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Museletter: February 2012

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Museletter

THIS ISSUE:

<i>Bloomberg Law</i>	1
<i>Giles Beecher Jackson</i>	2-3
<i>New at the Reference Desk</i>	3
<i>Save the Date(s): Bridge the Gap in March and April</i>	4
<i>Altered Book Art Contest</i>	4

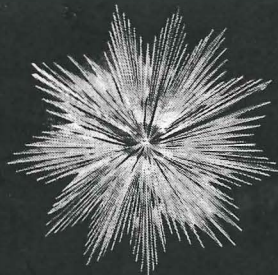
**Spring 2012
Library Hours**

Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Midnight

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - Midnight

Friday
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.



**MAKE YOUR OWN
BOOK ART**

(SEE PAGE 4)

BLOOMBERG LAW NOW AVAILABLE

The Law Library is pleased to offer access to the Bloomberg Law database to students and faculty. Bloomberg Law provides access to primary law content in addition to a variety of unique content that may be useful to law students, particularly those contemplating a corporate/business law practice.

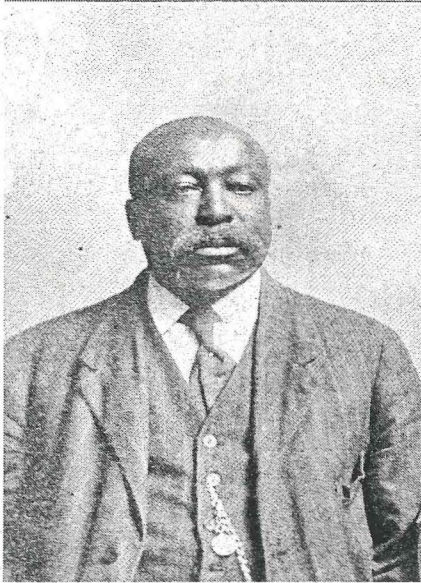
- **Access to federal dockets.** PACER is the online system federal courts use to provide access to court dockets and filings. Through Bloomberg Law, you can search across and access the documents and court files for most federal and some state cases. Searching for dockets and filings is user-friendly, permitting searching by keyword, party name, or docket number information.
- **Company Information.** Bloomberg Law has unique features for locating company information, which includes easy searches to identify current and past litigation specific to a particular company. Bloomberg Law also includes a user-friendly EDGAR database, updated in real time with new Securities and Exchange Commission filings.
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- **Corporate Drafting/Agreements Database.** For transactional practice, Bloomberg Law offers its "DealMaker" tool that allows users to view a variety of successful real-world agreements, handpicked by Bloomberg Law editors. You can search the database by type of agreement. Bloomberg also offers a variety of drafting assistance tools for the transactional lawyer.
- **Practice-Area Content.** It offers special search content for several practice areas, including corporate, intellectual property, bankruptcy, and securities.

Bloomberg Law is expanding its presence in both law schools and firm, particularly in firms that practice in corporate and securities law. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn and use the Bloomberg Law database; an account representative will be conducting training at the Law School on Wednesday, March 21. Students and faculty who would like access should contact Suzanne Corriell at scorriel@richmond.edu.

GILES BEECHER JACKSON AND HIS LIBRARY

by John R. Barden

(former Head, Reference and Research Services)



In the Special Collections of the Muse Law Library is a row of 29 volumes. The titles might not seem impressive at first glance, because they reflect the routine practice of law in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Virginia: sets of the Virginia Code and its supplements, volumes of Virginia Reports, the American Digest, and so on. These books are significant because of who owned them: Giles Beecher Jackson, one of Richmond's preeminent African-American attorneys in the Reconstruction and "Jim Crow" eras.

Giles Jackson was born into slavery in Goochland County, Virginia, in 1853. After emancipation he moved to Richmond where he found work as a clerk in the law office of W. H. Beveridge. He studied law under Beveridge and was eventually admitted to the bar. There were ample opportunities for law practice in post-Civil War Richmond, and Jackson seems to have argued frequently in both civil and criminal cases, particularly those involving African Americans and their businesses. His collection of law treatises included works on equity, evidence, and taxation.

Jackson's law practice combined with his other activities—he was editor of the weekly *Negro Criterion* and owned a thriving bakery—to give him considerable influence in the life of Richmond's black community. He became a director of the bank of the Knights of the True Reformers, which enabled him to speak as a leader of the business community as well as a lawyer. He is said to have known every United States President from Ulysses S. Grant through Calvin Coolidge, and Theodore Roosevelt made it a point to call on him in Richmond during a 1907 visit.

