

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
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112 WEST MAIN AVENUE  
MYERSTOWN, PA 17067  
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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION  
INSURANCE  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
POLICY  
VETERANS AFFAIRS &  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dave Argall, Appropriations Chairman  
**FROM:** REPRESENTATIVE PETER ZUG *PJ*  
**RE:** Capital Budget  
**DATE:** April 1, 2002

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Would you please include \$6,000,000.00 in the next capital budget bill for construction of a rare book room facility in the state library?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



January 7, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Ms Jeanne H. Schmedlen  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
332 Matthew Ryan Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Ms. Schmedlen:

For over three years I have been fortunate to chair the skilled and resourceful Rare Books Renovation Committee assigned to preserving Pennsylvania's historic and rare books, documents, and newspapers contained within the State Library of Pennsylvania.

Over the course of this project, our work attracted the attention of Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll and, of course, Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper, Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Committee and Clare Zales, Acting Deputy Secretary of Education for Libraries. Though our Committee has already been successful in the initial stages of preserving components of the rare books room, most notably the Original Assembly Collection personally selected by the Clerk of Courts, Benjamin Franklin, much work remains to be done.

We are seeking your help in taking our efforts to the next stage.

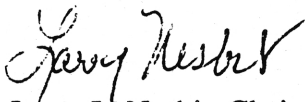
Both the Lieutenant Governor and Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper extol your passion and active interest in preserving the history of our state and consider you a "natural" to join our efforts at preserving the collection of inestimable value in the State Library. They strongly encouraged me and I whole heartedly seek your participation and invite you to join the Rare Books Room Renovation Committee.

A brief summary of the committee's charge and efforts is attached. I would like to call you in a week or so and together with Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper and Clare Zales briefly meet to further explain our work. This is not an "endless" committee as our goal is clearly defined with an identification conclusion.



Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely yours,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll  
Ms. Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper  
Ms. Clare Zales  
Mr. D. Argall, State Representative  
✓ Mr. P. Zug, State Representative

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

MYERSTOWN OFFICE:  
112 WEST MAIN AVENUE  
MYERSTOWN, PA 17067  
PHONE: (717) 866-9144



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

March 4, 2004

Donald T. Cunningham, Secretary  
Department of General Services  
515 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17125-0001

Dear Secretary Cunningham:

Thank you for taking the time to address the House Appropriations Committee during our budget hearings. This is always an informative process.

During the question and answer segment of your testimony, I said that I had heard that the time allotted by your architect on the "Rare Book Room" project of the General Assembly Library, was being reduced. You replied to me by saying that this was not a true statement.

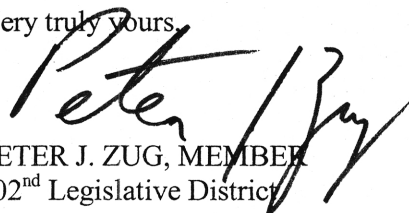
Enclosed please find a letter to Mark Schwager, with your office, that contradicts your aforementioned statement and indicates that your office has indeed limited the time that the Commonwealth architects are permitted to work on this project.

Additionally, this correspondence also mentions a deal that you relayed via Deputy Secretary Winters to the Rare Books Committee.

I would appreciate if you would confirm for me the availability of Commonwealth architects on the aforementioned project. I would also appreciate your comments on the deal presented by Mr. Winters.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to your reply.

Very truly yours,

  
PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

PJZ:lbl  
Enclosure  
Cc: John Perzel  
Dave Argall  
Larry Nesbit



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

March 1, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Mr. Mark Schwager,  
Chief of Architectural Design  
Bureau of Engineering and Architecture  
Department of General Services  
18<sup>th</sup> and Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mark,

I wanted to follow up on a conversation I had with Neal regarding his participation in our meetings. He approached me with the disturbing news that his participation in our Committee meetings must be curtailed as he had other work, which will require his attention. While I totally understand why you would wonder if these meetings were a wise use of his time, I want to assure you that it is critical if we are to be successful.

There are several major topics on every agenda that Neal alone, as the Project Architect, has the ability to deal with and they are: 1) update on construction, 2) budget information, 3) the next phase and most important, 4) the tailoring of the design and construction to available funds while at the same time meeting the different design standards required for this Committee to seek both public and private funding. As you may easily surmise, Neal's input and suggestions are mandatory if we are to continue to make prudent choices.

I am sure this places another degree of stress on you and your office. Given that this is a high profile project and more influential people are getting involved with each passing week, I hope you concur that the few hours a month of Neal's time for Committee meetings is a good investment to make. Finally, I probably need to mention that Secretary Cunningham assured the Rare Books Committee via Deputy Secretary

Winters, Director of Engineering, that Neal's time would be made available to the Committee if we did not lobby for the release of SB582. Of course, we are accepting the offer and I wanted to alert you to the deal in case no one has mentioned it to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry".

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: J. Cunningham  
B. Glenn  
Rare Books Committee



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES  
HARRISBURG

DONALD T. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
SECRETARY

717 787-5996

March 11, 2004

The Honorable Peter J. Zug  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
150-A Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representative Zug:

Thank you for your March 4, 2004 letter regarding the Rare Book Room.

I appreciate your commitment to this project, and I want to assure you that I share that commitment. As I stated during the hearing, it is our intention to move forward on this project as expeditiously as possible. The design schedule is on target and contrary to Mr. Larry Nesbit's letter, Mr. Neil Rusnov, an architect at the Department of General Services, remains actively involved. As the letter stated, Mr. Rusnov does have other work to complete, but it will not be at the expense of the State Library Project. I have attached a letter from Bob Glenn, Director of the Bureau of Engineering and Architecture at the Department of General Services, to Mr. Nesbit, which underscores DGS's intent to honor our commitment to his important project.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald T. Cunningham, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donald T. Cunningham, Jr.  
Secretary

cc: Jim Creedon

Attachment



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES  
HARRISBURG

March 5, 2004

Mr. Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Book Committee  
Mansfield University  
North Hall Library  
Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933

RE: **Project No. DGS-A 410-91**  
**Rare Book Library Renovations**  
**Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA**

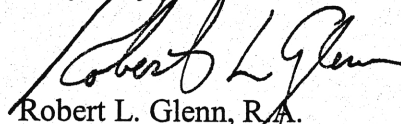
Dear Mr. Nesbit:

In response to your letter of March 1, 2004, please be assured that we intend to honor our commitment to continue our design efforts on the Rare Book project, and that Neal's participation is not curtailed. However, his time must be coordinated with a full load of other projects in order for the Department to meet its obligations to all Commonwealth agencies. The team at Public Works has the design schedule coordinated with its other projects, so that there will be no delay in meeting the phasing schedule that has been agreed upon. We understand Neal's importance to the Committee's work, and he will be available to participate in the meetings concerning design and construction issues.

It would best be if we could have an advance schedule of the meetings to avoid conflicts with other scheduled events that involve Neal. It would also help Public Works, if the meeting agendas could be arranged so that the times involving design and construction occur early in the meeting, so that Neal's time can be used most efficiently. Please be assured that Public Works fully intends to continue with the working relationship that has served the project well.

Please contact me, or Mark Schwager at (717) 787-4054, if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert L. Glenn, R.A.  
Director  
Bureau of Engineering & Architecture

RLG/lcs

xc: James Creedon  
Rare Book Committee  
M. Schwager  
Cornelius Rusnov  
Central File  
Director's File

April 14, 2004



Mansfield, PA 16933

Mr. James Creedon, Deputy Secretary  
Department of General Services  
North Office Building  
18<sup>th</sup> and Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Dear Jim,

I wanted to let you know how pleased the Rare Books Committee was that Neal Rusnov, Project Architect, was encouraged to travel to Philadelphia to meet with Mr. Glen Ruzicka, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, last week. The trip was essential because it permitted Glenn to review all the appropriate conservation standards with Neal and now Neal knows and understands what we need to do so that we may truly save our written heritage for future generations. While Neal was discussing the project with Glenn and other staff members at the Conservation Center, they volunteered to monitor the work we are doing to ensure that our project continues to be done at a high level of compliance to the standards. This is exceptionally good news and it demonstrates once again the value of the collection owned by the Commonwealth.

Given the amount of coordination we need with the Conservation Center and how incremental and complex the planning for the Rare Books Library is, I am beginning to think we need to reconsider the timeline that was previously established for the project. Via my conversations with Neal, I have the sense that Bob Glenn and Neal as well as others may be attending the Rare Books Committee meeting on Tuesday and I am thinking that the timeline would be an appropriate agenda item. Please let me know your thoughts on the topic and I will go from there.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry".

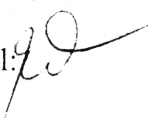
Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: C. Knoll  
J. Perzel  
✓ P. Zug  
D. Argall  
R. Hubbert-Kemper  
Rare Books Committee

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

April 28, 2004

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Governor Rendell: 

Secretary Donald Cunningham may have told you that we have decided to take a leadership role in support of the Rare Books Room renovation project at the State Library across the street.

Our rare books collection contains the precious Pennsylvania Assembly Library, America's first library, compiled by Benjamin Franklin. While we think that all rare books must be carefully kept and used, are very concerned that these particular volumes be preserved and protected.

One of the books is the original, 18<sup>th</sup> century Assembly Bible published in 1739. The other Assembly volumes date from 1548-1771, with a majority falling in the 1770s. All are priceless, irreplaceable and the foundation of the legislative process in Pennsylvania. Franklin, Jefferson, Washington and our other forefathers studied these very books while drafting the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other historic documents.

The Rare books project began in November of 2002. First, thanks for assigning two of your architects at the Department of General Services, Neal Rusnov and Bob Glenn, to the project. We understand they have provided excellent designs for the construction of the vault and special library space for the first floor of the building and will continue to devote their talents to this important project. We are grateful for this, but we ask for more.

We ask that, in order to be able to meet the January 2006 deadline for completion of this project, you release the \$6 million in the Capitol Budget that was allocated last year to the project through a Zug amendment. We also request that you ask Secretary Cunningham to put this project at the top of his priority list for attention and funding for the coming year.

