PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Friends Give $12,000 to Library

In keeping with their central desire for a superior University Library, the Library Friends recently demonstrated the strength of their support by donating $12,000 to the Library for its general acquisition fund. This money has been raised from recent contributions and a successful membership campaign. Receiving the check for the funds—which are seriously needed in the current budget restrictiveness—UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson said, “The $12,000 will significantly aid our acquisition of research materials.” Volumes needed to enhance the Library’s research collections will be purchased later this summer from this fund.

More admirable still is the fact that this is not the first time the Friends have shown such generous support for the Library nor will it be the last, assures Mrs. Earl Porter, president of the Library Friends Executive Committee. Since its establishment in 1972, the Library Friends have focused their efforts principally on the development of the Library’s special collections and on materials for the Rare Book Room. In the past 7 years, the Friends have contributed close to $100,000 toward purchases considered priorities by special collection development officers.

A recent title purchased for the Rare Book Room with funds from the Library Friends is Johann Engel’s Astrolabium, printed in Augsburg in 1488 by the well-known printer Raddolt. The book, formerly part of the John Pierpont Morgan collection, has many woodcuts showing persons at various occupations. It has been acquired for the Library in honor of Dr. Marian Harman and to recognize her completion of the cataloging of the UI Library’s incunabula.

The volume will be a valuable addition to the Rare Book Room’s holdings, and is of particular interest to Dr. Harman in light of her current research in tracing the transference of woodblocks and illustrations from printer to printer during the incunabula period.

Building the Rare Book Collections

In his book on the Philadelphia bookseller, Rosenbach: A Biography, Edwin Wolf II wrote that the Illinois Library had the fastest growing rare book room in the country. The time was 1948, when the Graduate College was able to provide funds in addition to regular allocations.

That time of rapid growth is past for two reasons: first, large collections of early material rarely come on the market, and second, the prices limit the number of books we can buy.

However, if 15th-, 16th- and 17th-century books are few (particularly those we lack in our areas of strength), 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century books are still available and reasonably priced; therefore, collecting in our Rare Book Room has changed directions. While we still buy in Shakespeare and Milton, we are also buying intensively in areas even later than Proust and Sandburg.

While we consider seriously the need of the textual scholar, we now expect that the teacher-scholar will also use Rare Book Room material for his or her own classroom as well as for research. For example, Charles Shattuck has been instrumental in developing our 19th-century Shakespeare prompt books, and his editions of these are widely known. Michael Mullin has helped secure microfilm copies of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre archives and is preparing an index to them. Robert Car- ringer is building a collection of scarce movie and TV scripts which will be used in conjunction with the Media Center in the Undergraduate Library. Marcella Grendler is extending the scope of the 19th-century Cavagna collection to make it one of the most important Italian holdings in the U.S.

It is too early yet to see if these scholar-teachers are the Harris Fletchers (Milton) and T.W. Baldwins (Shakespeare) of our day, but the tradition of faculty cooperating with the Library to build the collections continues.

—Robert W. Oram

A New Kind of Friend

Now you have another option when you renew or initiate membership in Library Friends. “Life Membership” has been established to be awarded to all persons donating $1500 or more to the Friends either directly or as a designated gift through UI Foundation’s Presidents Council. Friends Membership Committee Chairman Robert Watts said: “This will give recognition to those who most generously demonstrate their realization that the UI Library is one of the greatest assets, if not the greatest single asset, of the University.”

Something else is new: several prominent people from the campus and community have been invited to serve on the expanded Library Friends Executive Committee. Moreover, program, long-range planning and membership committees are being formed to organize the work of Friends. The Friends are in this way moving toward their goal of broadened membership base. After all, Friends are—and should be—as diverse as those the UI Library serves: campus, community and students and scholars around the country and the world.
History of Science: G.W. White and the Library

For its outstanding holdings in the fields of geology, geography and earth sciences, the UI Library has one person in particular to thank: George W. White, Research Professor of Geology Emeritus and former head of the UI Department of Geology. Dr. White, who came to UI from University of New Hampshire in 1947, is a noted scholar of the history of science and has acted as a force motivating the Library to develop its collections in these areas. He believes that the Library has the opportunity to be first in the country on the geology of the Mississippi drainage basin.

