

ALMANAC

AAS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2006 • NUMBER 70



2005 Scholar in Residence Richard Fox and Post-dissertation Fellow Joseph Cullom

Mellon Foundation Challenge

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded AAS a \$1 million challenge grant to enable the Society to make permanent two important fellowships instituted in 1998 with the foundation's support. Between now and the end of 2009, the foundation will match dollar for dollar all gifts donated toward the endowment of a senior scholar in residence or a post-dissertation fellow.

Thirty years ago, AAS was an excellent library with unmatched collections. Beginning with a visiting

fellows' program, launched in 1972-73 to bring scholars to Worcester for a month or two of intensive use of those collections, the Society has transformed itself into an active research center with an international reputation for service to the scholarly world. Since 1976, with the continuous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, several residential fellowships of up to a year have been offered annually, enabling scholars from all across

Continued page 3

Stephen Salisbury's Star-Spangled Shreds

The books, pamphlets, prints, and newspapers come to mind first as the irreplaceable treasures held by AAS, but did you know that the library also has a bit of red, white, and blue material clipped from the original Star-spangled Banner? When Stephen Salisbury was doing some work on an essay called "The Star-spangled Banner and National Songs," he wrote and asked for snippet, and received the following reply:

September 11, 1873

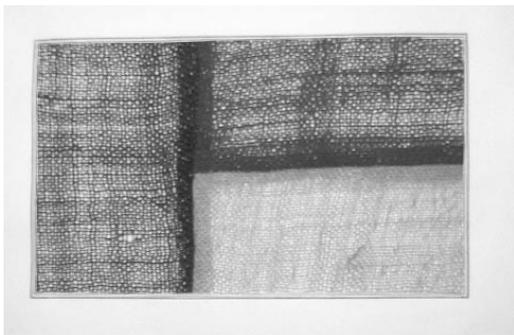
Dear Sir,

It affords me pleasure to be able to send you the enclosed shreds of the "Flag of Fort McHenry" which will be an appropriate addition to your monograph on the national songs. I took them from the flag by the kind permission of Mrs. Appleton,,

Capt. George Henry Preble, USN

Mrs. William Stuart Appleton, who owned the flag at that time, was the daughter of Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead, commander of Ft. McHenry at the time of the bombardment witnessed by Francis Scott Keys and immortalized in the words of our national anthem. The swath held by AAS is about two inches by three inches. Recently, when the Smithsonian undertook the massive project of restoring the flag, they consulted our swath, which has been kept out of the light for all these decades, to get a better sense of the flag's true shades of color.

When the 2006 spring meeting is held in Baltimore, members, friends, and guests will make a visit to Fort McHenry and renew the institution's connection with that site.



Nellie Williams and the PENFIELD EXTRA

My first encounter with Nellie Williams occurred during the summer of 1987 when I was doing research in preparation for an exhibit on the little-known hobby of amateur journalism in nineteenth-century America, the pursuit primarily of young people to edit, publish, or contribute literary pieces to, small newspapers of their own. Nellie Williams was credited by Truman J. Spencer and Almon Horton, the two principal historians of amateur journalism, with editing and publishing perhaps the most successful amateur newspaper of the period, the *PENFIELD EXTRA*. She also set the type and operated the press.

The Amateur Newspaper collection at the American Antiquarian Society consists of about 50,000 issues. There

December 28, 1861, she commenced publication of the *PENFIELD EXTRA*, with the subtitle Little Nellie's Little Paper. Nellie was twelve years old at the time; she included the following about herself in the publisher's box of the newspaper: "A little Lass not yet in her teens who is the sole Editress, and Compositor, and probably the youngest Publisher, and Editress in the world. The reader will of course overlook a little bad spelling and typographical errors." A copy of Nellie's small weekly newspaper of four pages could be purchased for two cents, and a yearly subscription would cost the patron fifty cents. Nellie actively solicited advertising for her paper and sought exchanges with "professional" newspapers, and she reported on local news events and always included on



are more than 5,500 titles, from every state except Alaska and Hawaii, as well as issues from fifteen foreign countries, thus making the Society's holdings among the largest and most extensive in the United States. The AAS file of the *PENFIELD EXTRA* consisted of just two issues until recently when Vincent Golden, Curator of Newspapers and Periodicals, purchased from a rare books dealer in New Jersey, a run of sixty issues of this remarkable amateur paper. Only one complete file is known to be held by an institution.

