

The Harry Ransom Center presents  
**CREATING A USABLE PAST:**  
WRITERS, ARCHIVES, & INSTITUTIONS  
November 13-15, 2008

WE ARE PLEASED to welcome you to the Ransom Center's eighth biennial Fleur Cowles Flair Symposium. The Flair Symposium, which is supported generously by an endowment established by Fleur Cowles, honors the innovative approach to contemporary topics set forth by Cowles in her celebrated *Flair* magazine. The symposium was inaugurated in 1994 with a conference devoted to "The State and Fate of Publishing" and has since covered other subjects of major cultural and literary concern. This year's symposium follows in that tradition. Over the next three days, authors, rare book and manuscript dealers, archivists, and institutional directors will come together to discuss the issues they confront as they create, place, protect, and make accessible archives. The resulting discourse will, we hope, deepen our understanding of archives, inspire new approaches to preserving and making archives available, anticipate the future of archives, and explore how we can best navigate that future. I look forward to this discussion and thank all of our participants for joining us here at the Ransom Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas F. Staley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "T".

Thomas F. Staley  
Director

**CREATING A USABLE PAST:  
WRITERS, ARCHIVES, AND INSTITUTIONS**  
November 13–15, 2008  
Harry Ransom Center  
The University of Texas at Austin

in conjunction with the exhibition  
*The Mystique of the Archive*  
September 2, 2008–January 4, 2009

The Flair Symposium, held biennially at the Ransom Center, honors the ideals set forth by Fleur Cowles and her landmark *Flair* magazine.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events will take place at the Ransom Center unless otherwise noted.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

5 p.m.      **Registration and Opening Reception**

7 p.m.      **Writers on the Future of Reading**

AT&T Conference Center Ballroom  
1900 University Avenue

MODERATOR: James Magnuson, Michener Center for Writers,  
University of Texas at Austin

Lee Blessing, Writer  
Denis Johnson, Writer  
Tim O'Brien, Writer  
Amy Tan, Writer

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9 a.m.      **Registration and Coffee**

10 a.m.     **Welcome**

Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin

### **Introduction**

Ben Primer, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,  
Princeton University Library

### **Keynote Address**

Dana Gioia, National Endowment for the Arts

10:45 a.m.   **Building the Archive**

MODERATOR: James Magnuson, Michener Center for Writers,  
University of Texas at Austin

Lee Blessing, Writer  
Denis Johnson, Writer  
Tim O'Brien, Writer  
Amy Tan, Writer

12:15 p.m.   **Break for Lunch**

- 2 p.m.      **The Archive on the Market**  
MODERATOR: Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center,  
University of Texas at Austin  
Rick Gekoski, Gekoski Booksellers  
Glenn Horowitz, Glenn Horowitz Booksellers, Inc.  
Breon Mitchell, Lilly Library, Indiana University
- 4 p.m.      **Transforming the Archive**  
MODERATOR: Michael Ryan, Rare Book & Manuscript Library,  
Columbia University  
Chris Fletcher, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford  
Steve Mielke, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin  
Stella Halkyard, John Rylands Library, Manchester University  
William Stingone, New York Public Library

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 9 a.m.      **Coffee**
- 10 a.m.      **The Changing Shape of Archives**  
MODERATOR: Kris Kiesling, University of Minnesota Libraries  
Peter Hirtle, Cornell University Library, Cornell University  
Jeremy Leighton John, British Library  
Matthew Kirschenbaum, Maryland Institute for Technology in the  
Humanities, University of Maryland  
Naomi Nelson, Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library, Emory  
University  
Susan Thomas, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
- Noon      **Break for Lunch**
- 2 p.m.      **Looking Forward to Preserve the Past**  
MODERATOR: Alice Schreyer, University of Chicago Library,  
University of Chicago  
Stephen Ennis, Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library,  
Emory University  
Richard Ovenden, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford  
Frank Turner, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University  
Thomas F. Staley, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin
- 4:15 p.m.      **Conclusion**
- 5 p.m.      **Closing Reception**

# SPEAKERS

## LEE BLESSING

Lee Blessing's plays include Broadway and London's West End: *A Walk In The Woods*; Off-Broadway: *A Body of Water* and *Going to St. Ives* (Outer Critic's Circle Award, Best Play, Obie for ensemble performance), *Thief River* (Drama Desk nomination, Best Play), *Cobb* (Drama Desk award, best ensemble), and *Chesapeake, Eleemosynary*, and *Down the Road*. Blessing's works have also received the American Theater Critics Circle Award, the L.A. Drama Critics Award, and The Great American Play Award, among others, and nominations for Tony and Olivier awards and the Pulitzer Prize. Blessing is head of the graduate playwriting program at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. He is married to playwright and TV writer Melanie Marnich and lives in New York.

