Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, and Friends:
Probing the Grimm Brothers’ Fairy Tales
Dangerous Enough: Meeting Novelist Alice Mattison
Alumna Mattison, PhD ’68, English and American literature and language, talks about her new novel, The Wedding of the Two-headed Woman, and how her life informs her fiction.

New Writing by Harvard Faculty
Anthropologist Theodore Bestor on the world’s biggest fish market, Niall Ferguson on the nature of the new American empire, and Stephen Greenblatt on the youthful excursions of William Shakespeare.

A History of Widener
Harvard librarian Matthew Battles recounts the tortuous and at times tragic pathway to the creation of the world’s greatest academic library.

Alumni Books
We’ve recently received alumni-penned (or –edited) books on wisdom from Christian ancients, the abortion rights controversy, Winslow Homer’s Gulf Stream, and murder at a posh girls’ school, among a variety of other topics.
Supporting Our Humanists and Social Scientists

Students in pursuit of a PhD in the humanities or the social sciences will shortly be relieved of much of the burden of worrying about their finances.

With the 2005–06 entering class, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences will implement a new financial aid program featuring final-year dissertation fellowships, guaranteed for PhD students in humanities and social sciences disciplines. This outstanding improvement to the financial aid package is a long-sought goal that has finally been achieved by harnessing all our available internal resources. International centers, graduate departments, and the Graduate School itself have all made significant contributions to this fellowship program.

Sizable resources—newly allocated from the office of President Summers—have made it possible for us to begin awarding more of these fellowships immediately to our continuing students.

This commitment is also a result of more effectively marshalling currently available resources. Our ability to include dissertation fellowships in the offers to new students depends both on the stewardship of existing fellowships and a continuation of our strenuous efforts at new fundraising.

Being able to provide these fellowships will finally allow the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to compete on a level playing field with our peer institutions, many of which have offered similar packages for years. To date, the most complete financial aid package—the Presidential Fellowships—has been offered to top candidates only—and to great effect. We believe this new dissertation compensation package will help our admissions yield rate jump as much as 20 percent.

But perhaps what is most important about this new fellowship program is that it allows us to support students during the year they can least afford to have financial concerns: when they are writing their dissertations, a task that requires all of a student’s energies.

The new compensation program should help students complete their degrees faster.

The Graduate School previously provided funding for the first four years of the PhD program. That restriction mattered less to our natural science students, who can rely upon outside foundation and government funding, and far more to our humanities and social sciences students, who depend almost entirely on university resources for grants. Now, by stabilizing funding over five years, we are beginning to put our humanities and social science scholars on the same financial level as our natural science scholars.

By removing the uncertainty of support and the problem of juggling teaching and writing demands, the new compensation program should help students complete their degrees faster. Students will have less reason to take time off, or to expend precious time working at a job.

This new package is a tremendous advance for the Graduate School and for the young scholars in many fields who are creating new knowledge for the future.
How did the Grimm Brothers acquire their famous tales? Why did they work so hard to collect them in the first place? And why are there so many versions of “Cinderella”? Answering these and many other questions is one of the foremost authorities on fairy tales, Harvard’s Maria Tatar.

In her new book, *The Annotated Brothers Grimm* (2004), Maria Tatar puts “Snow White,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” and others under the scholarly microscope, analyzes the tales—which the Grimms published in the early 19th century—in their historical context, and presents them anew for contemporary readers.

Tatar, the John L. Loeb Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Dean for the Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, is also the author of *Secrets Beyond the Door: The Story of Bluebeard and His Wives* (2004), *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales* (2002), *Off with Their Heads! Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood* (1992), and other works on fairy tales and folk culture. She spoke recently about her work on the Grimms’ tales. An excerpt from her book appears on the facing page.

In the book’s introduction, you note that Joseph Campbell said that fairy tales could only be considered entertainment and were not myths. The Grimms disputed that, saying that fairy tales were indeed myths. Where do you stand on the matter?

MARIA TATAR: I’m actually with the Grimms on that one. Fairy tales are just inflected differently than myths. They’re like miniaturized versions but have the same family conflicts, the same rivalries. Though they’re not dealing with the origins of the world, they are dealing with primal issues. Joseph Campbell had an elevated notion of myth and had a need to distinguish it from children’s literature. He read fairy tales as trivial versions of myths, but I would argue that fairy tales are of great importance to our daily lives. Just because they’re domesticated doesn’t mean they’re trivialized.

You write that the Grimms’ tales were “heavily weighted toward female protagonists.” Why do you think that was?

MT: Once upon a time, fairy tales were told around the fireside, often by women engaged in household chores: spinning yarn, carding wool, or mending clothing. Those activities were often embedded in the tales themselves—think of the spinning wheels in “Rumpelstiltskin” or “Sleeping Beauty,” the tapestries woven by frog princesses, or the disguises and costumes sewn for Catskin and Cinderella. Over time, the tales migrated from the fireside into the nursery, and it’s not surprising that the nannies, nurses, and mothers who told the tales to children favored stories about little girls. Paintings and drawings give us compelling visual evidence that fairy tales started out as old wives’ tales, with women as the dominant figures in scenes of storytelling.

Is the strong presence of all these young heroines perhaps why so many of the tales warn against “curiosity”?

MT: There is a real connection there. Many fairy tales became cautionary tales when they moved into the nursery, and the girls in the stories are usually punished for curiosity, even the hint of curiosity. The boys, on the other hand, are often rewarded for curiosity. But in “Little Red Riding Hood,” for instance, what is she actually doing wrong? Stopping to pick flowers? I mean, she’s staying on the path just as she was told. But, still, look at the consequences—being swallowed up alive along with her grandmother. And that’s why we have to look at other versions of the tale, versions in which Little Red Riding Hood does not rely on a hunter for her rescue, but outwits the wolf herself.
Why are stepmothers in these tales always evil?

**MT:** In many of the original tales there were no stepmothers at all, only biological mothers. By replacing mothers with stepmothers, the Grimms could assign evil intentions to women and still preserve the sanctity of motherhood.

Who were the Brothers Grimm and why did they make such an effort to collect and disseminate these tales?

**MT:** The Grimms—and they were two brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm—wanted to consolidate national identity by creating a body of German folklore. And they felt a powerful need to collect what they called the “poetry of the people” before it disappeared from hearths and workrooms. They also wanted to sell books, which they did by turning their collection into a “manual of manners.”

But they were also scholars—they launched the first dictionary of the German language and were involved in politically to be continued on page 8

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**Snow White, from Maria Tatar’s The Annotated Brothers Grimm**

...The many versions of “Snow White” heard by the Grimms suggest the richness of folkloric variation and remind us how we have allowed stories that once circulated freely to ossify into definitive versions. The Grimms describe one version of “Snow White” in which a count and countess drive by three mounds of snow and the count wishes for a girl as white as the snow. After passing three ditches filled with red blood, he wishes for a girl with cheeks as red as the blood. Finally, three ravens fly overhead and he wishes for a girl with hair as black as the ravens. The couple discovers on the road a girl exactly like the one the count longs for, and they invite her into their carriage. The count immediately has tender feelings for the girl. The countess, however, cannot abide the girl and schemes to get rid of her. She drops her glove and orders Snow White to retrieve it, and then orders the coachman to drive off as speedily as possible. In a related version, the countess tells Snow White to gather roses and then deserts the girl, leaving her to fend for herself in the woods.