I should like to share some biographical details about the life of Nellie Williams that I have gleaned from reading histories, reminiscences (such as Thomas G. Harrison's *The Career and Reminiscences of an Amateur Journalist, and a History of Amateur Journalism*, published in 1883), and issues of Nellie's own amateur newspaper. Nellie Williams was born on November 21, 1849, and lived in Penfield, New York, near Rochester. For a pastime as a young girl she learned to set type in the small printing office owned by her older brother. After her brother enlisted in the United States Army early in the Civil War, he left Nellie in charge of the office. On

the first page of each issue brief accounts of the weather in the Penfield area. The *PENFIELD EXTRA* achieved a circulation of more than 3,000, quite an accomplishment for this enterprising youth.

During 1863 at the age of thirteen, Nellie visited the offices of many editors in the western part of New York State. It was a triumphant tour. Much attention and even gifts were lavished upon her, and glowing articles about Nellie appeared in the pages of numerous newspapers, which led to increased circulation beyond the Penfield area. Tragically, Nellie's brother never returned; he was killed on a Civil War battlefield. However, Nellie continued her paper until 1866, when the cost of purchasing paper supplies became too much of a financial burden. Sadly, Nellie Williams died on June 15, 1875; she was just twenty-five years old. But what a legacy! With a sense of pride, Nellie included the following statement in one of the issues of the *PENFIELD EXTRA*: "Very many young boys and girls have been stimulated by reading my paper to go to work at the type case."

Dennis R. Laurie
Readers' Services Specialist
Newspapers and Periodicals

New Members

The following individuals were elected to membership in October 2005.

Nancy R. Coolidge

Boston, Massachusetts

Retired administrative director, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England). Ms. Coolidge sits on the boards of the Fidelity Non-profit Management Foundation; Historic Boston, Inc; and the Massachusetts Historical Society, where she serves as treasurer.

Jeanne Y. Curtis

Worcester, Massachusetts

Retired businesswoman and active supporter of the Society. Ms. Curtis also devotes herself to many other non-profit organizations across Central Massachusetts, including the Red Cross of Worcester, the Worcester Art Museum, the Worcester Horticultural Society, and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

George K. Fox

San Francisco, California

Vice-President, Director of Marketing, Pacific Book Auctions. Mr. Fox grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is a collector of 19th century printed paper Americana, trade cards, and other ephemera, with a special interest in the trade cards of American printers and lithographers.

Gary Hart

Kittredge, Colorado

Former US senator from Colorado. Mr. Hart is the author of thirteen books, including *The Patriot*, *The Good Fight*, and *The Fourth Power*, and most recently works on religion in America, from the founding period to present day. Having earned degrees from the Yale Law School and the Divinity School at Yale University, he received a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University in 2001.

Holly V. Izard

Storrs, Connecticut

Curator of collections, Worcester Historical Museum. Ms. Izard is the author of numerous articles concerning domestic life in Central Massachusetts, including studies drawn from the Salisbury and Ward family archives at the Society. Her annotated transcription from the diaries of Louisa Jane Trumbull (born 1822) is forthcoming in *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*.

Henry W. Lie

Lincoln, Massachusetts

Director of the Straus Center for Conservation at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum. In 1997, Mr. Lie won the Heritage Preservation Award for Distinction in Scholarship and Conservation, presented by the College Art Association. He has been instrumental, along with his mother and her husband, Jessie Lie Farber and the late Dan Farber, in helping the Society mount the Farber Gravestone Collection photographs on the web.

Suzanne Lebsack

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers University. Ms. Lebsack is author of *A Murder in Virginia: Southern Justice on Trial* (2003); *Visible Women: New Essays on American Activism* (1993), and 1985 Bancroft Prize-winner, *The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860*.

Stephen Loewentheil

Baltimore, Maryland

Proprietor of the 19th Century Shop in Baltimore, purveyors of rare books and manuscripts. Mr. Loewentheil has a long-standing interest in Edgar Allan Poe, serving as a trustee of the Poe Museum in Baltimore, and has recently been in the news for his purchase of the page proofs of Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.

