

A Busy Year for Exhibitions

By Leslie Knoblauch

This year, the Archives curated four exhibitions on CUA's campus.

The most prominent exhibition, "Fine Lines: Discovering Rembrandt and Other Old Masters at Catholic University," featured an original Rembrandt print found on campus and was managed by Leslie Knoblauch, records management archivist. The exhibition was installed in the May Gallery in Mullen Library from January to May 2010. Bishop David M. O'Connell showed the Rembrandt piece to Knoblauch in 2009. CUA doctoral student Paul Wesley Bush, a student worker in the Archives, came up with the idea to create an exhibition around the piece so that the CUA community could see it. Bush was interested in having students involved with the exhibition and proposed having students create their own artwork in response to the piece. Knoblauch coordinated with the Department of Art for the creation of a student art competition and response show, which was installed in Salve Regina Hall.

Prior to leaving his post as president of Catholic University, Bishop O'Connell influenced the creation of another exhibition with his idea for highlighting treasures from the CUA museum collection that had not been displayed before. Thus in June 2010 the Archives opened an exhibition titled "Treasures From Our Attic," installed in the lobby of Mullen Library from June to August 2010. The exhibit contained a range of items, including a CUA land deed signed by abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, as well as religious carvings and statues.

In September the Archives looked toward Homecoming festivities and installed an exhibition in Mullen Library titled "Portal to the Past: Reflections of Student Life." The exhibition displayed items such as dinks, pins, pennants, scrapbooks, and photographs from Catholic University alumni

who attended the university between 1915 and 1959. Robin C. Pike, audio visual archivist, developed the idea for the exhibit while working with donors who were transferring CUA memorabilia to the Archives. This exhibit will remain on display through the end of January 2011.

Photo: Leslie Knoblauch



CUA beanie, photographs, and banner on display as part of alumni-themed exhibition.



Roman coin depicting Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.–14 A.D.).



Roman coins from the coin collection.

The CUA Coin Collection: A Teaching Tool

By W. John Shepherd

The CUA coin collection contains nearly 2,000 pieces primarily from ancient Greece, Rome, and Byzantium, but also medieval and modern specimens, including coins from western Europe, Persia, and China. It is made up of contributions from several donors, including Claudio Jannet (1844–1894), a professor of economics at Paris; Monsignor Henri Hyvernat; and Amelia Steinhäuser.

A preliminary inventory to the collection was created in the mid 1970s by archivist George Hruneni. In 1991, library director Adele Chwalek arranged the transfer of the coins from acidic envelopes and boxes to polyethylene sleeves housed in a series of binders to facilitate their use as teaching tools for courses in classics and ancient and medieval history. During fall 2010 there were two university classes that used the coin collection. The first was a Numismatic Workshop (CLAS 321/521) organized by Professor William Klingshirn that met on several occasions in the Archives reading room. In addition, the students came in for hands-on work with coins that had been specially selected according to time periods such as late Roman Republic or early Roman Empire. The students examined and weighed the coins and consulted reference tools to refine or add to our current descriptions. In early November Professor Jennifer Davis of the Department of History and her class on The Carolingian Empire visited the Archives to view three Carolingian coins that may date from the 9th century. She and Professor Klingshirn are in agreement that one of these could be from the reign of Louis the Pius (814–840). Professor Davis believes the other two may date from the reign of Odo (888–898).