Walt Disney’s Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937) has so overshadowed other versions of the story that it is easy to forget that the tale is widely disseminated across a variety of cultures. The heroine may ingest a poisoned apple in her cinematic incarnation, but in Italy she is just as likely to fall victim to a toxic comb, a contaminated cake, or a suffocating braid. Disney’s queen, who demands Snow White’s heart from the huntsman who takes her into the woods, seems restrained by comparison with the Grimms’ evil queen, who orders the huntsman to return with the girl’s lungs and liver, both of which she plans to eat after boiling them in salt water. In Spain the queen is even more bloodthirsty, asking for a bottle of blood stoppered with the girl’s toe. In Italy she instructs the huntsman to return with the girl’s intestines and her blood-soaked shirt. The dwarfs are sometimes miners but sometimes compassionate robbers, thieves, bears, wild men, or ogres. Disney’s film has made much of Snow White’s coffin being made of glass, but in other versions of the tale that coffin is made of gold, silver, or lead or is jewel encrusted. Although it is often displayed on a mountaintop, it can also be set adrift on a river, placed under a tree, hung from the rafters of a room, or locked in a room and surrounded with candles.

“Snow White” may vary tremendously from culture to culture in its details, but it has an easily identifiable, stable core in the conflict between mother and daughter. In many versions of the tale, the evil queen is the girl’s biological mother, not a stepmother. (The Grimms, in an effort to preserve the sanctity of motherhood, were forever turning biological mothers into stepmothers.) The struggle between Snow White and the wicked queen so dominates the psychological landscape of this fairy tale that Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, in a landmark book of feminist literary criticism, proposed renaming the story “Snow White and Her Wicked Stepmother.” In The Madwoman in the Attic, they describe how the Grimms’ story stages a contest between the “angel-woman” and the “monster-woman” of Western culture. For them the motor of the “Snow White” plot is in the relationship between the two women, “the one fair, young, pale, the other just as fair, but older, fiercer; the one a daughter, the other a mother; the one sweet, ignorant, passive, the other both artful and active; the one a sort of angel, the other an undeniable witch.”...
Seafood is a pillar of Japanese cuisine, and odd bits and pieces of food lore adhere like barnacles to its consumption and preparation: Why are sea bream (tai) so highly prized? Because they are served at weddings? Because their claws resemble scissors, which cannot be given as wedding gifts. Why are whole lobsters not served at weddings? Because their claws resemble scissors, which cannot be given as wedding gifts. Why is poisonous fugu (blowfish or pufferfish) a great delicacy? Because the numbness it induces exquisitely tickles one’s senses when (or if) they return. Why do few women sell fish in the market and why are there no female sushi chefs? Because the numbness it induces exquisitely tickles one’s senses when (or if) they return.

Preferences for domestically produced foodstuffs may in part stem from fundamental Japanese parochialism, but they also reflect issues of kata, or idealized form, and the inability of foreign producers to live up to Japanese standards. The ideal of perfect external form adds an extra dimension to assessing foodstuffs. The slightest blemish, the smallest imperfection, or the most trivial deviation from a foodstuff’s idealized form can make a product—or entire shipment—languish unsold. That is, the outward appearance must be perfect, since imperfection outside may signal imperfection within, just as the etiquette of wrapping symbolically ensures both ritual and hygienic purity.

Even where concern over the integrity of the inner product is not directly at issue, the question of kata bedevils the international fish trade. An American lobster producer from California once told me that he had given up trying to ship lobsters to Japan; apparently his Japanese broker rejected sample shipment after sample shipment, complaining that the individual lobsters in each lot were too varied in size. “I gave up. I don’t sort that carefully for anybody,” the American producer told me disdainfully. Instead, he concentrates on the American restaurant market, where the normal lobster dinner is served individually and often priced according to the weight of the lobster. People dining together may indeed all order lobster, but they are unlikely to compare their individual lobsters closely; and if they do, the differences in price by size will usually account for any obvious disparities.

Across the Pacific, a Tsukiji lobster trader tells another side to the story: “Hotel banquet halls buy almost all the lobsters at Tsukiji. The auspicious red-and-white color of a lobster tail makes it very popular at wedding banquet halls. Everybody’s plate has to look exactly the same—it’s uneconomical to order lobster in anything but uniform, attractive ways.”

1 Although minute differences in the average body temperatures of males and females indeed are found in some human populations... there is no evidence that differences in skin...
temperature—whether between males and females, or among handlers of seafood of the same sex—have any effect on seafood or other food products.


Intimations of Empire
By Niall Ferguson

Niall Ferguson is a professor of history.

It is commonplace to assume that having been forged in a war of independence against imperial rule, the United States could never become an empire in its own right. Many Americans today would accept the verdict of the historian Rupert Emerson, writing in 1942: “With the exception of the brief period of imperialist activity at the time of the Spanish-American war, the American people have shown a deep repugnance to both the conquest of distant lands and the assumption of rule over alien peoples.” The irony is that there were no more self-confident imperialists than the Founding Fathers themselves.

The empire they envisaged was, to be sure, very different in character from the empire from which they had seceded. It was not intended to resemble the maritime empires of Western Europe. But it did have much in common with the great land empires of the past. Like Rome, it began with a relatively small core—the founding states’ combined area today is just eight percent of the total extent of the United States—which expanded to dominate half a continent. Like Rome, it was an inclusive empire, relatively (though not wholly) promiscuous in the way that it conferred citizenship. Like Rome, it had, at least for a time, its disenfranchised slaves. But unlike Rome, its republican constitution has withstood the ambitions of any would-be Caesars—so far. (It is of course early days. The United States is 228 years old. When Caesar crossed the Rubicon in 49 BC, the Roman Republic was 460 years old.)

That the United States would expand was decided almost from its very inception. When, in the draft Articles of Confederation of July 1776, John Dickinson proposed settling western boundaries of the states, the idea was thrown out at the committee stage. To George Washington the United States was a “nascent empire,” later an “infant empire.” Thomas Jefferson told James Madison he was “persuaded no constitution was ever before as well calculated as ours for extending extensive empire and self-government.” The initial “confederacy” of 13 would be “the nest from which all America, North and South [would] be peopled.” Indeed, Jefferson used his inaugural address in 1801 to observe that the short history of the United States had already furnished “a new proof for the falsehood of Montesquieu’s doctrine, that a republic can be preserved only in a small territory. The reverse is the truth.” ...