Valerie S. Loring

Holden, Massachusetts

Along with her husband Stephen, Ms. Loring has been a generous supporter of many local organizations, including the Society. Among the founders of the Briarwood Continuing Care Retirement Community and the Hospice at Coes Pond, she has served on the boards of the VNA Care Network and Girls, Inc.

Robert S. Martin

Denton, Texas

Lillian Bradshaw Endowed Chair in Library Science at Texas Woman's University. Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences from 2001 to 2005, Dr. Martin is also the author of *Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513-1900* and *Contours of Discovery: Printed Maps Delineating the Texas and Southwestern Chapters of the Cartographic History of North America, 1513-1930*.

Mary Rhinelander McCarl

Gloucester, Massachusetts

Archivist and independent historian and Peterson Fellow at AAS in 1987-88. Her works include *Spreading the News of Satan's Malignity at Salem: Benjamin Harris, Printer and Publisher of the Witchcraft Tracts* and *The Plowman's Tale: The c. 1532 and 1606 Editions of a Spurious Canterbury Tale*. She was recently instrumental in helping the Society to secure over 100 volumes of early Gloucester and Cape Ann newspapers.

John F. McClymer

Worcester, Massachusetts

Professor and Chair of the History Department at Assumption College. Professor McClymer is a long-time researcher at and supporter of the Society and an active partner in the Society's work with K-12 teachers. His works include *This High and Holy Moment: The First National Woman's Rights Convention, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1850*.

Henry T. Michie

West Boylston, Massachusetts

President, Mercantile/Image Press, Inc., formed in 1999 through the merger of two longstanding printing firms. Mr. Michie is active in the support of many cultural and historical organizations locally, including the Worcester Art Museum, the Worcester Historical Museum, and Rural Cemetery, where he serves as a trustee.

Karen Sanchez-Eppler

Amherst, Massachusetts

Professor of American Studies and English, and Chair of American Studies, Amherst College. Author of *Touching Liberty: Abolition, Feminism and the Politics of the Body* and, most recently, *Dependent States: The Child's Part in 19th Century America*.

Beverly Sheppard

Sturbridge, Massachusetts

President of Old Sturbridge Village, and former deputy director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. She worked on a National Digital Library project, organized educational partnerships nationwide, and is author of "Building Museum and School Partnerships."

James Sidbury

Austin, Texas

Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas, Austin and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at AAS in 2002-03. He is author of the highly acclaimed *Ploughshares into Swords: Race, Rebellion, and Identity in Gabriel's Virginia, 1730-1810*.

Peter B. Stallybrass

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg

Professor in the Humanities, and Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania. A noted authority on the history of the book and material culture, Mr. Stallybrass also directs the university's Center for the History of Material Texts. He and co-author Ann Rosalind Jones received the James Russell Lowell Prize of the Modern Language Association for *Renaissance Clothing and the Materials of Memory* (2000).

David L. Waldstreicher

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Professor of History, Temple University. Author, *In the Midst of Perpetual Fêtes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820*, (which won the Jamestown Prize in 1995) and the recent *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution*.

Do We Have Your Email Address?

Although AAS remains committed to print on paper in the proud tradition of Isaiah Thomas, we now use the Internet for many purposes. We frequently send meeting and program reminders by e-mail; and members and friends can register for Annual meetings, semi-annual meetings, seminars, dinners, and other programs over the Internet. If you are not sure whether we have your e-mail address and would like to receive occasional messages from AAS, just send an e-mail message to jkeenum@mwa.org.

Note: you can reach any individual staff member at AAS by addressing a message to "initial of first name and full last name@mwa.org".



A Message from John Hench

Dear members, colleagues, and friends,

About four years ago I began a research project that focused on a little-known series of books, called Overseas Editions, in order to examine efforts by American book publishers to become major players internationally during World War II and the early years of the Cold War. Although the

time-frame of the study is what we at the American Antiquarian Society would consider "current events," it is, after all, book history, a field in which AAS has been a leader. Despite the chronological disjunction, my staff colleagues have been wonderfully supportive of my work.

