Howe Foundation Funds Newsletter

This inaugural issue of Friendscript has been created by and for the Friends of the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign to convey the interest and excitement of what is happening in our Library to those outside of it, and to encourage participation in and support of these activities. This newsletter owes its very existence to the continuing generosity of a charter member of Library Friends, the late Stewart S. Howe. The Stewart Howe Foundation has voted to grant $10,000 to the University of Illinois Foundation for the funding of a communications/public relations program for Library Friends.

Howe was aware of the importance of building on the strengths of the Library, the Archives and the Illinois Historical Survey. A native of Streator, Illinois, he was a loyal alumnus of the University. From his student involvement in the Daily Illini, the Illinois Magazine, the Siren and the Gas Meter Gazette to his lifelong avocation of preserving records on the fraternity movement, he maintained an intense interest in his alma mater and the welfare of the Archives and the Library. Howe had a long and successful career as a public relations man, fund-raiser and dedicated collector. In many ways, he has been a most generous benefactor.

The $28,000 Truckload

On 5 July 1973, a semi-trailer arrived in Urbana with 375 cubic feet of material that Howe had collected through the years, including periodicals, books and newspaper clippings on Illinois and Chicago, alumni relations, college and university life, and student organizations. This gift of the Howe Library to the University of Illinois—valued at over $28,000—increased the Library’s holdings by about 2000 volumes. It also formed the basis for the Library’s exceptionally strong archives of fraternities and higher education. The Howe Collection contains extensive files of fraternity magazines, histories, directories, rituals, songbooks and newsletters.

Howe’s abiding concern for students and the reporting of campus life led him to found the Stewart Howe Alumni Service in 1930. Then during the summer of 1967, Howe arranged for backfiles of 48 fraternity and sorority chapter newsletters to be transferred from the local Alumni Service office to the University Archives. Through Howe’s and Dean Fred Turner’s efforts, the Archives also received the Clyde S. Johnson Fraternity Collection (1931-70) in August 1971, and the Leland and Wilma Leland Publishers Records (1934-70) in January 1972.

A Home for the Archives

Howe contributed to the University Archives fund, and in 1972 he helped to found the Library Friends. He was a frequent visitor at the Archives, and often spent hours discussing university history and the importance of building a strong facility for research on higher education and student life. A fundraising professional, he saw a need for a suitable structure to house the Archives and manuscript collections at Illinois, to be acquired possibly through gifts or by purchase and remodeling. Since then, the University Archives has prepared a program statement for such a “Special Collections Library”; this structure has been listed as a priority project for construction from private funds on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Stewart Howe’s career served as a bridge between undergraduates and alumni. He was an avid collector, and understood both the success of research and the need for providing adequate space, staff and research programs to exploit documents that have been retained. Howe realized that a newsletter could inform people about the Library with an impact not offered by other types of publications.

The Newsletter Challenge

Stewart Howe Foundation President Carlyle Anderson and the Foundation trustees have maintained Stewart Howe’s vision by supporting the publication of Friendscript.

In announcing the grant, Mr. Anderson said of his close friend: “If he were here today, he would be most anxious to do all possible to assist in building and strengthening the Library Friends—a potentially strong force to help keep the University Library in its eminent position in the library world.”

The Library Friends appreciates the generous contribution the Stewart Howe Foundation has made to advance its organization’s goals, and welcomes this challenge to bring the Library’s excellence, its strong resources, and its future needs to public attention. Friendscript will appear 4 times a year, and its publication will enable the Friends to make more people aware of the importance of supporting the University Library as a valuable local and national resource.
LCS At Work

The newly installed Library Computer System has revolutionized the Library's service. LCS, as it is called, began operation 7 December 1978 when Chancellor William Gerberding borrowed the first book using the system. University Librarian Hugh Atkinson explained how the system works to Gerberding as over 100 people gathered around the Circulation Desk to watch.

LCS makes it much easier to check out books and other materials than the old system. Now, when you visit the Library, you may use any of the LCS terminals on campus to find out about a desired book by typing in author, title or call number information. LCS will show if the book is in the Library system, where it is, and whether it is checked out. Library staff can then charge a book, save it, renew it or indicate its return without making the borrower fill out charge cards.

Library By Phone

Another new service of LCS is the phone center. With a phone call, any library patron can ask the terminal operator on duty if a book is available and then have it charged out and reserved for pick-up later.

