Kennedy Endowment:
Facilitating Accomplishments for FY 2004-2005

An unsightly and damaging prior repair is being removed from a Civil War manuscript. This document contains a notation made by Abraham Lincoln in 1861 granting the discharge of several Confederate soldiers.

The Raymond and Mary Kennedy Preservation Endowment has quickly become integral to the success of the University Libraries' preservation program. This past year the Endowment enabled the Libraries to address significant preservation needs within our collections, while also supporting the growth of onsite capabilities for conserving the Libraries' growing rare book and manuscript collections.

This year the Endowment directly supported the preservation of over 450 brittle and fragile volumes. Of these 450, approximately half consists of volumes new to the Libraries' Early Christian and Byzantine Collection that were hand-selected by our Byzantine Librarian because of their importance and fragility, while the other half consists of particularly high-use volumes from Hesburgh Library which were no longer able to circulate due to their condition.

This year the Kennedy Endowment also contributed to increasing our special collections treatment capabilities by helping fund the purchase of a "suction wedge," a small but specialized piece of conservation equipment that facilitates highly controlled localized solvent treatments, such as the removal of adhesive or stains from the pages of a bound manuscript. The suction wedge is essentially a slim sheet that, when placed behind a piece of paper, draws air and solvents quickly through the paper as a treatment is performed. It has quickly become a very integral piece of equipment that is regularly called upon when performing delicate treatments in the conservation laboratory.