



Sabre Foundation

Fall Update 2008



Holding inflatable globes, students at the Maranyundo Girls School sing "It's a Small World After All": Nyamata, Rwanda, June 2008.

From Sarajevo to Baghdad

In 1997, a group of prominent university presses in the U.S. joined with Sabre to help restock the National and University Library in Sarajevo. Now, more than a decade later, three of the presses who contributed so generously to the initiative in Bosnia are working again with Sabre to support another national library devastated by conflict and looting, this time in Iraq.

(Continued on Page 2)

Expansion of Indonesia Program

Indonesian Ambassador to the United States, Hon. Sudjandnan Parnohadiningrat, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sabre Foundation, providing for four shipments of new, up-to-date books to Indonesia by the end of 2008. Sabre's long-time partner in Jakarta, The Indonesian International Education Foundation (IIEF), will receive and distribute the donated materials.

Over the past four years, Sabre and IIEF have delivered more than 40,000 books to universities and libraries throughout Indonesia, and also participated together in the 2006 Jakarta Book Fair. In total, Sabre has shipped books with a value of well over \$1.5 million to the country. Under the new agreement, up to 65,000 new books and other educational materials will be supplied for use in libraries and classrooms.

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2008 Donors

Won't You Join Them?

Tom Alberg & Judy Beck, WA
The Archibald Family Foundation, MA
John Archibald, MA
Athabasca University Press, Alberta,
Canada
James & Alvina Balog Foundation, FL
Henry & Nancy Bartels, CT
Kenneth G. Bartels & Jane Condon, CT
C. T. Bayley Family Fund, WA
Michael Berry, II, NJ
Canadian Network for International
Surgery, Vancouver, Canada
Doug Chain, CA
Franz & Anne Colloredo-Mansfeld, MA
Ferdinand Colloredo-Mansfeld, MA
Cornell University Press, NY
Robert Criqui, VA
Croatian Ministry of Science,
Education & Sport, Croatia
May Danberg, MA
Jamshed Daroga, MA
Jeff Davis, NY
John Delellis, MA
Sherry Dickstein & Kurt Lovenstein, NC
Jeffrey Farkas, OH
Emily Getchell, MA
Anthony C. Gooch, CT (in honor of J.
Eugene Marans)
Mark & Janet Gottesman, MA
Hornblow Foundation, NC
David Howe & Charlene Wang Howe,
NY
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, DC
International Ataturk Alatau University,
Kyrgyzstan
International Relief and Development,
VA
Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research, Kurdistan
Regional Government, Iraq
Linda Kilb, CA
Beatrice F. Manz, MA
Microsoft Matching Gifts, NJ
Modern Language Association, NY
Kevin P. Nichols, MA
Randall Perkins, VT
Philippine Library Materials Project
Foundation, Philippines
Princeton University Press, NJ
Graham Redinger, IA
Room to Read, CA
Daniel Rose, NY
Rutgers University Press, NJ
David Sloo, CA
Sun Lakes Rotary Club, AZ
SUNY Press, NY
Tanzania Book Support Trust, Tanzania
Connie Taylor,
Temple University Press, PA
Ukrainian Studies Fund, NY
U.S. Department of State, Baghdad
Embassy, Iraq
U.S. Department of State, Tbilisi
Embassy, Republic of Georgia
Jeffrey Wills, WI
Katherine Winter, MA
Edward & Gudrun Wolpov, MA
Anonymous (2)

Iraq (Continued)

Harvard University Press, Yale University Press and the MIT Press are together donating more than 3,500 separate titles to the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA), with additional copies being earmarked for three university libraries in Baghdad. The recipient institutions selected books from across the publishers' lists, making for a rich and varied donation of textbooks, new titles and classic monographs in such areas as philosophy, law, history, art and environmental studies. The donation also includes Arabic-language law texts donated by the Harvard Law School Library, as well as bi-lingual dictionaries. The shipment of more than 6,000 volumes left TriLiteral (the Rhode Island warehouse facility shared by the three presses) in September. Funding for the shipment has been provided by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Sabre Foundation owes a debt of gratitude to Sheila Lilja and her staff at TriLiteral, as well as to Board member Jeff Spurr, who introduced Sabre to INLA Director, Dr. Saad Eskander. Sabre is also grateful to Bill Lindsay, Advisory Committee member and CFO of Harvard University Press, who has worked tirelessly to mobilize the assistance of the university press community in enhancing library collections in Iraq and elsewhere.

In addition, Sabre is sending two shipments—one containing almost 40,000 children's books, the other college-level materials—to Erbil in northern Iraq. This work is being carried out in partnership with the Kurdistan Reconstruction Organization, with liaison provided by Professor Ekhlass Jarjees of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In the last three years, Sabre Foundation has sent a total of twelve shipments of new books in support of libraries and educational institutions in Baghdad, Dohuk, Erbil, Mosul, Ramadi and Zakho.



At the invitation of Beirut-based Arab Thought Foundation, Sabre was invited to the 5th Arab Education Forum, "Education in the Arab World and Globalization," held on April 2-4, 2008, Skhirat, Morocco. Above: Sabre Secretary Charles Getchell at Sabre's booth at the conference.