During this year, holdings of the University libraries at Chicago Circle and Medical Center campuses will be added to the LCS data base. Future plans include adding information about collections in other Illinois college and university libraries.

The Library is proud to be able to use computer technology to offer better service to the thousands of people who depend on its great collections for information and research.

Executive Committee Notes

This initial issue of Friendscript marks an important direction for Library Friends. For the first time, news of the Library can be sent not to a few hundred by letters, but to thousands of friends and alumni across the land. The Executive Committee applauds the generosity of Carlyle Anderson and the Stewart Howe Foundation.

The Foundation gift comes at a crucial time for the young Friends organization. To help meet the intellectual and financial challenge of the new decade, the Library has asked us to expand both support and services.

Plans are underway for a vigorous effort to increase membership and private gifts to offset erosion of public funds for acquisitions. We believe all who value the UI Library as a magnificent resource to nurture for the present and future will join this effort. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and may be addressed to me at the Friends office, 422W Library.

The Executive Committee of volunteers is chosen from the Friends membership, and to widen representation, the Committee has voted to add 9 local members and a national advisory body. In this column, it will be my pleasure to introduce Executive Committee members and keep Friendscript readers informed about the Committee's work.

—Mrs. Earl Porter, President

Music Sale Raises $1541

On 3 March, Library Friends joined the University's Music Library in offering duplicate materials to the public to raise funds for music collections. The sale was a great success. Many people jumped at the chance to acquire 78 rpm records, songbooks and scores of all kinds from the 1930s and 1940s.

They are happy—and so is the Library: their contributions will help the Music Library strengthen its resources. Music Librarian William McClellan said money is needed to keep the Library competitive in the music acquisitions area. "In the past," he pointed out, "we have missed out on some important music collections because funds weren't available. Most research materials are sold within a few days after they go on sale."

Mom's Day Event

Mom's Day will be held this year 23-24 April. Activities scheduled for the weekend include informal tours of the Rare Book Room's exhibit of early children's books. Members of the Library Friends Executive Committee and exhibit organizer Prof. Selma Richardson will be on hand to explain the exhibit. Special hours for the Rare Book Room will be 9-5 Saturday and 9-12 Sunday. About 6000 mothers of students are expected to visit the campus.

Two to Speak on Children's Literature

The Friends and Rare Book Room will sponsor two lectures on historical children's literature. The first, a Gutenberg Galaxy lecture, titled "Arthur Rackham," will be 26 April. Dr. Mary Harbage-Scott, Professor Emeritus, Wright State University College of Education, will speak at 3:45 pm. Some of Rackham's work will be on display.

On 2 May, Jacqueline Ziff will lecture on "Studying the History of Children's Literature at the University of Illinois," beginning at 4 pm. The Friends have invited Ms. Ziff, a teacher at Leal School, to lecture and will extend special invita-

The Library Is Looking...

For maps, geographical books and atlases, and aerial photography of Illinois. The Map & Geography Library seeks historical maps of America (especially the Great Lakes region) and maps by American cartographers. For information, call David Cobb, Map & Geography Librarian, 217/333-0827.

For "Emblem Books." These books from the mid-16th to early 18th centuries, are published in series of 3--illuminations, mottoes and commentary; each comple-

If you would like to help the Library with a donation or gift, please call.
Illinois Library Ranked 3rd—and 15th

The news for the Library, reported in a recent issue of Chronicle of Higher Education, is both good and bad. Among 94 American university research libraries, Illinois maintained its position as the third largest in the country (surpassed only by Harvard and Yale), with holdings of over 5.6 million volumes. Illinois also ranks 3rd in current serials subscriptions. The Library's high standing is considered to be a major factor in UI's eminence among institutions of higher education.

The statistics for spending and acquisitions in FY 1978 contain a warning, however. The Library was 8th in the nation in number of volumes added, but it was 7th the last two years, and 6th in 1974-75. In amount spent for materials, it ranked only 15th in 1977-78—last year it was 4th. True, 1978 data excluded expenditures by the Medical Center and Circle campus libraries, but the message is still clear: with our spending ranked only 15th, how long can Illinois keep its standing, let alone improve? Although the Illinois Board of Higher Education has asked for a 15% increase in Library's budget, inflation will eat that up—if the request is approved by the state legislature.

The Library needs the support of its friends now more than ever before. The Library is working hard to use the funds it has wisely, but many collection areas may suffer in the next few years from cutbacks forced by higher costs and smaller budgets.

