

**State Library of
Pennsylvania**

**Rare Books
Collections**

*Preserving our **Past**
For the **Future***





The books of the Pennsylvania General Assembly are the original volumes of the State Library of Pennsylvania. As Clerk of the Assembly in 1745, Benjamin Franklin purchased these priceless volumes and began what is, today, the State Library.

EXPANSION OF THE COLLECTIONS

- Preserves the State Library's most valuable collections
- Other collections not currently housed with the Rare Books Collections, but which are considered rare. These are known as the Transitionally Rare.
- Minute Books and Law Journals of the early Assembly (1700 to 1925)
- Early newspapers that brought word to the people of Pennsylvania about historical events such as the Boston Tea Party and the ratification of the Constitution



Plate 13 from *The Holy Experiment : a Message to the World from Pennsylvania.* series of mural paintings by Violet Oakley (1922)

THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTIONS

Researchers have documented the Library's overwhelming value to students and scholars in the history of:

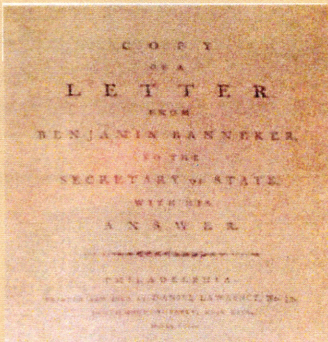
- Pennsylvania
- America
- Revolutionary War
- Civil War
- German-Americans
- Native Americans
- Abolitionist Movement
- Government
- Political Science
- English Law
- Religion
- Typography
- Newspapers
- Photography
- Music
- Art
- Architecture

The true value of the Collections lies in their links to our heritage and their contributions to future generations

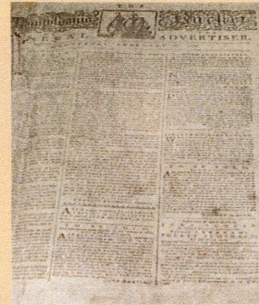
THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTIONS

The Pennsylvania Imprint Collection

- Books and pamphlets published in Pennsylvania covering a variety of topics from 1685 to 1850
- First printings from Germantown
- All books from Benjamin Franklin's press including *Poor Richard's Almanacs* and his scientific experiments
- Early public newspapers, such as Dunlap's *Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser* (1771-1779)



Title page from *Copy of a letter from Benjamin Banneker...* (1792)



U.S. Constitution as published in the September 19, 1787 edition of the Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser.

The General Assembly Collection

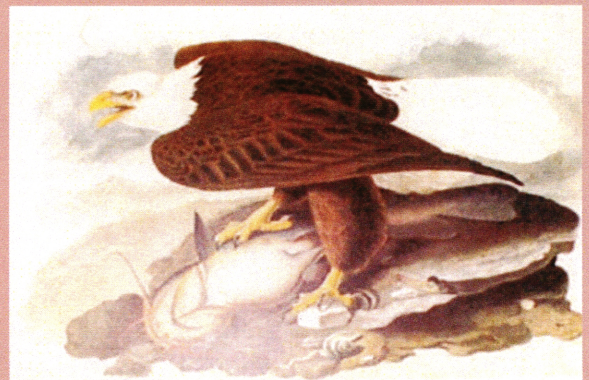
- English Common Law, Philosophy, Natural Sciences (1548 to 1788)

The Rare and Collectible

- Highly decorated manuscript version of Ephrata Cloister music
- The famed 1493 *Nuremberg Chronicle*
- Violet Oakley's hand-colored prints of her Capitol murals.

THE STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA

As part of the Department of Education, the State Library of Pennsylvania offers these historic collection of Rare and Transitionally Rare items as an educational resources unmatched anywhere in the United States.



"Bald Eagle" Plate 2 from Birds of America by John James Audubon

THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Currently, the State Library is building a state-of-the-art vault on the ground floor of the Forum Building in which to house the Rare Books Collections. When the area opens, the Transitionally Rare and Newspaper areas will be in close proximity to the original collection, facilitating preservation and research.