My project arose out of my collecting interests, which centered on various special publication series (books, magazines, and newspapers) undertaken to do important war work. I was already thoroughly familiar with the deservedly celebrated series of Armed Services Editions, some 1,300 paperback titles intended to keep GI Joe and GI Jane entertained and enlightened. Then I spotted a title in the "Overseas Editions" series on eBay, and bought it. I'd never heard of this series. Few other scholars had either, as it turned out, and so I found an interesting and fruitful project on this series of books, which were, unlike the Armed Services Editions, not intended for American troops but rather for the European civilians whom they liberated. Not only were these books intended to help America win foreign hearts and minds, they would also serve to introduce contemporary books to readers-and future customers-abroad.

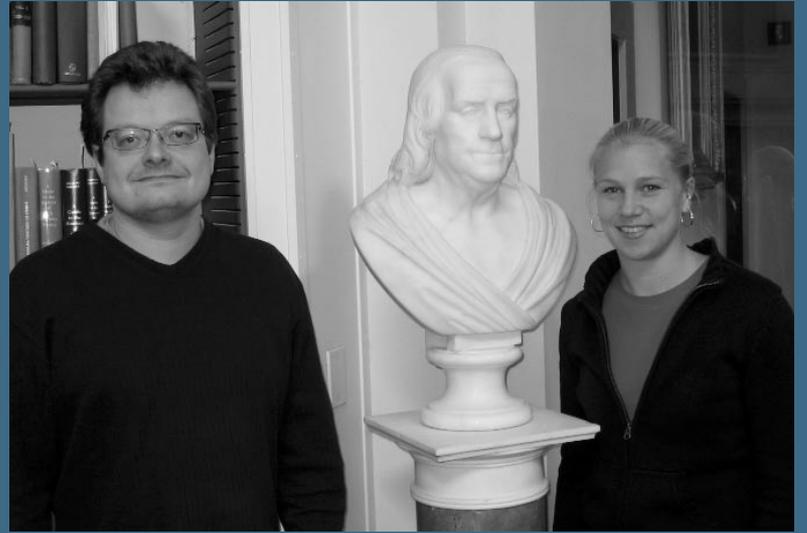
I have been fortunate to receive several short-term fellowships to conduct research at relevant repositories-at Princeton, Columbia, and Indiana University the last three summers and at several British repositories this coming summer. These residencies helped enormously in finding crucial materials, but they didn't really advance my efforts to turn my notes and photocopies into a book. Thus I was delighted when I recently learned that the National Endowment for the Humanities had approved my application for a year-long fellowship for 2006-2007. I plan to take up the fellowship beginning September 1, 2006. Although I will remain officially on the Society's staff rolls during that fellowship year, for all intents and purposes I will step down from my active service at AAS at the end of August. There is, therefore, still plenty of time for me to ruminate on what my thirty-three years at AAS have meant to me.

America to work on their projects, exchange ideas informally, and present talks to each other and the staff about their work in progress. These long-term fellowships are complemented by about twenty short-term fellowships underwritten by a dedicated endowment fund. During the recently completed capital campaign, individuals who have held fellowships at AAS and academics who are members of the Society donated funds to create a new short-term fellowship to support a graduate student, and an individual AAS member endowed one fellowship specifically to support a scholar using the graphic arts collection. In recent years, four short-term fellowships for artists and writers have been added to the mix with lively results. Playwrights, choreographers, poets, painters, novelists, and other creative artists have found information and inspiration in the collections. These fellowships have added such a rich dimension to the fellowship program that funds to endow them permanently were raised during the capital campaign.

In 1998, with the support of the Mellon Foundation, the Society launched a two-pronged program to enrich research activities in Antiquarian Hall and the Goddard-Daniel House further by initiating the two fellowships we now seek to endow. One Mellon fellow, the senior scholar in residence, is charged with the dual responsibility of conducting research and providing leadership for the AAS scholarly community during an entire academic year. The other, a post-dissertation fellow, is a recent recipient of the Ph.D. who spends an “apprentice” year here converting his or her dissertation into a publishable book. Jay Fliegelman of Stanford University’s English Department, our

first senior scholar in residence, set a high standard for dedication to the goal of making researchers’ work at AAS as collegial and productive as possible. His successors (Karen Halttunen, Alan Taylor, Patricia Cline Cohen, Robert Gross, Karen Kupperman, David Hall, and Richard Fox) have met that standard, bringing his or her own style to the challenges of encouraging discourse and mentoring young scholars. Each year has been different; each year has been rewarding. As for the effectiveness of the post-dissertation program, we are happy to say that revised dissertations by three of the seven fellows have been published by Cambridge University Press, two more are under contract (one to Cambridge and the other to the University of North Carolina Press), and the remaining two are well on their way to completion, with their authors having talked to publishers. All holders of this fellowship have found good positions in an extraordinarily difficult job market.