Life in the Suburbs
By Stephen Greenblatt

Stephen Greenblatt is the Cogan University Professor in the Department of English and American Literature and Language.

[Shakespeare] had grown up in a world where the fields began just at the end of the street, or at most within a few minutes’ walk. Now all around him, extending for miles beyond London’s crumbling city walls, were tenements, warehouses, small vegetable gardens, workshops, gunfoundries, brick kilns, and windmills, along with stinking ditches and refuse heaps. Shakespeare made his acquaintance for the first time with the suburbs. He discovered what it was to pine for open country. ...

Setting out from the center of the city, an energetic walker could still fairly quickly reach hedged pastures where cows peacefully grazed or ground where laundresses pegged their washing and...
On a night in early November, the reading room at Blacksmith House in Cambridge is full, and the buzz of conversation quiets as the event host steps to the podium to welcome the audience. Afterward, a woman with silver-gray hair walks onstage, and little more than her head and shoulders are visible above the top of the podium. She glances around at the audience and smiles—shyly it seems—at a few recognized faces. From her unassuming air and somewhat grandmotherly appearance, one might get the impression that she's the kind of person who'd turn red if, while channel surfing, she stumbled across caribou mating on the Discovery Channel.

But then she begins to read:

“Nothing distracts me for long from sex. A friendly, intelligent man makes a funny remark, almost for his private benefit. He thinks nobody hears, but I laugh. For a moment shared understanding exhilarates us both; then I go further. I feel a yen to place my hand on his bare thigh, to see what he's like with no clothes on. I was single for decades, after a brief early marriage, and there were many men like that. “What interests me about sex is nothing dangerous, nothing life-changing. It’s like the impulse that sends some women into stores that sell colored floss and kits for making stained-glass pendants—and of course I know that sometimes those women can’t refrain, even when pendants hang in every window, twisting together on their dirty strings, falling and breaking into the shards they once were, maybe killing the cat. Sex has mostly, for me, been less threatening than that, a reasonably healthy pastime, a form of arts and crafts that uses people instead of glass or thread…”

So begins Alice Mattison’s latest novel The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman, narrated by Daisy Andalusia. Daisy is a woman who needs, and seeks, connection in her life, but at the same time is terrified of being trapped by those connections. She’s in a marriage that provides comfort and satisfaction, but at the same time is terrified of being trapped by those connections. She’s in a marriage that provides comfort and satisfaction, but she’s compelled, in ways that often seem foolish and self-destructive, to put that marriage at risk. In her friendships and her professional life, she seems incapable of being consistently truthful, and admits openly in her narrative that she can “be good only about half the time.”

The reader soon realizes that not only is Daisy the lover and friend not quite trustworthy, Daisy as narrator also has to be taken with a grain of salt. It’s not that one doubts that her description of events is accurate, but that she seems incapable of realizing and acknowledging the emotional impact of those events. Is she simply unwilling to examine those consequences, or simply so disconnected that she’s unaware of them? With sure-handed craft, Mattison—who received her PhD from Harvard in English and American literature in 1968—uses that ambiguity to help drive the story; beneath the calm surface of Daisy’s glib narrative lie tremendous conflict, turmoil, and sadness.

This ambivalence manifests most clearly in her marriage. Her husband Pekko is safe and comforting, and she clearly has strong feelings for him, but there’s a restlessness that causes her to put the relationship at risk in ways that often seem foolish and unnecessary; at one point she begins an affair, not out of great need or attraction, but strictly on impulse. In her narrative, which she usually plays very close to the vest, she offers a moment of rare insight and self-awareness about these ambiguous feelings:

“I was discovering something marriage does: it defines you, in part, as the sort of person who’d marry whoever your spouse was.”

There’s a common assumption in our culture that a woman with Daisy’s casual attitude toward sex is either being exploited by men or suffering from some pathology. But once again, Alice Mattison refuses to let Daisy be pigeonholed. “Although the affair she takes up ultimately winds up being a poor choice, Daisy really likes sex,” she says. “And she likes men. For most of her life, sex has worked out pretty well. I liked the idea of a woman character who can be sexually active and not suffer—not want more. Actually, I shouldn’t say she’s never suffered. But on the whole, sex has given her more pleasure than pain.”

Another unconventional side of Daisy’s personality manifests in a fascination with the subject of murder:

“I asked myself what about murder interested me. Not the moment of being
murdered but the moment of murdering. I thought if I could fasten on that second—the second of pulling the trigger, pushing in the knife—then I’d know someone. I’d know someone just when everything came apart for him, when he did something terrible, secret, and amazing.”

Daisy eventually explores this fascination by helping to organize a conference in New Haven, where she lives, on the subject of urban violence. Her husband Pekko, who was born and raised in New Haven, is angered by her involvement in the conference; he thinks she’s simply feeding into stereotypes about the city as violent and dangerous. Mattison developed this part of the story line for two reasons: to illustrate a troubling, but fascinating aspect of Daisy’s character, and to make some positive points about New Haven.

“Some years ago there was an article in the The New Yorker about teenaged drug dealers in New Haven,” says Mattison. “It gave the impression that every kid in the inner city was a dealer; I found the article very disturbing. It also talked about the high school my kids went to, two blocks from my house, and made it seem like the school was nothing but drugs and guns. I was so upset by that article that eight years later when the man who wrote it came to speak at the program I teach in at Bennington (in the College’s Writing Seminars), I was still so angry that I couldn’t be in the same room with him. I realized that feelings that strong had to be in the book. So I gave them to Pekko; he was my mouthpiece.”

The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman isn’t Daisy Andalusia’s first appearance; she’s a character who has appeared in Alice Mattison’s work before.

“I wrote about Daisy before in a collection of short stories called Men Giving Money, Women Yelling,” she says. “There’s a story called ‘The Hitchhiker’ that features Daisy and Charlotte, another character in The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman. They’re trading secrets, and Daisy, who is a college teacher, confesses that she has slept with one of her students. When I wrote that story, I sensed that Daisy wasn’t telling the whole truth. But it was written from Charlotte’s point of view, so I couldn’t really pursue that.”

Mattison decided to write a story from Daisy’s point of view for that same collection called “Selfishness,” in which Daisy describes her affair with the student (who also makes a brief appearance in The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman.) This time, Daisy’s description of the affair is much more complicated, and very different from what she tells Charlotte in “The Hitchhiker.”

“I had so much fun writing about her that I realized there was a lot more about her I wanted to explore,” she says. After the short story collection, I wrote a novel called The Book Borrower, but all the while I worked on it, the idea was at the back of my mind that I wanted to write a novel about Daisy. I loved inhabiting her and speaking her voice. But I think she’s so interesting is looking at the many ironies is that a woman whose inner life seems so chaotic and out of control would make a career of organizing and controlling other people’s lives.

