We are happy to bring you our Spring 2010 issue of BookFriends with two features. One is Hedd-Durnbaugh’s - “Incunabulum” and the other is about Ken and Jane Crosby. If you have already contributed stories about the Crosbys and have not seen them yet, keep looking in future issues.

Sincerely, Harriet Kaylor, President of the Friends of the Library

An “Incunabulum” in Beeghly Library’s Rarebook collection.
Hedda Durnbaugh

**Incunabula** (Latin, neuter plural: origin), “incunabulum” (neuter singular adapted for use with books) = *Wiegendruck* (German, masculine, singular: literally “cradle imprint”), *Wiegendrucke* (plural) = a book published between ca. 1450 and 1501, the “infancy” or “cradle” period of the trade.

It appears that the earliest Bible in the Rarebook collection is the incomplete copy of a very early German version, probably published in the 1470. In the absence of a title-page and/or colophon; definitive information is pending confirmation of our findings about possible place of publication, publisher, and year by the Gutenberg Museum Mainz, Germany. As yet there is no doubt that the collection contains a copy of one of the rare and very highly valued incunabula.

All this goes back to the sea change in book production and the ensuing renaissance in learning and the fine arts brought about by the invention of movable type by the German goldsmith and inventor, Johannes Gutenberg (1390s - 1468).

Collections of written texts had been produced and known for centuries, both in Europe and Asia, both in the form of scrolls and codices (i.e., cut and bound sheets of vellum), or on single sheets (broadside). German works were generally produced in “Gothic” letters by scribes in monasteries for wealthy ecclesiastic and secular patrons in a very laborious and lengthy process. The next step in the evolution of printed written-word production was cutting the mirror image of the text on each page into a single piece of wood, still a very laborious and lengthy process, of which only small runs were printed. As hand-written books were still valued more highly at that time, the “type faces” of the printed works imitated those of the earlier manuscripts.

Gutenberg developed his movable type – first made of wood and, later, of metal – in the 1430s. In addition, he is credited with improving the actual process of printing on paper, all of which was to make the process of book printing less laborious and time-consuming and, thus, the purchase of books more affordable. The first work to come from Gutenberg’s press was a fourth-century Vulgate version of the Bible, completed ca. 1454 and on the market by 1455. No more than 200 copies were produced, yet this new process had undreamt-of consequences not only in the wider influence of the new ideas of the Renaissance but also in eventually standardizing the German language. But that is another story.

**Description of the Bible**

The copy of this early Bible is from the Abraham Harley Cassel (1820-1908) collection (Cassel nos. 7379 and 7380). It is a folio comprising 2 volumes, the book block measuring 39 x 27 cm. The paper is of high quality rag content and well preserved without much discoloration. The type is clear and legible. In its present state, the Bible is rebound in two volumes in a modern leather binding, which must have occurred either before A.H. Cassel purchased it or through him, there is no telling whether it originally consisted of a single volume or of two volumes. The numbering of the pages of volume one ends with ccliiii (end of the Psalter), and begins the second volume with cclxvi. The intervening pages are not accounted for but may have been lost either in the rebinding process or the Bible may have been in that state when it was purchased by Cassel or a former owner. The text of volume two is preceded by a Register [table of contents], and it may be assumed that a similar one had originally also been given with volume one.

This Bible is an incomplete copy. Volume One lacks all pages preceding Genesis 31:14. Probably before rebinding, the fist extant page was marked “FIRST BOOK OF MOSES / CHAPTER 31 / VERSE 14”; Volume Two is similarly marked on its last page: “FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN / CHAPTER 4 / VERSE 2”. The individual books of the Bible are not marked by special headings; instead they are introduced as, for example, “Hie hebt an der prophet ysaías. Das erst Capittel” [Here begins the prophet Isaiah. The first chapter]. This is followed by a woodcut (8.4x7.6 mm) of the prophet seated at his writing desk and being inspired by an image of the Virgin and Child. Generally, books are introduced by woodcuts, chapters, but not verses, are numbered; the type-face is Gothic and generally, the first letter of a chapter is three or more lines tall, hand-written in red in a simple calligraphic style. The average number of lines per page is 58. There is at least one error in the lay-out of the pages on the quire with resulting errors in page numbering.

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Calling all Friends who knew Ken or Jane Crosby!