## STEPHEN ENNISS

Stephen Ennis is Director of Emory's Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. He graduated from Davidson College in 1982, and then received a library degree from Emory University, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia. He has worked closely with faculty and library colleagues to bring about Emory's rapid rise in the ranks of research libraries. He has directed the growth of the library's literary collections through a string of major acquisitions including the archive of Ted Hughes; the papers of poets Paul Muldoon, Anthony Hecht, and of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney; and, more recently, the archives of Salman Rushdie and Alice Walker. In 2002–2003 he held a Leverhulme Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of English Studies at the University of London. In 2005 he curated the New York exhibition: *No Other Appetite: Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and the Blood Jet of Poetry*. He is currently at work on a book-length critical study of the poet Derek Mahon.

## CHRIS FLETCHER

Christopher Fletcher is Head of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, where he is also a member of the Faculty of English Language and Literature. He was from 1995 to 2006 a curator of literary manuscripts at the British Library, where he was responsible for many literary acquisitions and several exhibitions. He has spent sabbaticals at New York Public Library and the Harry Ransom Center, where he was a consultant curator on the major exhibition *Make it New: the Rise of Modernism*. He is a committee member of GLAM (Group for Literary Manuscripts and Archives) and sits on the UK Literary Heritage working group. He publishes on professional and literary subjects, particularly Philip Larkin and Joseph Conrad.

## RICK GEKOSKI

Rick Gekoski is a writer, rare book dealer, and academic, and a US/UK dual citizen. He took a D.Phil. in English at Oxford, and from 1971 to 1987 he was a member of the English Department of the University of Warwick, where he became a Senior Lecturer and Chairman of the Faculty of Arts. In the mid-1980s he started his business dealing in rare books and manuscripts of twentieth-century English and American literature, which he runs from his office in London. He has established two private presses, The Sixth Chamber Press and The Bridgewater Press, which issue finely printed editions of leading writers, novelists, and poets. As a writer he has published a critical book on Joseph Conrad, the Bibliography of William Golding, *Staying Up* (a book on Premiership Football), and a collection of essays entitled *Tolkien's Gown and Other Stories of Great Authors and Rare Books*, which was based on his Radio 4 Series, *Rare Books, Rare People*. His forthcoming book *Outside of a Dog: A Bibliomemoir*, will be published in 2009. He was a judge for the Man Booker Prize in 2005.

## DANA GIOIA

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Dana Gioia is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning poet. He received a B.A. and an M.B.A. from Stanford University and an M.A. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. Gioia has published three full-length collections of poetry, as well as eight chapbooks. His poetry collection, *Interrogations at Noon*, won the 2002 American Book Award. An influential critic as well, Gioia's 1991 volume *Can Poetry Matter?*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award, is credited with helping to revive the role of poetry in American public culture. The NEA's two critical studies: *Reading at Risk* and *To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence* have brought enormous public attention to the importance of reading and arts participation. In addition, the NEA has assumed a major role in shaping the national discussion on issues of arts and arts education.

## STELLA HALKYARD

Stella Halkyard has been educated at the Universities of Newcastle, Liverpool, and Manchester where she has studied English, Archive Administration, and the History of Visual Culture. She has worked extensively in public and specialist libraries and archive repositories. She is a Registered Archivist and a mentor for the Society of Archivists' Registration Scheme. Since 1991 she has been the Archivist for Modern Literary Archives at The John Rylands University Library, The University of Manchester where she curates the Collection of Modern Literary Archives. She is a committee member of GLAM (Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts) and a Trustee of the Documentary Photography Archive.

## **SPEAKERS** continued

### **PETER HIRTLE**

Peter B. Hirtle is the Intellectual Property Officer for the Cornell University Library. Hirtle also serves as the Technology Strategist for the Library's Public Services and Assessment Division and is the bibliographer for United States and General History. Previously, Hirtle served as Director of the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections where he explored the use of emerging technologies to expand access to cultural and scientific sources through the development and management of distinctive digital collections. He also served as the Associate Editor of *D-Lib Magazine* ([www.dlib.org](http://www.dlib.org)), a monthly magazine about innovation and research in digital libraries. He is currently a member of the Copyright Office's Section 108 Study Group and is a contributing author to the [LibraryLaw.com](http://LibraryLaw.com) blog.

