

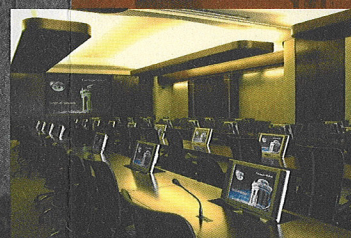
THE POSNER CENTER
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213



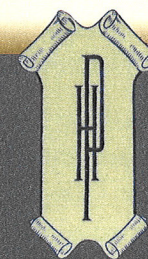
Carnegie Mellon

THE POSNER CENTER

IN MEMORY OF
HENRY AND IDA POSNER



A GIFT FROM HENRY POSNER JR.
AND HELEN POSNER



THE COLLECTORS AND THE COLLECTION

The Posner Memorial Collection includes more than 1,000 volumes of great books that document ideas that have shaped the world.

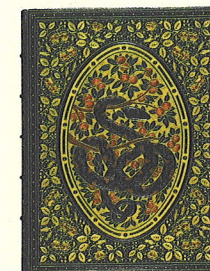
Starting with literature and decorative book arts, Henry Posner Sr. collected from 1924 to 1973. After 1950, he focused on the history of science.

Mr. and Mrs. Posner also collected small *objets d'art* in glass, ivory, jade and other minerals from Asia and Europe.

"The intellectual and artistic content of the Posner Collection is a perfect fit for Carnegie Mellon. This is a superb resource for our students and faculty, the Pittsburgh region and literate people everywhere," said Carnegie Mellon President Jared L. Cohon, "We're fortunate to have such a setting for it on campus."

Revealing Mr. Posner's personal journey of exploration and discovery as a collector, the library includes:

- One of only four existing copies of the first printing of the United States Bill of Rights and its ratifications, distributed to governors by Thomas Jefferson in 1792.
- An early printed copy of Christopher Columbus's letter to the Treasurer of Spain describing his first voyage to America (in Latin, 1495).
- Harmonicus Mundi (1619) by Johann Kepler, one of the founders of modern astronomy.



- The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám, in a distinctive 1912 binding by Sangorski and Sutcliffe featuring snakeskin, sapphires and rubies [left].
- Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations (1776), a foundation of modern economic thought.
- Synopsis of Comets (1705) by Edmond Halley, predicting the appearance in 1758 of the comet that now bears his name.

- Narrative of the Mutiny (1790), an extraordinary naval account by William Bligh.
- A rare intact 1663 edition of the Third Folio of Shakespeare, prefaced by Ben Jonson's verse [below].
- Dickens's Bleak House (1852-1853) in its suspenseful original serial installments.
- The Nuremberg Chronicle (1493), with woodcut illustrations and contemporary city views.
- A glorious 1914 facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, hand-colored and illuminated on vellum [this page].



To the Reader:

This Figure, that thou here seest put,
It was for gentle Shakespeare cut;
Wherein the Graver had a trife
VVith Nature, to out-doe the Life:
O, could he but have drawn his Wit
As well in Brasse, as he has hit
His Face; the Print would then surpasse
All, that was ever writ in Brasse.
But since he cannot, Reader, look
Not on his Picture, but his Book.

B. J.

THE CARNEGIE CONNECTION

Henry Posner Sr. attended Carnegie Tech, now part of Carnegie Mellon University, early in the twentieth century.

Henry Posner Jr. and Helen Posner chose Carnegie Mellon University to receive the family collection in 1978. The catalyst for that gift was a memorable visit with fine & rare books librarian Anne Skoog, who impressed the Posners with her knowledge and joy in sharing rare books with library users.

THE BUILDING

The Posner Center (2004) was given to the university by Emeritus Life Trustee Henry Posner Jr. and Helen Posner in memory of his parents, Henry Posner Sr. and Ida Posner.

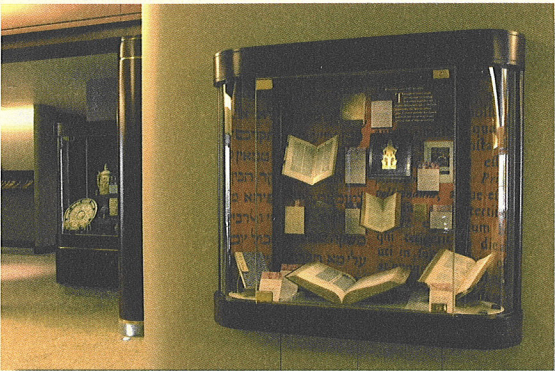
Designed by Paul Whitehead of WTW Architects, the 11,400 square-foot building is unified throughout with “curved corners,” apparent from the granite façade to the vaulted ceiling and the details of cabinetry and furnishings. Cove lighting and fiber optics illuminate the inviting and dramatic interior space.



The Hare of the Moon (ivory okimono)

POSNER FINE ARTS FOUNDATION INTERNSHIPS

The Posner Fine Arts Foundation supports scholarship and active use of the Posner Memorial Collection with student internships. Each year, two Carnegie Mellon students are awarded paid internships and given the opportunity to study the collection and work with librarians to design exhibits for the Posner Center. For information, call 412-268-7680.



POSNER MEMORIAL COLLECTION ONLINE

The Posner family has supported with an additional grant the full text digitization of the collection by the University Libraries, making nearly all of it available to students and scholars worldwide on the Internet at <http://posner.library.cmu.edu/Posner/>.



THE BOARD ROOM

Created as the primary meeting venue for the Carnegie Mellon Board of Trustees, the board room is also available for use by select university groups, or for university meetings that require videoconferencing or other sophisticated technology. The board room seats 100.



Fitzroy's narrative of the Beagle (1839)

The Haggadah illustrated by Arthur Syzk (1939)

TO REQUEST USE OF THE FACILITY

<http://www.library.cmu.edu/Libraries/Posner/use.html>
or contact Jillian Chisnell, 412-268-6330,
jillianc@andrew.cmu.edu

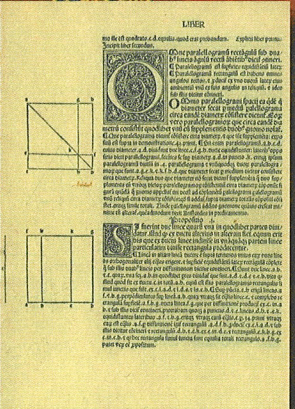
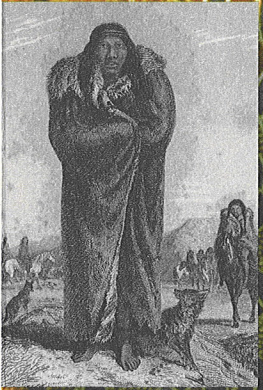
POSNER CENTER LIBRARY HOURS & INFORMATION

Monday through Friday,
1-4 p.m.
412-268-7680

LOCATION AND PARKING

The POSNER CENTER is located on the Carnegie Mellon campus between the College of Fine Arts and the Tepper School of Business.

Use the East Campus Garage. Parking reservations and/or special needs parking may be arranged with the university parking service, 412-268-2052 or parking-reservations@andrew.cmu.edu.



Euclid's Elementa Geometriae (1482)