PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
A Brief Geography of the Map Library

Many public libraries have collections far smaller than that of the UI Map & Geography Library. In fact, with 480,000 cartographic items, it is the largest such academic collection in the U.S.

Although its book collections represent only current imprints, its prime resources, maps and aerial photographs, cover a historical spectrum. The collection of aerial photographs is the largest in Illinois with 130,000 items. Many map-producing federal agencies send issues automatically to UI since it is a depository library.

An important map recently acquired is J.B. Nolin's 1689 representation of the Americas (shown below). Library Friends secured this map for the UI Library—it is the 300,000th in the collection! On two companion sheets, the map is hand-colored and a rare example of cartographic expression at that time.

Another map purchased for the collection by the Friends is Jacques Bellin's 1745 map of the Great Lakes region. The rare maps collection, says Librarian David Cobb, is especially strong in the Great Lakes and British Isles areas, and has 2000-3000 maps from the Cavagna collection. One of the special stars is a richly-colored portolan (navigation) chart from the early 1500s. Scholars and historians travel great distances to use the resources here. However, as Cobb pointed out, those maps which are not fragile or quite rare are also available through interlibrary loan.

A find in this library (among many!) is the impressive collection of Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of most towns in this area. They show town buildings in great detail and are color-keyed for construction materials used. Originally used to establish insurance rates, they are today a great resource for historical societies planning restoration projects. A list of maps in the series has been compiled by the staff for those requesting such information.

For the growing numbers of family historians, the M&G Library holds a great treasure: the Historical Atlases of Illinois Counties. These date to the 1860s and show views of farms, ownership records, etc.

An unusual service of the staff is the bimonthly publication—since 1945—of Biblio, a bulletin serving as a source of information on recent acquisitions and subject news. About 12,000 maps arrive each year, and very few, for historical reasons, are discarded from the collections. New storage, always needed, can be hard to get, however. A 5-drawer case holds 750 maps but currently costs about $400. The library does have its own OCLC terminal, though; it is one of the few map libraries nationwide participating directly in the system.

In addition to its services to students and faculty in architecture, geology, geography, etc., the library counts engineers from area firms as regular patrons. Materials are frequently consulted for background information on jobs and projects. Cobb and his staff conduct introductory map skills classes for junior high and high school students as well.

Cobb and the library are recent celebrities of sorts. A basketball game halftime special about the UI Library televised in the Chicago and C-U areas January 17 included a segment devoted to the Map & Geography Library.

It would take volumes of Friendscript, let alone of Biblio, to describe all the wonders housed in 418 Library. But preservation and development of outstanding collections would be useless without use. Here there is, and will continue to be, much use; come in and take a look around.
Richard Murphy Donates Executive Elocution Collection

Through the generosity of Richard Murphy, Professor of Speech Communication Emeritus, the Rare Book Room of the UI Library has received a distinguished collection of books on elocution. The gift collection includes 230 volumes issued in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries and covers the period when the study and practice of elocution was most prevalent in England and the United States.

Elocution as a branch of the study of rhetoric was important to the ancients. In the 18th century, significant contributions were made by James Burgh (The Art of Speaking, 1768), Joshua Steele (An Essay Toward Establishing the Melody and Measure of Speech, 1775), John Walker (Elements of Elocution, 1781), and Thomas Sheridan (Course of Lectures in Elocution, 1796). These works are all included in the collection. They deal with articulation and pronunciation, analyze speech according to musical principles, and emphasize speech inflections. Burgh showed how emotion influenced physical and vocal action.

In 1806, Gilbert Austin published Chironomia with treatises on "Rhetorical Delivery" and "The Proper Regulation of the Voice, the Countenance and Gesture." In 1827 Dr. James Rush published The Philosophy of the Human Voice, a "scientific" study of the nature of speech. These books, also part of the collection, were the basis for the astonishing number of texts and manuals used in the schools and by the general public in the 19th century. Quaintly and profusely illustrated, these manuals usually contain an introduction on theory, followed by selections for practice. The elementary schools found the McGuffey Readers indispensable; several are in the collection donated to the Rare Book Room. They contain treatises on pronunciation, articulation and rules for reading.

Some of the manuals were written by men who were professional performers as well as teachers. In this category James E. Murdock and J.E. Frobisher were prominent. "Platform reading," as practiced by Charles Dickens, Fannie Kemble, William Macready, and Edwin Forest, was once as popular as the theater—and more genteel.

Manuals from the latter part of the 19th century reflect the influence of new contributions to the art. Alexander Graham Bell presented phonetics, and the collection contains manual after manual which were based on Delsarte's work with its emphasis on bodily movement.

Executive Committee Notes

Working to recognize Friends' special efforts and to increase awareness of the value and diversity of the UI Library's vast resources are two of the functions of the Program Committee. The committee has provided an interesting agenda for this spring, and has set its sights on a productive fall season.

On Tuesday afternoon, March 4, Mr. John J. Walsdorf spoke to Library Friends "On Collecting William Morris: The Private Collector Today" in the Rare Book Room. A large exhibit, "William Morris and the Kelmscott Press," opened in the Rare Book Room on February 20 and remained on view for a month.

The lecture and exhibit were of great interest, for William Morris (1834-1896) was truly a Renaissance man in Victorian times. In addition to his work as a printer and publisher, he was a poet, businessman, designer, decorator, and political agitator.


Mr. Sol Cohen has been invited to speak to the Friends on April 20 at 3 p.m.; he will read to the audience from his unpublished autobiography. Mr. Cohen, music teacher and composer, is a veritable institution in the music and cultural life of Urbana-Champaign. He will read a section of his memoirs dealing with his musical studies in Paris in 1920, and conclude with a fascinating account of a trip he took with Mark Van Doren, who was also studying in Europe at that time. A reception will be held afterward in the Rare Book Room.