Indonesia (Continued)

Funding for this expansion of Sabre's Indonesia program comes from both governmental and private sources. The Embassy of Indonesia will cover the costs of the program in the U.S., while Paiton Energy, a multinational consortium of energy companies, will cover IIEF's distribution costs in Indonesia. With a population of 230 million and 17,000 islands, in-country distribution presents special challenges.

One of the beneficiaries of Sabre's books and educational materials for children will be *From Smart Indonesia to Prosperous Indonesia*, a program established by the First Lady of Indonesia and SIKIB (Solidarity of Wives of United Indonesia Cabinet). SIKIB focuses on education, health and social programs such as Smart Indonesia, the umbrella program for smaller initiatives—Smart Car, Smart House and Smart Boat, among them—that provide localized learning opportunities for the children of Indonesia. The primary goal of these programs is to “keep building the reading habit” among children and families so that “one day the children can actualize” “the ideal of Prosperous Indonesia.”

On October 21, 2008, a symbolic book presentation ceremony with the First Lady of Indonesia, Mrs. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, was held at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta. The event was attended by government ministers and their wives, Mr. Michael Anderson, Public Affairs Counselor, U.S. Embassy, as well as by Ms. Enda Wulandari and Mr. Salman Al Farizi, Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, representing the Embassy of Indonesia in Washington, DC.



Left to right: Agus Sartono, Head of Bureau for Planning and International Cooperation; Bambang Sudibyo, Minister of National Education; Tania Vitvitsky, Sabre Executive Director; and Hj. Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, the First Lady of Indonesia.

Association of American University Presses (AAUP)

For the 10th consecutive year, Sabre Foundation was the beneficiary of a silent auction of donated advertising space at the June 2008 annual meeting of the AAUP held in Minneapolis, with \$14,736 raised for upcoming book shipments to the Middle East. Sabre is most grateful to the advertising space donors:

The American Prospect
The Atlantic
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Chronicle Review)
Harper's
The Nation
The New York Review of Books

The winning bidders at the auction included:

Athabasca University Press, Canada
Cornell University Press, NY
MLA, NY
Princeton University Press, NJ
Rutgers University Press, NJ
SUNY Press, NY
Temple University Press, PA

Collaboration with CNIS

Earlier this year, following a successful 2005 shipment in support of medical schools in Ethiopia, Sabre collaborated once again with the Canadian Network for International Surgery (CNIS). CNIS is a non-profit organization that promotes the delivery of essential surgical care to the underprivileged in eight countries in Africa. On this occasion, the beneficiaries were the medical institutions with whom CNIS works in Tanzania. A shipment of new medical books from Elsevier, a leading publisher in the field, left the Sabre warehouse at the end of August. The container held about 6,500 items in total, covering not only a very wide range of titles and disciplines, but also a range of formats, including medical atlases, card sets, drug guides and CD-ROMs. In addition, Sabre provided software and a handheld bar code scanner, which will allow the Tanzanian recipients to create a detailed and comprehensive database of the donated materials.

Sabre is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and is registered as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Sabre People

Sabre welcomes **Tom Williams** as the new Warehouse Supervisor at the Foundation's facility in Lawrence. Tom brings a wealth of relevant experience to the post, having worked both as a manager with Ebsco Publishing and—for more than a decade—as a supervisor with Houghton Mifflin. He is ably supported in his work by Song Heng and Chit Mao. As new country programs are established and an increasing range of materials are made available to them, the warehouse team continues to play a vital role in ensuring that Sabre maintains its reputation for operating a high-quality, demand-driven book donation program.

Sabre welcomes new board members **Bill Barron**, **Randall Perkins** and **Jeff Spurr** and new Advisory Committee member **Dr. Ekhlash Jarjees**.

Sabre Foundation is grateful to its dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers:

Congregants of South Church, Andover; students, staff and alumni of Phillips Academy Andover—all pictured right at Sabre's Lawrence, MA warehouse; Sabre Advisory Committee member Betty Falsey and her Houghton Library colleagues Rachel Howarth and Susi Barbarossa who have offered valuable assistance at Sabre's Cambridge offices. Sabre extends a special thank you to Leslie Marsh for assistance with the *Fall Update 2008* and the Sabre web site.



Phillips Academy Andover: Students once again volunteered en masse to help at Sabre's Lawrence warehouse on Andover's annual Non Sibi Day, September 13th, 2008.

The members of the Board of Directors of Sabre Foundation were saddened to learn of the untimely death of their friend and long-time colleague J. Jackson Walter on July 18. Jack Walter served as a Sabre director for nearly two decades, from 1984 until his retirement in May 2003. When he joined the board, the focus of the Foundation's work was the Philosophy of Institutions Project (PIP). As President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, he was to oversee the restoration and public opening of Montpelier, the Virginia estate of James Madison. Earlier in his career, Jack had performed a notable task in public service as the first confirmed director of the new U.S. Office of Government Ethics. Jack's tenure on our board saw the Eastern European inception and subsequent worldwide expansion of Sabre's most important activity, its Book Donation Program, as well as the launch of its Information Technology Training project. Jack was an active and thoughtful member of the Sabre board during those eventful years. His familiarity with the workings of the non-profit world was particularly valuable as Sabre sought to enlist financial support for its expanding programs. He will certainly be missed by all who knew him, and the Sabre directors, officers and staff wish to offer their condolences to his widow, Susan Draude Walter, and their family.