Having witnessed the stimulation and cohesion brought by the program, the Society is committed continuing it. In the past, we have been able to endow short-term fellowships. Now we embark on raising fellowship funds at a much higher level to endow these two long-term residencies. In offering its \$1 million challenge grant, the Mellon Foundation has reaffirmed their confidence in the success and future promise of the program. The foundation has, furthermore, generously made a bridge grant to underwrite the cost of stipends for the two fellowships through the 2008-09 academic year. The dollar-for-dollar match should encourage others to join with us in assuring that there will always be a senior scholar in residence and a post-dissertation fellow at AAS.



Thomas Clark and Nina Moellers

KATRINA RESPONSE

While AAS is far from New Orleans, we have done our part in helping those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Jaelyn Donovan of the readers’ services department led an effort to gather both new and used children’s books for the Reach Out and Read program in the Gulf Coast area. Brian Mahan in the Readex office organized a raffle with the proceeds going to hurricane relief. Of course many of the staff have made their own personal charitable contributions and have volunteered time.

AAS and several of our colleague research libraries offered fellowships to scholars whose research plans were disrupted by the storms and flooding, and we hosted one “Katrina Fellow.” Nina Moellers, a doctoral candidate at the University of Trier (Germany) evacuated from New Orleans two days after arriving for an anticipated month of research. She is studying Louisiana’s free people of color and the complex, evolving understanding of race in that area. AAS’s Tinker collection of Louisiana newspapers as well as collections of state and local histories and of government documents make Worcester an excellent place to undertake her research. By chance her visit during the month of November overlaps with the residency of this year’s Ebeling Fellow, Thomas Clark from the University of Kassel. The Ebeling Fellowship, co-sponsored by AAS and the German Association of American Studies, is for a German graduate scholar doing research relating to the library’s collections.

Member, Fellow, and Staff Notes

Members:

Terry Belanger (elected in 1994), director of the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, was named a MacArthur Fellow (“genius” award). Those who have benefited from the excellent courses at Rare Book School, including several staff members at AAS, recognize the unique place this institution, founded by Belanger in 1983 at Columbia University and moved to Virginia in 1992, plays in the rare books world. Typical of his single-minded dedication to the enterprise, Belanger said that he will use the award to further the work of Rare Book School.

The American Numismatic Society will honor **Q. David Bowers** (2003) at their Annual Dinner Gala on January 12, 2006 at the Waldorf-Astoria. An auction of rare numismatic books will be held at 5:00 p.m., preceding the dinner-dance. Mr. Bowers of Wolfesboro, New Hampshire, is a both a leading dealer

in the field and a private collector of Civil War and other early tokens and medals from the period 1776-1865. He has contributed distinguished scholarship and served as a leader in national associations of professional and amateur numismatists.

Frederic B. Farrar (1975) has made a major gift of his newspaper collection to his alma mater Washington and Lee. Farrar has had two careers as an advertising executive and as a teacher of journalism history at Temple University but one ruling passion, collecting newspapers.



While giving these mostly colonial newspapers that are duplicated in the AAS collections to W&L, he kept an eye on our library and contributed a volume of the Peoria (Illinois) *Weekly Transcript* for 1858. This volume includes coverage of the local Lincoln-Douglas debate. He also gave us two bound volumes of the *Craftsman* (London) for the 1730s and 1740s.

G. Thomas Tanselle (1970), senior vice president and secretary of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, delivered the Robert L. Nikirk Lecture at the Grolier Club in November. His talk was entitled: “The Pleasures of Being a Scholar-Collector.”

Bertram Wyatt-Brown (2004) has retired as the Richard J. Milbauer Professor of history at the University of Florida. His years of distinguished service were recognized at a two-day conference in October, “Honoring a Master: Rethinking the History of the American South.”