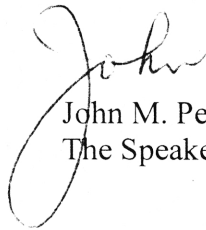


The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Page 2  
April 28, 2004

Our staff visited the Rare Books location at the State Library yesterday. They sadly reported that our rare books are in terrible shape: discolored and deteriorating, not climate or light-controlled, their leather coverings stained and falling apart, their pages disintegrating. The rare newspaper collection is in even worse shape. The entire collection is in undesirable, basement space that lacks proper light and fire protection.

We all should be ashamed of this neglect and lack of oversight and take the necessary action to save our rare books while they still can be salvaged. We owe this to our children and future generations.

Sincerely,

  
John M. Perzel  
The Speaker

  
Representative Peter J. Zug  
Lebanon County

*Hon. Peter Zug*



# Office of Commonwealth Libraries

May 7, 2004

Mr. James Creedon  
Deputy Secretary for Public Works  
Department of General Services  
403 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Creedon:

The Rare Books Renovation Committee is grateful for the participation of Robert Glenn and Neal Rusnov during their April 20 meeting. During this meeting the Committee expressed concerns about the potential of a mold outbreak in the work area of the Rare Book Room vault. We were assured your team would investigate this situation and provide our office with recommendations on how to proceed.

This week, our project architect and several members of your engineering staff came to the Forum Building to investigate this issue and other matters regarding the project's design and future construction. I would like to express my appreciation and confidence in the timely, discreet and professional manner in which DGS handled this difficult matter.

With respect to the potential mold problems, Neal Rusnov presented this office with two important recommendations based on his team's investigation:

- 1) Keep all exterior windows closed and open the transom windows above the doors adjacent to the hallway on the Ground Floor where the rooms were demolished for the Rare Books Vault.  
Response: The transom windows have been opened and will remain opened until instructed to close them.
- 2) Construction on the Rare Newspaper Vault was scheduled to begin under Phase 2. DGS will delay construction in this area until Phase 3.  
Response: The committee agrees the delay of the initiation of this construction is based on careful attention to applying the most appropriate standards and planning for this construction will continue.

While no active mold was currently identified in the vault area, we know inactive mold can change quickly into an active mold problem if construction of the Rare Newspaper Vault is delayed beyond what was agreed to under Neal Rusnov's proposal. An incomplete construction site would create the ideal environment for a mold outbreak.

**Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745**

Although the need to proceed expediently on this project is of the utmost importance, we do not want to compromise any detail pertaining to preservation for the sake of rigid adherence to the construction schedule. The committee is confident Neal Rusnov fully understands the importance of gaining expert verification of the appropriate standards to which he must design in order for this project to be successful. The architectural design being developed now will create the baseline by which the State Library will be judged eligible for national conservation and preservation grants that will be critical to the survival of this delicate collection. We accept that careful, thoughtful work may cause delays within the project, but will not unduly or superficially impact the overall project timeline.

We continue to have confidence in the approach of our project architect's design team and understand Robert Glenn will keep us apprised of any delays.

As always, if you have questions or need additional information, please call.

Sincerely,

  
M. Clare Zales

Acting Deputy Secretary  
& Commissioner for Libraries

cc: The Honorable Catherine B. Knoll, Lieutenant Governor  
The Honorable John M. Perzel, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Peter J. Zug, Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Mr. Donald T. Cunningham, Secretary, Department of General Services  
Dr. Vicki L. Phillips, Secretary, Department of Education  
Ms. Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper, Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Committee  
Dr. Larry Nesbit, Chair the Renovation Committee

May 10, 2004



Mansfield, PA 16933

Ms. Heidi C. Mays  
Archivist/Records Manager  
B-04 Irvis Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672  
E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Dear Ms. Mays:

I have the distinct privilege of inviting you to join the Rare Books Committee based on the enthusiastic recommendation of Ms. Jean Schmedlen, Director of Special Projects for Speaker Perzel.

Our committee has taken on the responsibility for creating an area in the Forum Building which will preserve our priceless heritage of printed materials, including the Original Assembly Collection purchased by, then Clerk of the Assembly, Benjamin Franklin, in 1745. As you are very much, already aware, this collection provided the resources used by our founding fathers to craft both the governmental structure for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our Nation.

Thank you for agreeing to accept this additional responsibility because we need your expertise to help ensure we make the most appropriate choices as we do the necessary planning for the actual renovation. If you have time, I would like to invite you to attend a subcommittee on budget issues on May 19, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in Clare Zales office, Deputy Secretary for Libraries. You may enter her office via rooms 201 or 223. The next full committee meeting is Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Forum Building, room 317.

Please contact me if you have any questions and I look forward to actually seeing you in approximately one week.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry".

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: Susan S. Cohen  
Peter C. Wambach  
Jeanne Schmedlen  
✓ Representative Peter Zug  
M. Clare Zales  
Ruthann Hubber-Kemper  
Rare Books Committee

JOHN M. PERZEL  
THE SPEAKER





139 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-2016

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**DATE:** June 21, 2004

**SUBJECT:** House Rare Books Collection Project

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** John M. Perzel  The Speaker  
Representative Peter J. Zug   
Lebanon County

We write to inform you of the deplorable condition of the historically significant Rare Books Collection, and of our support in the effort to preserve these works of local and national importance. The resources available in the Rare Books Collection are virtually unknown to many, and part of our goal is to raise awareness and elevate education about the Collection.

The Rare Books include the Assembly Collection, volumes dating from 1548-1771, which were ordered from England by Benjamin Franklin as the Clerk for the General Assembly. These English law books were then used as references and models for the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution. Consequently, the unique history of these books distinguishes them as items of national interest, in addition to their significance to the Commonwealth.

While making the existence and significance of the Rare Books Collection known, we also plan to fully restore and relocate the Collection. We are deeply concerned with the regrettable state of disrepair in which the Collection currently exists. If they are not restored and properly preserved, they will be lost. Attached, please find an executive summary, which will explain the details of the renovations.

To these ends, we will be holding a public event on October 4, at 11:00 a.m. Parts of the Collection will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda from the time of this event until the following October of 2006. A presentation on the Assembly Collection will be featured at this time.

We encourage your cooperation in this matter, and urge anyone who wishes to join in the preservation effort to contact Jeanne Schmedlen at 705-1894 or [jschmedl@pahousegop.com](mailto:jschmedl@pahousegop.com).

June 22, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Mr. James Creedon, Deputy Secretary  
Department of General Services  
18<sup>th</sup> & Herr Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Jim:

Neal Rusnov extended your regrets at not being able to attend the June 22, 2004 meeting of the Rare Books Room Renovation Committee. I speak on behalf of the full committee when I say you were missed. I thought I would share with you some of the highlights.

This was an especially productive meeting. Jeanne Schmedlen from Speaker Perzel's office shared with the committee the written description of what the Speaker is naming the *Pennsylvania House Rare Books Collection Project*. The kick-off of this project will be an October 4, 2004 event in the Rotunda marking a year-long exhibit highlighting different components of the rare books renovation project. The write-up included a letter from the Speaker and Representative Zug to the Governor thanking him for the generous support from your agency and to request financial support from the Governor. A copy is attached.

Alyssa Mutryn from Lt. Governor Knoll's office reported on the high level of interest that was generated by the exhibit of one of the State Library's rare books displayed in a case in the Lt. Governor's office. The Lt. Governor will continue to advocate for foundation funding.

The Department of Education will be distributing a press release update on the renovation – a draft of the press release is attached.

Our next meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in Room 317 of the Forum Building. We would be pleased to have you attend if it is convenient.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor C. Knoll  
Speaker Perzel  
✓ Representative Zug  
Rare Books Committee

**LYNN B. HERMAN, MEMBER**

HOUSE BOX 202020  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-8594

301 S. ALLEN STREET  
ALLENWAY BLDG. / SUITE 102  
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801  
PHONE: (814) 238-5477

130 N. FRONT STREET  
PHILIPSBURG, PA 16866  
PHONE: (814) 342-5411



*House of Representatives*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**COMMITTEES**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIRMAN  
EDUCATION  
SUB-COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
LEGISLATIVE DATA PROCESSING,  
CHAIRMAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION  
MAJORITY POLICY

PENN STATE FORUM  
CO-CHAIRMAN  
CHILDRENS CAUCUS  
FIREFIGHTERS CAUCUS  
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAUCUS

July 16, 2004

TO: Members of the House History Caucus

FROM: Representative Lynn B. Herman, Co-Chairman *L.B.H.*  
House History Caucus

SUBJECT: House Rare Books Collection Project

I have been contacted by Speaker John Perzel and Representative Peter Zug regarding the Rare Books Collection restoration project at the State Library.

Attached please find correspondence I have received which outlines the content of the Collection and the regrettable state of disrepair in which the Collection currently exists. The attached Executive Summary explains the details of this renovation project.

Members of the House History Caucus can tour the Rare Books Collection in its current environment at the State Library on October 4, 2004, at 10:00 AM. I encourage members to participate in this tour to view this historically significant collection and learn about steps being taken to preserve these valuable artifacts.

LBH/lls

Attachment



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

## Pennsylvania House Rare Books Collection Project

### Executive Summary

The renovation and relocation of the Rare Books Collection serves a dual purpose: to restore and preserve the Rare Books for posterity (Part I), and to educate the public about this collection of books (Part II). The 15,000 volumes contain the irreplaceable Assembly Collection, law books ordered beginning in 1746 by Benjamin Franklin, as the Clerk for the Assembly.

Projected completion of construction for the Rare Books Library is December 2006.