The newly designed Rare Books Collections area will house these historic collections in surroundings conducive to display with interpretation and for study. By using the best technology and resources available today, the State Library will preserve the Collections for future generations, as the Collections have been preserved for the previous twelve generations.



In partnership with
Speaker John M. Perzel
and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives



**State Library of Pennsylvania
Rare Books Collections**

Harrisburg, PA
Phone (717) 783-5982

Zug Taking a Lead Role in Protecting Pennsylvania's Precious Documents

Rep. Pete Zug is taking a lead role in Pennsylvania's Rare Books Room renovation project at the State Library.

Located in the Forum Building of the Capitol complex, the Rare Book Room houses some of the most important books in the Commonwealth, including 420 books ordered by Benjamin Franklin in 1745 when he was Pennsylvania's Clerk for the Assembly. Those books were used to help draft the laws of the Commonwealth, and formed the Pennsylvania Assembly Library – America's first library.

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

"The need is great to ensure that we move fast and that we move strategically to get these precious volumes in better care," Zug said. Volumes have been stored safely but not preserved environmentally. The chemical interaction of different types of paper, inks and adhesives have caused unwanted reactions and damage over time.

"Pennsylvania has an enormously rich history and played an unparalleled role in the founding of our nation," Zug said. "These rare books from the collection of the General Assembly are an integral part of that heritage. We have relied on these books for more than 200 years, and with proper care, we should be able to use them for the next 200 years."

Zug added an amendment to last year's state budget to allow for funding for the crucial project. Zug and Speaker of the House John Perzel are taking the lead in urging swift and necessary action in the project.



Ben Franklin himself showed up to ensure that Pennsylvania's incredibly important founding documents will get better care! Well, maybe it wasn't the real Ben, but a reasonable facsimile joined Rep. Pete Zug and his wife, Susan, (a member of the Governor's advisory council on libraries) to discuss the process underway to protect the state's collection of rare and delicate books. The collection includes the Pennsylvania Assembly Library (America's first library) compiled by Franklin.



Rep. Pete Zug views a beautiful print in Pennsylvania's rare book collection. With him are Secretary Vicki Phillips (outgoing Pennsylvania Secretary of Education) and Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll.

House Passes Zug Bill Protecting School Children

Working to protect school children from school employees who may have committed violent or sexual crimes, the House unanimously passed Rep. Pete Zug's legislation requiring police to notify school administrators when their employees are charged with violent or sexual offenses.

"This legislation will address a deficiency in existing law in which there is no duty to give notice to the very people we entrust with the health, safety and well-being of our children," said Zug. "We must make sure the people looking after our young ones are of the utmost character."

Zug said a driving force behind this legislation, House Bill 277, was an incident that occurred in Cornwall-Lebanon School District involving a math teacher who a few years ago was charged with exposing himself to a woman and her two children.

Zug's legislation requires law enforcement agencies to give schools and child care services notice of the name of the arrested individual, his or her address, the criminal act the person is alleged to have committed (with description), and current disposition of the case. The police would be permitted to share additional information as deemed necessary to protect public safety. Furthermore, the notice requirement would only apply if the law enforcement agency knows or subsequently discovered that the person arrested was an employee of a school or child care service.

The types of offenses that must be reported are the same offenses that would prohibit a person from working at a school or a child care service in the first place, such as criminal homicide, rape, aggravated assault, indecent exposure, and endangering the welfare of children.

The bill is currently under consideration in the Senate.

Zug Introduces Bill in Support of Economic Development at Our Independent Colleges and Universities

Recognizing the vital role that independent colleges and universities play in educational and economic prosperity, Rep. Pete Zug introduced legislation to offer additional financing opportunities to private institutions.

"This bill offers viable solutions to assist with the capital funding needs of these schools. Through the legislation, I believe we can provide invigorating support in a fiscally responsible manner," Zug said.

