University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
American Corner
To Be Dedicated

Something very important is happening. On Saturday, September 8, the Library Friends are hosting a program about some American literary figures. Dr. Nina Baym, Director of the School of Humanities, will lecture in 100 Gregory Hall at 2 p.m. about the authors featured in the Rare Book Room's newly organized "American Corner" grouping. Dr. George Hendrick will then speak briefly on the history of the individual items in this collection.

Welcoming the Ikenberrys

After this brief program, new UI President Stanley Ikenberry and his wife Judith will greet members of the Library Friends at a reception in the Rare Book Room. While refreshments are served, guests will have an opportunity to view the special exhibit prepared by Professors George Hendrick and Lynn Altenbernd of the English Department and Peggy Harris. Formal dedication of the American Corner display is at 3:45 p.m.

The display features portraits of noted American authors, and two framed holograph manuscripts. Included is a particularly interesting series of Thoreau portraits: a crayon drawing done in 1854, an 1856 daguerreotype and an 1861 ambrotype. A letter from Mark Twain will accompany a 1907 chromolith and an oil portrait of him.

Perhaps the single most valuable work to be included in the group is an 1889 Gutekunst photograph of Walt Whitman, which will hang near a Steichen portrait of Carl Sandburg and his wife.

Dr. George Hendrick's efforts in organizing the display, and his generous donation of frames and mats for the pictures, as well as the brass plaques, have made possible the addition of the American Corner to the riches of the Rare Book Room.

Commerce Library Kudos

(Editor's note: Friendscript will feature various departments of the UI Library in this and future issues.)

The Commerce Library was on the Library's second floor when Esther Clausen assumed its direction in 1964, and one file held its company annual reports. At its present site, the library has 40,000 holdings and an entire wall of vertical files houses annual reports and Form 10K records on microfiche. Each year 4000 new monographs arrive at the library, but space limitations relegate many of the foreign-language books directly to the stacks.

Some Helping Hands

The library has enjoyed the benefits of some special friendships. One such friend is Mrs. Glenn Breen, whose late husband earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in business at UI. As a memorial to him, Mrs. Breen donated funds to buy books named in response to her inquiry about Commerce Library needs. Her generosity has enabled acquisition of 20 works; a bookplate in each testifies to the gift. Recently, Mrs. Breen made another large and much-appreciated donation. A 1972 finance graduate, Dean May, also targeted his gift for Commerce Library materials. Last fall, a research center funded by the accounting firm Peat, Marwick and Mitchell was dedicated; it houses a LEXIS terminal for research in accounting and taxation.

Special Services

The Commerce Library offers valuable service to the community with its excellent collection of financial services of help to anyone making investment decisions. Though some area residents use these materials now, Ms. Clausen believes more people would if they knew the staff encourages community patronage. References available include daily stock guides and price indexes, Value Line Investment Survey, and more. This service is viewed as just one that a tax-supported institution has a responsibility to provide to its constituency.

Patrons of the library appreciate Reference Librarian M. Balachandran's help, and students are enthusiastic about the free study guides Assistant Librarian Jean Koch compiles for business courses.

Special Needs

The Commerce Library, of course, is not a utopia. Its staff was torn between naming new office equipment (like electric typewriters), additional financial service references, or replacement of two old microfiche readers as items most needed. Moreover, more than one person has dropped abruptly to the floor when chairs in the browsing section have collapsed.

Retiring next year after 25 years at the UI Library, Ms. Clausen views the Commerce Library as having notable strengths, some serious unmet needs, and, in terms of providing first-quality materials and service to users, "still striving."

Please remember:

Friendscript is produced and distributed with funds from a 3-year grant of the Stewart Howe Foundation. These funds were donated in recognition of the late Mr. Howe's strong support of the University of Illinois Library as benefactor and charter member of Library Friends. The UI Library appreciates this support, and must rely on the continued generosity of those who recognize the importance of the Library's ability to meet the challenges of today and the future with success.
What Makes a Book Rare?

Like many people, you may believe that a rare book is an old book. If so, you're only one-third right—sometimes. A book may even be considered rare without being old at all.

For example, the UI Library has a book called *Hummingbirds* by Crawford Greenewalt. Published in 1960, it isn't bound in vellum or 300 years old, but it does contain the first published photographs of hummingbird wing-flutter, made possible by high-speed photography. This book is scarce already and is sure to become rare.

So, if a rare book isn't just an old book or a scarce book, what is it? To be rare, a work must satisfy three conditions. First, it must be intrinsically important (like *Hummingbirds*). Second, it must also be scarce—that is, few known copies. Finally, following basic economic law of supply and demand, a rare work must be sought. This last condition obviously results from the first two, and the extent of demand determines the value of a rare work.

