PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
Cards from Christmas Past

The University Archives has file upon file of greeting cards from its collections of personal papers. In December an exhibit there will feature Christmas cards from over the years.

Generally, cards from the early 1900s are smaller than those sent today. Some are the size of calling cards, like the one shown above left; many greetings were sent on penny postcards. Whatever the size, vivid color has been in use for a long time.

The addresses, postmarks and messages are fascinating to read. One from “Louise” in 1957 admonished the recipient “not to pet a goose.” Franklin Alter sent a holiday wish in 1930 for “a plentiful stock of the joyous spirit.”

Many cards were mailed great distances, occasionally poking fun at friends “Back there in the land/Where it snows like the dickens.”

Greetings sent in wartime (like the one above right, dated 1917-18) often have a patriotic design. Some 1920s-vintage cards reflect the flapper fashion for women.

The University Archives is open weekdays, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Next time you visit the Library, take a few minutes to look at the greeting cards there. They will show you that, for many decades now, the message behind the medium has been a wish for a happy and safe holiday.
Alexander Smith Collection
Donated
Richard Murphy, Professor of Speech Communication Emeritus, has presented to the Rare Book Room his collection of over 200 items by and about Alexander Smith (1829-1867), Scottish poet, essayist, novelist, and critic.

The collection is unique in that it is a complete bibliographic history of an author as possible. It contains all the first editions, reprints, reissues in fine editions, and various uncollected items. It is believed to be the only Alexander Smith collection in the world.

Smith was once regarded as one of England's most eminent writers of the 19th century. He has since faced periods of neglect, but has refused to disappear. A Summer in Skye has been issued in half a dozen editions in this century, Dreamthorp in a dozen. His essays are found in a number of current anthologies. His edition of The Poetical Works of Robert Burns, distinctive for its biographical essay, has been continuously in print since 1869. As a poet he has been identified as a leader in the Spasmodic School of the 19th century. Perhaps his greatest contribution has been as practitioner and definer of the essay, particularly in Dreamthorp. Frequently, some literary person "discovers" him and becomes a member of Smith's devoted coterie of admirers.

Smith's life was short. Born of poor parents in Kilmarnock, Scotland, on Dec. 31, 1829, he was by age 12 a childworker in a Glasgow warehouse, tracing designs on muslin. More and more he turned to books. His first verse appeared in Eclectic Review in 1851. His first book, Poems (1853), went through 4 London and 20 Boston editions. In 1854 he was chosen secretary of the University of Edinburgh, a post he held until his death of typhoid at age 37.

Alexander Smith's chief poetic works include Poems, City Poems, and Edwin of Deira. In fiction, he wrote two novels, Alfred Hogart's Household and Miss Oona McQuarrie. As a critic, he edited The Poetical Works of Robert Burns. His greatest achievement was in his essays: Dreamthorp, A Summer in Skye, and Last Leaves.

Mr. Murphy's interest in Alexander Smith began when he was a young graduate student. In subsequent study at the University of Edinburgh he began the collection and, as an ardent bibliophile, has continued through the years. The Rare Book Room has been enriched by his much-appreciated gift.

Executive Committee Notes
At year's end, I want to thank members of the Friends Executive Committee for their devoted work and, in turn, to express the Committee's thanks to the hundreds of people who support the Library through membership gifts.

It's been a good year. General membership went over 500, and the Executive Committee itself increased its membership to better represent the local and university communities.

Significantly, the Committee found new ways to function as the policy-making arm of the Friends. Each member serves on at least one of four committees established this year to develop programs and plans for the Friends organization: Robert Watts, partner in Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign, heads membership planning and has underway a national letter drive to over 50,000 potential friends. Mr. Watts also is the new vice-president of the Committee.

Edwin Scharlau II, president of Busey First National Bank, Urbana, serves as chairman of long-range planning, a committee which is looking to the Friends' responsibility for the future of the University Library. George Hendrick, professor of English, and his program committee have planned an excellent series for the new year.

An exciting new venture is headed by Mrs. Donald Bitzer of Urbana, whose volunteer service committee will bring Friends into the Library for such important work as preservation of rare volumes. Her group will carry out projects for which money simply is not available.