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UI Library Statistics, in millions

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Atkinson Responds

Each year the Association of Research Libraries compiles statistics on and ranks the country's major research libraries. Illinois, long the largest academic library, is the largest public supported academic library in the U.S. Latest figures show this is still true, but we are declining in other important measures. In amount spent on books and journals, UIUC has dropped from 8th to 15th, not because we are spending less; we are spending significantly more. However, other institutions are making a greater effort to combat inflation. If this trend continues, we will be hard pressed to maintain our present preeminence.

The University is making every effort to insure that preeminence remains, but a role clearly exists for Library Friends of support in this area.

—Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian

Committee News

Mrs. Earl Porter has been elected president of Library Friends Executive Committee. She succeeds Donald Krummel, a founder of the organization and its only other president. "We're delighted Professor Krummel will remain as a member of the Committee," Mrs. Porter said in assuming office. "His devoted service and wise counsel to the Friends and Library cannot be overestimated."

Mrs. Porter, a member of the University community since 1961, is the wife of Earl W. Porter, secretary of the University and Board of Trustees. Their daughter Laura will enter the Graduate College this fall.

I wish to be a member of Library Friends. Please use my tax deductible gift to strengthen the great collections at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign.

Enclosed is my membership contribution:

- Benefactor ($1000)
- Subscribing Member ($50)
- Patron ($500)
- Contributing Member ($25)
- Sponsor ($100)
- Student Member ($5)

Name _____________________________
Address ____________________________
City________________________State_____Zip_____

University of Illinois Library Friends

Please send this card with your check payable to University of Illinois Foundation, 224 Illini Union, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.
Calendar

Exhibits

Through April 16
"Special Exhibit of Notable Acquisitions," honoring UI Foundation, Presidents Council and Library Friends members. Rare Book Room. (Portions to continue through summer.)

21 April-18 May
"Early Children's Books." Prepared by graduate library science students, in conjunction with a symposium on "Research about 19th Century Children and Books" to be held at UI 27-28 April. Rare Book Room.

23 May-
"An Exhibit of the Jacob Hollander Economic Library." Rare Book Room. (To continue through summer.)

1-31 May
"Archives and Records Management." University Archives.

Events

26 April
Gutenberg Galaxy Lecture, "Arthur Rackham." Dr. Mary Harbage-Scott, speaker. Sponsored by Library Friends and Rare Book Room. 3:45 p.m., Rare Book Room.

2 May
Lecture, "Studying the History of Children's Literature at the U of I." Ms. Jackie Ziff, speaker. Sponsored by Library Friends. 4 p.m., Rare Book Room.

To Publish Incunabula Guide

The University of Illinois Press and the Robert B. Downs Publication Fund have announced they will jointly publish Dr. Marion Harman's Incunabula in the University of Illinois Library. This work is being subsidized by the Library Friends, and in particular by Mrs. William Kappau. It records the U of I Library's extensive collection of books published before 1501. Publication is planned for late summer.

New AV Program Describes Library

A new slide-tape show about the Library, named "The Heart of the University," has been produced by the Library Friends with assistance from the UI Foundation. Narrated by William Olson, it makes use of an excellent group of photographs from University Archives as well as current pictures to depict the Library. The Alumni Association will utilize the show in its presentations at meetings nationwide. In May, for example, the program will be seen by members in two Ohio cities.

Library Friends Coordinator Mrs. Joan Hood explained, "The show was not prepared solely for University use. The material is available to any group requesting it." She believes the show will familiarize more people with the Library. To reserve the program or for more information, contact Mrs. Hood at the Library Friends Office, 422W Library (217/333-7480).

Oram Accepts SMU Post

Associate University Librarian Robert Oram will assume the directorship of the central libraries at Southern Methodist University in mid-July. He began his tenure at UI Library in 1956 as Circulation Librarian, served as Associate Librarian since 1971 and was Acting Librarian March 1975-September 1976.

Active in campus and community efforts for libraries, in 1972 Oram collaborated with Lucien White to found Library Friends. He serves on Library Friends Executive Committee and R.B. Downs editorial board, and is president of Urbana Library Friends. His efforts for the Library have been invaluable.

University Librarian Hugh Atkinson said, "Mr. Oram is one of the leading bookmen in the country—a first-rate librarian who will be missed."