### Historical Significance

In 1745, the Pennsylvania Assembly, while meeting in Philadelphia, asked Benjamin Franklin to order comprehensive English law books known as the *Statutes at Large*, as well as large maps of North America from England. Thus began the Assembly Collection. It has since grown to include seven volumes of the *Statutes at Large*, the Bible of the Assembly, and other law books used in drafting the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. These books were considered so valuable to the Assembly that when it moved from Philadelphia to Lancaster, the books were transported as well. They were once again relocated to Philadelphia before finally being moved to Harrisburg. It is imperative that the Rare Books collection, currently in a regrettable state of disrepair, be restored; they are of local and national significance, having been used by the Pennsylvania Assembly to draft a constitution for the Commonwealth, and then the United States Constitution.

### Part I. Vault, Renovation and Restoration (Department of General Services Plan)

- The goal of the project is to build a physically and environmentally secure vault, which will provide protection from theft, mold, overexposure to ultraviolet and infrared light, and temperature and humidity fluctuations.
- The project will be phased, allowing construction to proceed while limiting unnecessary movement of collections. These phases are



dependent upon the release of the allocated funds in the Governor's Capital Budget, which is under his discretion.

- Phase 1- Demolition, Haz/Mat, increase floor structure  
**COMPLETE** as of February 14, 2004.  
Cost/Funding- \$284,000.
- Phase 2- Enclosure of Rare Books Vault, enclosure of Rare News Vault, and installation of environmental controls.  
Construction completion- January, 2005.  
Cost/Funding-\$630,000
- Phase 3- Completion of Rare Newspaper Vault  
Construction completion- March, 2005.  
Cost/Funding- \$400,000- Library/CPC, 04/05 Budget
- Phase 4- Enclosure and environmental control of Transitional Rare Books Area  
Construction completion- December, 2005.  
Cost/Funding- \$2 million- Library also seeking additional grants.
- Phase 5- Completion of semi-public spaces, offices and work areas.  
Construction completion- December, 2005.  
Cost/Funding- \$1.2 million- Library also seeking additional grants.
- Phase 6- Completion of public spaces: exhibits/hallways, etc.  
Construction completion- November, 2006.  
Cost/Funding- \$1.5 million- Library also seeking additional grants.
- Foundations and Grants
  - To help defray construction costs, additional funds, in the form of grants, are being sought from Foundations which may benefit from, or have an interest in, the preservation of the Rare Books.

## Part II. Education

- Letter to the Governor (attachment A)
  - In order to implement the plan to raise awareness about the Rare Books, a letter to the Governor, dated April 28, 2004, requested the release of the \$6 million in the Capital

Budget that was allocated to the project through an amendment by Representative Peter Zug.

- Policy Committee Meetings
  - Presentations by members of the Rare Books Committee will be made to the House Policy Committees in the Fall of 2004. This will allow for the legislators to be made more aware of what is available to them, and to learn more about the Assembly Collection.
  - Republican Policy Committee Meeting  
Rep. Mario Civera, Chair  
Date: TBA  
Location: Republican Caucus Room
  - Democratic Policy Committee Meeting  
Rep. Steve Stetler, Chair  
September 21, 2004, 11:00 am  
Location: Democratic Caucus Room, 418
- History Caucus Visit
  - The members of the History Caucus, with chairman Rep. Lynn Herman, will tour the Rare Books Collection in its current environment on October 4, 2004 at 10:00 am.
- Public Events
  - On October 4, 2004 at 11:00 a.m., the House, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Rare Books Commission, the Commonwealth Libraries and the Bureau of State Library will host a public education program in the Capitol Rotunda. A lecture on the Assembly Collection will be featured.
  - The books displayed will remain in the Rotunda for one year, and will change from time to time, as they cannot remain in the light for extended periods of time due to deterioration. This will also provide for maximum public exposure to the diverse collection.
- Brochure
  - In conjunction with the Rare Books Archivist, a brochure will be developed and printed for public distribution.
- Foundations and Grants
  - Additional funds are being sought in the form of grants from relevant Foundations, to help defray the cost of public educational programs for students and adults.

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August 20, 2004



Mansfield, PA 16933

Mr. James Creedon, Deputy Secretary  
Department of General Services  
18<sup>th</sup> and Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672  
E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your call on August 18<sup>th</sup> to verify the amount of matching funds the Rare Books Committee needs so that our grant proposals may be submitted. I am certain you probably have already received the exact amount from Neal, but it is approximately \$2,000,000. This will permit us to apply for \$750,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and \$1,000,000 from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). Both of these grants are very prestigious and I believe our chances of receiving the NEH grant are exceptionally good, because we have corrected the noted shortcomings of the previous submission, i.e., rare books certification for the professional, documented the presence of a disaster plan, developed security procedures, etc.

I also believe we have a high probability of receiving the grant from IMLS because of the Commonwealth's financial support via significant matching funds. We all now realize the collection of rare materials owned by Pennsylvania is exceptionally noteworthy given the role of Pennsylvanians and the state in Colonial America. When this is combined with our commitment, to do the renovation so that it meets and exceeds all the archival standards, as researched and promoted by the DGS professional during the past several months, it will make our application unique so I anticipate we will receive full funding

While I have already alluded to the pivotal role, which DGS has played in making this possible, please allow me to elaborate. When this project started over 4 years ago, it appeared that speed of completion was the primary goal, because the Rare Books Committee received drawings and subsequent detail before the Phase 1 redesign and construction that simply did not meet archival standards. When questioned, the Committee was constantly reminded that we were not the design professionals. If these designs would have been built, at best, the collections would have been housed in a mere cosmetic environment, not eligible for any grant funding and at worst, the collection's demise would have been insured. This all changed dramatically in January 2004 when Mr. Neal Rusnov was made available to the Committee on almost a full time basis. His willingness and ability to meet and review his design with this country's leading experts and institutions has greatly helped accelerated our progress. At the same time, we were

encouraged to seek outside grant funds with the inference that DGS would support any shortfall in funding. I am pleased that you and Secretary Cunningham are helping by recommending the needed matching funds be made available per the spirit of the aforementioned meeting. As you are keenly aware, this is a grossly under funded project whose mission cannot be overstated. I can only reassure you that this Committee is willing and happy to work in any way possible to assist you in your efforts to help us.

This is an exceptional example of the cooperation between the Department of General Services and the Department of Education. In this same vein of cooperation, I discussed the possibility of asking Dr. Zahorchak to write a letter to the editor of the Harrisburg Patriot explaining the importance of the collection and the assistance you and your agency have provided during the past year. Deputy Secretary Zales will recommend this alternative to the Secretary and we will contact you with his decision shortly.

I sincerely look forward to working with you and the people you supervise as we begin to implement the plans to preserve and protect our priceless written heritage. While we will probably have some *intense* discussions, I also know that I will enjoy working with you. This is an exciting project and I am honored to have the opportunity to assist both the Department of General Services and the Department of Education in its implementation.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: J. Perzel  
✓ P. Zug  
R. Hubbert-Kemper  
J. Schmedlen  
D. Cunningham  
M. Long  
M. Hershey  
G. Zhorchak  
C. Baker Knoll  
C. Zales  
M. Giannelli

CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL  
200 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0002

Office of the Lieutenant Governor



(717) 787-3300  
FAX (717) 783-0150  
lieutenant-governor@state.pa.us

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

August 24, 2004

*Dear Theresa,*  
Dear Mrs. Heinz Kerry,

I am writing to ask about your thoughts concerning the Heinz Foundation's position on helping the Pennsylvania State Library preserve its priceless historical books. These works of history, literature and art are located in one of the state's Capitol Complex buildings. The State Library of Pennsylvania is the official repository for all of Pennsylvania's publications and is valuable for its continued commitment to capture our history through the published word. I realize you are currently on the campaign trail working hard for John, but your collaboration could make a profound difference in the time frame and significance of this project.

In our rare books collection, we have many fine early publications. Patrick Gass's *Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery: Under the Command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke of the Army of the United States* (1807) holds special significance for Pittsburgh. As you probably remember from the Centennial celebrations, this Pittsburgh imprint was the first published account of Lewis and Clark's journey. It wasn't until 1812 that this account was published by Carey in Philadelphia. In addition, as the official repository for Pennsylvania's original newspapers, we have many early editions that are of interest to the Pittsburgh community. These newspapers include: *The Pittsburgh Gazette* (from 1797); the *Commonwealth* (1810); the *Allegheny Democrat*, and *Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser* (1824) and the *Allegheny Democrat* (1825) all of which are just a small portion of our early Pittsburgh collections.

Through current funding and support from the Capitol Preservation Committee and the State Department of General Services, the State Library has completed the first phase of groundbreaking development for the up-grades to the Rare Books Room of the State Library of Pennsylvania and its collections. I have enclosed a copy of a recent article, which describes the plight of the library. Our plans are to build a state-of-the-art storage and research environment that will be a model for libraries throughout Pennsylvania and the country. A trained paper conservator is currently on staff at the

State Library but without the needed funding we are unable to continue with preservation efforts.

I personally continue to hope that the Heinz Foundation will demonstrate their interest in this culturally significant project and will take the opportunity to participate in the current fundraising efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine".

Catherine Baker Knoll

C.C. Honorable John M. Perzel, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
✓ Honorable Peter J. Zug  
Gerald L. Zahorchak, Acting Secretary of Education  
Larry Nesbit, Chair of the Rare Books Project Committee

September 16, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

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(570) 662-4672  
E-mail: [lnesbit@mnsfld.edu](mailto:lnesbit@mnsfld.edu)

Mr. Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., Secretary  
Department of General Services  
515 North Office Building  
18<sup>th</sup> and Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17125

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

In January 2004, you provided the full time services of Mr. Neal Rusnov, one of your architects, to design the space for the rare materials owned by the State Library so they would be protected and preserved because they are the written heritage of the Commonwealth. As we learn more about this collection we recognize that the volumes represent one of the most important working colonial libraries not just in our state, but in the nation. It is a privilege to work with you and have the opportunity to save the collection for future generations of Pennsylvanians given their tremendous, intrinsic value to us as a state and a nation.