One characteristic Mattison does happen to share with Daisy is they’ve both put in time as college professors. But while Mattison has had a long-time career, Daisy walked away from teaching and started a business where she cleaned up other people’s clutter. One of the book’s many ironies is that a woman whose inner life seems so chaotic and out of control would make a career of organizing and controlling other people’s lives.

Daisy’s profession represented to Alice Mattison not only an interesting narrative thread, it was also a way of writing about, and helping to deal with, some issues in her own life. “In fact, the only actual connection between the novel and my real life is that shortly after I started writing it, my parents finally moved out of their house and into an assisted-living apartment,” she says. “But shortly after the move, first my father, and soon after, my mother, had to go to a nursing home. I had to clean up and empty their house, and then the apartment, and put them both on the market.

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progressive movements. They were also cosmopolitan thinkers who acknowledged the international sources for their collection, and they worked hard to record cultural variants of folktales.

What do you think readers will learn as they return to these tales of childhood?

MT: I think they will be surprised by the violence in these stories but also astonished by the familiarity of the tales. These are stories that many of us have heard at one time or another, often on multiple occasions, and have not cast off but rather have internalized. Parents will find in these stories interesting points of departure for discussing values and meaning. The stories frame justice internalized. Parents will find in these stories

Can you talk about some of the contemporary books and movies with Grimms’ tales as their basis?

MT: Hollywood is obsessed with the Cinderella story. Think of Pretty Woman, Working Girl, The Princess Diaries, Maid in Manhattan, and Ella Enchanted for starters. Recycling is always a great way to conserve cultural energy and there’s a lot more out there than Disney when it comes to fairy tales. Shrek draws on the Grimms and also on French fairy tales with great success. Then there are the many retellings from an alternative point of view, the evil queen’s version of events, or the wolf’s side of the story. I’m a big fan too of Gregory Maguire’s Mirror Mirror and of his book Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister.

In her introduction to your book, the novelist A.S. Byatt writes of some “345 variants of ‘Cinderella.’” Is “Cinderella” the most potent of the tales?

MT: I think so. And, by the way, those 345 variants are just the British ones. “Cinderella” captures some of our deepest fantasies about romance and marriage. It is the rags to riches story that taps into our desire to see the underdog emerge as top dog. So many of the popular new reality shows engage with that story in one way or another.

“Rumpelstiltskin” seems perhaps one of the oddest of the tales: no one is very nice, not even the alleged heroine of the piece. What is the message here?

MT: What is the message? It’s a little hard to say frankly. Hemingway once said that if he had been interested in sending messages, he would have called Western Union. In this story there are really no admirable characters. The miller trades his daughter for the prospect of wealth, the daughter makes a foolish bargain, the king is greedy, and Rumpelstiltskin is so angry in the end that he tears himself in two. There is a lot to talk about here, and that’s precisely the point.

In writing about “Cinderella,” you note that the Grimms’ version is much more violent than the French version. Why?

MT: After collecting many versions of “Cinderella,” the Grimms anointed one of the stories, without any real evidence, as the most “purely German.” They were hoping to be faithful to their popular sources and didn’t really worry about violence. They were also living in times when children attended public executions for moral education. Mortality rates were high, and corpses were not unfamiliar sights. To be sure, the description of the stepsisters cutting off their toes and heels to fit into the glass slipper has a certain grotesque quality, but told in the right way, it could also take a burlesque turn.

The final scene, with doves pecking out the eyes of the stepsisters, stands in sharp contrast with the French version, in which Cinderella forgives her stepsisters. The Grimms were deeply invested in the notion that vice should be punished, and in their stories, it always was.

In “Snow White,” we find the battle of the beauties. So often in the tales, this one in particular, beauty is presented as its own reward. Is that a message of value?

MT: The tales really are centered on beauty, power, and wealth. Surfaces matter, and spirituality is less important. That’s why the stories are so accessible to children. Everything is worked out in concrete, material terms. But that’s why we also have to talk about the values embedded in these stories and use them to think about what matters to us today. And the same holds true for the Disney version of the tales. We should talk about those stories as well and about the messages they are sending to children. It’s reassuring to know that we have books like The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales, which parody our “sacred” cultural stories and show children that there are other ways to get home and live happily ever after.

You also include a section called “Tales for Adults,” which include several stories with

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very blatant anti-Semitic messages.

MT: That’s right. I wanted to show the entire range of what the Grimms were collecting. And, as much as the brothers were on the progressive side of political movements in Germany, and as scholarly as they were in their efforts, they were also products of their time, and they were less enlightened than we would expect.

Their collection includes a virulently anti-Semitic tale called “The Jew in the Thornbush,” and no critical commentary is appended to that tale. In the United States, the story still appears in collections, but it is translated as “The Miser in the Thornbush,” often accompanied by illustrations showing a figure with stereotyped Jewish features. Anti-Semitic elements could be found in many European tales circulating at the time, but it is shocking to find it in a collection produced by scholars and educators.

Do you have a favorite tale?

MT: “Hansel and Gretel” was my favorite childhood story, because it shows the power of sibling solidarity. More recently, I became fascinated by “Bluebeard,” but right now I’m under the spell of “The Juniper Tree.” It’s so gruesome! You have a child whose stepmother decapitates him by slamming a trunk on his head, then chops up his body parts, puts them into a stew, and feeds them to her husband. I hesitated for a long time to tell that one to my children.

When I finally did (and they were four and six), they burst out laughing. I think children at that age are anxious about their bodies but also afraid to talk about those fears. It’s a relief to hear about the terrible things you think can happen in the form of a story, one that shows the possibility of recovery. Adults talk about injuries and death in hushed tones, and children are aware of what they are talking about and yet are still not in the know. When they finally have a chance to encounter those things in the form of make-believe—and I can’t emphasize the importance of fantasy enough—there is a real sense of release that often takes the form of laughter.

Did you come to this work through your graduate work in German studies?

MT: Actually, when I was in graduate school in the early 1970s in the German department at Princeton, there were two taboo subjects: the Holocaust and folklore. Both of those areas moved, in just a decade, from the periphery to the center. The Holocaust has, of course, become a major research and teaching field in German departments.

As for fairy tales, they were not viewed as worthy of study. And in fact it wasn’t until I had children and was reading fairy tales to them that I realized the cultural importance of the Grimms and their collection, not only in Germany but also in other parts of the world. The British complained for decades that the Grimms’ stories had displaced their native lore, and to one degree or another, that happened in many parts of the world, including the United States.

For better or for worse, these stories have become a part of our cultural heritage, and that’s why it is so important to understand their effects. ☹️
GSAS Announces New Fellowship Program with Mexico

The Graduate School’s Single Largest Fellowship Effort

An agreement signed between the University and Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) on October 14 created the premiere fellowship program at Harvard for outstanding PhD students from Mexico. The program will amount to $2 million annually for the support of Mexican students.

Margot Gill, administrative dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, said, “This historic agreement supports the mutual goal of increasing intellectual and economic cooperation between Mexico and the United States, and opens the door to the most promising young Mexican scholars and scientists.”