—George Hendrick, Chairman Program Committee

The artificiality of most practitioners of the Delsartean method was probably the main reason for the decline of elocution as a study in the 20th century.

The Murphy collection on the theory and practice of elocution is impressive for itself as well as its subject matter, and demonstrates the influence of elocution on education and the public platform for over 100 years. Rare Book Librarian N.F. Nash said the Library is fortunate to receive this fine addition to its holdings.
Us and Them
Since statistics for the academic year 1978-79 for the 100 largest research libraries have just come out, it's interesting to see where Illinois is in relation to other of the foremost libraries of the country. Size of library is one of the most common comparisons; in this we rank third among university libraries—Harvard having 9,914,000 items, Yale with 7,246,000 items, and Illinois with 5,760,000 items. Berkeley has 5,597,000 items, and Michigan has 5,136,000.

Number of volumes added to the collections is also important. In this, Texas is first, adding 254,000 volumes; Harvard second, adding 241,000; Illinois is ninth, adding 161,000; and Florida tenth, adding 139,000.

A piece of good news is Illinois' rise in the ranks, compared to other research libraries, in terms of funds spent for materials. Last year, we came in at fifteenth, but the $2,759,245 expended this past year has moved our Library to tenth place, close behind Florida State.

As an indication of the adequacy of our collection, we are fourth in number of items lent to other libraries (about 55,000). Surpassing us are Minnesota with 117,000; Wisconsin and Washington with 110,000. In items borrowed, we are twenty-seventh at 6500. (The largest borrower is Wisconsin at about 24,000.)

All in all, one can say we are retaining our premier rank as an internationally recognized library. Expenditures for materials have risen in relation to other libraries' growth this year, but the competition is keen. It is clear that the quality of our collections is high, and it is through such efforts as the Friends that that quality will continue to be first rate.

-Hugh Atkinson, University Librarian

The Library Is Looking...
For titles needed for the Reference Room. Squeezed by the budget, the Library doesn't always have in its own collection the titles needed or searched. Thus, these reference guides are all the more valuable in providing information to patrons. One such guide is the Cumulative Title Index to the Classified Collection of the Library of Congress, 1978. A massive work, this "book" is 32 volumes and costs over $11,000—but remains much needed.

For the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. Reference librarians get many requests for this from faculty, students, area patrons, and the more than 1600 people involved in campus music organizations. The $1125 needed is just not in the budget. For more information, contact Maureen Pastine, 217/333-1900.

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:

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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.
Calendar

Exhibits

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

April 1-20
"The Renaissance at Illinois." Rare Book Room.

April 1-30
"Automation and Libraries." University Archives.

May 1-31
"The Maria Leach Folklore Collection." University Archives.

May 1—
"History of Children's Literature." Rare Book Room.

June 1-30

Events

April 19
Library Friends Exhibit, Lincoln Trails Information Fair. Market Place Mall, Champaign.

April 20
Reading by Mr. Sol Cohen from his memoirs. 3 p.m., Rare Book Room. Reception following, Rare Book Room.

April 22
Lecture, "Samuel Johnson and the 18th Century." Jackson Bate, speaker. Co-sponsored by Library Friends, English Department and others. 8 p.m., 213 Gregory Hall.

Library Friends in Theory and Practice

(This text is taken from Prof. D.W. Krummel's introduction to the papers presented at the 25th Allerton Park Institute, "Organizing the Library's Support," which was held last November; the papers will be published in May by the UI Graduate School of Library Science.)

In the auspicious times of 20 or even 10 years ago, libraries could go merrily on their way fulfilling their missions. As Euripides could say of his Orestes, "When fortune smiles, who needs friends?" But, oh, how times have changed! In our days of rampant inflation, we prefer to recall another ancient adage about needing all the friends we can get. The value of ancient and long-standing friends is amply documented by adages which scarcely need to be repeated here. More to the point: in our days of need, what should we do to call on our friends indeed?

Tryon Edwards has made a useful distinction between remedial and preventive charity: "The former is often injurious in its tendency; the latter is always praiseworthy and beneficial." The positive approach—whether it emphasizes the classic "margin of excellence" concept, or the recent concern for useful activities no longer within the reach of regular budgetary allotments—is obviously the healthy one.

The problem begins at home: one makes friends by being a friend. But is there any theory behind friends work, or is it all practice? A few universals have emerged; most notably the need for personal relationships. Friends require some feeling that they are individually worthwhile to the cause of the library. Beyond this, "there aren't any rules until you've broken them." For the rules of the game, it seems best to quote William Penn: "There can be no friendship where there is no freedom. Friendship loves a free air, and will not be fenced in straight and narrow enclosures." This is not to say that the development of friends groups is not here to stay; or that it is not beneficial....

The faith which builds libraries is not the faith which extrapolates fixed laws of human behavior. Rather, it is a quite genuine, even naive belief that a change of officers every few years has to be a good thing, not because the new officers will necessarily be poorer or richer, younger or older, less or more educated, but mostly because redefinition is part of the process of staying alive.

The faith which makes great library friends is still a faith in the values which the library has most meaningfully conveyed—intellectual and artistic content, one would like to think, quite apart from the medium involved.

Victor Hugo, witnessing the destruction of one Paris library in the Commu-

nard seige of 1871, was compelled to produce a splendid poem on the cause of books and libraries. There is more than a touch of sympathy in the apology he puts in the mouth of the arsonist: "I can not read." More to the point is Hugo's own ringing assertion:

A library implies an act of faith,
Which generations still in darkness hid
Sign in their night in witness of the dawn.

If the library itself is our civilization's collective signatory act, the signature on our library friends membership cards expresses the individual faith of those who make up that society.