### **GLENN HOROWITZ**

Glenn Horowitz is a book dealer who specializes in the purchase and sale of literary, historical, and art-related rare books, autographs, manuscripts, and original works of art and photography, and in the appraisal of such materials for estate-tax and insurance purposes. Mr. Horowitz graduated from Bennington College in 1977, and enjoyed a brief stint working at the Strand Bookstore in New York City before opening his own business in 1979. A specialty of his firm is representing authors and the estates of authors as agents for the sale of archives, such as Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's Watergate papers to The University of Texas, and Vladimir Nabokov's archive to the New York Public Library. Mr. Horowitz currently represents the estates of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson, former United States President Gerald R. Ford, and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

### **JEREMY LEIGHTON JOHN**

Jeremy Leighton John has been working since 2000 with personal digital archives at the British Library, and was appointed as its first Curator of eMANUSCRIPTS in 2003. He is responsible for the Digital Manuscripts Project funded by the British Library itself. The project has been developing procedures for the capture, holding, and access of eMSS: pioneering, for example, the use of authenticating forensic processes as well as exploring perspectives and practices of enhanced and proactive curation. Holding a D.Phil. degree from Merton College, University of Oxford, he is the Principal Investigator of the Digital Lives Research Project funded by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council, which is researching the behavior of creators, the expectations of scholars and other users, and the requirements of curators and archivists ([www.bl.uk/digital-lives](http://www.bl.uk/digital-lives)).

## DENIS JOHNSON

Denis Johnson is the author of several novels, plays, and books of verse. His novel *Tree of Smoke* received the 2007 National Book Award for fiction.

## KRIS KIESLING

Kris Kiesling is the Elmer L. Andersen Director of Archives and Special Collections at the University of Minnesota. A recognized authority on cataloging and description of archival materials and inveterate workshop presenter, Kris is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. From 1990 to 2005 she was at the Harry Ransom Center, initially as head of the Department of Manuscripts and Archives and finally as Associate Director for Technical and Digital Services.

## MATTHEW KIRSCHENBAUM

Matthew Kirschenbaum is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Maryland and Associate Director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), an applied thinktank for the digital humanities. He is also an affiliated faculty member with the Human-Computer Interaction Lab at Maryland, and a Vice President of the Electronic Literature Organization. Kirschenbaum's first book, *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination*, was published in 2008. He also writes for the popular press, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and blogs at [www.otal.umd.edu/~mgk/](http://www.otal.umd.edu/~mgk/). Kirschenbaum is a principal investigator for MONK, a multi-institutional Mellon-funded project to develop advanced analytical and visualization tools for digital text collections. He is also a co-investigator on a Library of Congress funded project devoted to Preserving Virtual Worlds.

## JAMES MAGNUSON

James Magnuson, director of the Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas at Austin, is the author of ten novels, including *Without Barbarians*, *Ghost Dancing*, *Windfall*, and *The Hounds of Winter*. Former Hodder Fellow and playwright-in-residence at Princeton University (plays: *Squanto*, *Slingsong*, *Game Time*), he has also been a TV series writer for *Knots Landing*, *Class of '96*, and *Sweet Justice*.

# **SPEAKERS** continued

## **STEVE MIELKE**

Steve Mielke is an archivist at the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin. Among the papers he has processed at the Ransom Center are the Tennessee Williams collection, the Anthony Burgess papers, the Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein Watergate papers, and the Norman Mailer papers. Before coming to the Ransom Center in 1997, Mielke worked at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia. Mielke is a member of the Society of American Archivists and served on the Society's Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee, 2006–2008.

## **BREON MITCHELL**

Breon Mitchell is Professor of Germanic Studies and Comparative Literature at Indiana University, where he also serves as Director of The Lilly Library of rare books and manuscripts. He received the D.Phil. in Modern Languages from Oxford University. His primary areas of research include the modern novel, the modern illustrated book, and translation studies. He has written, edited, and translated over 20 books and monographs, including *James Joyce and the Modern Novel: 1922–1933*; *Beyond Illustration: the Livre d'Artiste in the Twentieth Century*; *Word and Image: Samuel Beckett and the Visual Text* (with Lois Overbeck), and a re-translation of Franz Kafka's *The Trial* for Schocken Books.