CONACYT is Mexico’s National Council of Science and Technology. Composed of 27 public centers of research and technological development, it has a mission of strengthening Mexico’s scientific development and guiding its technological modernization. It is also Mexico’s foremost agency supporting graduate education and research. There is no limit to the number of students who will be eligible for the CONACYT-Harvard Graduate Fellowships, but administrators expect that approximately 20–25 new students will be supported each year.

The first class of CONACYT-Harvard Fellows will begin their programs in September 2005, facilitated by the 15-year precedent of Fundación México en Harvard, the philanthropic organization of Harvard alumni in Mexico, which has supported nearly 500 scholarships worth more than $3.5 million for Mexican students at Harvard.

Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers said, “Today’s agreement is a centerpiece around which other graduate fellowship programs may grow in the future. We will be recruiting the most accomplished Mexican students to our research programs, while helping CONACYT ensure the highest-quality training for future leaders of Mexico.”

Jaime Parada Avila, director general of CONACYT, said, “Our country is fully aware of the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization and the knowledge economy. For this reason, we need a critical mass of world-class researchers and engineers involved in cutting-edge innovation and entrepreneurial endeavors. The partnership with Harvard University should be instrumental in developing this much-needed base of human capital.”

In addition to tuition and stipend support, the new funding program will provide research bonuses to the top students in the natural sciences and guaranteed dissertation completion fellowships for students in the humanities and social sciences. Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences currently has a total of 23 Mexican students enrolled in a large range of PhD programs, including biomedical sciences, biostatistics, molecular and cellular biology, physics, government, economics, comparative literature, and music.

Above: Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers (seated, right) and Jaime Parada Avila, director general of CONACYT, at the signing of the CONACYT-Harvard Graduate Fellowship Program. Also present are (from left) GSAS Administrative Dean Margot Gill, directors and associates of the Fundación México en Harvard, (on far right) GSAS Dean Peter Ellison, and FAS Dean William Kirby.

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dyers stretched cloth tautly on what were known as tenter frames or tenterhooks (from whence our phrase “to be on tenterhooks”). And though in Shakespeare’s time the open spaces to which Londoners had once had easy access had already begun to disappear, other attractions drew people through the gates or across the river to the suburbs. Many taverns and inns, some of them quite venerable—the famous Tabard Inn, where Chaucer’s pilgrims started their journey to Canterbury, was located in Southwark, on the south bank of the Thames—offered food and drink and private rooms in a world that had almost no privacy. In Finsbury Field, to the north of the city, archers could stroll about shooting at painted stakes and trying to avoid passersby. (In 1557 a pregnant woman out for a walk with her husband was struck in the neck by a stray arrow and killed.) Other places of amusement included firing ranges (for practicing pistol shooting), cockfighting pits, wrestling rings, bowling alleys, places for music and dancing, platforms upon which criminals were mutilated or hanged, and an impressive array of “houses of resort,” that is, whorehouses. Moralists denounced the latter with particular ferocity, of course, and demanded that they be closed, but the moves against them by city authorities always fell short. In Measure for Measure, a play set in a Vienna that looks and sounds like London, the ruler, embarking on a campaign of moral reform, gives an order to pull down the “houses of resort in the suburbs” (1.2.82-83). The order is not carried out.

The congested city, then, was effectively surrounded by an all-purpose entertainment zone, the place where Shakespeare spent much of his professional life. His imagination took it all in, even things that at this distance seem quite negligible. He was forcefully struck, for example, by the game of bowls, particularly by the way the ball with the off-center weight swerved, so that you hit your target by the way the ball with the off-center weight swerved, so that you hit your target only by seemingly to aim elsewhere. The image came to him repeatedly as a way of figuring the surprising twists of his cunningly devised plots. So too with archery, wrestling, tilting at posts called quintains, and the whole range of Elizabethan sports and contests; when he did not actually depict them (like in the wrestling scene in As You Like It), he used them again and again as images.
Memories of “Archimedes Bathtub”

GSAS alumni who have spent many hours of their lives in Widener Library—called “Archimedes Bathtub” by historian and Harvard alumna Barbara Tuchman—are likely to find a few more hours of enjoyment reading Matthew Battles’s new book *Widener: Biography of a Library* (Harvard University Press).

*Widener* takes readers back to a time in Harvard’s history before there even was a Widener, back to the pre-1915 days of charming but cramped Gore Hall.

Battles recounts Harvard’s sometimes painful transition from seeing that college library give way to a new concept of a university library system, from the tragic circumstances of young Harry Elkins Widener, the library’s namesake, to the renovations of recent years. The book offers insights into how changes at Widener reflect Harvard’s transformation from a regional college to a university of international import.

Battles is the coordinating editor of the *Harvard Library Bulletin* and also the author of *Library: An Unquiet History* (2003).

―Susan Lumenello

Top image: Widener’s card catalog in the 1950s. The Widener classification system differed from the standard Library of Congress (LC) system by emphasizing “language and country over discipline and topic,” writes Battles. “The Widener system respected authors, too, striving to keep their works together, where LC would divide books by one author into several classes by subject matter. In a sense, the Widener system was Aristotelian; its divisions were empirical, describing and reflecting the languages and cultural origins of books and highlighting their relations to one another in language, place, and time; LC, by contrast, was Platonic, looking past the surface of language and nation to reflect the idealized, essential discipline in which each book, pamphlet, or periodical might be said to belong.”

A limited version of the catalog system went online in 1985; the catalog was fully converted to a digital entity in the mid-1990s. Battles notes that “the architecture of HOLLIS [Harvard Online Library Information System] in its way was every bit as monumental as that of Widener (although Widener took less time to build).”

Department of Statistics and has focused on the computational analysis of genome evolution and gene regulation. In 2002, he conceived and developed the functional genomic analysis software GeneMerge and founded GeneMerge, Inc. Davis has spoken on his research at academic institutions, including Tsinghua University (Beijing), Stanford, Cornell, Harvard, and the University of Chile. His work has been published in Science and Genetics, among other publications. He has also served as a journal referee (article reviewer) for many of these publications.

Special Students/Visiting Fellows Program

Malte Herwig, GSA ’00, won the Thomas Mann Prize from the Thomas Mann Society in Germany for his book *Bildungsbürger auf Abwegen: Naturwissenschaft im Werk Thomas Manns* (Natural Sciences in the Work of Thomas Mann) (Klostermann, 2004). Writes Herwig: “The book deals not only with Mann’s important work, but [also] with the problem of popularizing science in general.” Much of the book is based on work Herwig conducted as a visiting research fellow in 1999 and 2000.