In 1962 the Rare Book Room sponsored a special exhibit on “Early Geology in the Mississippi Valley” which included 38 highlights of the Library’s acquisitions efforts over the 15 years since Dr. White joined the faculty.

Some of the more notable of these items are C.B. Brown’s translation of C. Volney’s A View of the Soil and Climate of the United States of America (1804) and David Thomas’s Travels through the Western Country in the Summer of 1816 (1819). These books, joined other Library holdings in this area like N. Steno’s De Solido intra solidum (1669) and the 1556 De re metallica which Herbert Hoover and his wife translated and published in 1912.

Dr. White’s personal library holds yet other remarkable volumes on the history of geology and topography. Recently he provided the Library with a list of his holdings which the Library will check against its own to determine possible titles for purchase. Other university libraries have expressed interest in some of these extremely valuable items, but Dr. White has assured the UI Library first selection. Among Dr. White’s treasures are an extremely old Darwin collection and a volume by the early biologist Aggaszé.

Dean Robert Downs has pointed out that “the outstanding strengths of the Library in the whole field of the history of science can be attributed in good part to Dr. White’s interest in and extensive knowledge of the area.” The Library has relied on university scholars and experts like Dr. White to assist in developing the strongest collections possible.

The Library Friends, and all who appreciate the Library’s magnificent resources, are indebted to Dr. White for his contributions—both to the University’s reputation of scholarly excellence, and to the Library’s collections in the history of science.

The Library in Ohio

The Dayton (Ohio) UI Alumni Club recently enjoyed the special treatment of both a catered dinner in the home of an area restaurant owner, and Friends Coordinator Joan Hood’s presentation of the Library Friends’ slide/tape show about the Library, “The Heart of the University.” The arrangement was a complete success, and the response to the show enthusiastic. Discussion afterward included the Library’s space and storage problems and changes in Library organization.

Among the group attending were Graduate School of Library Science graduates representing Wittenberg College, University of Dayton and Sinclair Community College libraries. On 15 May the Library show was presented to Columbus Illini Club members at the outstanding Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on the Ohio State campus. The slide program, along with sample copies of Friendscript’s first issue and Non Solus, helped to increase awareness among alumni of the great strengths of the University Library. Questions raised concerned the general funding of acquisitions and operations, and the classification systems (the Library uses both Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress classifications as well as the medical system MEDLINE).

Anyone interested in viewing “Heart of the University” should contact Joan Hood, Friends Coordinator, 422 W Library, (217) 333-7480.

For draperies for the windows in the Rare Book Room. Draperies are needed to filter out potentially damaging bright sunlight to protect Rare Book Room holdings from fading and deterioration. For information, call Fred Nash, Rare Book Room Librarian, 217/333-3777.

For town, county and regional Illinois histories emanating from the Illinois sesquicentennial (1968) and national bicentennial (1976) observances. Also welcome would be Illinois city and town directories prior to 1900, and manuscripts (e.g., diaries, letters, travel accounts, noncurrent business records) illustrating the unusual as well as the everyday life of American citizens. For information, call Robert Sutton, Director of the Illinois Historical Survey, 217/333-1777.

If you would like to help the Library with a donation or gift, please call.

Executive Committee Notes

One of the featured articles in this Friendscript issue is the announcement that several community and campus leaders have accepted an invitation to membership on the Friends Executive Committee. We welcome them warmly and look forward to having their advice and assistance in our efforts for the Library.

One of the pleasures of serving on the Friends Committee is bringing together people who love books and people who write them. The most recent instance of this happy combination is the forthcoming publication of a unique volume of special importance to the book world.