In discussing the need for the legislation, Zug emphasized the obvious educational impact for the institutions, but also highlighted *the sizeable economic boost that private colleges and universities bring to their communities.*

"Pennsylvania's 93 independent colleges and universities account for more than 150,000 on-campus and off-campus jobs in the state and over \$4 billion in earnings," Zug noted. "Students, parents, recruits, researchers and sports fans comprise the million plus annual visitors that these institutions draw to Pennsylvania. *Providing fiscally responsible assistance to capital improvements for these schools will bring far-reaching positive implications for our communities.*"

"Money for capital improvements at schools like Lebanon Valley College and Elizabethtown College will simply have far-reaching ripple effects into the surrounding communities," Zug said. "We're hopeful that this type of strategic investment will translate into new jobs, higher tourism, more interested students and a healthier local economy."

Specifically, the bill will assist independent higher education institutions by helping to support capital financing for campus projects related to community and economic development. Zug announced the bill at a Capitol press conference today with several presidents of Pennsylvania's independent colleges and universities.

Dr. Theodore Long, president of Elizabethtown College Long, commended Zug's initiative: "Private higher education is a vital part of the Commonwealth, yet receives almost no capital funding. We believe it is time to create a small pool of funds to help our private colleges meet the needs of their students and communities. Our private colleges and universities fulfill public purposes and deserve state support."



Rep. Pete Zug speaks at a press conference introducing the college financing bill. Zug was joined by several college presidents at the announcement, including David Pollick, president of Lebanon Valley College.

Zug Civil Service Bill Gains Momentum

Rep. Peter Zug's legislation to expand access to civil service employment in Pennsylvania awaits a vote in the Senate.

House Bill 2273 will further define residency requirements for those seeking state civil service positions. Specifically, it increases the window of time for application for those who graduate from college in Pennsylvania, leave to seek employment, and then return to the Commonwealth within five years.

"Pennsylvania has so much to offer young professionals in terms of culture, quality of life and diversity," Zug said. "The expansion of opportunity to gain employment with the civil service is another way that we can keep our college graduates in the state."

This legislation would allow a person who has graduated or attended a Pennsylvania high school and graduated from a Pennsylvania postsecondary institution to apply for a civil

service position, provided that the individual applies within five years of graduating from the postsecondary institution.

Currently, applicants for a Pennsylvania civil service job must have graduated from a public, private or non-public secondary school within the Commonwealth within five years of applying for a position, or attended a Pennsylvania school for at least 80 percent of the time while enrolled in grades one through twelve.

"Now, college graduates only have a year to apply to the civil service. This bill expands the window to five years," Zug said. "In short, if a Pennsylvanian graduates from college or technical school and leaves the state to find employment, they aren't permitted to return and work in a civil service position if they are gone for more than a year.

"This bill will be just another step to create a welcoming atmosphere for talented, young Pennsylvanians to stay and establish their own homes here," Zug said.



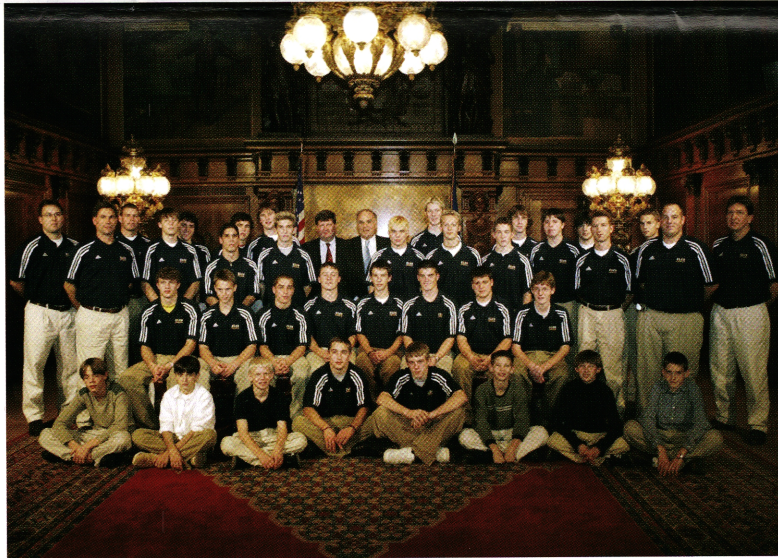
Rep. Pete Zug (second from right) and Dauphin County Rep. Ron Marsico (left) stand with representatives from the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network in the East Wing of the Capitol. Zug was on hand for the presentation of a \$250,000 state grant to the group for the purchase of specially equipped vans. These vans will be a crucial help to vets who need transportation to the VA hospital in Lebanon and others across the state.

