



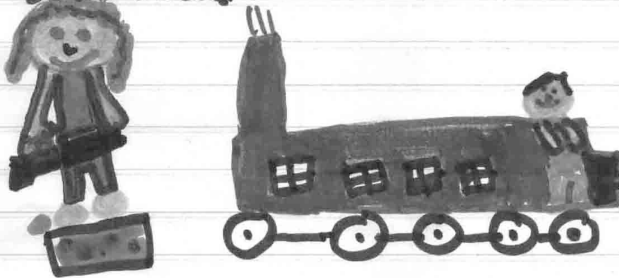
# EX ANTE

April 23, 2010

Dear Mr. Widener,  
Thank you very much for inviting us to see the rare manuscripts. The part I liked the most was when you showed us the Supreme Court bobbleheads. I really enjoyed the presentation.  
Thank you!

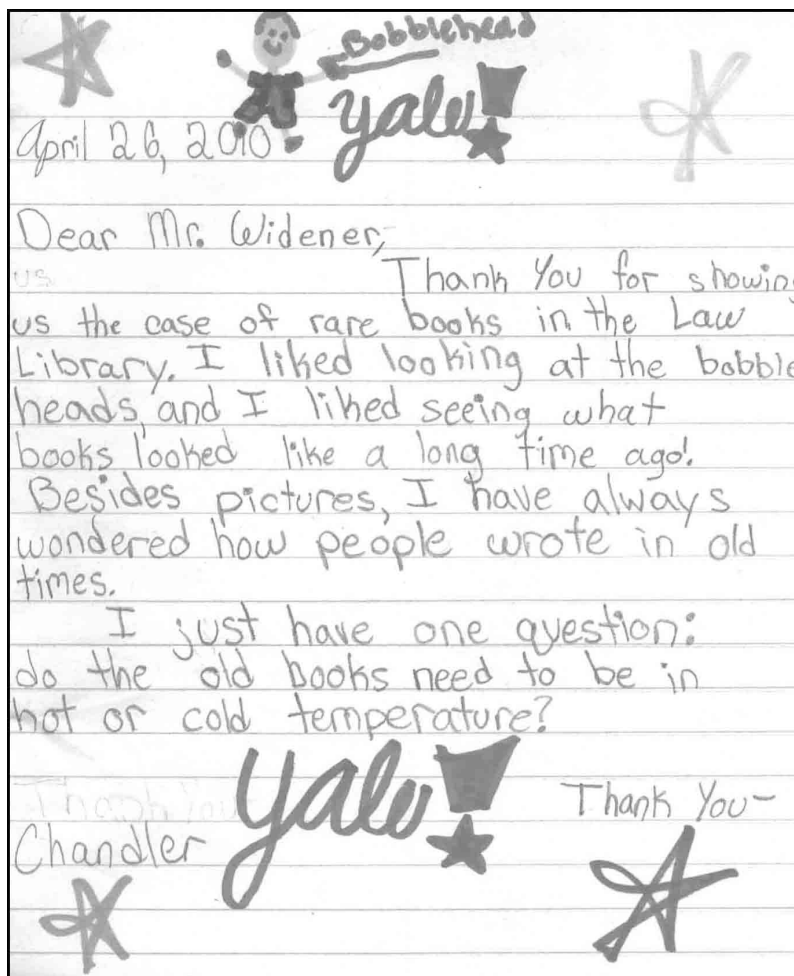
Alyssa

**Bobbleheads**



ALYSSA, CHANDLER & FRIENDS AT YALE

On April 22, Alyssa (see page 373) and Chandler (see below) – and 82 of their fourth-grade classmates from Ridge Road Elementary School in North Haven, Connecticut – were guests of Mike Widener, Rare Book Librarian in the Lillian Goldman Law Library at Yale Law School. The students clearly enjoyed the library’s exhibit, “Reused, Rebound, Recovered: Medieval Manu-



## Ex Ante

script Fragments in Law Book Bindings.” They also noticed the library’s display of *Green Bag* bobbleheads. (The Yale law library is the official archive of the bobbleheads. See Adam Liptak, *Relax, Legal Scholars: Bobbleheads Are Safe at Yale*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar. 17, 2010.) It is heartening to see that at least some schoolchildren these days appreciate both fine books and fine toys.

There is more about the Ridge Road Elementary visit on the library’s *Rare Books Blog*, including Widener’s answer to Chandler’s question (“do the old books need to be in hot or cold temperature?”):

Cooler temperatures are better for old books, Chandler. Cooler temperatures slow down chemical reactions that cause the materials in books to deteriorate. Warm temperatures, combined with high humidity, can also cause mold spores to wake up and begin reproducing. It is also important to keep old books at an even temperature, because changes in temperature can cause the books to change their shape. In the Law Library’s Rare Book Room, we keep the temperature at a steady 69 degrees Fahrenheit, and a relative humidity of 45%.

## BACK WHEN THE JOB MARKET WAS REALLY BAD

If hard times anecdotes like this one from the *Kansas City Times* are to be believed, the job market for junior lawyers could be a whole lot worse, and has been:

I happen to know a man who received at the end of his course in Harvard law school an appointment as secretary [that is, clerk] to Justice Holmes of the supreme court. This was an appointment that went each year to an honor man. Shortly after his year with Holmes the war broke out, and the young man went into war work. After the armistice he came back and far from finding any scouts of the legal profession eager to force a job upon him, he had to tramp from office to office to get work.

KANSAS CITY TIMES, Mar. 17, 1921, at 14.