Ex Ante



THE YALE CARD

Mike Widener, Rare Book Librarian at Yale's Goldman Library, recently sent us, as he does every year, a lovely law-related greeting card. And, as ever, the card includes an educational caption. This year's card is even more special than usual, because it is the last Mike will be sending us from Yale. He will soon begin enjoying a well-earned retirement.

In 1903, a friend or relative of Mademoiselle Suzanne Lesperlette sent her this postcard along with "Bonnes caresses" (hugs & kisses). The photograph of a child portraying Themis, the goddess of justice, was part of the "Little Goddesses" series published by Phototypie A. Bergeret et Cie., a prolific producer of photographic postcards in Nancy, just north of Mlle. Lesperlette's village of Ceintry in Alsace-Lorraine. The postcard is one of hundreds of law-related postcards donated to the Lillian Goldman Law Library by Lois S. Montbertrand, Yale Law School Class of 1985. Over the past twenty years, Montbertrand's gifts to the Rare Book Collection have been rich in ephemera relating to French and Connecticut legal history, with particular emphasis on the role of women. Our 2020 holiday card salutes Montbertrand's gifts as part of the Women at Yale commemoration, marking 150 years of women as students at Yale.