## **NAOMI NELSON**

Naomi Nelson is the Assistant Director and Coordinator for Digital Access in Emory University's Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL). She received a Masters in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991 and a Ph.D. in History from Emory University in 2001. Dr. Nelson first worked with born-digital archives in the 1990s while processing the papers of Senator Sam Nunn and served as a consultant to the Senate Computer Center on the transfer of born-digital Constituent Mail files to archival repositories. She is currently part of a team at Emory working to preserve and provide access to born-digital records in the papers of noted author Salman Rushdie. She is one of the Emory representatives on the "Approaches to Managing and Collecting Born-Digital Literary Materials for Scholarly Use" project proposed by the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, the Harry Ransom Center, and MARBL and funded by the NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up program.

## **TIM O'BRIEN**

Tim O'Brien has been hailed as "the best American writer of his generation" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). The author of eight books, O'Brien received the National Book Award in Fiction in 1979 for his novel *Going After Cacciato*. In 2005 *The Things They*

*Carried* was named by the *New York Times* as one of the 20 best books of the last quarter century. It received the *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Award in fiction and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The French edition of *The Things They Carried* received the prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, and the title story was selected by John Updike for inclusion in *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*. *In the Lake of the Woods*, published in 1994, was chosen by *Time* magazine as the best novel of that year. O'Brien's other works include *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, *Northern Lights*, *Tomcat in Love*, and *July, July*. His short fiction, which received the National Magazine Award, has appeared in numerous journals, including *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, and *Harper's*. Tim O'Brien holds the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Endowed Chair in Creative Writing at Texas State University.

## **RICHARD OVENDEN**

Richard Ovenden was educated at Durham University and University College London, and has worked as a professional librarian since 1985. He has served on the staff of Durham University Library, the House of Lords Library, the National Library of Scotland (as Deputy Head of the Rare Books Section), at the University of Edinburgh (as Director of Collections), and now at the Bodleian Library Oxford (as Keeper of Special Collections and Associate Director of Oxford University Library Services). He sits on JISC's Content Services Committee and Digitization Advisory Group, is a Board Member of the Digital Preservation Coalition, and serves on numerous other boards and committees. He has published widely on the history of collecting, the history of photography, and on professional concerns of the library, archive, and information world. He is currently head of Oxford's involvement with the Google mass digitization project. He holds a Professorial Fellowship at St Hugh's College, Oxford.

## **BEN PRIMER**

Ben Primer has been associated with the Princeton University Library since 1990 as Curator of Public Policy Papers, University Archivist, and Associate University Librarian of Rare Books and Special Collections. Princeton holds the archives of *The Hudson Review*, for which Dana Gioia served as advisory editor for poetry for 15 years. Primer earned a B.A. from Rice University and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

## **MICHAEL RYAN**

Michael Ryan has managed and directed special collections libraries for more than 30 years at Chicago, Stanford, Penn, and currently at Columbia University. He has also taught at the graduate and undergraduate level, offering a variety of courses in Early Modern European History and in the History of the Book. He reviews regularly for several publications and is on the editorial board of *College & Research Libraries*.

# **SPEAKERS** continued

## **ALICE SCHREYER**

Alice Schreyer is Assistant Director for Preservation & Special Collections and Director of the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago Library, where she began as Curator of Special Collections in 1991. She teaches a course in special collections librarianship at Rare Book School, University of Virginia, and serves on the Rare Book School Board of Directors. As a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)'s Task Force on Special Collections, she wrote a white paper on "Education and Training for Careers in Special Collections." Alice served as chair of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ALA/ACRL) and edited the ARL journal, *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Her conference paper, "From Treasure Room to Research Center: Special Collection in the United States," was recently published in a volume of essays entitled *Special Collections in the 21st Century: Organisation, Services, Resources* (Harrassowitz, 2008).

## **THOMAS F. STALEY**

Thomas F. Staley is Director of the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin, where he is also Professor of English and holds The Harry Hunt Ransom Chair in Liberal Arts. Staley has written or edited thirteen books on James Joyce, Italo Svevo, modern British women novelists, and modern literature in general. He is the founding editor of the *James Joyce Quarterly* and *Joyce Studies Annual*. He currently edits a series on literary modernism at The University of Texas Press. He has written and spoken widely in the United States and Europe on literary subjects, libraries, the state of the humanities in contemporary culture, and the building of modern library collections.