In Memoriam

Geoffrey Leonard Stagg, AM ’35, Romance languages and literatures, died in Toronto, Ontario, on November 10, 2004, at the age of 91. He was Modern Languages Master at Taunton School and King Edward School in England, and Lecturer in French and Spanish at Birmingham University. During World War II, he served in the British Intelligence Corps in England, Gibraltar, North Africa, and Italy. Winston Churchill described his contribution to the war effort as “splendid.” Stagg was commended by the British Foreign Office and, in 1945, was decorated as a Member of the Order of the British Empire. After the war, he was posted to Vienna, where he helped track down suspected war criminals. He was offered the position of Deputy Chief of Denazification, but returned instead to academe and an appointment as Lecturer in the Nottingham University Department of Languages. In 1954, he became head of the Department of Spanish. In 1956, he came to Canada and became professor and chair of the Department of Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese at the University of Toronto.

To Share Your News

Please submit Alumni Notes to: Colloquy, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Byerly Hall 300, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138-3654; or e-mail your news to gsa@fas.harvard.edu. Please include your telephone number or e-mail address. Alumni Notes are subject to editing for length and clarity.
GSAS Alumnus Wins 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics

GSAS alumnus H. David Politzer, PhD ’74, physics, was one of a three-man team that won the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics. Politzer, a professor at the California Institute of Technology, shared the award with David Gross of the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of California at Santa Barbara, and Frank Wilczek of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They made an important theoretical discovery concerning the “strong force,” or “color force,” as it is also called. The strong force is the dominant one in the atomic nucleus, acting between the quarks inside the proton and the neutron, noted the Nobel committee. This year’s laureates discovered something that, at first sight, seemed completely contradictory: the closer the quarks are to each other, the weaker is the “color charge.” When the quarks are really close to each other, the force is so weak that they behave almost as free particles. The converse is true when the quarks move apart: the force becomes stronger as the distance increases. This property may be compared to a rubber band. The more the band is stretched, the stronger the force. Thanks to their discovery, wrote the Nobel committee, Politzer and colleagues have brought physics one step closer to fulfilling a grand dream: to formulate a unified theory comprising gravity.

Former Medical School faculty member Linda Buck shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Richard Axel “for their discoveries of odorant receptors and the organization of the olfactory system.” Buck, who was on faculty from 1991 to 2002, is a scientist at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

Science Faculty Elected to Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies of Science announced 65 new members in October 2004, including Dyann Wirth, professor of immunology and infectious diseases. Also elected from Harvard were Francine M. Benes, professor of psychiatry, and Ronald DePinho, professor of medicine. The IOM is both an honorific and an advisory organization that conducts studies on current issues in science for use by the federal government.

Popular Science Announces Third Annual “Brilliant 10”

In September 2004, Popular Science named its annual “Brilliant 10,” a list of “ten young scientists to watch,” according to the magazine. Among the illustrious group was 31-year-old David Liu, the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Natural Sciences. According to Popular Science: “Liu has developed a brand-new way to create manmade chemical molecules, relying on the natural tendency of DNA strands to pair together like a zipper. Capitalizing on this, Liu is able to program the outcome of chemical reactions—before combining his raw materials, he attached each to a strand of DNA, attaching the ingredients he wants to react to complementary bits of DNA. For now, the process lets chemists produce known molecules with greater control. Down the line, it could be used to search for new medicines.”

University Library Partners with Google

The Harvard University Library will collaborate with Internet search giant Google to digitize a substantial number of the University’s 15 million volumes for online access, it was announced in December 2004. This pilot project will allow for a full-text search of works in the public domain, though access could expand to include the five million books currently stored off-campus at the Harvard Depository. Similar projects are being launched with Stanford, Oxford, the University of Michigan, and the New York Public Library. Google will fund the pilot project. According to a statement, if the pilot is deemed successful, Harvard will explore a long-term program with Google through which the vast majority of the University’s library books would be digitized and included in Google’s searchable database. For more information on the project, go to http://hul.harvard.edu/publications/041213news.html.
Marathon Man

Harvard anthropologist Daniel Lieberman (AB ’86, PhD ’93) and a colleague from the University of Utah have shown that humans’ ability for long-distance running was an evolutionary adaptation even more important to our development than walking upright. Writing in *Nature* (Nov. 18, 2004), Lieberman and Dennis Bramble argue that anthropologists have focused on the phenomenon of bipedalism, overlooking the evolutionary importance of human running. Although humans run much more slowly than other animals, distance—not speed—is the relevant distinction, say Lieberman and Bramble. Running, they found, led to the development of several uniquely human physical features—extra leg tendons, larger buttocks used for stability, and largely hairless skin to facilitate cooling, among them. Lieberman told *New Scientist* magazine that this knack for long-distance running might have allowed early humans to reach food by outdistancing other competitors. “Before the bow and arrow, you’d have a hard time making a living without running,” Lieberman said.

Young Scientist Recognized for Work on Proteins

Gavin MacBeath, assistant professor of chemistry and chemical biology, was one of five scientists named Distinguished Young Scholar in Medical Research, the W.M. Keck Foundation announced in October 2004. MacBeath studies the biochemical signals that cells use to communicate with each other. He plans to map out the interactions involving one family of proteins and study how interruptions of individual proteins affect the chemical signaling. Since 1999, the Young Scholars Program has awarded annual grants of up to $1 million each to five junior faculty investigators at leading research universities and institutions. The Keck Foundation—established in 1954 by William Myron Keck, founder of the Superior Oil Company—focuses on scientific and engineering research.

Faculty Books Honored

*Publishers Weekly*, the leading journal of the publishing industry, included two books by Harvard faculty members in its December 2004 list of the best nonfiction books of the year. *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* (Norton) by Stephen Greenblatt was called “the most vivid and complete portrait of the Bard to date.” Greenblatt is the Cogan University Professor in the Department of English and American Literature and Language. *Just Work* (Harvard University Press) by Russell Muirhead (AB ’88, PhD ’96, government), associate professor of government, was said to confront the “contradictory and confounding elements of modern working life.” An excerpt from Greenblatt’s new book is featured in this issue.

Pinker Honored in London

In September 2004, Steven Pinker, the Johnstone Professor of Psychology, won the 2004 Henry Dale Prize from the Royal Institution of London and the Kohn Foundation in recognition “of his outstanding multidisciplinary approach to his research,” said The Times of London. Pinker, who received his PhD in psychology and social relations from Harvard in 1979, delivered a lecture for the occasion entitled “The Ingredients of Language.” His most recent books are *The Blank Slate: The Modern Denial of Human Nature* (2002) and *Words and Rules: The Ingredients of Language* (1999).

—compiled by Susan Lumenello
Alumni Books

Food Fights Over Free Trade
How International Institutions Promote Agricultural Trade Liberalization

By Christina L. Davis, AB ’93, PhD ’01, government

Debates over international agricultural trade are highly sensitive because food is so often an emblem of national pride. Davis analyzes the politics of negotiations over the past 30 years to open "sensitive markets," focusing mainly on the liberalization of agricultural markets in Japan and Europe to American producers. She looks at the roles played by governments; international institutions, particularly the World Trade Organization; and grassroots groups of farmers and others. Davis is an assistant professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University.