A recent highlight of the project are the letters of support I have been receiving as part of the documentation for the NEH grant which applauds the outstanding work completed by Mr. Neal Rusnov and DGS. The letters are from experts employed by the Commonwealth as well as from leading authorities in the U.S. and they consistently comment that the planning for the preservation and protection of the materials is at the highest level and meets all the archival standards. You and the individuals who work in your agency are to be commended for this significant effort. When this physical work is combined with your symbolic support via the matching fund commitment of approximately \$2 million for both the grant submissions to the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$750,000) and the Institute for Museums and Library Services (\$1 million) we have a project which showcases a proactive state government. It truly demonstrates how agencies such as DGS and PDE may work together with the support of the leadership of both the House and Senate to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania as well as the United States.

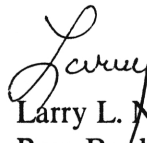
Within the walls of the Forum building is an incredible collection of materials of inestimable value which helped shape our very nation's basis image of democracy and freedom. Only one state in our nation can claim to have such a collection. Nor can any

other state claim to have done so much to preserve our heritage as we are now doing as attested to by the letters of support. Though there is much work to be done by Neal and his team of engineers to complete the work required just for Phase 2, we must emphasize how important it will be to keep Mr. Rusnov's attentions focused on this very important and special project. As he completed his designs, we must continue into construction as quickly as possible to save as much of this collection as possible. For too long our state has shirked its responsibilities to maintain the collections and its State Library through what one may consider a combination of ignorance, lack of expertise, knowledge and the basic skills necessary just to do so.

These collections were bought and paid for by the citizens of the Commonwealth, selected by the very individuals who shaped our democracy, and then left them in our hands to pass onto future generations. It is our responsibility to preserve these precious materials and I am seeking your continued support in moving our project forward. The Committee will do everything which is needed and with your help and from legislators including Representative Peter Zug, Speaker John Perzel, Senator David Brightbill and President Pro Tempore Jubelirer, I am confident that we will have a facility which showcases, protects, and preserves a national treasure.

It will truly be a glorious day for the Commonwealth and the United States when we have the dedication of the Rare Books Library, in 2006, I hope, because it will document how people and state government may work together to accomplish a task which preserves our democratic heritage.

Sincerely yours,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Room Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor, Baker Knoll  
President Pro Tempore Jubelirer  
Speaker, J. Perzel  
Senator David J. Brightbill  
Representative, P. Zug  
Secretary, F. Barnes  
J. Creedon  
C. Zales  
R. Hubbert-Kemper  
J. Schmedlen  
M. Gannelli  
R. Glenn  
C. Rusnov



**Commonwealth Conservation Center**  
908 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
tele(717)787-2292/e-mail: [ehartmann@state.pa.us](mailto:ehartmann@state.pa.us)/fax(717)787-9117  
(PHMC web site: [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us))  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Dr. Larry Nesbit,  
Director of Information Resources,  
& Chair of the Rare Books Committee  
North Hall  
Mansfield University  
Mansfield, PA 16933

Dear Dr. Nesbit,

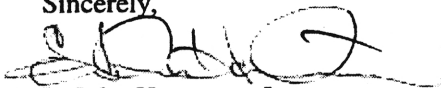
As Chief Conservator for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's (PHMC) Commonwealth Conservation Center and a Fellow Member of the American Institute for Conservation, it is my pleasure to endorse the design put forth by the Department of General Services Architect for the Pennsylvania State Library's Rare Book Library and the proposed architectural and environmental standards for the necessary building up-grades in the Forum/Education Building. As a conservator, in charge of collection preservation standards for over 50 state sites, I have seen many collections literally destroyed by improper environments. This is why the environmental standards, which this design will achieve within the context of the historic envelope of the Forum/Education Building, are so important to see.

The architect's philosophy of either the elimination and/or tight control of potential and real time threats to your collection are to be applauded. Frequently the driving force behind too many designs, which we routinely encounter, is the initial impact and not the long term effects that the architectural design has on the collection's preservation. I am very interested in this approach for the fire detection and suppression systems because they have been incorporated into the design of the vault for the Library. The integration of an extremely sensitive aspirating smoke detection system with the Ansul Novec 1230 fire suppression system for the vault is unique, is on the cutting edge of preservation technology, and is extremely sensitive to your collection's needs. This system suppresses a fire prior to any potential flame front, enabling a fire department to enter the space without any damage to the collections. The architect's approach is certainly warranted due to instability of many of the volumes; especially the vellum/parchment bound books, which would be destroyed if ever a water based fire suppression system were discharged. This same sensitive approach seems to have also been taken with many other aspects/components of the project design. By surpassing the recommended standards, you have ensured the longevity of these priceless collections.

In my 19 years of working with historic structures for the state of Pennsylvania, the proposed designs meet and exceed any project that I have worked on. We look forward to not only the completion of the current phase of work, but the finale completion of this valuable project to protect this irreplaceable collection. I will certainly be looking at the potential integration of these new fire suppression technologies into the PHMC's historic and museum building upgrades in the future.

In light of the recent September 3, 2004 catastrophic fire that destroyed much of the rare book library in Weimar, Germany, this project is not only timely, but essential for the continuing and responsible stewardship of Pennsylvania's physical historical heritage. I strongly support this project and encourage complete funding of this endeavor.

Sincerely,



E. John Hartmann, Jr.  
Chief Conservator  
Commonwealth Conservation Center

Cc: Barbara Franco, PHMC Executive Director  
Donna Williams, PHMC, Director BHSM  
Brenda Reigle, PHMC, Chief Collections Care Section

DEPARTMENT OF  
GENERAL SERVICE:

SE 4 2004

BUREAU OF ENG/ARCH

September 10, 2004

Dr. Larry Nesbit, Director of Information Resources  
Chair of the Rare Books Committee  
North Hall  
Mansfield University  
Mansfield, PA 16933

Dear Dr. Nesbit:

As Executive Director for the PHMC, I am excited to see the innovative design for the new rare books library and vault. Upgrading existing historical structures to meet the demanding requirements of collections storage is always challenging. The project is to be commended for putting the effort into the design and moving the project ahead under such tight budgetary constraints in order to preserve these valuable records of Pennsylvania's government for future generations.

The historical importance of the State Library's collections is undisputed. Among its holdings are the original volumes acquired by Benjamin Franklin in 1745 for the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. In addition to their connection with Benjamin Franklin, they provide an extraordinary document of what books colonial legislators used to shape their ideas about government and democracy. There is considerable evidence to suggest that Thomas Jefferson may have referenced these volumes in writing the Declaration of Independence since they were housed at the time in Independence Hall. The collection of Pennsylvania Imprints is an invaluable record of early published works in Pennsylvania—song books of Ephrata Cloister, sermons and political pamphlets. In many cases these are the only surviving copies. This collection is particularly important because of the important role that Pennsylvania played in the development of an active and free press in the colonial period and later as a major center of printing for the new nation.

The survival of these collections is important to our state and national heritage and responsible stewardship requires that the State Library strive to achieve the highest standards available for their preservation. It is imperative as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century we do so with the full utilization of the technology available to us to meet standards for the environment and anticipate the ongoing costs of operation and maintenance. By surpassing the recommended standards in lighting and environmental controls you have ensured the longevity of these priceless collections. By controlling operational costs you assure that the facility will be able to maintain these collections far into the future.

Dr. Nesbit  
September 10, 2004  
Page Two

We fully support the architectural design and the environmental standards you have outlined. The fire detection and suppression systems are sensitive to the special preservation needs of the rare books, vellum bindings and hand-colored maps that you hold. Your proposed design and the empirical data the State Library will collect will help inform collections care for future projects. The Commission and its staff fully support your efforts and are committed to continuing our collaboration. The expertise of our organization is at your design team's disposal to insure the success of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Barbara Franco  
Executive Director

JOHN M. PERZEL  
THE SPEAKER



139 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 787-2016

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

October 12, 2004

The Honorable Peter J. Zug  
PA House of Representatives  
150A East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Zug:

I write to thank you for your exceptional contribution to The Rare Books presentation on October 4, 2004 in the Capitol Rotunda. Everyone agrees the event was a huge success.

Your energy and persistence resulted in a fact that the project became a priority and we succeeded at getting promise that the \$6 million in Capital Budget funds will be released by the governor.

Again, I thank you for your assistance in making this presentation so memorable and look forward to your continued participation in special events with us in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

John M. Perzel  
The Speaker

October 8, 2004

President Pro Tempore Robert Jubelirer  
292 Capitol Building  
Senate Box 203030  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3030

Dear Senator Jubelirer:

It is almost a week since you participated in the October 4<sup>th</sup> event organized to recognize the need to preserve the Commonwealth's historic materials housed in the State Library. The surprise announcement by Secretary Cunningham was exceedingly good news and I know it just did not happen because the materials need to be preserved. While I will probably never know the amount of effort which you, Maggie, Melissa, and Mike put into helping the Governor's Office recognize the value of releasing the construction funds, I sincerely appreciate the support.

Personally speaking, it was a true privilege to participate in an event where you, Representative Zug, and Speaker Perzel all participated and spoke so eloquently on the need to preserve our written heritage. Thank you for making this a priority and I look forward to the dedication ceremony where we all may again celebrate the preservation of the rich history of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Director  
Information Resources

cc: M. Long  
M. Giannelli  
M. Hershey  
✓ P. Zug

October 8, 2004

Ms. Jeanne H. Schmedlen, Director of Special Projects  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
332 Matthew Ryan Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Jeanne,

I simply do not know where to begin in thanking you for all your help with making the preservation of the rare books a reality. Your sincere interest has been inspiring to me and I so enjoy watching a professional at work. Whether it is making a phone call or developing an overall strategy for raising awareness of the rare books you move with charm and a shrewd understanding of how to achieve the desired outcome in Harrisburg's political climate.

It certainly was a pivotal day when Ruthann introduced Clare and me to you because your support has been critical in having the funds requested by Representative Zug released. While this project now seems to be guaranteed success, I hope we will continue to have the opportunity to stay in touch because I so enjoy your comments and varied interests.