Other current Committee members who are appointed by the Librarian and serve for two-year renewable terms are: John Barr, President of Barr and Associates, Champaign; Scott Bennett, professor of library administration, who serves as secretary-treasurer and editor of Non Solus; Maynard Brichfield, University Archivist; Jack Harlan, professor of agronomy; Robert Johannsen, professor of history; D.W. Krummel, professor of library science; Mrs. Ezra Levin and Mrs. August C. Meyer, Jr., of Champaign; N. Frederick Nash, Rare Book Room librarian; Robert Rogers, dean emeritus, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and ex officio members James Collier, director of public affairs for the Urbana campus; Mrs. Peter Hood, Friends coordinator and Library staff associate; and Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian.

—Mrs. Earl Porter, President

Rogers Collection Established
To recognize the outstanding service Robert Rogers has given in his 15 years as Dean of the UI College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Recognition Committee has established the "Robert Wentworth Rogers Collection of Eighteenth Century English Literature" as a special Library Friends fund. Items purchased from this fund will add to UI Library holdings on Samuel Johnson and his circle, and will carry the special bookplate shown above.

The bookplate, adapted from an 18th-century illustration, was created by UI art professor Doyle Moore. A recognition dinner honoring Dean and Mrs. Rogers was held in November at which the Rogers Collection fund was announced. Already over $5000 has been contributed to the fund.

A donation of at least $25 entitles the contributor to a year's membership in Library Friends. For more information, contact Joan Hood at the Library Friends office, 422W Library (217/333-7480).

friendscript
Appears quarterly, in March, June, September and December, Editor: Linda Hoffman. Office of Publication: 249 Armory Bldg., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL 61820. Application to mail at second-class postage rate is pending at Urbana, Illinois. POSTMASTER: send address changes to friendscript, 249 Armory Bldg., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL 61820.
The Librarian's View

This fiscal year, as in the past 3 years, the General Assembly has failed to fund the Library's Sixth Stack Addition. Thus, we finally have to rent storage space. For every book that goes into the stacks one must come out. We do have every hope of receiving funds for the Sixth Stack Addition (now 50% larger than the original proposal) from the legislature this spring. If so, construction will start in fiscal year 1981 (beginning July 1, 1980). It will take at least 3 years, so we are looking forward to, at best, a 4-year interim storage program.

Each year about 100,000 volumes must be transferred to storage. The Library, on advice from many sources, rejects any alternative which would reduce the number of incoming volumes: in the long run, that would be far more disastrous than temporary book storage. In selecting items for storage we do hope to find some discardable items, though we keep at least one copy of even little-used materials.

A warehouse in Urbana will hold us for about a year. The rent is reasonable, but the money comes from the Library's budget and so can't be spent on other needed services. We are presently searching for other places to store materials. We store books in boxes (even the cheapest shelving is more than we can afford). Materials sent to storage are noted on LCS and are retrievable within 24 hours. Any item recalled from storage will go back to the stacks, since an indication of use has been given.

We expect this situation to be temporary, over the next 4 years, and recognize it will impede library service—though we believe it to be the least harmful of the present alternatives.

—Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian

The Library Is Looking...

For a way to accept architecture firms' gifts of microfilm construction documents: the "way" is a large-scale film reader called a Dodge/SCAN. Architecture faculty and students need these films (which are available to Ricker Library) for classes and study, but can't use them without a Dodge/SCAN. The badly needed equipment costs nearly $3000, but the budget cannot afford it.

For funds ($600) to buy the 9-volume folio catalog of the Winterthur Libraries Collection of Printed Books... This is a valuable resource on American decorative arts.

For a second electric typewriter—even used—for Ricker Library. Its staff and offices, split by a wide hall, currently must share one such typewriter. Service would greatly benefit from this donation. For more information, please call Dee Wallace, Architecture & Art Librarian, 217/333-0224.

If you can help the Library with a donation or gift, please call.

Perquisites of Membership: What Do You Get?

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:

- Special circulation and stack privileges for Library materials;
- Friendscript, a quarterly newsletter;
- Non Solus, the annual bulletin;
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions;
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press books.

There are over 550 members of Library Friends who live throughout the United States. The Friends welcome everyone interested in books and in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library.

Quotables

From Arte Johnson

(Editor's note: Arte Johnson, UI '49, Journalist, is well known as an actor, comedian and television entertainer.)

