PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Scholar Donates Collection
Documents Illuminate Lives of American Writers

William A. Sutton, emeritus professor of English at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, has selected the UI Library as the new home for his rich research collection. The 49,000 items in the collection include material about Sherwood Anderson, Erskine Caldwell, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg, as well as smaller collections concerning Margaret Mitchell and Gertrude Stein.

Mr. Sutton began his collection initially while researching the life of Sherwood Anderson for his doctoral dissertation in the 1940s. A thorough scholar, he kept careful and growing files of his contacts with literary figures and their acquaintances.

The fruits of these projects, Dr. Sutton's own works, include: *The Road to Winesburg* (1972), *Newdick's Season of Frost* (1976), and *Carl Sandburg Remembered* (1978). His edition of Sherwood Anderson's letters to Marietta D. Finlay Hahn will be published by the University of Illinois Press. Last fall, Mr. Sutton visited the campus and spoke to members of Friends on the topic of Lincoln and Sandburg.

In 1946 Mr. Sutton recorded his interviews in Paris with Gertrude Stein and discussions with her and Alice B. Toklas. The collection given to the Library includes the interview transcript autographed by Gertrude Stein, as well as letters, clippings and other documents.

Sutton first met Erskine Caldwell in the early 1960s and was appointed his official biographer. Sutton's files on the writer reflect his close contacts with the Caldwell circle, and there are particularly rich notes and correspondence relating to the photographer Margaret Bourke-White, who was Caldwell's second wife.

After his initial meeting in 1966 with Carl Sandburg in North Carolina, Sutton embarked on an extensive compilation of material relating to Sandburg's travels, and records of all his public appearances. His files include many fascinating photographs of Sandburg, as well as important correspondence records.

—(continued inside)

Margaret Bourke-White took this photo of Erskine Caldwell about 1940 in Darien, Connecticut.
Staff Rescues Books from Mold

When a small trace of mildew was discovered on some of the Rare Book Room's treasured volumes last December, the problem initially appeared to be small and self-contained. The books showing the light-colored dust were cleaned and isolated, and steps were taken to ensure that the temperature and humidity levels in the stacks be kept low.

However, when mildew also appeared elsewhere in the shelves and on books stored in steel lockers, things became more serious. Conservation personnel from the Library's Binding and Preservation Division prepared solutions of thymol to attack the mold. Thymol is a chemical which, when vaporized with heat over a book, kills mold and prevents its future growth.

Though long a standard treatment for individual volumes, using thymol on entire cases of books required some makeshift adaptations. For this situation, entire shelves were quarantined under plastic tents to encapsulate the vapors. Strong heat lamps had to be placed under the sheets to vaporize the thymol, and their fire hazard had to be monitored closely. The vapors were strong and toxic; and the mold was still spreading.

A mycologist on the UI faculty was consulted, and he identified the mold as a common penicillium storage-type mold. Then Bill Henderson, chief of the Binding and Preservation Division, sought the advice of specialists at the Library of Congress. For the scope of the Rare Book Room's problem, they recommended trying a new method of treatment: Dowicide. In a crystalline powder form, this chemical vaporizes at room temperature, is much less expensive and less toxic than thymol, and can be quite simply distributed over a large affected area.

When the shipment of Dowicide arrived, many conservation and Rare Book Room staff spent several sessions spooning the crystals into small paper cups and placing them throughout the Rare Book Room stacks, on shelves and inside storage cabinets. After so much effort, the mold is disappearing.

There are follow-up measures still to be taken, says Mr. Henderson, "but we are delighted to get the upper hand on the problem. We have averted a real disaster; many of these books are irreplaceable."

Once the new stack addition is completed (see From the Librarian's View), books will be stored under better-controlled conditions, and the risk of mold infestation will be reduced. For now, however, it is because of the efforts and dedication of quick-thinking Library staff that the books have been preserved.

Friends Programs Set for Coming Year

The Library Friends Program Committee, chaired by Robert Johannsen, has planned an interesting series of events for Friends in 1981-82.

The season will lead off with a recital demonstration focusing on Beethoven and the keyboard. For his program, Professor Temperley will play the piano, harpsichord, and clavichord. The event will take place in the new Music Building Auditorium on Friday, October 2, 1981, at 8:00 p.m. Associate Music Librarian Jean Geil is preparing an exhibit of related Library materials, which can be viewed during the reception in the Rare Book Room following the program.

In November, Professor Richard Burkhardt of the UI Department of History will give a lecture on Charles Darwin. He will also arrange an accompanying exhibit to be displayed in the Rare Book Room during and following the program.