We are looking for stories about how the Crosbys affected the lives of Friends of the Library or others. If you have such stories, please contact either Harriet Kaylor, current president of the Friends, at hinkeck@pennswoods.net or John Mumford at mumford@juniata.edu. You may also reach Harriet Kaylor by phone (814-643-4508) or send your story to her at 111 Edinburgh Court, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

As always, thank you for being a Friend!
Memories of Jane and Ken Crosby

For some time, the Juniata College Friends of the Library Executive Committee have been soliciting storied memories of Ken and Jane Crosby. Our intent was to put one of them in each of our newsletters, which come out biannually. There is now such a good collection, we think we should put more than one into a single issue. The following are some for this issue.

From Jefferson Crosby, recently deceased at age 57 with complications from Multiple Sclerosis, comes the following:

"[W]hen they [parents] came out to Detroit to help us [wife and Jeff] move back to Lititz and came in their VW van forming an eastbound caravan: one Ryder 24 foot truck, two VW vans, one VW Sirocco. . .Memories of that process and trip include having to get a lost key replaced for the truck, dealing with a flat rear tire on the truck on the Ohio Turnpike and eventually unloading in Lititz, including boxes of National Geographic magazines . . .never to be looked at. All of it taught patience patience patience [sic]

Other memories of Dad focus on his patience teaching me to do car work, using quality tools, keeping parts clean and ‘getting it done right’ with every ‘two-hour” project becoming six hours while Mother would have good food for supper waiting on the screened porch for us. One particular job was preparing the Westfalia VW camper van for the trip to South America.

Earlier childhood memories include ‘history dinners,’ the traditional gathering of senior history majors in groups to meet for dinner at home. [Once] I brought my hamster up from the basement in the old Mission House and was showing it to the students when it left a trail of little pellets on the carpet in the living room. I was terribly embarrassed and ran into the kitchen to ask Mother what to do. I don’t remember exactly what she did but whatever it was, I was relieved.

I also remember going to All Class Night and especially a time when the class was satirizing Dad. They borrowed my tricycle and someone played him hanging on a lectern after coming late to class on the tricycle.

I remember Steve Engel’s New Century Singers and in fact one of the two women in the group was Kirsten for whom my daughter is named. They sometimes rehearsed at our house and I’m sure that was my first experience as a ‘groupie.’

I remember when the Home Economics department was to the south of the tennis court on the east side of Totem Inn in an old green surplus army barracks. Once I . . .had fresh cherry pie and I thought home economics was all about cooking. . .I later learned that to Mother it was most importantly about textiles, her field of expertise.”

A second contribution comes from Thelma E. Scott, class of 1938, currently living in New Oxford, PA.

“Emma Jane Miller Crosby entered my life in September 1934 when both of us began as Juniata College freshmen in the class of 1938. We remained close friends until Jane’s death in October 2008, a long friendship of 74 years.
We had much in common. We had mutual friends, two of whom remained in touch with us until their deaths. We sang together in the a cappella choir; on the train going home for Christmas, with Jane playing her ‘uke’; on hikes up to the cliffs and out Warm Springs Rd; and even in the bathroom when we happened to be using two of the tubs at the same time.

We were able to take a couple trips together during summer vacations before she and Ken were married. We roomed together our senior year on 3rd Oneida. And when I returned to campus for reunions or meetings or just to visit the Crosbys, Jane always had a place for me to stay with them.

We last saw each other June 7, 2008 at Alumni Weekend. It was a sad reunion, mostly because of Jane’s inability to converse with us. But as usual she knew me, and her beautiful smile let me know she still cared. This was at the dinner for the Emeriti Alumni—we were the only ones there from the class of 1938 to celebrate our 70th reunion.”

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**Please attend!**

**OPEN HOUSE — Beeghly Library**

**Friday, June 11, 2–4 p.m. and Saturday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Annual Meeting in the Information Commons at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday

View the Treasure Room and historical displays —Meet Friends of the Library

*Saturday we’ll have refreshments and FOL Buttons*

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This semester saw us change our “webcat” – add some more technology – put up a very fine display in the Treasure Room, and the Friends helped us buy some much needed print encyclopedias. We added the extensive Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia published by Gale, to augment our reference collection in biology, thanks to the Friends! The technology we added was again thanks to the Friends, who purchased two new, 42”, Vizeo screens that can be used with laptops to offer an enlarged screen image of what is on the laptop screen (for student group work). The library “webcat” which was our book catalog, was upgraded and now is called “library catalog”. The upgrade has been well received! Finally, the library Treasure Room now has a fine display on Martyrologies. Please stop and see it sometime! Once again, thanks for being a Friend, and I hope to see some of you on Alumni Weekend.

Kind regards,

John Mumford

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*As always, thank you for being a Friend!*