Now, I've been called many things in my life, but "bibliophile" is the one term I appreciate most. Through the years I have fortunately found myself in a position to acquire a fine library and to visit some of the world's finest as well. I've seen the Book of Kells in the library at Trinity College in Dublin, and an original Gutenberg Bible at the Museum of Printing in Mainz, Germany. I've visited the Bodleian Library at Oxford; I've been to the library at UCLA, the Folger in Washington, and in the stacks at the Library of Congress—to name just a few.

But, of all the libraries I've visited and seen, the Library at the University of Illinois remains most firmly impressed on my memory. In my dreams, I can still see myself walk up those marble stairs and, being a creature of habit, turning to the right and finding a table in that corner just in front of the bound copies of Life and not far from the Saturday Review of Literature. I learned and I enjoyed. The Library was for me at once a place to escape to, a place of enlightenment, a place of encouragement. The Library at the University of Illinois will always have a special place in my heart, and in supporting the Library, I hope to give someone else an opportunity to have the same pleasures I have had there.

[Signature]

Quotables

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)

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

October 29-March 15

December 1-31
"Greeting Cards Over Time." University Archives.

January 1-31
"Snowfalls." University Archives.

February 1-29
"Scientific & Technological Archives: Uses of the Recorded Past." University Archives.

March 1-31
"University of Illinois: Service for the People—Statistical Patterns." University Archives.

Events

January 21
Open board meeting, Friends of Libraries USA. Palmer House, Chicago, 2 p.m. Everyone interested in libraries is invited to this open forum.

A Milestone!

At precisely 3 p.m., Oct. 17, the Library Friends noted receipt of a $100 donation from James Sinclair, UI professor of plant pathology, which registered him as the 500th member of Friends in 1979. (There are now over 550!)

Professor Sinclair is, by virtue of his generosity, recognized as a Sponsor of Library Friends. He is a charter member, having supported the group's efforts since it was founded in 1972.

From all the Library Friends and the UI Library, thank you, Professor Sinclair, and thank you, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, ... 501, 502, ...

An Allerton Success Story

The 25th annual Allerton Park Institute was held Nov. 11-14 on the theme "The Library and Its Friends." The institute, sponsored by the UI Graduate School of Library Science, was a tremendous success. In addition to the 14 feature speakers, there were 85 registrants from 30 states, as well as many UI Library staff members, area residents and graduate students who attended individual sessions. The keynote address was delivered by Edward Holley, Dean of University of North Carolina's School of Library Science.

Large and small public libraries, academic libraries, and even special libraries and state library agencies from around the country were represented by those attending. Six participants came from Delaware, three from California, five from Georgia, four from Texas; group interaction after the presentations and discussions during the social gatherings were lively, according to institute planning chairman Professor D.W. Krummel.

The various papers presented during the four days of sessions will be published early next year and made available from the Library Friends office, 422W Library (217/333-7480).

How to Beat Inflation

Here's a great way to get extra buying power from your tired $2s: the Library Friends is offering stationery note cards for greetings, gifts, and writing letters. A set includes eight 6½ x 4¼ single-fold cards of rich tan paper with matching envelopes. Each card features a different design from the printer's devices which are commemorated in the stained glass windows of the Library's Reading and Reference Room.

These cards are only $2 a set, and income from their sale will go toward purchase of special Library materials. Please support the Library by writing your letters on these note cards: your money does double duty. Cards are available from the Library Friends office, 422W Library (217/333-7480).

Gutenberg Galaxy

UI Dean Emeritus Allen S. Weller illuminated the Library on December 5 with an illustrated lecture on "Lorado in Paris: Letters of Lorado Taft, 1880-1885."

The sculptor's correspondence during these exciting years in Paris, Dean Weller pointed out, "is as interesting for what he doesn't comment on as for what he does." For example, Taft apparently knew nothing of Rodin's concurrent work in the same city. Only 19 when he left for Paris, Taft's letters reflect strong interest in events back home in Champaign.

After the lecture, refreshments were served in the Rare Book Room, where documents and photographs from the Library's Lorado Taft collection were on display. The lecture was coordinated by George Hendrick, program planning chairman of the Friends Executive Committee.

Greeting Cards Over Time.

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