February, the month of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, will take on special significance for the Library and its Friends in 1982. At that time, the new quarters for the Library's Lincoln Room will be dedicated. A highlight of the event will be a special lecture by Mr. Mark Neely, director of the Lincoln Library and Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Mr. Neely will speak on the topic of Lincoln collections and collectors.

Friends will be informed of the exact times and locations of these events as final arrangements are made. The season promises to bring a bright and enriching series of programs, to which all the Library's Friends are welcome.
From the Librarian's View

Let us hope that the legislature and governor provide the funding planned for the new stack addition. If that happy event occurs, the Library has now fully developed plans for the addition. The addition, which will be approximately half again as large as the Fifth Stack Addition (the addition beginning at the end of the yellow brick Fourth Addition), has been planned to provide the largest volume of storage possible.

Because the emphasis is on high volume, it will not be simply a continuation of the previous five additions, each having five floors with ten stack levels. Instead, with the same height and width as the present series of additions but one and one-half times the length (that is, the extension into the parking lot), we will have eight stack levels, and we will go to electromechanical compact shelving. Thus, instead of storage for 900,000 books, we will be providing storage for slightly over 2,000,000 volumes. The building will be air conditioned, and we will have an alternative to those overly warm and humid stacks for items in need of special care.

The compact shelving, similar to that at the new Library of Congress Madison Building, is composed of groups of movable stack ranges which have only one aisle in approximately every twenty stack ranges. That aisle is movable by moving the ranges on either side of the aisle apart. There is a safety system to ensure that the shelves don't close while a user is in the aisle. The shelves are much more secure, as well as being more fire-resistant, than standard shelves.

The Rare Book Room will have a portion of these stacks and will then release most of the stacks they are now occupying in the Fifth Stack Addition. We recognize that we will want to put the lesser used material, as well as that which is most in need of air conditioning, in the new addition.

We expect that the construction will take approximately two and one-half years to complete, but we certainly look forward to that time. The ability to store books in a facility with as high a density as we are planning will provide good storage in an environmentally high quality area at about $4.35 per book. That is far, far cheaper than with conventional shelving, and is low enough so that it is clearly cheaper to build storage for and retain books rather than incur the costs and make the efforts of deciding what to discard.

We will be able to return to the Library all of the items which are now being stored off campus and to provide well over a decade of future growth, and to do so in a quality environment at low cost. We are both pleased and excited at this prospect, and look forward to the challenges of constructing and using such an advanced facility.

—Hugh C. Atkinson
University Librarian

Friends Gift Discovered to be an Unrecorded First Edition

Friendscript recently (vol. 2, no. 4) reported the acquisition by the Rare Book Room (thanks to the Friends of the Library) of an apparently unrecorded first edition of the sixteenth century: Les Grans Aubs et Barbouilleres des Taverniers (1558) by Artus Désiré. Professors N. Frederick Nash of the Rare Book Room and Barbara C. Bowen of the French Department have explored the history of this volume, and can now confirm that it is indeed an unrecorded first edition, of a work known in only one other copy. Their joint article on the University of Illinois copy has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming number of Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance, published by Droz in Geneva. They hope that the article will generate more information from European libraries about this highly entertaining little work.

We Need Your Help

You can ensure the UI Library's continued excellence by:
- telling others about the Library Friends and encouraging them to join
- sending us lists of potential members and contributors
- helping the Library solicit grants from foundations
- obtaining your company's or organization's participation in a matching gift program
- passing the information about Library Friends membership on in your newsletter or publications.

The Benefits of Membership

As a Friend of the University of Illinois Library, you receive:
- Special circulation and stack privileges for Library materials
- Friendscript, the quarterly newsletter
- Non Solus, the annual bulletin
- Invitations to exhibits, lectures and receptions
- A 30% discount on University of Illinois Press publications

The Friends welcome everyone interested in the continued excellence of the University of Illinois Library. There are now over 1000 members of Library Friends.

YES, I/We wish to become members of the U of I LIBRARY FRIENDS

University Librarian's Council at UIUC: $5000
Life: $1500
Benefactor: $1000
Patron: $500
Sponsor: $100
Subscriber: $50
Contributor: $25
Student: $5

Please make your check payable to University of Illinois Foundation/Library Friends, 224 Illini Union, 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, Illinois 61801. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Name
Address
City
State & Zip

The new stacks will provide over twice the storage of conventional bookshelves.
Program Honors Volunteers
On May 15 Friends volunteers were honored with a recognition program for their hard work over the past year on a variety of projects. Guest speaker Ms. Virginia Wisniewski gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on "Preserving the World of Books." Volunteers were awarded special certificates by UI Librarian Hugh Atkinson and Volunteer Services cochairmen Maryann Bitzer and Sarah Balbach. Special mention was made of the generosity of four of the volunteers—Miss Marian Harman, Miss Clarissa Lewis, Miss Edythe Kirk, and the late Mr. Lyle Bamber—who together have given over 40 years of their time to the Library. Seven people have volunteered over 100 hours of their time. All volunteers "logging" over 30 hours of service chose a gift volume from a group of University Press books donated to the Friends. At a reception after the program, volunteers viewed a special display of preserved and transferred volumes, the fruits of their work. The Friends and all Library staff and supporters sincerely appreciate the efforts of these people in keeping the Library strong.