After 30 years, the University of Illinois Library and scholars all over the world will have a new compendium of information about the Library’s entire collection of rare books printed before 1501. Such books, called incunabula or incunabules, have been cataloged as a voluntary service by Dr. Marian Harman, retired Rare Book Room Librarian and Head Cataloger. Dr. Harman’s 10-year project reflects not only her devotion to the University Library but her professional knowledge of how necessary the Catalog of Incunabula is to scholarship.

Almost 1100 items in the Rare Book Room were printed in the last half of the 15th century, and many are the only copies known to the world. The University Library is the sixth largest repository for such books in North America, and the collection here includes such priceless items as the Book of Genesis from the Gutenberg Bible, the Nuremberg Chronicle, and one of the Columbus letters.

The Incunabula is now at the printer, with publication costs shared by Mrs. William Kapkauf, a charter member of the Friends, and the Friends fund from membership dues. Publication date is tentatively set for early fall 1979 and after that time libraries and scholars here and abroad will be acquiring the Incunabula for use as a reference work for important research.

Dr. Harman’s book could not have been published without financing by the Library Friends. The Executive Committee acknowledges with grateful thanks this latest example of Friends determination to keep the University of Illinois Library one of the world’s great libraries.

—Mrs. Earl Porter, President
The Librarian's View

There are new developments on the national scene which may affect how the UI Library operates and collects materials. One of the most significant is the creation of a National Periodical Lending Center, to be modeled on the British Lending Library's Boston Spa operation. It is intended to serve all libraries in the country as the keystone of the national bibliographic effort and would be the middle level of a three-tiered national system for the interlibrary exchange of periodical articles.

Level 1 would be the local or regional level, at which libraries would attempt to borrow articles needed by their patrons from libraries in their states or regions. Systems such as ILLINET here in Illinois or AMIGOS in the Southwest would bear that responsibility. Items not locatable or lendable within the state or region would be requested from the National Periodical Center, which would have a collection of 40-50,000 periodical titles which are neither the most common nor the most esoteric. Estimates are that the National Periodical Center (Level 2) would fill some 40% of the requests, while 50% had been filled on Level 1. The remaining 10% would be filled by special research libraries (Level 3) such as UIUC, the national libraries of Congress, Agriculture or Medicine, UC at Berkeley, and the Newberry Library.

The Center would be a federal agency similar to NSF or NEH—a governmental but independent agency. Planning has been sponsored by the Council on Library Resources, and the concept has received endorsement from a wide segment of the library community. Some express doubts about whether a single center would adequately serve a country as large as ours, and some believe that the middle tier is unnecessary. But the Center may relieve the major research libraries of a costly burden.

—Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian

Farewell Reception

The Library Friends joined efforts with the Library Staff Association to host a farewell reception for Associate University Librarian Robert Oram on 18 May. During the reception at the Illini Union, Mr. Oram was presented with letters from colleagues and a special citation from the Staff Association and Library Friends to honor his 23 years of dedicated efforts on behalf of the Library. Over 100 staff members attended. Oram will become director of Southern Methodist University libraries in early July.

Loan desk and card index in Delivery Room, Main Library (June 1938)

If the Library looked like this the last time you saw it, you should plan a visit soon. Things have changed! Personal tours of the Library—of anything and everything a visitor wants to see—can be arranged just by calling Ms. Karen Sampson, Public Services Office, 217/333-0317.

Summer session Library hours are 8 am-10pm Mon.-Thurs.; 8 am-5pm Fri.; 9 am-5pm Sat.; and 1-5 pm Sun. The Friends Office will be open this summer, too; phone is 217/333-7480.

Quotables

From Hal Bruno

(Editor's note: Hal Bruno, UI '50, Journalism, is ABC News Director of Political Coverage. Following are his comments on the role the UI Library has played in his career.)

In my years as an undergraduate at the University, the Library was a focal point of our campus life, both academically and socially. It was the place we met between classes to socialize with friends at the main entrance; and it was a great place to take a date when you really had to study.