Inheriting Wisdom
Readings for Today from Ancient Christian Writers

By Everett Ferguson, STB ’56, PhD ’60, study of religion

This presentation of advice from the ancients is offered to help contemporary people navigate the constant tensions and questions surrounding relationships, ethics, work, even paying taxes. In his introduction, Ferguson writes that he hopes the book will induce readers to further study Christianity, and he reminds readers that these early scholars prized religious liberty in their teachings. The author is the Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Abilene Christian University. His books include Christianity and Society: The Social World of Early Christianity (1999) and Backgrounds of Early Christianity (1987).

Families That Work
Policies for Reconciling Parenthood and Employment

By Janet C. Gornick, AB ’79, MPA ’87, PhD ’94, political economy and government; and Marcia K. Meyers, MPA ’87

For working parents, write the authors, a false choice exists between caring for children and being successful employees in today's workplace. Gornick and Meyers present a public policy vision to allow working parents to be just that. The authors acknowledge that their vision of more government support for working parents is perhaps idealistic. Such idealism, they contend, is essential to begin to fix the problems. Their proposals include a call to stop viewing childcare as a "wholly private concern." Gornick is an associate professor of political science at the Graduate Center and Baruch College of the City University of New York.

The Abortion Rights Controversy in America
A Legal Reader

Edited by N.E.H. Hull; William James Hoffer, JD ’96; and Peter Charles Hoffer, PhD ’70, history

The abortion rights controversy may seem to be a modern political phenomenon, but it reaches back over a century. In this absorbing new volume, the editors have collected speeches, court decisions, and essays back to the mid-19th century (Elizabeth Cady Stanton's "Address to the Seneca Falls Convention") to present a history of the legal battle for reproductive rights. Included are writings leading up to and including Roe v. Wade. Peter Charles Hoffer is distinguished research professor of history at the University of Georgia. He is the editor of several other books on important legal decisions, including Marbury v. Madison and the Bakke case, as well as the new book Past Imperfect: Facts, Fictions, and Fraud in the Writing of American History.
WEALTH WITHOUT A JOB
The Entrepreneur’s Guide to Freedom and Security Beyond the 9 to 5 Lifestyle

By Phil Laut, MBA ’70, GSA ’74, special students program, and Andy Fuehl


With this tempting title, the authors present a book that is both inspirational and instructive. They contend that, in times of rampant job insecurity, self-employment is the route to job satisfaction and even riches. “Financial success,” they write, “means earning the income you want doing work you love.” Laut, a former financial controller at Digital Equipment Corporation, is the author of Money is My Friend (1979). Initially self-published, the book sold more than 300,000 copies and was later republished by Ballantine.

MIND MAGIC
How To Develop the 3 Components of Intelligence That Matter Most in Today’s World


“Mind magic” is the enhanced ability to learn and think. This ability, writes the author, is achieved through developing a more adaptable, schematic approach to using our minds, rather than applying one’s intelligence to a single area (“power intelligence”). Miller, an independent consultant and adjunct professor in applied psychology at New York University, bases his theory that anyone can “learn intelligence” to succeed in today’s world on writings by the Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, among others. Miller previously served as a visiting scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and as a professor of psychology at York University, Toronto.

DUE PROCESS OF LAW
A Brief History

By John V. Orth, JD ’72, PhD ’77, history


Although the term “due process” is a familiar one, its true meaning may be vague at best to many outside the legal field. Indeed, even among judges and lawyers due process of law is a Constitutional goal whose definition can be elusive. In this useful little volume, Orth describes the origins of due process in English common law, and then takes readers on its journey through the American legal system and the various decisions that relied upon—or spurned—this important concept. Orth is the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His other books include Combination and Conspiracy: A Legal History of Trade Unionism, 1721–1906 (1991) and The Judicial Power of the United States: The Eleventh Amendment in American History (1987).

CONVERGENCE AMIDST DIFFERENCE
Philosophical Conversations Across National Boundaries


Philosopher Schrag takes the “grand tour” of Europe by way of various countries’ philosophic and intellectual histories and current modes of thinking. Along the way, he brings new insights to conceptual frames such as epistemology, postmodernism, and hermeneutics (the study of the methodological principles of interpretation of, for example, the Bible). Schrag is the George Ade Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Purdue University. He is the author of eight books, including God as Otherwise than Being: Towards a Semantics of the Gift (2002) and Portrait of the Self after Postmodernity (1997).

DEADMISTRESS
A Novel

Carole B. Shmurak, AM ’66, medical sciences
SterlingHouse Publisher, 2004, 184 pp.

As its punning title suggests, this murder mystery is set in a private girls school. Humor and wit blend with the genre’s more sanguinary conventions. Shmurak, a professor of education at Central Connecticut State University, is the author of the Matty Trescott series of young adult novels and of the nonfiction book, Voices of Hope: Adolescent Girls at Single Sex and Coeducational Schools (1998).

NEW HAVEN
From Puritanism to the Age of Terrorism

By Michael Sletcher, GSA ’99, special students/visiting fellows program

Harvard alumni may find the prospect of reading about this particular city rather chilling, but author Sletcher smooths the waters with this historically rich tale of what may be the ultimate town-and-gown city. New Haven, he argues, has been unjustly overlooked in American colonial and Puritan histories, and he sets out to right that wrong. Sletcher is editor of the Benjamin Franklin Papers at Yale University. A former visiting fellow at Harvard, he taught colonial American history at the University of Cambridge.

continued on page 16
“My parents were the most amazing pack rats, and going through their possessions made me extremely impatient with objects that didn’t need to be there. And their house and apartment were full of objects that didn’t need to be there. You never know when you’ll need an empty yogurt container for storing leftovers, so you keep every one you buy, and eventually you have five hundred of them. So I’d get home, exhausted from working at my parents’ house, look around and ask myself, ‘What can I get rid of?’ I think that experience led to Daisy being in the business of removing clutter.”

Mattison has just finished another collection of short stories—one she started originally after completing The Book Borrower. But she set that project aside temporarily when her editor asked if she’d do another novel next. Since she already had the idea for The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman in mind, she agreed. Now she’s in the beginning stages of a new novel, which she absolutely refuses to discuss.

“Even the people closest to me never have any idea what I’m working on until the second or third draft,” she says. I carry my superstition about this to ridiculous lengths. One time, when I was working on a book that had something to do with the Spanish Civil War, I met a man at a dinner party—an American who’d fought in it as a volunteer—and asked him all kinds of questions. I might have found out a lot more from him had I mentioned I was working on a novel about the war, but I just couldn’t do it.”