Again, thank you for your guidance and work.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: J. Perzel  
✓ P. Zug

October 8, 2004

The Honorable John M. Perzel, Speaker  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Main Capitol Building  
Room 139  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Speaker Perzel,

It is almost a week since you sponsored the Rare Books Library event in the Capitol Rotunda and I wanted to thank you for this as well as all the other activities you have supported. It is truly amazing to me how the visibility of the need for preserving these historic materials has risen since you and Ms. Jeanne Schmedlen have become involved. The contacts and the advice have been invaluable and all of us on the Rare Books Committee sincerely appreciate what you and your staff have accomplished.

I look forward to the day when the Rare Books Library will be dedicated and I hope you will be available to participate because your influence has been pivotal in having the Governor release the funds.

Again, thank you for your assistance

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: J. Schmedlen  
✓ P. Zug

October 6, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672  
E-mail: [lnesbit@mnsfld.edu](mailto:lnesbit@mnsfld.edu)

The Honorable Peter J. Zug, Representative  
House of Representatives  
150A East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Pete,

I think I am now getting my feet back on the ground after the surprise announcement on the release of funding for the Rare Books Library by Secretary Cunningham. This was wonderful news, but it would not have been feasible without your sharp thinking and quick action two years ago when you made the request to Representative David Argall and the House Appropriations Committee to allocate \$6 million dollars to the Rare Books Library project.

It is just amazing at how much has changed since 2001 when we thought the total project was the rare books vault and the reading room with DGS projecting a cost of \$1.2 million. As we truly got into the project, we quickly realized that there was so much more. First, we recognized the State Library had so many more materials than those included in the rare books room because they also had over one-half mile of colonial America newspapers published in Pennsylvania and 90,000 volumes categorized as traditionally rare. Second, we learned that to properly house the materials for future Commonwealth citizens we needed to use archival standards for lighting, air quality, heating, cooling, and fire suppression to stop the materials physical degradation.

It is truly remarkable that you included a request for funds which was so much closer to reality than what either DGS or all of the library people were projecting. As I mentioned in my remarks in the Rotunda, you were our original legislative champion and I sincerely appreciate your steadfast support. I am certain that your direct questioning of Secretary Cunningham this past January during the budget hearings and your follow-up with Deputy Secretary Creedon at our Rare Books meeting in August had a significant impact on how DGS ranked the project when they talked with the Governor and his staff.



While thank you seems so inadequate for your guidance and support, please realize that it is sincere and heartfelt.

Sincerely yours,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor, Baker Knoll  
Speaker, J. Perzel  
President Pro Tempore Jubelirer  
C. Zales  
R. Hubbert-Kemper  
J. Schmedlen  
M. Gannelli  
M. Long

October 13, 2004

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

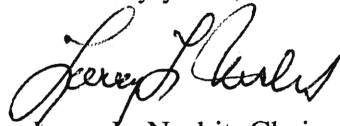
It was just a week ago that the Rare Books event was held in the Capitol Rotunda where Lieutenant Governor Baker Knoll and Secretary Donald Cunningham represented you on the platform. In addition to these individuals, Speaker John Perzel, President Pro Tempore Robert Jubelirer, and Representative Peter Zug all participated and supported the effort started by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Library Development to preserve and protect the rare books owned by the Commonwealth and housed at the State Library.

It is both a privilege and an honor to represent the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development on the Renovation Committee as we work to preserve the very books our founding fathers read which influenced the governmental structure of the Commonwealth and Thomas Jefferson's writing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

You may be pleased to know this project, initiated by the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development, is progressing with a rewarding degree of cooperation between the Departments of Education and General Services, with the support of the Capitol Preservation Committee, and with the active interest of the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House.

On behalf of the Rare Books Renovation Committee and all Pennsylvanians today and to come, I thank you for your support. This project will certainly be a remarkable lasting testimony to your foresight and a legacy of your administration.

Sincerely yours,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor Baker Knoll  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate Robert C. Jubelirer  
Speaker of the House John M. Perzel  
The Honorable Peter J. Zug  
The Honorable H. William DeWeese  
Department of Education Secretary Designee Francis V. Barnes  
Department of General Services Secretary Donald Cunningham  
Department of Education Deputy Secretary for Libraries M. Clare Zales  
Department of General Services Deputy Secretary for Public Works James Creedon  
Ruthann Hubbert-Kemper  
Jeanne Schmedlen  
Michael Long  
Maggie Giannelli  
Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development  
Rare Books Committee

February 22, 2005

Mr. Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., Secretary  
Department of General Services  
515 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17125

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

I wanted to give you an update on the Rare Books project and the progress we are making. You will be pleased to know that the planning for phase two and other work will be completed by the end of March and ready for legal review. We are hopeful that the construction will begin in early spring with completion of construction by the end of the calendar year. This is certainly a positive result of the funds being released by Governor Rendell and your support of the Rare Books Library project. You will be pleased to know we continue to hear very positive comments from personnel at the U. S. Library of Congress, the Institute of Museums and Library Services, and acknowledged, world-level experts on paper preservation regarding the value of the project because of our design concept and use of "off the shelf" equipment rather than expensive proprietary solutions. It is also important to note that the State Library is already getting informational requests on the project from other Pennsylvania librarians who are beginning to plan their projects based on our research and the design for the Rare Books Library. It is professionally and personally rewarding to know our experiences will not only help many additional libraries to build appropriate facilities for housing rare materials, but will also help to offset the expensive research and long term costs of maintaining their collections.

The role of DGS has been instrumental in facilitating this project and Mr. Neal Rusnov's interest, dedication, and expertise has been pivotal. It is truly because of his skills that we are able to develop a world-class facility. He has listened to the needs, researched various options, and then prepared alternatives for the committee to consider. While this sounds like it is a very common sense approach, I know it is highly unusual based on both my own building renovation experiences and the research our committee has done both across the Commonwealth and elsewhere, looking for a model project which would help develop our project goals.

At the January 25, 2005 meeting of the Rare Books Library Committee, I became very concerned for the well-being of our project when Mr. Robert Glenn said that Neal's involvement with the project would be changed from being project design architect to an over-sight position. I am unsure if this is really the situation or if Bob was tying up some loose ends before he retired. I am assuming it is the latter.

I was impressed and grateful for your remarks in the Capital Rotunda when you announced that Governor Rendell was releasing \$6 million dollars for construction and you were supporting the Governor's initiative by asking Neal to work full-time on the project. This was both a prudent and a well-reasoned approach because it provides a high level on control and allows all the funds to be committed to construction rather than to be consumed by contracts for planning. In other words, you were being an excellent steward of Commonwealth funds and guaranteeing that the project would be well-designed and executed by keeping it within the total control of DGS. It certainly is a privilege for the Rare Books Committee to be part of a DGS project which is protecting our written heritage and is being so well-planned that it will serve as a model for the Commonwealth and the United States on how paper-based collections may be preserved at a reasonable cost. As I have already indicated, this very seldom happens and if it does, it happens at extreme costs.

It is an honor to participate in such a high profile project, which will be looked upon for years to come as a model of cooperation and efficiency.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Room Committee

cc: Lieutenant Governor, Baker Knoll  
President Pro Tempore Jubelirer  
Speaker, J. Perzel  
Representative, P. Zug  
Secretary, F. Barnes  
J. Creedon  
C. Zales  
R. Hubbert-Kemper  
J. Schmedlen  
M. Gannelli

February 18, 2005

Mr. James Creedon  
Deputy Secretary for Public Works  
Department of General Services  
18<sup>th</sup> & Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Jim,

At the Rare Books meeting on February 15, 2005, Neal reported that he is making significant progress on the design of the area and is anticipating that the specs will be finished by the end of the month. This is wonderful news and all of the Rare Books Committee members appreciate the help and expertise of DGS and especially the work of Neal. It is certainly nice to anticipate the construction starting this spring with phases two and possibly three being completed as well as some other construction being completed by the end of 2005.

Near the end of the summer, Neal mentioned that I needed to formally contact you regarding the inclusion of the men's dressing room, which is immediately adjacent to the Rare Books Library as part of the project. This additional space will provide an office area for the archivist and part of the mechanical equipment. Mr. Fuller Runyan has already been contacted and has agreed to relinquish this space for a comparable area at the west end of the ground floor lobby. Just to make sure this is clear; rough sketches Neal provided us of the spaces being discussed are attached.

Neal also gave us an update on some interim problems with the rain leaders being an issue, which needs to be resolved immediately. The leaders have been a maintenance issues in the Forum Building for several years. To make sure this is not a problem for the Rare Books Library, we are requesting the DGS plumbers scope the pipes within the next several weeks to determine their exact condition. If it is found that they have seriously deteriorated, we will work with you in deciding how they will be replaced and the work paid for.

Just to give you an idea of our current thinking, I will outline some scenarios on how we would be pleased to work with DGS. If the vertical rain leaders in the Rare Books and Rare Newspaper Rooms need to be repaired, we will pay the cost, which is estimated to be approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000. If the pipes underneath the concrete slab in the basement are ruined, we believe this work should be done as an emergency. Because the Forum project has been put on hold and not funded, we are willing to advance the money to DGS for the work so that it may be completed without delaying the project, but the Committee will need to be reimbursed. Perhaps an MOU agreement with General Services could be done. This agreement will stipulate the date the money will be returned to Mansfield University to be redeposited in the Rare Books Library account.