## **WILLIAM STINGONE**

William Stingone was recently named Assistant Director for Archives and Manuscripts at the New York Public Library. He is responsible for the coordination and oversight of the acquisition, description, preservation, and public service of archives and manuscript collections throughout the NYPL system. He has been the Charles J. Liebman Curator of Manuscripts at the New York Public Library since 2003. From 2001 to 2003 Stingone was Curator of the Carnegie Philanthropy Collections at Columbia University. He began his professional career as an archivist in the NYPL's Manuscripts and Archives Division in 1995. He also spent 18 months at NYPL working as the assistant to the Director of the Research Libraries. While earning his MLIS at The University of Texas at Austin, he interned at the Harry Ransom Center.

## AMY TAN

Born in the US to immigrant parents from China, Amy Tan rejected her mother's expectations that she become a doctor and concert pianist. She chose to write fiction instead. Her novels are *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Hundred Secret Senses*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, and *Saving Fish from Drowning*, all *New York Times* bestsellers and the recipient of various awards. She is also the author of a memoir, *The Opposite of Fate*, two children's books, *The Moon Lady* and *Sagwa*, *The Chinese Siamese Cat*, and numerous articles for magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *National Geographic*. Her work has been translated into 35 languages, from Spanish, French, and Finnish to Chinese, Arabic, and Hebrew. She has lectured internationally at universities, including Stanford, Oxford, Jagellonium, Beijing, and Georgetown both in Washington DC and Doha, Qatar. Ms. Tan is also a member of the literary garage band, the Rock Bottom Remainers, whose members include Stephen King, Dave Barry, and Scott Turow. In spite of their dubious talent, their yearly gigs have managed to raise over a million dollars for literacy programs.

## SUSAN THOMAS

Susan Thomas is a Digital Archivist at the Bodleian Library where she is responsible for developing the Library's capacity to curate, preserve, and provide access to born-digital archives. She currently leads the futureArch project ([www.futurearchives.blogspot.com](http://www.futurearchives.blogspot.com)), an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation sponsored initiative to develop and embed a sustainable approach to the curation of born-digital archives at the Library. Previous projects include: CAIRO (2006–2008), a development project designed to facilitate initial processing of born-digital archives for submission to a digital preservation repository; and PARADIGM (2005–2007), which explored digital preservation issues relevant to manuscript collections and collecting using the papers of politicians as sample collections. Susan is also a member of the Data Standards Group Committee of the UK Society of Archivists, the UK team of the international interPARES3 project, and the Steering Group of the British Library's Digital Lives project.

## FRANK TURNER

Frank M. Turner is John Hay Whitney Professor of History and Director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, where he served as University Provost from 1988 to 1992. His area of scholarship is Victorian intellectual history with his most recent publications being *John Henry Newman: The Challenge to Evangelical Religion* (2002) and an edition of John Henry Cardinal Newman's *Apologia Pro Vita Sua and Six Sermons* (2008).

A WALK IN THE WOODS — BLESSING  
Lee Blessing

O'BRIEN IN THE LAKE OF THE WOODS  
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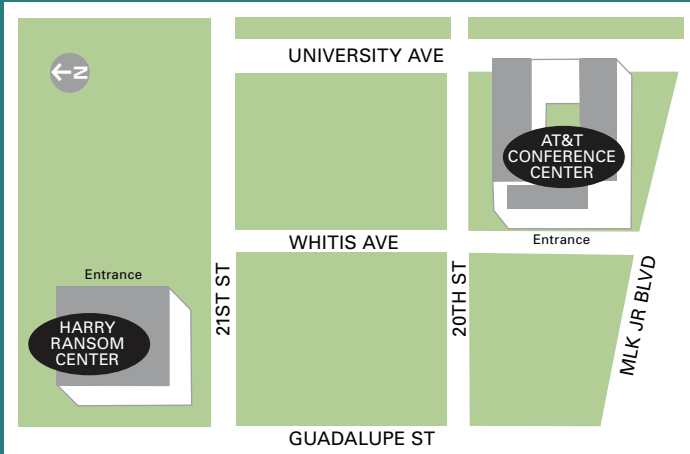
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EDMUND ROSS  
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## PREVIOUS FLAIR SYMPOSIA

- 1994** THE STATE AND FATE OF PUBLISHING
- 1996** SHOUTING IN THE EVENING: BRITISH THEATER, 1956–1996
- 1998** WRITING THE LIVES OF WOMEN
- 2000** THE INFINITE LIBRARY
- 2002** WRITERS' RIGHTS
- 2004** THE STATE AND FATE OF MODERNISM
- 2006** THE SENSE OF OUR TIME: NORMAN MAILER AND AMERICA IN CONFLICT

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