As is often the case with writers, she has a very specific set of circumstances she needs to create the right work atmosphere. “I’m pretty ferocious about maintaining my space to write; I usually work when my kids were babies they went to day care part of the day. Later, I wrote when they were in school. We have a little house with a third floor, and when they were still young, once in a while I’d go up there to work if our children were around. But I didn’t do that very much. To really concentrate on my writing, I needed to know I wasn’t going to be interrupted.”

Mattison knew she wanted to be a writer from the time she was a teenager. She focused on poetry through high school and college, and then studied literature in graduate school. She started writing fiction in her thirties, and for some years alternated between fiction and poetry. “But the fiction I wrote at that point really wasn’t very good,” she says “and I realized I needed to change my approach. I decided to write fiction during the warm months and poetry during the cold months. I even had a changeover day: May 1. The first summer was the first time I wrote publishable fiction. But something else interesting happened: after a few years of this, I sort of lost poetry. The poems just didn’t come any more. I don’t know what happened, but it did. I haven’t written poetry for some time.”

Daisy Andalusia is one of the more complex and interesting fictional creations of recent years. Alternately endearing and frustrating, she seems at one moment generous and loyal, and the next, dishonest and totally self-absorbed. If you met her at a dinner party, you might find her charming and witty, the kind of person who might make a good, trustworthy friend. But you might eventually discover that friendship with Daisy is a chancy business, and the reader follows with fascination, and often horror, as she commits a series of petty and dishonest acts that culminates in one single, unforgivable act of betrayal.

The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman raises many interesting questions, but offers no easy answers. “It’s hard to say exactly what I want people to take away from this novel,” Alice Mattison says. “I think readers have to be on their own with it. I want them to engage with Daisy’s moral conflicts and moral quandaries and ask if they perhaps recognize in her some part of themselves.”

Charles Coe is a freelance writer living in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
“I am able to direct the asset base to something I highly value—namely a truly excellent education for the best students in the field from all over the world, with selection based solely on merit.” —Roger Green

Giving Young Scholars Their Head Start

By Ann Hall

Halfway through his doctoral studies, Roger Green, PhD ’64, anthropology, ran out of money.

“After two and a half years at Harvard and a Thaw Fellowship in my second year, I realized I needed help to pay for the remainder of time needed to complete my remaining PhD requirements before writing the dissertation,” Green remembers.

Concerned, he turned for advice to his mentor, Professor Douglas L. Oliver. “He asked me to work out to the penny what I needed to complete this part of my degree, and I submitted a detailed budget to the department.” Within two months, he was awarded the exact funds he requested and given a teaching fellowship in addition.

“That was a huge relief to me, and I’ve been grateful ever since,” Green says. “It made all the difference in letting me concentrate on promptly completing those requirements.”

The assistance allowed Green, now professor of prehistory emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, to embark on a career in anthropology. He recently won the Marsden Medal from the New Zealand Association of Scientists, which recognizes his contributions to archaeology in his adopted country and to the advancement of knowledge about the cultural history of the peoples of the Pacific Islands.

Born in New Jersey and raised in New England, New York, and New Mexico, Green won a four-year tuition scholarship to the University of New Mexico, where he pursued double degrees in anthropology (with a focus on archaeology) and geology, and minors in biology and air science.

He remained in New Mexico to study for a master’s degree in anthropology, continuing to concentrate on archaeology and history, and conducting further fieldwork in the Largo-Gallina region of north-central New Mexico.

Green had always intended to return to the East Coast for study, and, after receiving an acceptance from Harvard, he did just that. Initially, he continued his focus on the Southwest United States and Mesoamerica, but Professor Oliver convinced him to take a look at Polynesia.

After a Fulbright Fellowship took him to Auckland University in New Zealand, Green began focusing his work more closely on the cultures of the Pacific Islands, especially in the pre-European era. He has never looked back and is now a renowned scholar of Pacific archaeology and cultural history.

Green has supported Harvard’s Department of Anthropology with annual gifts since earning his PhD. “I know that these kinds of discretionary, unspecified funds are useful for heads of departments to have for the ‘crisis events’ that from time to time plague students,” he explains. Green’s attitude toward giving played a major role in larger gifts he made more recently, when he established a series of charitable gift annuities through Harvard’s Office of Gift Planning.

“Established three annuities because it was the best win-win option,” Green says. A gift annuity—a simple contract between the donor and Harvard—allowed Green to contribute any from among his cash, securities, or other property to the University. In turn, Harvard pays Green and his wife a guaranteed income in quarterly installments for life. This way, the Greens receive a stable income, an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction, and capital gains tax savings.

“Through the annuity, I am able to direct the asset base to something I highly value—namely a truly excellent education for the best students in any field from all over the world, with selection based solely on merit,” Green says.

“That model is near-unique in my academic experience, and we need at least one place in the world that practices it in the hope that someday it will appear elsewhere,” he adds.

Green’s unusual gift of unrestricted support of GSAS students represents the best way for him to support the institution that gave him his start.

To learn more about supporting the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please contact Katherine Christy at 1-800-VERITAS or at katherine.christy@harvard.edu.

Ann Hall is a senior writer in Harvard’s Office of Alumni Affairs and Development Communications.
Faculty Talks and Alumni Events

For more information on the events noted below, please call 617-495-5591 or e-mail gsaa@fas.harvard.edu.

**Tuesday, March 1–Wednesday, March 2, 2005**
Mexico City, Mexico
Harvard Alumni Association Global Series:
Harvard Comes To Mexico
A GSAS-sponsored symposium will be part of this two-day event. William Fash, the Bowditch Professor of Central American and Mexican Archaeology and Ethnology and Howells Director of the Peabody Museum, will speak on Mesoamerican civilizations.

**Monday, March 14, 2005 | New York, New York**

**Monday, April 4, 2005**
Los Angeles, California
Henri Zerner, Professor of the history of art and architecture, will speak on “Portrait, Likeness, and Recognition.” He is the author of Renaissance Art in France: The Invention of Classicism (2003) and Romanticism and Realism: The Mythology of 19th-century Art (1985), among other books.

**Friday, April 15–Saturday, April 16, 2005**
Cambridge, Massachusetts
GSAS Alumni Weekend
- **Friday, April 15: Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology Graduate Alumni Reunion**
  GSAS will sponsor the first-ever reunion for graduate alumni of the Departments of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology on the day before Alumni Day (see following item). Why not make it a Harvard weekend?
- **Saturday, April 16: GSAS Alumni Day**
  Alumni Day brings together GSAS alumni from all years and departments for a day of faculty symposia, food and drink, and renewing old acquaintances. Keynote speaker: Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in economics, who will speak on “Identity and Violence.”

**Tuesday, May 17, 2005 | Toronto, Canada**
Niall Ferguson, professor of history, will speak at the first GSAS chapter event in Canada. His books include the prize-winning House of Rothschild: The World’s Banker, 1849-1999 (1999); the best-selling history of World War I, The Pity of War (1999); Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World (2003); and Colossus: The Price of America’s Empire (2004), which is excerpted in this issue of Colloquy.