If you need more information, please contact me and I am looking forward to our meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be nice to review the tremendous feedback we are receiving on the project with you and planning how we will maintain the very important momentum of our project until it is completed.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: C. Zales  
N. Rusnov

DGS PROJECT NO. A410-91 PHASE 2

Sheet No. 1 of 4

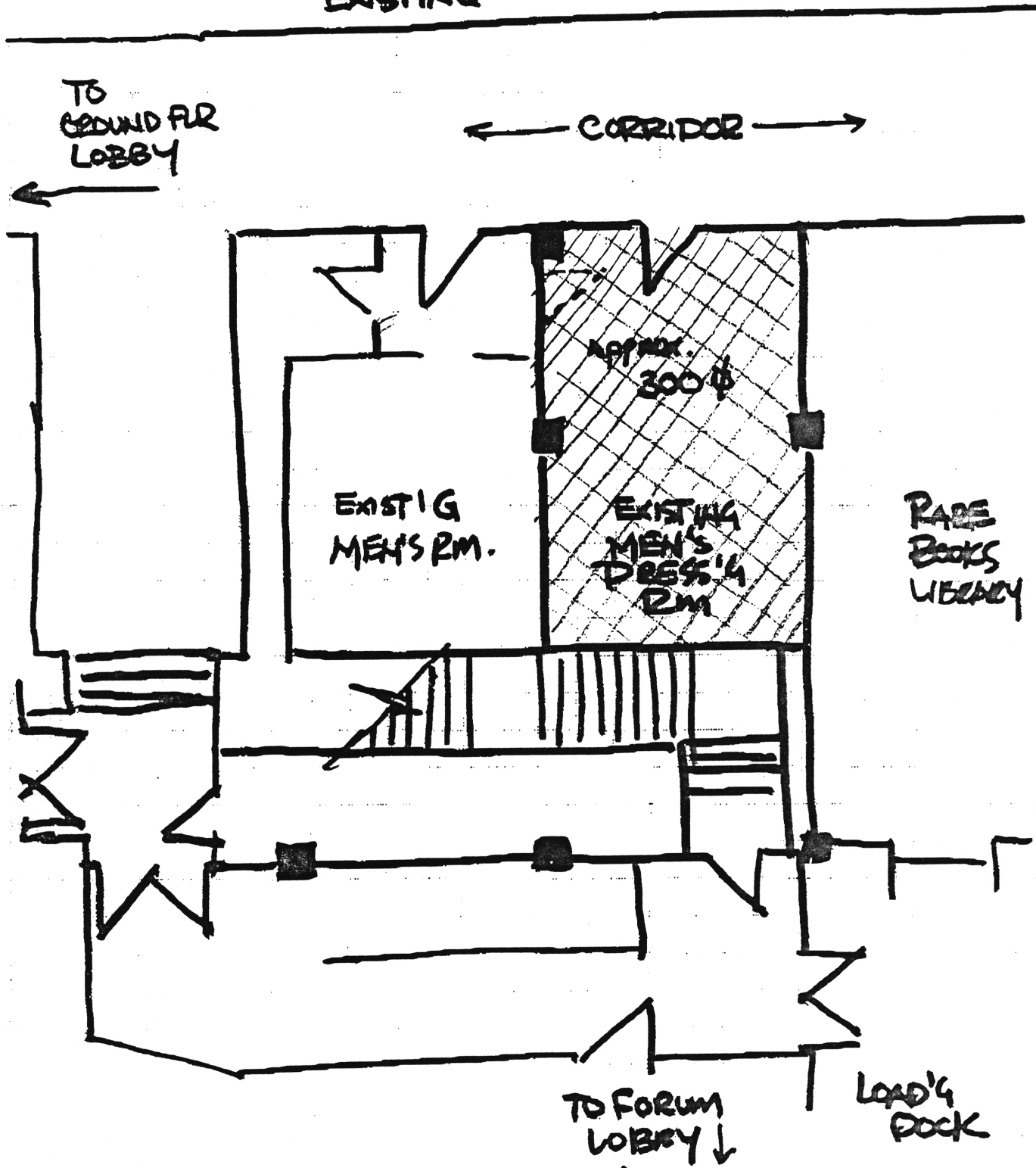
LOCATION RARE BOOKS LIBRARY

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: SPACE TRADE w/ FORUM

Chkd. By: CRUSHOW Date: 2/15/05

### EXISTING CONDITION



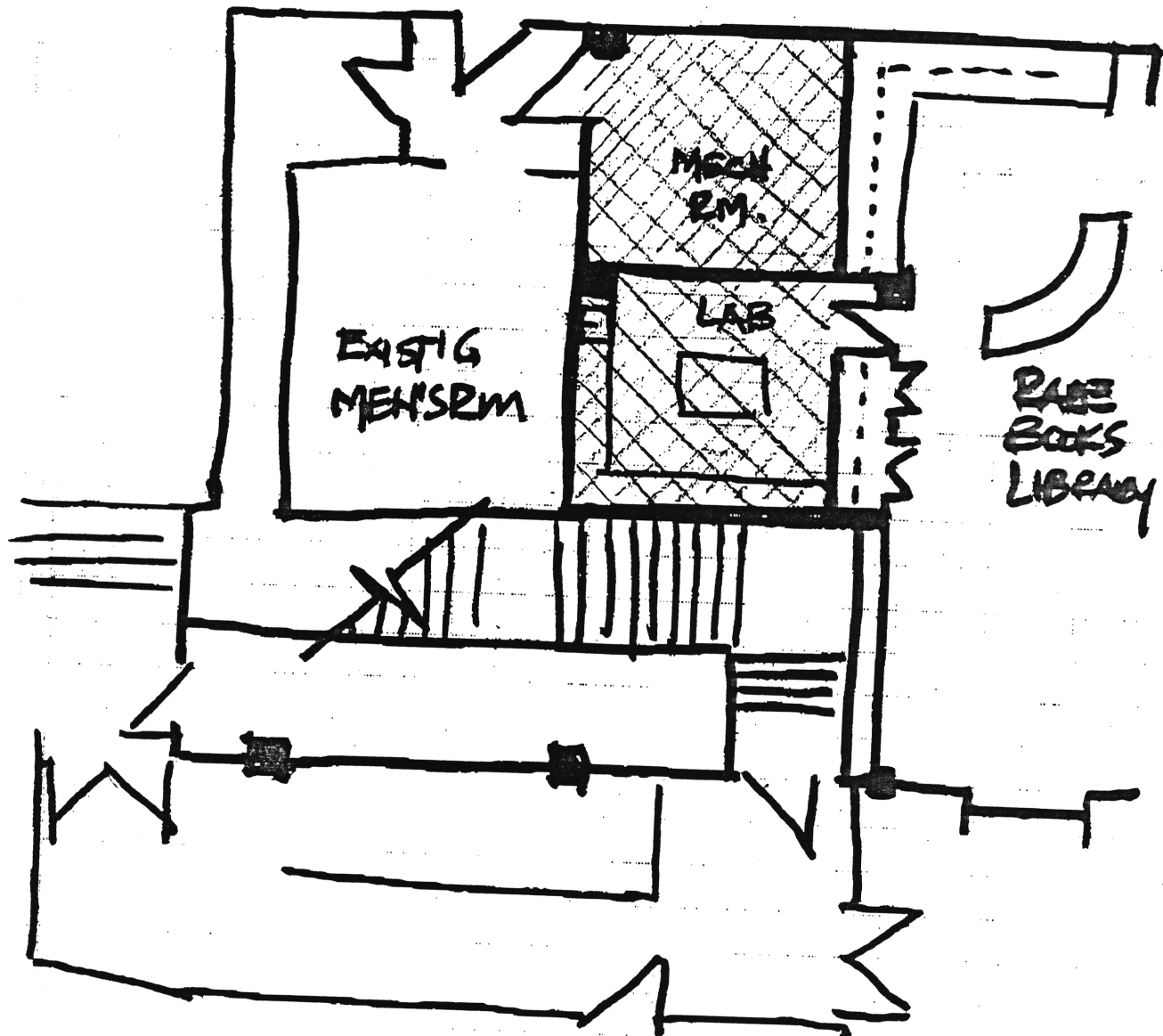
GROUND FLOOR FORUM / EDO. BLD'G



# NEW CONFIGURATION

TO GRAND  
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GROUND FLOOR FORUM/EDU. BLD'G