Rare book collecting has become "institutionalized." About 75 years ago, there were more private buyers than institutions competing for rarities. Today, however, over 90% of purchases are by institutions like the UI Library. The effect of this on a book's value—when all known copies are permanently held, say, in library collections—is predictable.

Old rare books are often so expensive that only institutional buyers can hope to acquire them. Sometimes, though, these organizations have funds ready to buy a copy of, for example, Shakespeare's First Folio, but since only about 40 copies of the book can be found anywhere in the world, there simply isn't any copy to be bought. Furthermore, libraries that have books like these seldom put them up for sale.

Every field of human knowledge has its incunabula and its rare works. (*Incunabula* is the Latin term for works published or created (i.e., copied) before 1501.) Both private and institutional collectors often specialize in a particular area, like works of children's illustrators. In the case of the University of Illinois, the emphasis of the rare collections is on works by John Milton, Carl Sandburg, Marcel Proust, and H.G. Wells.

Executive Committee Notes

Support of education, as with support of nearly everything else, has its ups and downs. The end of the 1970s is not a time when one can claim that support of education is up. Such cycles are inevitable. However, for all of us who realize that the University of Illinois Library is the cornerstone to the greatness of our school, such philosophical observations are of little comfort.

Membership in the Friends is an indication by the member that one must do what he can in order to keep our library on top. It is of more than little importance that our library, the third largest in the country, ranked 6th in acquisitions last year and 15th in funds spent. Needless to say, a few years of that and we will see its position erode.

This fall we are going to make a special attempt to reach out to our alumni and friends around the country. We hope all of our friends will help us pass the message that we don't want and won't allow our library to be anything but what it is—one of the greatest in the world. The Friends of the University of Illinois Library is dedicated to this purpose.

—Robert Watts, Membership Chairman

Publish and Flourish

No matter how good a library's collection might be, it can be wasted without guides to assist interested searchers. In the past few months, three new guides to special collections in the UI Library have been published. Hats off, first, to Dr. Alberto Porcuera-Mayo, professor of the UI Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, who collaborated with Illinois State University Professor J.L. Laurenti on *The Spanish Golden Age* (1472-1700). Released by G.K. Hall, the work is a "Catalog of Rare Books Held in the Library of the University of Illinois and in Selected North American Libraries."

The UI Library and Graduate School of Library Science have released the fourth in the Robert B. Downs Publication Fund series, *Guide to the Heinrich A. Rattermann Collection of German-American Manuscripts*, compiled by Donna Sell and Dennis Walle.

Finally, a third boon: in mid-September the Downs series will issue Dr. Marian Harman’s superb guide to the University Library’s incunabula. Her project was described in an earlier issue of *Friendscript*.

The Library is proud of these fruits of bibliographic research devoted to its outstanding materials.

The Library Is Looking...

For funds to purchase microfilms of important newspapers for the UI Library's collections. The Library has amassed a research collection of several major newspapers, but backfiles are still needed. For example, holdings of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* have gaps for the years 1868-1910 and 1934-39. One reel of microfilm alone costs about $20, and the complete file would cost several thousand dollars to acquire.

The Newspaper Library is heavily used, and to give service to its patrons, needs more microfilm readers. There are currently only 12 readers—one per 5300 rolls of film—and 22,000 rolls are used each year. These machines cost about $1000, but no budget allowance for a reader here has been made this year.

For more information, please call William Maher, Newspaper Librarian, 217/333-1509.

If you would like to help the Library with a donation or gift, please call.
The Librarian's View

Many people have been worried about the application of the federal guidelines on heating and air conditioning public buildings to libraries. We at the UI Library share the concern and have indeed taken the beginning steps to request a waiver from the guidelines. Books deteriorate if they are not kept at a temperature of 65-68°F, and at a relative humidity of 45-50%—these levels are more stringent than those allowed by the federal guidelines. If the nation's library resources were kept within the federal guidelines, we would see serious deterioration in this most valuable of cultural resources.

As of now, we have asked the University to make a formal request for waiver. The Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries committee of liaison with the Illinois Board of Higher Education is asking that the IBHE request such a waiver for all academic libraries in the state of Illinois. Thus we do hope and expect that the request (with a cogent argument about the preservation of invaluable resources) will be made and be granted.

As you know, Illinois' general library stacks are not air conditioned. We do have air conditioning for the rare books and special collections. The materials in the Reference Library and departmental libraries housed in the main building, and the books and journals in the stacks are facing serious deterioration problems. We hope that when the glorious day arrives that a remodeling project is finally approved by the state legislature, we will be able to protect these materials as we should. But until then, we try to retard deterioration of materials in the general stacks as much as possible.

—Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian

Milton Scholar Dies
Harris Fletcher's Legacy

The University, the Library, and the Friends recently lost a gifted scholar and generous benefactor in the death of Harris Fletcher, UI Professor of English and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Emeritus. Fletcher was one of the world's eminent authorities on the 17th-century English poet John Milton.

From the time he joined the UI faculty in 1938 until he retired in 1963, Fletcher devoted himself to the study of Milton and to acquiring works by and about Milton for the UI Library. He was the major effort behind the compiling of the Library's collection of 3000 works and about Milton, which is today one of the finest anywhere. Through his efforts, the Library now owns the world's largest collection of Paradise Lost editions and 17th-century editions of all Milton's works, as well as a large body of manuscripts and reference and critical works on Milton.

Mr. Fletcher himself contributed many scholarly critical works on Milton, such as The Intellectual Development of Milton and Milton’s Rabbinical Readings. He also edited the 4-volume Complete Poetical Works. In 1958, Sigma Delta Chi awarded him the Brown Derby as the faculty member contributing most to the university community in recent years. The Milton Society of America also recognized his distinguished scholarship by naming him an Honored American Scholar.

Students and scholars studying English literature now and in the future will benefit from the great legacy Harris Fletcher has left us of his work and the Miltonia held at the UI Library.

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

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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.

friendscript

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Calendar

Exhibits
August 21—September 7
“Selected Notable Acquisitions, 1978-1979.” Rare Book Room.

September 1-30

September 8—October 29
“American Literature: 19th & 20th Centuries.” Rare Book Room.

October 1-31
“Student Fashions: A Pictorial Record.” University Archives.

November 1-30

December 1—
“Greeting Cards Over Time.” University Archives.

Events
September 8
Dedication of Rare Book Room’s American Corner permanent display. Dr. Nina Baym and Dr. George Hendrick, speakers. 2 p.m., 100 Gregory Hall. Reception, 2:45 p.m. and dedication, 3:45 p.m., Rare Book Room.

November 11-14
25th annual Allerton Park Institute: “Organizing the Library’s Support: Donors, Volunteers and Friends.” Sponsored by the UI Graduate School of Library Science, to be held November 11-14 at Robert Allerton Park near Monticello, Illinois. The topic of this year’s institute is “Organizing the Library’s Support: Donors, Volunteers and Friends.” Fourteen specialists in various aspects of fund-raising, volunteer work and librarianship will discuss such topics as annual giving programs, library friends’ publications, research collection development, organizational management and networks.

The planning committee is headed by Dr. D.W. Krummel, and includes others who have been active in the University of Illinois Library Friends. Further information about the institute is available from Ed Kalb, 116 Illini Hall (217/333-2881).

Allerton Institute Planned
Of special interest to the Library Friends will be the 25th annual Allerton Park Institute, sponsored by the UI Graduate School of Library Science, to be held November 11-14 at Robert Allerton Park near Monticello, Illinois. The topic of this year’s institute is “Organizing the Library’s Support: Donors, Volunteers and Friends.” What is the topic of this year’s institute? It is “Organizing the Library’s Support: Donors, Volunteers and Friends.”

A National Friend of Ours
Friends Coordinator Joan Hood attended the American Library Association annual conference in Dallas this summer, and returned as a member of the national board of the newly-formed Friends of Libraries USA.

At the ALA Friends’ meetings, representatives of friends groups throughout the country voted to establish the organization, which will work to develop friends’ groups and to promote excellence in library service.

Mrs. Hood said, “I am excited about the potential of this group for developing an organizational structure which will be of benefit to communities as well as academic libraries. This will be an important goal, and the U of I has a great opportunity to be at the forefront of this development.”

Yale Discovers Illinois Riches
Two visitors of the UI Library from Yale University discovered materials here that they did not expect to find. During a four-day visit in late April, Timothy Crist and Janice Hansel examined Illinois’ holdings in preparation for publication of the second edition of Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and British America and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641-1700, first published by Donald Wing in 1948 and known as Wing’s STC.

During their visit, the researchers noted about 5000 items published in this chronological period while working on their revision of volume two of Wing’s STC. They were most favorably impressed by UI’s extensive holdings of Wing-period works, and approximately 30-40% of the 5000 items they examined here will be listed in the new edition with the University of Illinois cited as a location.

Crist and Hansel were even more pleasantly surprised when their research further revealed about 50 titles and editions previously unlisted in STC and examined at Illinois for the first time. These titles will appear in the second edition as new entries.

The University Library often accommodates researchers like the recent visitors from Yale and frequently affords these scholars unexpected and pleasant surprises. The citation of Illinois as an important source for location of books published between 1640 and 1700 is, of course, only appropriate—and just one more indication to the rest of the world of the UI Library’s eminence in holdings of old and rare works.