Fellows:

Benjamin Reiss, AAS-NEH Fellow 2001-02, an assistant professor of English at Tulane, reports that he, his wife, and two children evacuated in advance of Katrina to Washington, DC, where they stayed with his father. Then, his family moved on to Newton, Massachusetts, where he is spending the fall semester as a visiting scholar at Boston College.

Staff:

In October, **S.J. Wolfe**, Senior Cataloguer and Serials Specialist gave the kickoff lecture for the Archaeological Institute of America’s 2005-06 season. The talk, “From Eternity to Here: a Brief History of the Egyptian Mummy in 19th-century America,” was delivered at the Worcester Art Museum.

AAS HERITAGE

In preparation for the Society's coming bicentennial, the library is identifying and collecting autobiographies and published journals or diaries of members. This is the second of a two-part series focussing on autobiographies of members elected in each of four fifty-year eras of AAS's history.

III. Charles E. Goodspeed (1867-1950) was elected to AAS membership in 1921. In 1937, he published his autobiography, *Yankee Bookseller*. AAS's copy is number 40 of a special edition of 300 and signed by Goodspeed. A Massachusetts native with American ancestry stretching back to 1639, Goodspeed fell under the literary spell of John Ruskin when he was shown a beautifully bound copy of *The Seven Lamps of Architecture*. He was attracted to the book both as a moral and aesthetic text and as an object. In 1898 after losing his position as a salesman of agricultural implements, he bought enough books to constitute a basic inventory and rented a shop on Park Street across from the Boston Common. The rest of the story of his adventures in the book trade, ranging from uncovering forgeries to selling a rare copy of Poe's *Tamerlane* (Boston, 1827) for the largest price paid for an American first edition at the time (\$17,500 in 1925) can be found in his memoir.

He tells of a meeting with one of his customers, a book-plate collector, who inquired about the American Antiquarian Society:

'What about this Worcester society which has been buying up book-plate collections and has got Frank Marshall's?' he asked. 'What kind of a man is this Brigham, the librarian?' 'I can tell you what kind of a man Mr. Brigham is,' I replied. 'If I guess rightly you are going to suggest to him that there are two or three plates in the Marshall collection which you would like to get (and I know how badly you want them!). You will suggest to Brigham an exchange and offer from your duplicates twice the same number of equally valuable plates not in the Marshall lot. That is your plan. You won't get them, but before you leave Worcester you will agree to leave your whole book-plate collection to the Society in your will. That is the kind of man you will find Brigham to be.'

Goodspeed admits that he was wrong and that the collection eventually went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, but his assessment of **Clarence**

Brigham and of the Society's acquisitive librarians who preceded and followed him is nonetheless on target and like all the stories in this book both entertaining and informative.

IV Peter Jack Gay says that he has been a refugee twice in his life. The first time was his escape from Nazi Germany in April of 1939, that being the subject of his memoir *My German Question*. The second time was at Columbia University, where in the middle 1950's he left the Department of Public Law and Government in favor of the Department of History. Fifty years later it is the students and teachers of history who have gained by both of those choices. The author of more than twenty books, including two volumes on the Enlightenment and five volumes on the Victorian bourgeoisie that made him an internationally-known scholar, Mr. Gay is a pioneer in intellectual and cultural historical scholarship.

His memoir, *My German Question*, follows a seven-year (1933-1939) period in a young Peter Joachim Frolich's (now Peter Jack Gay) life. Gay gives a straightforward account of his Jewish family's persecution in Nazi Germany. The narrative follows the disintegration of their middle-class life but reminds us of the hope that the society would return to balance rather than tip into the horror it became. When finally there seemed no hope for Jews in the homeland, his family narrowly escaped to Havana in 1939. Gay's uncle and aunt had already emigrated to America, and they soon moved from Havana to Denver, where the thinner atmosphere was better for his mother's health. The book, which began as a talk to undergraduates at Yale University, depicts a young boy with a fondness for stamp collecting, soccer and chocolate, who tries to live the life of a normal adolescent against the background of the most turbulent times in recent history.

ISSN #1098-7878

www.americanantiquarian.org

01609-1634

Massachusetts

Worcester

185 Salisbury Street

Society

Antiquarian

American



Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No 416
Worcester, Mass.
01609-1634