DGS PROJECT NO. A410-91 PHASE 2

Sheet No. 3 of 4

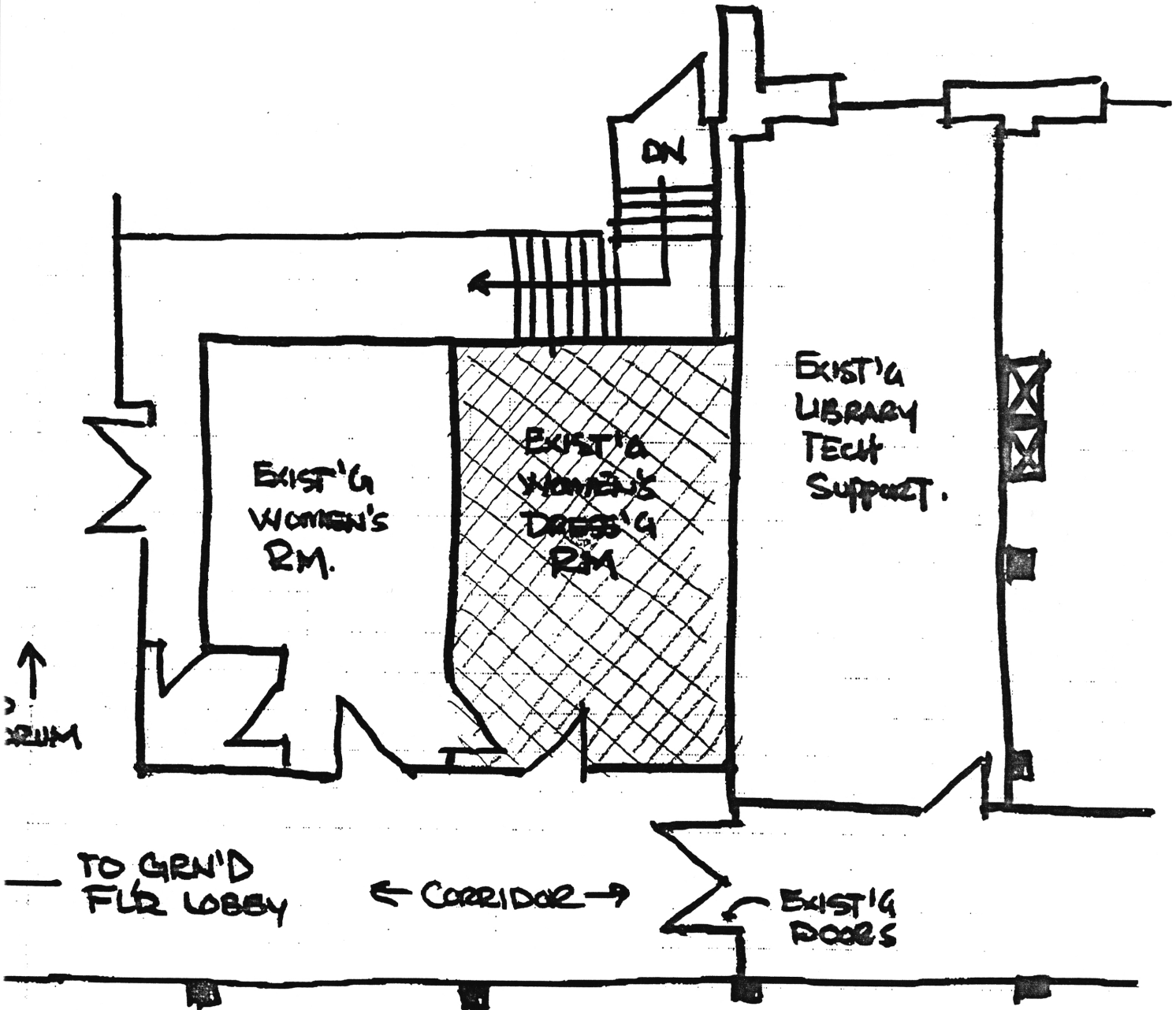
LOCATION RARE BOOKS LIBRARY

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: SPACE TRADE w/ Forum

Chkd. By: C. R. ... Date: 2/15/05

EXISTING CONDITION



GROUND FLOOR FORUM/EDU. BLD'G



DGS PROJECT NO. A410-91 PHASE 2

Sheet No. 4 of 4

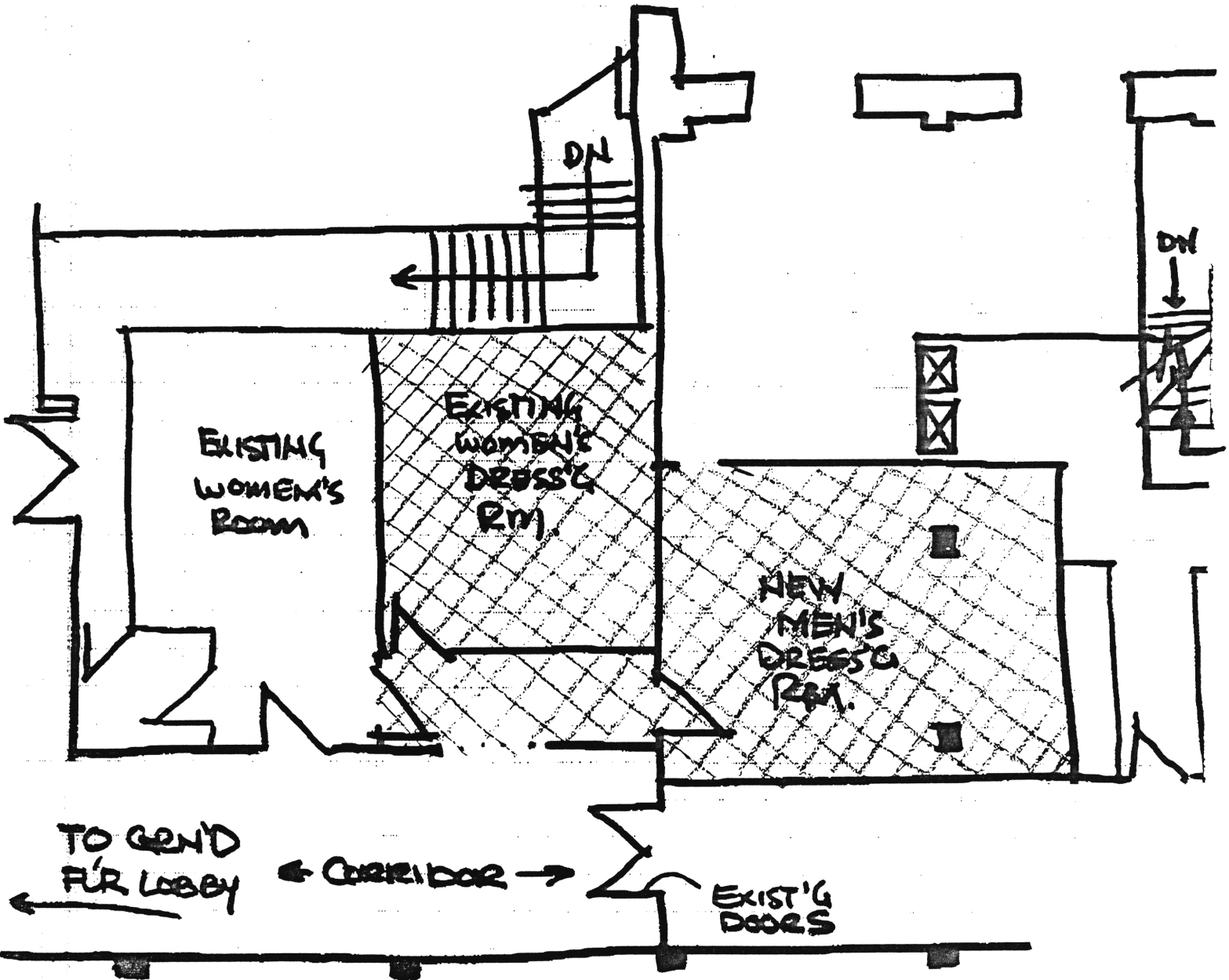
LOCATION RARE BOOKS LIBRARY

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: SPACE TRADE W/ FORUM

Chkd. By: C. BROWN Date: 2/15/05

### PROPOSED CONFIGURATION



GROUND FLOOR FORUM/EDU. BLD'G

February 11, 2005

Mr. James Creedon  
Deputy Secretary for Public Works  
Department of General Services  
18<sup>th</sup> & Herr Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Hello Jim,

It seems like it has been too long since we talked about the Forum Building or the Rare Books Project. I know Clare and I have a meeting scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> with you to discuss these items and I think it would be advantageous to include Neal Rusnov in our meeting. The plans he has developed for meeting preservation standards are very unique and we have had very positive reaction regarding them when it was discussed with representatives of the Library of Congress. There is now the potential, for the first time in history, for the opportunity where the LC may partner with the State Library in developing a possible grant initiative for either our collections and/or possibly our physical space.

In a separate more recently set of circumstances, he has received even more impressive feedback from J. Havermans of the Netherlands, who helped to author the widely acclaimed Delta Plan. This plan is not only used for preservation of paper-based collections in the Netherlands, it is serving as the base for developing archival standards for the European Union. Mr. Havermans international stature is certainly felt in the United States as he has consulted with both the Library of Congress and the National Archives in developing their standards and is the author of numerous papers and publications. Through Neal's work and dialog with Mr. Havermans, he has suggested the possibility of helping our committee develop an important study, funded through grant monies. This could have far-reaching affects for both the Rare Books Library and the State Library. It certainly appears that with Neal's foresight and talent we are on to a topic, which will bring tremendous recognition to the State Library and DGS, as well as, the Governor. Since Neal is at the forefront at what has been happening, I think we would all benefit if he is also included in our meeting to hear how this information will help develop our Rare Books Library project as well as getting some fantastic, positive press.

In another matter, I need to alert you to two up-coming events, one is a very important meeting in Philadelphia and the other is a symposium in Washington DC. It is important for Neal's attendance in both of these functions. The first meeting will be next Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be a full day affair in Philadelphia. The senior

committee staff, including Deputy Secretary Zales and myself, will attend. Neal's expertise is essential to the success of this meeting. The outcome will have a very important and influential impact on both our current and future grant initiatives.

The second meeting is a three-day (Feb. 24-26) symposium of museum design in Washing DC and hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Museum Association. This workshop will be an excellent opportunity for Neal to learn about the most recent approaches to preserving paper based collections as well as talk with people who could become important supporters of our proposed IMLS and other grant applications. As you already know, every group has a pecking order and PA is near the bottom of the group because we, as a state, have not taken care of our printed collections. This perceptions/fact is now being challenged given the attention which the Rare Books Library project is getting not only because of the historical importance of the collection, but because of the very important work and preventive steps being taken to protect these collections for the next 200 years. As you know all too well, part of getting the right individuals to support our efforts is through casual and organized meetings such as these, which will happen at this workshop. Thus far, Neal's experience and talents have been quite effective in getting very influential people to support our project and I have no doubt that he will be successful again.

We do not ask this lightly, as it does take time away from Neal's design work. However, if this project and the Library are to be successful, then the right influential people as well as institutions must be able to fully support what we are doing. If we do not, we risk the image of simply being seen as another group looking for easy money that pays lip service to the hard work of preserving and protecting what is an extremely valuable part of our history. Given the state's dismal record of the past and the many environmental failures, which litter the Commonwealth, how this project is perceived is of the utmost importance. Simply put, we have been fighting an uphill battle. We are competing with some of the foremost institutions in the country for funding of this nature. If we cannot change the perceived image that we are faced with, we will fail in our attempts to secure any funding through grants, which will help us to build our library.