Rep. Pete Zug interviews Brian Kreider at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Brian is one of the numerous Lebanon County volunteers who give generously to help ensure the success of the State Farm Show and to promote Pennsylvania Agriculture.



Zug Honored by Governor for Service to Vets

Rep. Pete Zug was recently awarded the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his dedicated support of the soldiers and airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard and the state's 1.3 million veterans. Pennsylvania's Adjutant General Jessica Wright presented the award to Zug.



Lebanon County...the Home of Champions! Rep. Pete Zug hosted the players and coaches of ELCO High School Boys Soccer Team for a visit to the Capitol. During their visit, Zug and the group met with Governor Ed Rendell. The squad won the 2003 PIAA Class AA State Soccer championship.

Rep. Pete Zug invited Lebanon County Court of Common Pleas Judge Brad Charles to testify in front of the House Judiciary Committee on behalf of House Bill 278. Charles asked Zug to introduce the legislation to repeal an antiquated law relating to the removal of constables.



Rep. Peter J. Zug

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2004

**Perzel, General Assembly Leaders Unveil Rare Book Exhibit, Rally
to Save Collection**

Event Kicks-off National Arts and Humanities Month

HARRISBURG – Speaker of the House John M. Perzel (R-Philadelphia), along with Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll, House members and members of the Pennsylvania humanities community, today at the state Capitol unveiled an exhibit of the state's rare book collection and rallied for immediate protection and preservation of the priceless works.

The exhibit will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda until October of 2005 and was prepared by Jane Smith Stewart, archivist of the Rare Books Room at The State Library.

The rare books collection includes the Assembly Collection, which dates back to 1745, when the Pennsylvania Assembly asked Benjamin Franklin and then-Speaker of the House Isaac Norris to order comprehensive English law books known as the "Statutes at Large." Franklin and Norris also collected large maps of North America from England, and thus began the collection. The Assembly Collection has since grown to include the Bible of the Assembly and other law books.

The Assembly Collection was considered so valuable that when the Pennsylvania Assembly temporarily moved from Philadelphia to Lancaster, the books were transported by

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horse-drawn wagons. The books were then once again relocated to Philadelphia before finally being transported to Harrisburg.

Other components of the rare books collection include newspapers, magazines, music and a copy of the famed 1493 “Nuremberg Chronicle.”

“These pieces are valuable beyond words and have provided the framework for historic documents like the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence,” said Perzel. “We have an educational resource unmatched anywhere else in the country, but unfortunately, these works have become victims of neglect – leather covers are stained, and pages are discolored and deteriorating. The entire collection is in an undesirable basement space in the State Library that lacks proper light and fire protection and climate controls.

“We all should be ashamed of this neglect and lack of oversight,” Perzel said, surrounded by fellow state leaders. “I’m proud though that we are joining forces today and taking action to save our rare books while they can still be salvaged. We don’t just owe this to Pennsylvania - we owe it to the nation.”

“I believe it is important for all Americans, and most certainly all Pennsylvanians, to understand what we have here in the Rare Books Collections of the State Library,” said Lt. Gov. Knoll. “We have the biography of a new nation, a laboratory for learning unlike any in the world. We have a dramatic presentation of the consciousness of freedom.”

Last year, the State Library created the Commonwealth Rare Books Committee, with a mandate to create a state-of-the-art vault on the ground floor of the Forum Building to house the rare books collection. The project is being designed and constructed through the state Department of General Services (DGS) and is expected to be completed in 2006.

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“It's important to preserve this unique asset of Pennsylvania. We're committed to providing state capital dollars in conjunction with outside grants and Capitol preservation funds to give these rare books a proper home to preserve them for generations to come,” said DGS Secretary Donald Cunningham Jr.

Rep. Pete Zug (R-Lebanon), who, along with Perzel, has been instrumental in the fight to preserve the works, proposed an amendment to the 2003-2004 capital budget that would allocate \$6 million toward the project. Gov. Ed Rendell has yet to release the funds.