Personal Gifts to Library Enrich Literature, Economics, Science Collections

Special Friends have been donating works from their personal collections to the Library, and they certainly deserve recognition of their generosity. The Library has been fortunate to receive from Mrs. C.M. Willman of Edgerton, Wisconsin, 110 volumes in German, some of which contain special plates and illustrations. Several of the titles are particularly important additions to the Library's German literature collections.

Miss Dorothy Footit of Rockford, a UI alumna, also recently donated five old titles to the Library, four in German and a 1738 English volume about the Quakers. These works have been housed in the Rare Book Room.

Mr. William Lycan of Naples, Florida, has given several books from his personal collection to the Library over the last year. Most recent of these was Peabody's Elements of Astronomy (1884). Selim H. Peabody served as president of UI from 1880 to 1891. His work joins the rich collection of materials in the history of science.

Another much-appreciated donation came recently from Mr. Hugh Frey of Indianapolis. His gift was two Citibank serials: cassette tapes of Sound of the Economy, 1971-80, with transcripts for 1979 and 1980; and the Monthly Economic Letter, 1940-80. These titles are now in use by students at the Library.

Closer to home was a recent gift from UI Mechanical Engineering Prof. John C. Chato, who has donated 35 titles, all but one in Hungarian, to the Library's Slavic and East European Department. Each book will carry a special bookplate inscribed "Donated by Elsie and Raymond G. Chato of Dayton, Ohio, and John C. Chato of Urbana, Illinois."

Mr. Leon Urbain of Burns Harbor, Indiana, has given the Library a group of volumes of Schiller and Goethe in French and a set of the Petite Collection Guillaume at the suggestion of his sister, Miss Jeanette Urbain of Chicago. The books were part of their father's library, and Mr. Urbain has been seeking a good home for them. As Mr. Urbain wrote: "Books not being used are books wasted. . . . Now they are in a place where they can be looked at and they will be protected." Mr. Urbain senior is an alumnus of the UI architectural school and is now 94 years old. His books are a welcome addition to the collections at the Library, and the Urbains are pleased that the arrangement has worked out to the benefit of everyone.

These donors—as well as many others before them, and some even more recently—all enrich the Library's holdings through their generosity. The Library is grateful for the efforts of each of these special Friends; they are helping to keep the UI Library one of the foremost research centers in the nation.

Mrs. Harriet Crawford discusses her book choice with a fellow volunteer.
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.

American Writers
—(from page 1)

About ten years ago, Robert Frost’s daughter Lesley requested that Sutton compile a profile on her father similar to the one he had made for Sandburg, and Sutton undertook the project with characteristic energy. His work led to the valuable 17 cubic feet of letters, photos, manuscripts and documents about Frost and Breadloaf.

When Mr. Sutton retired, he decided to find a suitable home for his extensive records. Having used the UI Library in his studies of Sandburg and others, Mr. Sutton was aware of its substantial research holdings on, and interest in, Carl Sandburg material. In answer to his inquiry as to the Library’s interest in acquiring his own Sandburg files, Prof. George Hendrick visited Mr. Sutton to discuss the gift. While he was there, he discovered the amazing extent of the scholar’s resources on other literary figures as well as Sandburg. University Librarian Hugh Atkinson and Prof. Scott Bennett succeeded in convincing Mr. Sutton of the value of his collections as a group and of the UI’s interest in becoming their guardian.

The William A. Sutton Collection of American Literary Documents provides a vast resource of information on the creative and human aspects of important contributors to this century’s literature. It also represents an ideal complement to the Library’s other holdings in the area of American literature, notably the outstanding Sandburg collection. Biographers of these authors will find the materials in the collection at Illinois indispensable to a thorough understanding of their lives.

The Library, as well as its Friends and supporters, can take pride in the treasure Mr. Sutton has made available to researchers now and in the future, and be grateful to serve both as the repository of Mr. Sutton’s years and breadth of research and as benefactor of his thoughtful generosity.