The Rare Books Committee is prepared to fund this trip. Thanks for your consideration and I look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: C. Zales

March 10, 2005

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672  
E-mail: [lnesbit@mnsfld.edu](mailto:lnesbit@mnsfld.edu)

The Honorable John M. Perzel  
Speaker of the House  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
Main Capitol Building  
Room 139  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Speaker Perzel,

I recently learned that you and Senator Jubelirer are chairing the Centennial Commission to celebrate the construction of our state Capitol. As I have become more familiar with the Capitol Building and its history during my visits to Harrisburg over the past several years, I feel privileged to walk through the building and experience its architectural exuberance and grandeur. As a longtime citizen of the Commonwealth, I am proud of the fact that President T. Roosevelt remarked that it is "the most beautiful State Capitol in the nation" and that it has been restored to its original glory during the past several years.

And just as proud as I am of the Capitol, I am equally privileged to be part of the team of individuals who are working to preserve our early written heritage. This collection is housed in the State Library Forum Building and collectively designated as our Rare Books Library. It is only because of your support and that of Senator Robert Jubelirer as well as Representative Zug that this project is progressing. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Capitol and the completion of the Rare Books Library in October 2006, I would like to ask you to consider the Rare Books Library be designated as a legacy gift by the Centennial Commission to commemorate this milestone.

I think it would be particularly appropriate for the Commission to use the Rare Books Library as a vehicle to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Capitol. While there are several ways this could be done, one approach that would truly last forever is to establish an endowment in a 501 C 3 entity. Part of the annual income from the endowment would be used to purchase additional rare materials which celebrate Pennsylvania's rich heritage and were published prior to 1850. These materials would carry a gift plate indicating that the item was "Purchased by the Centennial Commission and chaired by Speaker John Perzel and Senator Robert Jubelirer."

Please consider this proposal as an opportunity to celebrate the anniversary of the Capitol and to provide a lasting legacy of your Commission by enriching the very collection established by the General Assembly. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your first opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry L. Nesbit".

Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: P. Zug  
J. Schmedlen  
M. Giannelli  
C. Zales

March 15, 2005

Office of  
Information  
Resources

(570) 662-4672

E-mail: lnesbit@mnsfld.edu

The Honorable Peter J. Zug, Representative  
House of Representatives  
Main Capitol Building  
150A East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Peter,

At the last meeting of the Rare Books Committee, Laurie gave me a copy of the video entitled, Legislative Report with Representative Peter Zug: Rare Book Unveiling Event of the Capitol. As I watched the video recently, it made me appreciate all over again what you and others have done to make saving our rare books a reality. It is so easy to get caught up in the details that the overall project goal almost gets overlooked and your video is an excellent tool for helping refocus our energies on preserving the Commonwealth's historic collections. Thank you for taking the time to produce the video and giving me a copy.

To insure that the background of the project is not forgotten, I am asking to have your video cataloged, classified, and added to the worldwide OCLC database and included in the holdings of Mansfield University. If you have another copy of the video available, please send it to me so I may ask that it be added to the State Library's collection.

Sincerely yours,



Larry L. Nesbit, Chairperson  
Rare Books Committee

cc: C. Zales  
C. Carr  
J. Stewart



PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG  
April 12, 2005

The Hon. Rick Santorum  
The U.S. Senate  
555 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Rick:

It has come to my attention that you have been informed about the plight of the State Library of Pennsylvania's "Transitionally Rare" and Rare Books Collections by Dr. Larry Nesbit, chairman of the Rare Books Committee. We need \$5.5 million in federal funding to complete our project. The Pennsylvania General Assembly has already provided \$6 million to build a state-of-the-art rare books vault through an amendment I had placed into the Capitol Budget.

Our rare books collection contains the precious Pennsylvania Assembly Library, America's first library, compiled by Benjamin Franklin. While we think that all rare books must be carefully kept and used, are very concerned that these particular volumes be preserved and protected. The collection also includes what are called "Transitionally Rare" items such as law journals of the early Assembly and newspapers and pamphlets from that era.

In November of 2002 we started our Rare Books Project. We now have excellent designs for the construction of a Rare Books vault and special library space on the first floor of the building and we are determined to meet the deadline of October 2006 for completion of the Rare Books Vault. In the meantime, we are looking to you for funding to save and restore the "transitionally rare" items housed at the state library.

Thanks in advance for your efforts on our behalf.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zug".

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District  
Rare Book Committee Member

PJZ:lbl

**ROBERT C. JUBELIRER**

□ SENATE BOX 203030  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3030  
717-787-5490  
717-787-9091 (FAX)

*Office of the President Pro Tempore*



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

October 25, 2005

30TH DISTRICT

□ PARK VIEW CENTER  
TWELVE SHERATON DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 2023  
ALTOONA, PA 16603  
814-942-5495  
814-946-7268 (FAX)

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Arlen:

On behalf of the Rare Books Committee, please join us in the effort to preserve Pennsylvania's written heritage from colonial times.

This priceless collection of rare books, pamphlets, bibles, and newspapers held in the Commonwealth's trust is an absolute state treasure. These volumes contain the wisdom of William Penn and Benjamin Franklin. It is an irreplaceable collection and an incredible resource that must not be lost to future generations, but it is currently at risk.

Through a bipartisan effort between House and Senate leadership and Governor Rendell, the Commonwealth allocated and released \$6 million to fund the construction of the rare books vault, the historic newspaper repository, the reading room for public use of the materials, and the adjoining hallway, which will become an exhibit space to highlight the printed treasures. This work is underway and is expected to be completed prior to the Capitol Centennial Celebration next fall.

However, this is just the beginning of the work which needs to be completed to preserve these materials and more recent documents called transitionally rare materials. The estimated cost to complete the renovation is \$20 million. The Rare Books Committee is interested in obtaining federal earmarked grants for any part of the remainder of the project.

Members of the Rare Books Committee met with several Congressmen and staff of the Pennsylvania delegation in Washington in early September to initiate federal support for this project. Representative Pitts has offered to spearhead the effort in the House.

The Honorable Arlen Specter

Page 2

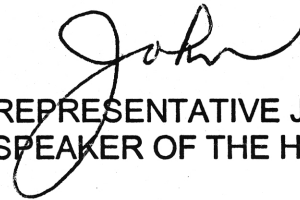
October 25, 2005

Your support, with Senator Santorum, is absolutely necessary to save these treasures. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



SENATOR ROBERT C. JUBELIRER  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. PERZEL  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

cc: M. Clare Zales, Commissioner for Libraries

Caryn J. Carr

Neal Rusnov

Representative Peter J. Zug

Jeanne Schmedlen

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020  
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112 WEST MAIN AVENUE  
MYERSTOWN, PA 17067  
PHONE: (717) 866-9144



**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**COMMITTEES**

APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION  
INSURANCE  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
POLICY  
VETERANS AFFAIRS &  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

March 1, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Senate of the United States of America  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

Early in its history, Pennsylvania earned the distinction as *The Keystone State*. Pennsylvania was recognized for its leadership in holding together the thirteen colonies during difficult and uncertain times. Then in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, *The Keystone State* provided the raw materials and physical strength that transformed the United States into an international powerhouse.

Pennsylvania has another opportunity for historic leadership, this time in the preservation of the written record of the historic events as they occurred in Pennsylvania in the language and voice of the time.

The State Library of Pennsylvania holds a collection of 90,000+ books, maps, manuscripts, pamphlets, and newspapers that span the pre Civil War years through and beyond World War II that are deteriorating. It includes necrologies of Pennsylvania's Civil War soldiers, records of the Drake Oil Wells, the development of the canal system, the building of the Pennsylvania Railroad with its impact on trade, the land grant program and so much rich, original source materials of value to students, researchers, government and historians.

Each and every one of these articles of Pennsylvania's history are irreplaceable, priceless, and the very foundation of Pennsylvania's legislative process. Pennsylvania has an enormously rich history and has played an unparalleled role in the founding of our nation. These rare books from the collection of the General Assembly are an integral part of that heritage. We have relied on these books for over 200 years, and with proper care, we should be able to utilize them for the next 200 years.

This written record of Pennsylvania's history will be lost without your help. This collection of books includes the books which molded our future and assisted in drafting the first U.S. Constitution and our first Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Because paper produced around the time of the Civil War was of lower quality, this collection is especially vulnerable. It is also threatened by the current, inadequate conditions of the State Library. For example, this collection is in an area within the library building that is not even air conditioned so the books and records are deteriorating due to uncontrollable fluctuations in humidity and excessive dry heat. The Civil War necrologies in particular and important publications of this era will not survive without intervention now.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries within the Pennsylvania Department of Education submitted a grant to your office for \$5.5 million to begin the preservation of this collection referred to as the Transitionally Rare Collection. The overall cost of the project is \$28 million. I am writing to you today to underscore the value of this collection, the need for its preservation and to ask you for your support of this important work.

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries has the expertise and demonstrated the capacity to build an appropriate environment for these rare, historic materials. Together with the Department of General Services, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries is now completing the construction of a vault to preserve the 15,000+ publications printed in Pennsylvania from the writings of William Penn through the colonial years and up to the mid 1860s. This was accomplished through a \$7.8 million investment of state construction funds and Capitol Preservation Committee funds made available through a bipartisan effort. However, that project was just the beginning. The next phase is to preserve the Transitionally Rare Collection.

Members of the Rare Books Committee, met with several Congressmen and staff of the Pennsylvania delegation in Washington in September 2005 and again this month to initiate federal support for this project. Representative Pitts has offered to spearhead the effort in the House to obtain federal earmarked grants for this project.

As a member of the Rare Books Committee, I personally ask that you join in the effort as your support in this project is essential in preserving Pennsylvania's written history.

Very truly yours,



PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

PJZ:lbl

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2004



Dear Representative Zug,

You are lost in the Pa. legislative Directory, but first in the hearts and minds of Pennsylvania's library community.

Thank you for all you have done for the Rare Book Project. I know that your efforts were the

first level to work on the  
process to move the money  
back to the project. We are  
fortunate to have you in the  
General Assembly.

We are fortunate, too, to  
have Susan on the GAC. She  
is a diligent and effective  
balance to those who refuse to  
understand the political process.

Best wishes to you both.

Sincerely, Katherine Skelving