing to ensure their longevity.

The most popular English toy theater play, "The Miller and His Men," debuted in London's Covent Garden in 1813. The story climaxes with fire and an explosion, an exciting spectacle that, in toy form, sadly caused some home setups to perish.

The play captivated Dickens and, many years later, Churchill. It's possible Churchill's immersion in the story even inspired some of his trademark rhetoric as the United Kingdom's World War II prime minister, theater historian George Speaight speculates.

In the final scene of "Miller," a cornered villain exclaims, "Surrender? Never! I have sworn never to descend from this spot alive!"

Can there be a remembered echo in Churchill's dramatic words to the House of Commons in 1940? Speaight asks – "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds ... we shall never surrender."

Likewise with Stevenson: "What is 'Treasure Island' but one of the piratic dramas retold?" Speaight postulates.

Gradually, toy theaters faded in popularity as the 19th century unfolded and the 20th century brought more modern diversions. But their magic is such that even a researcher today, visiting the Library's Rare Book Reading Room, is sure to find delight in the carefully preserved record left behind. ■

14 TUESDAY

Webinar: A Prints and Photographs Division orientation will highlight pictorial formats and subject matter. Noon, [online](#). Contact: rbru@loc.gov.

Webinar: Learn about the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grant opportunity for higher education programs. 1 p.m., [online](#). Contact: skazmi@loc.gov.

15 WEDNESDAY

Webinar: A Geography and Map Division orientation will focus on collections and resources accessible online. 3 p.m., [online](#). Contact: mraines@loc.gov.

16 THURSDAY

Lecture: Authors Jacqueline Mitton and Simon Mitton will discuss their new biography, "Vera Rubin: A Life," which highlights Rubin's storied career in astronomy. Noon, [online](#). Contact: 7-8000.

Webinar: Law Library experts will provide an overview of the historical roots of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. 2 p.m., [online](#). Contact: kgoles@loc.gov.

Webinar: Learn about the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grant opportunity for libraries, archives and museums. 4 p.m., [online](#). Contact: skazmi@loc.gov.

Live at the Library: The Jefferson Building and its exhibitions will be open for extended hours with happy hour drinks and food available. 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](#). Contact: 7-8000.

Concert: The Grammy Award-winning ensemble Ranky Tanky will perform a fusion of jazz, blues, gospel and R&B arrangements of traditional Gullah music from America's Southeast in honor of Juneteenth. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. [Tickets required](#). Contact: 7-8000.

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or ADA@loc.gov.

See www.loc.gov/events

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