“It is imperative that the Rare Books Collection, currently in a regrettable state of disrepair, be restored; it is 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,” said Zug.

House members who have joined Perzel and Zug in support of the rare books project include Reps. Scott Boyd (R-Lancaster), Ray Bunt (R-Montgomery), Paul Clymer (R-Bucks), Joe Markosek (D-Allegheny), Doug Reichley (R-Lehigh), and John Yudichak (D-Luzerne).

“Benjamin Franklin had the wisdom to launch it. Dutiful caretakers had the foresight to safeguard its condition and authenticity. And we all now have the good fortune of enjoying one of the most impressive rare books collections in the nation,” said House Minority Leader Rep. Bill DeWeese (D-Greene). “It is now our responsibility to continue the preservation of these magnificent books, journals and newspapers so that future generations can enjoy the gifts our forefathers ensured for us. I join Speaker Perzel in admiration of this collection and in enthusiasm for its new state-of-the-art home.”

President Pro Tempore Sen. Robert C. Jubelirer (R-Blair) added, “The rare book collection is a state treasure. These volumes contain the wisdom of Pennsylvania’s founders, document the people and events pivotal in our time as a colony and as a state, and detail what life was like in the early days of the Commonwealth. It is a remarkably illuminating, indispensable, and irreplaceable record that we must protect and preserve for future generations.”

Dr. Larry Nesbit, Director of Libraries, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and chairman of the Commonwealth Rare Books Committee, said, “Pennsylvania is known as the Keystone State, and we are now becoming the cornerstone in preserving and protecting our written heritage. Because the Commonwealth has a proud and rich history of promoting freedom of speech and religion, we have a collection of books, pamphlets and newspapers which have an inestimable value in helping define the basic tenets of our democracy and the American way of life. I am proud to be a part of this project which will protect our past for our future.”

Dr. Joseph J. Kelly, executive director of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC), and Dr. Richard J. Cox, Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences, Archival Studies, were also at today’s event.

“The event is an excellent way for Pennsylvania to begin its participation in National Arts and Humanities month, and allows us to reflect on the value of libraries in America -- past and present,” said Kelly. “The Humanities Council has been a long-time partner with the Speaker’s Office in promoting a life of learning, and we are pleased to join the General Assembly in this important effort.”

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Rep. Pete Zug
Rare Books Event
October 4, 2004

Thank you for your attendance today. And a special thanks to Lt. Gov. Knoll, Pres. Pro Tem Jubelirer and Speaker Perzel. I am truly honored to be able to work with them on this important project.

We're here for a purpose that needs action today, because it has great ramifications for tomorrow.

Pennsylvania played an unparalleled role in the founding of our nation. As you know, the rare books from this collection are crucial components in Pennsylvania's and America's enormously rich heritage.

But a little over two hundred years after our founding fathers pored over the pages of these books, our care of them could easily be interpreted as a disdain for our precious history.

Worse yet, our lack of care could very well deprive future generations from the opportunity to see these historic volumes.

The storage condition surrounding our rare book collection was brought to my attention by my wife, Susan, who is a member of the Governor's Advisory Board for Libraries. As a member of this board, Susan was given a first-hand look at the rapid deterioration of this collection. She asked for help and our first supporter was Speaker Ryan.

Matt helped with temporary funding but not enough for all the needs associated with this special and priceless collection.

The General Assembly then approved \$6 million for a storage vault in a Capitol budget. Now it is time to ask Gov. Rendell to release the funds to create a suitable home for these books.

The longer we wait, the more irreversible damage will be done to this collection. Documentation of the very works that established democracy in our Commonwealth. *and an Nation.*

Pennsylvania is blessed with a huge array of historical sites and artifacts. As the birthplace of American liberty, we have a rich heritage that no other state can match. But with that heritage comes a caretaking responsibility. We can and

**must meet that responsibility by taking action
now.....before this important piece of our heritage
is gone forever. Thank you.**

**Now it is my pleasure to introduce Deputy
Secretary for Libraries M. Clare Zales.**