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**From:** Richard C. Levin [mailto:[presidents.office@yale.edu](mailto:presidents.office@yale.edu)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 07, 2010 9:01 AM

**To:** Yale Community

**Subject:** Announcement – University Librarian

September 7, 2010

To the Yale community:

It gives me the greatest pleasure to announce the appointment of Frank M. Turner, John Hay Whitney Professor of History, as University Librarian for a term of five years beginning September 1, 2010. He has served as interim University Librarian since last January and as Director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library since 2003. He served as Provost of the University from 1988 to 1992.

Collectively the libraries of Yale University comprise the second largest academic library system in North America. There is no one to whose stewardship we would rather entrust this treasure than Frank Turner. As a complete Yale citizen – a distinguished scholar, teacher, and senior administrator – Professor Turner understands the importance of the Library from multiple perspectives. He cherishes the Library's collections and understands their value as a resource for teaching and scholarship at Yale and around the world. We are very fortunate that he has agreed to continue in this position for a five-year term.

Professor Turner's scholarship suits him admirably to lead a great Library. A distinguished intellectual historian, he has explored numerous facets of Victorian intellectual life in his books and many of his articles. His [John Henry Newman: The Challenge to Evangelical Religion](#), published by Yale Press in 2002, describes Newman's career in the Church of England and the motivations and circumstances leading to his conversion to Roman Catholicism. He has also edited Newman's [Apologia Pro Vita Sua](#) and his [Idea of a University](#) for Yale Press. His earlier contributions to the history of Victorian thought include [Between Science and Religion: The Reaction to Scientific Naturalism in Late Victorian England](#) (1974) and [The Greek Heritage in Victorian Britain](#) (1981), both published by Yale Press, and [Contesting Cultural Authority: Essays in Victorian Intellectual Life](#) (1993), published by Cambridge University Press. His textbook [The Western Heritage](#), co-authored with Donald Kagan and Steven Ozment, is in its tenth edition and has long been regarded as one of the leading textbooks on Western Civilization. As a teacher, he has been admired for his excellence both as a lecturer and seminar leader. In 1981 he received the Yale College Prize for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching. As faculty member and Provost, he has served on and led numerous University committees, and he is intimately familiar with Yale's day-to-day functioning as well as its history and its traditions.

Professor Turner is a graduate of the College of William and Mary, and earned his Ph.D. at Yale. As a graduate

student he was awarded the John Addison Porter Prize for original scholarship in 1972. He was the Graduate President of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa of Connecticut at Yale from 1995-2001. William and Mary awarded him an honorary degree in 1991, as did Quinnipiac University in 2003 and Wilmington College in 2007. He served as a trustee of Connecticut College between 1996 and 2006 and as a member of the Connecticut Humanities Council between 2003 and 2008.

Professor Turner's new appointment leaves a gap in the leadership of the Beinecke, and I will soon communicate plans for filling this important position. Meanwhile, I am grateful to Professor Turner for continuing to do double duty and remaining as the director of the Beinecke until a successor is in place.

As we make this outstanding appointment, I extend warm thanks to Pericles Lewis, professor of Comparative Literature and English, for his superb organizational skills, his professionalism, and his excellent judgment in leading the search committee. I am equally grateful to committee members Rolena Adorno, Meg Bellinger, Paul Bloom, Thad Dunning, Bonnie Fleming, Paul Freedman, Brian Lizotte, R. Kenny Marone, Linda Peterson, Marina Picciotto, Douglas Rae, Holly Rushmeier, E.C. Schroeder, and Lloyd Suttle for their time and work in searching widely, even as they recognized from the beginning that a superior candidate for this position was in our own back yard. Finally, I am grateful to the Library staff itself for their advice and contributions to the search and for their work every day in ensuring that Yale's library system remains one of the University's gifts to our civilization.

I know that the staff of the Library will join with me, and the search committee, in congratulating Professor Turner and in offering him gratitude for agreeing to continue as steward of the resource that is, as the inscription on Sterling indicates, the "heart of the university."

Sincerely yours,

Richard C. Levin

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