

Acquisitions

A rare medieval bible has been acquired by the University of South Carolina (USC). The book is English and was made in Oxford around 1240, and is in pristine condition. It was purchased at auction in London with support from New York's B. H. Breslauer Foundation. Most complete medieval Bibles in the United States, fewer than 100 in number, are from France or Italy, and USC's Bible likely remained in its country of origin from its creation until this year. The Bible acquired by USC is the only English pocket Bible in the Southeast.

A collection of Jan Morris has been gifted

to the University Libraries at George Mason University. It comprises a comprehensive collection of nearly all of her travel narratives in not only the first editions, but also most of the subsequent editions, including galleys, proof versions, and editions with composition errors. The Jan Morris Collection consists of 136 titles and one rare poster (a chromolithographic enlargement of the dust jacket of *Manhattan '45*, a promotional piece, signed by Morris). The collection includes Morris's *Coronation Everest*, signed by Sir Edmund Hillary. Born James Morris in 1926 in Somerset, England, Morris began medically transitioning from male-to-female in 1964, and underwent gender reassignment surgery in 1972. She published under her former name, James Morris, until the 1970s. She is widely acclaimed for her travel writing, which includes famous profiles of Oxford, Venice, Wales, Hong Kong, and New York City, among other places. Morris' most recent book, *Contact! A Book of Encounters*, was published in 2010. A Welsh nationalist, and also an essayist and

historian of note, her most famous nontravel work is the *Pax Britannica* trilogy, a history of the British Empire. ❧

("Introducing transliteracy," cont. from page 533)

into question the often assumed privilege of printed text. Transliteracy works against the "entrenched bias towards the written medium." ALA Committee on Literacy's definition of literacy demonstrates this bias. It defines literacy as the ability to use "printed and written information to function in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential."

Transliteracy is not unique in questioning this bias—media literacy efforts have certainly tried to raise the profile of nonprint materials. But transliteracy is unique in combining democratizing communication formats, expressing no preference of one over the other, with emphasizing the social construction of meaning via diverse media.

Because of the ways in which transliteracy questions authority and devalues hierarchical structures for disseminating information, proponents tend to advocate for issues that help level the information playing field, such as ensuring neutrality and bridging the digital divide.

Despite the fact that transliteracy originated outside the library realm, librarians should follow the development of this concept because so much of transliteracy overlaps concerns much at the heart of librarianship. As more research is created in the field, librarians can incorporate these new ideas into the ways they assist patrons with accessing, understanding, and producing information. The social aspects of transliteracy can enhance the workplace by creating robust systems of knowledge sharing and can enhance user experience by granting them a role in the construction of information. ❧

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