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Special Insert: Sabre Visit Establishes Rwanda Program

As a result of its assessment visit to Rwanda in June, Sabre Foundation has initiated a book donation program for this dynamic and entrepreneurial nation, still recovering from the 1994 genocide. Rwanda's Ministry of Education will fund this new initiative, which provides for four shipments of books, CD-ROMs and other educational materials for institutions of higher learning throughout Rwanda.

To assess the prospects for a book program, four Sabre representatives—John Archibald and Randall Perkins, Board members; James Costa, Advisory Committee member; and Tania Vitvitsky, Executive Director—spent eight days visiting educational institutions in Butare, Kigali, Nyagatare and Nyamata. The institutions included the National University of Rwanda, the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, the School of Finance and Banking, Umutara Polytechnic, the Kigali Institute of Education and the Maranyundo School for Girls. A clear message emerged from Sabre's meetings with teachers, librarians, and government officials: Rwanda's effort to rebuild itself through education will require material aid, particularly in the form of educational materials.

Rwanda has already invested massively in education, both monetarily and legislatively. "Lacking natural resources such as oil and gas," says John Archibald, "Rwanda is investing in its people." President Kagame has established compulsory education for children and is pressing for the development of a knowledge-based economy in his country.

Of Rwanda's twenty-some institutions of higher learning, all but one were built after the genocide. As the head of the National Council for Higher Education lamented, schools in Rwanda measure the quality of their libraries "not by the number of books per student," but by "the number of students per book." Sabre's Rwanda program aims to assist in reversing the terms of that measure by filling new bookshelves in libraries and classrooms.

Across from the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, stands the partially-completed Public Library, Rwanda's first. The library is a major project of the Kigali-Virunga Rotary Club in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and U.S.-based American Friends of the Kigali Public Library. The library is expected to open in 2009 and Sabre anticipates that it will be included among the beneficiaries of subsequent shipments.



The Sabre team at the Kigali construction site of the first Public Library in Rwanda, with members of the Kigali-Virunga Rotary Club: (left to right) Gerald Mpyisi; Board members Randall Perkins and John Archibald, Zephyr Muntanguha, Saudah Nalule, Executive Director Tania Vitvitsky and Advisory Committee member James Costa.

Focus on Maranyundo School for Girls

One of the centerpieces of Rwanda's new educational system also proved a highlight of Sabre's visit. Rwanda's 2003 Constitution stipulates that women must hold one third of the seats in Parliament. Today, women hold nearly half of these seats. No other country, apart from Sweden and Finland, boasts such representation. In order to maintain this high level of women's participation in government, Rwanda must prepare each new generation of girls to lead. To this end, the government has supported the development of excellent girls schools country-wide. Sabre visited one of them, Maranyundo School for Girls in Nyamata.

The school has strong ties to Boston, since a group of American women, mainly from the Boston area, funded the construction of the school—an initiative the Rwandan government matched with a land grant.

Today, Maranyundo serves 60 seventh-grade students, who study and board at its facilities. The Benebikira Sisters, an order of Catholic nuns famous throughout Rwanda for their educational services, manages the school. Maranyundo plans to expand its classes further to eighth and ninth grades, although the school lacks the necessary books and educational materials to support even the size of their current student body.

After meeting with Sabre's representatives and accepting a small sampling of new books, inflatable globes and solar calculators, the young women of Maranyundo performed a number of charming skits, recitations in English and French, as well as songs and dances for their visitors.

Photos from the Rwanda trip can be viewed at: picasa.web.google.com/tvitvitsky.



Dance performance by the students during the Sabre visit to the Maranyundo School for Girls, Nyamata, Rwanda.

Shipment to the Republic of Georgia

In much the same way that many ex-Sabre staff members "never leave"—as their expertise is called upon and invariably given well after their formal tenure has ended—the same appears to be true for at least one Sabre intern. In 2001, Lela Nanuashvili from Georgia did her practicum at the Sabre office in Cambridge while pursuing graduate studies at Simmons College. Both activities apparently served her well, since she now holds the position of Information Resource Specialist at the American Center for Information Resources of the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi. In 2008, Lela worked with Sabre to put together a shipment of new books—principally in the humanities and social sciences—for libraries, schools and universities throughout the country. A particular area of focus is an initiative to transform 120 libraries in the villages of Georgia into modern information centers. Despite a background of political tension and unrest, work on the shipment moved ahead, with funding provided by the U.S. Embassy, and a 20' container left Sabre's warehouse in October. The shipment of 33,322 books, with a fair market value of \$330,000, is destined for Tbilisi via Georgia's port of Poti on the Black Sea.