Jackson was known as a conservative Republican, which gained him the respect of the conservative white leadership in the city and beyond. Like his correspondent and co-worker, Booker T. Washington, Jackson adopted the posture that African Americans had to earn their economic and social advances on their merits and that certain desired goals, such as reestablishment of voting rights for black men, were not politically feasible in the current climate. If he placed an undue emphasis on the economic gains to be made by African Americans, he was not alone. Jackson was vice president of the National Negro Business League and spearheaded the development of an exhibit in 1907 to coincide with the Jamestown Tercentenary Exposition and focus on "the achievements of the Negroes of this country." The exhibition, a rousing success, provided a showcase for "industrial products combined with academic work." It also provided the basis for a 1908 publication co-authored by Jackson, *The Industrial History of the Negro Race of the United States*.

While some African-American editors criticized Jackson as an accommodationist for his self-help stance, many white leaders applauded. What the white leaders didn't know, however, was that behind his conservative facade, Jackson worked actively against the segregation laws set in place by the Jim Crow government,

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

especially the laws requiring separate transportation of the type validated by the Supreme Court's *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. In a letter to Booker T. Washington soon after the Court's ruling in *Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. Co. v. Kentucky* (179 U.S. 388), Jackson professed himself "so astounded at the decision of the Supreme Court, sustaining the infamous 'Jim Crow Car Law,' that I have felt as [if] I sustained an electric shock that has paralyzed my energy in the cause; however, I have somewhat recovered and now stand enlisted to assist in making a final effort to remove the cause of these infamous legislations." He went on to invite Washington to speak in Richmond, pledging that two-thirds of the profits of the event would be used to fight "in a cause very dear to you and myself and every other Negro in the land."

Despite his esteemed position in the Richmond community, Jackson had to labor against the prejudices of the day concerning the abilities of African Americans. The local newspaper, the *Richmond Dispatch*, by his own estimation, "seldom ha[d] a good word to say for a Negro," himself included. The Virginia legal press condescendingly filled accounts of his court appearances with regional colloquialisms. These depictions contrast sharply with the letters Jackson wrote to Booker T. Washington, which reveal him as an uncommonly gifted and polished writer.

Jackson's death in 1924 sparked a stream of memorials throughout Richmond, including homages by the *Richmond News Leader* and resolutions from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, which stressed his "work for harmony" between the races and "his indefatigable efforts for the material advancement" of African Americans.

The surviving portions of his library were donated to the Muse Law Library by his granddaughter.

NEW FACE AT THE REFERENCE DESK

Some of you may have noticed that we have a new addition to the Reference Desk on Wednesdays. Andrew Winston, a specialist in competitive intelligence and knowledge management, began working in the Law Library in the fall as part of a practicum in his Masters in Library and Information Science at Drexel University. Although he has now graduated from Drexel, Mr. Winston has continued to work with the library. Mr. Winston obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Virginia and practiced in a large New York law firm for several years before moving to Richmond, where he practiced at LeClairRyan for eight years. His transactional practice focused on public and private securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, and other corporate and securities matters.

RESERVE A STUDY ROOM



SAVE THE DATE(S): BRIDGE THE GAP IN MARCH AND APRIL

During the weeks of March 26-29 and April 2-5, the Law Library will sponsor several programs to help you prepare for summer success. Each day at lunchtime, a different presentation will cover topics that you will face this summer (or after graduation). Topics to be addressed include:

“All of these sessions were extremely helpful. ... I'm a big fan of this program.”

– Student, Class of 2011

“Thanks for making me sign up for your program. I would have been in trouble this summer without it.”

- Student , Class of 2010

- Regulatory Research
- Practice Materials
- Legal Research Strategies
- Low-Cost/Free Alternatives to Lexis and Westlaw
- Legislative Histories
- Advanced Databases
- Real Life Advice Panel

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: ALTERED BOOK ART COMPETITION

The week of April 8-14th is National Library Week. To celebrate, the library is holding a book art competition. So, take a break from studying, and release some of your creative energy! Here is what you need to know:

- **What is altered book art?** — Altered book art is a mixed media, typically three dimensional art that is made from books. For more examples and information on altered book art see the following websites:

⇒ <http://www.offbeatearth.com/dont-like-reading-other-uses-for-books/>

⇒ <http://www.hgtv.com/crafting/altered-art-book/index.html>

⇒ <http://rachaelashe.com/altered-book-arts/>

- **How do I compete?**

⇒ **Pick up books** from the reference desk starting March 1st. (Don't worry; these are outdated books that would have been thrown out anyway.)

⇒ **Create** your masterpiece — You can work in groups and use additional media, but it should be apparent that the finished art work is made from (a) book(s).

⇒ **Submit** your altered book by April 9th at 5pm. Make sure to include your name(s) and contact information.

⇒ **Win prizes** and have your artwork displayed. All submitted altered books will be displayed in the library through April.



*From the Anagram bookshop in Prague, now closed.
Image taken from <http://foldingtrees.com/2009/07/>*

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