Sol Cohen’s Memoirs to be Published

Sol B. Cohen, a native of Urbana and a long-time Library Friend, has been a well-known figure in the musical life of Champaign-Urbana for most of his 90 years. A group of Sol’s friends are arranging for the publication of his memoirs. The tentative publication date has been set for February 1982. Advance orders are being accepted now in order to make a decision on the size of the initial print run.

The memoirs cover the early period of his career. Views of life in Illinois, in Central Europe before World War I, in boot camp, on the Western Front, and in Hollywood, all refracted through Sol Cohen’s perceptive eyes, fill this fascinating work. Selected letters from the collected personal papers that Mr. Cohen has donated to the University of Illinois Library are included. Mr. Cohen entertained Friends last year with a reading from his memoirs.

If you would like this book for your personal library and/or as a gift to anyone who knows Sol, has roots in Urbana-Champaign, or is interested in the musical scene of the first half of the century, please contact Arthur Robinson, 1102 Mayfair Road, Champaign, IL 61820. The book, clothbound and illustrated, has a prepublication price of $15.00.

The Library is Looking...

For a copy of Who’s Who in the World. The only copy of this important reference work is now held at the Main Library. A second copy for the Engineering Library would do much to help students and researchers seeking access to information in this book. For more information, please call Jeannie Balachandran, Engineering Librarian, at 217/333-3576.

For Applied Fiber Science, a reference work in three volumes, each of which costs under $90 but cannot be acquired from the budget at this time. Also needed for the Applied Life Studies Library is Instrumental Analysis of Cotton Cellulose and Modified Cotton Cellulose. Home economists and interior designers, as well as students and researchers, would find this work a valuable addition to the Library’s holdings on fabric properties and their many uses. For more information, please call Barbara Swain at 217/333-0748.

For funds for a subscription to the well-known Nielsen National Television Ratings. This up-to-date report of trends in television viewing and related statistics is a needed resource for researchers and students of the many areas of the communications and advertising fields. For more information about this subscription, which costs about $200, please call Nancy Allen, Communications Librarian at 217/333-2216.

If you can help the Library with a donation or gift, please call the numbers listed above, or contact Joan Hood at the Friends Office, 217/333-7480.
Beyond Statistics:
Dean’s Letter Reflects Function of the Library

We can learn something of the fundamental nature of the Library from a letter written nineteen years ago to Harris Fletcher. An English professor, Fletcher played a major role in creating the Library’s unexcelled collection of the poet John Milton. The letter was from Robert Carmichael, who first came to UI as a mathematics professor in 1915 and served as Dean of the Graduate College 1933-47, and was a strong supporter of the Library. Written when Carmichael was 82 years old, his letter refers to his own youth, before the turn of the century.

A country boy on a small farm in Alabama, was discussing, with his Father, the amount of cotton that would be harvested that year from the family farm... The boy’s estimate was fourteen bales, while the Father’s was thirteen bales. Finally, the Father said to the son that if there were fourteen bales, then the son might have the proceeds from the fourteenth bale... Fourteen bales were produced; and the proceeds from the fourteenth bale (somewhat under-sized) amounted to sixteen dollars. For two or three years, the boy had been getting some little conception—from reading “The Pathfinder”—published in Washington, D.C.— that there were many things going on in the world that he had never before known anything about. He decided to use the sixteen dollars to buy a set of 100 small books, to be delivered to his country Post Office, with carriage prepaid. These books were being sold by the “Pathfinder.” Two of these books were Milton’s “Paradise Lost” and “Paradise Regained.” There were also several volumes of Shakespeare.

This set of books... brought to me the first great intellectual stimulation of my life—and this is true despite the fact that I finally moved in a far different direction.

This letter says two things about our Library that all the statistics about its size or bragging about its collections will not. It tells us about that encounter between readers and their books which makes the place it happens—the Library—the heart of the University. In an age of mass production and mass consumption, the Library still insists on the importance of that encounter where each individual chooses what he or she wants to read and is then left free to understand the word and act on it in whatever way seems best. Libraries are at the heart of our lives because they help sustain our individuality and our freedom.

Dean Carmichael’s letter tells us something else, though less directly. It is a letter of a mathematician to an English teacher, but what these men shared was a profound love of books and a determination to keep their University Library strong. Fletcher was one of the Library’s great collectors, and he was able to be that because of what he described as his lucky “discovery” of Dean Carmichael’s “avid interest” in books. It was an interest that Carmichael translated into exceptionally generous support for the Library from the Graduate College.

But support came from other sources as well, because Carmichael’s passion for books was contagious. William Udinski, one of Carmichael’s students, hit upon a perfect scheme for acknowledging his gratitude to his former teacher: the creation of an endowment for the support of the Library’s mathematics collection. Today that endowment is a key factor in our ability to maintain a nationally preeminent mathematics library at the University of Illinois.