It was and is a magnificent library. As a student I came to believe its resources were unlimited. Whatever subject I was studying, I was confident the Library would have the material I needed to go beyond bare requirements and, by doing that extra bit of research, raise a C to a B or a B to an A. I wasn't always successful, but the Library never let me down. It always gave me more than I expected.

Perhaps most important were the hours I spent just browsing. It was an easy place to get diverted from studying for class into something fascinating, but far afield. I remember spending hours at a time going into old copies of Life magazine and feeling guilty because I was "wasting" time. I realize now that it wasn't wasted at all, but time well spent. What a wonderful way to learn contemporary history; I'm sure it helped to reaffirm my decision to make journalism my life's career.

In a sense, the Library for me was a "doorway to the world," as it has been for thousands of other Illinois students and as it is today. (And I'll bet it's still a great place to socialize with friends or to take a date who really wants to study.)

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:

- Life Member ($1500)  - Contributing Member ($25)
- Benefactor ($1000)  - Student Member ($5)
- Patron ($500)  - Sponsor ($100)

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
23 May—
"An Exhibit of the Jacob Hollander Economic Library." Rare Book Room.
(To continue through summer.)
1 June–30 June
"Illini Runners," University Archives.
1 July–31 July
"Native Americans: A Pictorial Record." University Archives.
15 July—
"Some Notable Acquisitions of the Rare Book Room." Rare Book Room. (To continue on exhibit indefinitely.)
1 August–31 August
"Travelers' Accounts of Champaign-Urbana." University Archives.
21 August—
"Selected Notable Acquisitions, 1978-79." Rare Book Room.
1 September–30 September
"Student Fashions: A Pictorial Record." University Archives.

Gerberding Awarded Tribute
The Library Friends Executive Committee recently approved a resolution citing outgoing University Chancellor William Gerberding for his support of Library Friends and its efforts for the Library.

The resolution, signed by UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson and Executive Committee President Mrs. Earl Porter, reads:

"WHEREAS Chancellor William P. Gerberding has expressed generous interest in and support for the University of Illinois Library Friends both personally and publicly in his official capacity, and

"WHEREAS he began his assistance to the Friends even before formal assumption of his duties by joining the Friends as a Sponsor and by releasing an official statement of support for use in a membership campaign in November 1977, and

"WHEREAS Mr. Gerberding has continued to participate in the Friends efforts for the Library through public events by giving his support and encouragement,

"BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that the Executive Committee of the University of Illinois Library Friends take this opportunity to convey to him our sincere appreciation and all good wishes for the future."

Non Solus Published
Non Solus, the annual bulletin of the University of Illinois Library Friends, has recently been mailed to the organization’s members. This year’s volume, planned by Prof. Donald Krummel, is fifty-six pages long and includes essays by various Library bibliographers about Illinois’ holdings and its 2-pronged efforts to strengthen the Library’s collections and improve access to the rich resources already available. Rich illustrations from rare books and other Library volumes complement the essays, and the report closes with its regular feature, "A Handful of Pleasant Delites."

All Library Friends receive a complimentary copy of Non Solus as one of the benefits of membership. If you are a member of Friends and have not yet received your copy, please contact Joan Hood, 422W Library (333-7480). Copies of Non Solus are distributed to non-members for $5 each upon request to the Publications Office, 249 Armory Bldg., Champaign, IL 61820. Standing orders will also be accepted for Non Solus.

Prime Numbers
When the Library adds it all up, the numbers are pretty impressive. There are (at last count) 8,760,008 items in the UI Library’s collection—but they aren’t all books. If you’d like to browse through some newspapers, there are over 11,000 titles to choose from. If you’re more interested in music, you’ll find favorites and discoveries among the 81,000+ recordings.

You can examine one of 1.27 million microform holdings on one of the Library’s film or fiche readers, or ask to see some of the 471,000 maps and aerial photographs the Library owns.

And there’s more; the UI Library is the third largest academic research library in the United States. But maybe you should take a closer look for yourself.

Carlos Montezuma, a Shoshone tribe member and M.D., class of 1884. Many other old photos will be exhibited at the Archives this summer.

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